

Fourth Sunday of Easter - April 26, 2026

# Apple Valley Catholic Community Two Parishes - One Mission

4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter



The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.  
Psalm 23:1

St. Elizabeth of Hungary Parish  
89 Arlington St. Acton, MA 01720



St. Isidore Parish  
429 Great Rd. Stow, MA 01775

**We Welcome YOU!**

At the Apple Valley Catholic Community, we live out the commandment Jesus gave to His disciples when He said "Love one another. As I have loved you, so you also should love one another." (John 13:34). We live this commandment by acknowledging we are all, in one way or another, our sister's and brother's keepers.

We affirm the dignity and worth of each person regardless of your race, nationality or ethnic group, gender, sexual orientation, immigration status, age, socioeconomic class, married, single, divorced, Mass attendance, or anything else. We affirm that we are all God's children and part of the one family of God and that means We Welcome YOU.

## Fourth Sunday of Easter - April 26, 2026

### Mass Intentions

Saturday April 25, 5:00PM  
The Magda Family

Sunday April 26, 8:45AM  
Laura Orsatti

Sunday April 26, 10:45AM  
Terence Saunders

### Upcoming Events

**May 2** - Living Through Loss Retreat  
at St. Elizabeth

**May 9** - Trivia Night at St. Elizabeth

**May 14** - Ascension Thursday

**May 16** - Italian Night Pot Luck at St. Isidore

### Living Through Loss Retreat

In times of loss, many of us feel a deep need for someone to talk to, a place to feel understood, and a community that can walk with us. Grief was never meant to be carried alone. God created us for relationship, for support, and for healing together.

For this reason, the Apple Valley Catholic Community offers our Living Through Loss Retreat Series, a gentle and compassionate space for those who are grieving. Twice each year, we gather for a half-day retreat designed to provide comfort, reflection, prayer, and practical ways of coping with loss. It is a place where tears are welcome, stories are honored, and hearts are supported.

Whether your loss is recent or happened many years ago, you will find a place of welcome, care, and understanding among others who are walking a similar path. You do not have to “be over it.” You do not have to have the right words. You only need to come as you are.

*Living Through Loss*  
*2026 Retreat*  
*Peace, Hope and Love*

St. Elizabeth of Hungary  
89 Arlington St, Acton, MA  
Saturday May 2, 11:30a-4:45p

The Living Through Loss Ministry is designed to provide a nurturing and healing space for those who have experienced a recent or past loss.  
ALL ARE WELCOME.

Register using the QR code below **OR** send an email to [retreat@avcatholic.org](mailto:retreat@avcatholic.org)

APPLE VALLEY CATHOLIC COMMUNITY

### April 18<sup>th</sup> Confirmation with Bishop Reed



Upcoming Events



*Italian Night*  
POT LUCK

Saint Isidore's Hall  
Saturday May 16th  
6:00pm

**Come Join Us!**  
Bring: a Main Dish, a Salad with Dressing, *OR* a Dessert!  
Bring Your Own Beverage



**RAINFORREST FALLS**  
Exploring The Nature of God

**VBS 2026**

**REGISTRATION OPEN**

**JULY 13-JULY 17**  
**9AM - 12PM**

Register at:  
<https://vbspro.events/p/031bff>



THE APPLE VALLEY CATHOLIC COMMUNITY PRESENTS

**Trivia Night**

**Saturday May 9th**  
St. Elizabeth Of Hungary Parish Center  
(behind the church)  
89 Arlington St., Acton  
Doors open at 6:30  
Trivia begins at 7pm

**\$20 per person** Prizes for the 1st & 2nd Place Teams!  
Form teams of up to 8 people to get the competitive edge!

TO BENEFIT THE ACTON FOOD PANTRY & THE STOW FOOD PANTRY

Stow Food Pantry

AFP

Cash Bar + Pizza available for purchase!  
Free Dessert Bar

Space is limited! Pre-purchase tickets to guarantee a spot!  
Available at [avcatholic.org](http://avcatholic.org)



## Fourth Sunday of Easter - April 26, 2026

This Sunday, the Church places before us one of the most beloved and powerful prayers in all of Scripture: Psalm 23, *“The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.”*



These are not simply poetic or comforting words. They express something essential about who God is, and who we are in relationship to Him.

To say *“The Lord is my shepherd”* means first that we are not alone, and we are not left to guide ourselves through life. A shepherd knows his sheep intimately. He calls them by name. He walks ahead of them. He leads them to what they truly need, not always what they think they need, but what will give them life.

We are not anonymous in God’s eyes. Through our baptism, we belong to Him. The Shepherd knows us personally, our strengths, our struggles, our wounds. This is not a distant God. This is a God who walks with us.

Psalm 23 speaks of being led to *“green pastures”* and *“still waters.”* This is more than physical rest; it is the peace of a soul that is rooted in God. The Shepherd leads us into the fullness of life: into holiness, into trust, and ultimately into eternal life with Him.

The psalm reminds us: *“Even though I walk in the dark valley, I fear no evil; for you are at my side.”* Notice, it does not say we will avoid the valley. The Catholic/Christian life does not remove suffering, it transforms it. The Shepherd is with us in it. His presence becomes our strength. To call the Lord our Shepherd is to place our lives in His care. It is to trust His direction, even when the path is unclear. It is to believe that He is leading us, even when we do not fully understand where we are going.

To pray Psalm 23 is not simply to recite a familiar passage. It is a statement of trust. It is an act of surrender. It is a reminder that we do not walk alone in life, and that we are always being led. And perhaps most importantly, it is an invitation to remain close to the Shepherd’s voice, to resist the temptation to lead ourselves, and to return to Him whenever we wander.

This week, I invite you to take a moment each day to pray with Psalm 23. Slowly. Personally. Let those words become your own. And ask yourself one simple question: *Am I truly trusting the Shepherd to lead me?*

May we walk with confidence, even through the darkest valleys...and may we rest in the quiet assurance that goodness and kindness follow us all the days of our lives.

Be assured of my prayers for you and your families.

In Christ,  
Fr. Jeff

## Fourth Sunday of Easter - April 26, 2026

**Catholic Appeal BOSTON**

100%  
90%  
80%  
70%  
66%

SAINT ELIZABETH OF HUNGARY

Together we are **one**  
ARCHDIOCESE OF BOSTON | CATHOLIC APPEAL

Your participation will help our parish meet its goal for this year's Catholic Appeal Campaign.

GOAL AMOUNT: \$49,000

**Catholic Appeal BOSTON**

100%  
90%  
80%  
70%  
63%

SAINT ISIDORE

Together we are **one**  
ARCHDIOCESE OF BOSTON | CATHOLIC APPEAL

Your participation will help our parish meet its goal for this year's Catholic Appeal Campaign.

GOAL AMOUNT: \$23,420

Together we are **one**

ARCHDIOCESE OF BOSTON | CATHOLIC APPEAL

**Together We Are One...  
in Faith, in Hope, in Christ.**

SCAN THE QR CODE TO MAKE A DONATION  
BY CREDIT CARD, VENMO, OR PAYPAL.

**Catholic Appeal**

or online at <https://bostoncatholicappeal.org/donate26-01/>

## Parish Finance Update

As you know, this winter made it especially challenging to keep up with snow removal, requiring extensive plowing, snow blowing, and shoveling. The amount of snowfall we received was truly exceptional. The AVCC budget allocated **\$34,000** for snow removal for both parishes, but our actual and estimated costs have now exceeded **\$81,000**. Unfortunately, this leaves us with a current deficit of more than **\$47,000**.



In response, we will hold a special collection on May 9 & 10, which will replace the usual Maintenance Fund collection, to help offset the snow removal expenses. Please consider contributing to this special collection. You may also donate by scanning the QR code below to give directly through OSV. Alternatively, visit our website at [avcatholic.org](http://avcatholic.org), click on "OSV Online Giving," scroll down to select your parish, and choose the fund labeled "Snow Removal Support Donation."

St. Elizabeth of Hungary



St. Isidore



Providing a safe, accessible, and welcoming environment for all is very important to us. Thank you for your consideration and for your continued support.

Thank You,  
St. Isidore & St. Elizabeth Finance Councils

# Fourth Sunday of Easter - April 26, 2026

## Weekend Mass Times

**Saturday Mass, 5:00 p.m.— St. Elizabeth**  
**Sunday Mass, 8:45 a.m.— St. Isidore**  
**Sunday Mass, 10:45 a.m.— St. Elizabeth**

## Weekday Mass Times

**Monday Mass 9:00 a.m.— St. Elizabeth**  
**Tuesday Mass 9:00 a.m.— St. Isidore**

**Confessions: Saturday, 4:00-4:45 p.m., St. Elizabeth**  
**1st Wednesday of the Month: St. Isidore 4:00-6:00 p.m.**

## Apple Valley Catholic Parish Team

Pastor: Rev. Jeffrey Archer  
frjeff@avcatholic.org, (978) 263-4305 ext. 115

Weekend Presider & Prof. of Philosophy and Theology at Pope St.  
John XXIII National Seminary: Msgr. Fay

Deacon: Charles A. Cornell  
charliec@avcatholic.org, (978) 562-7447

Comptroller, Joe Nelson,  
joen@avcatholic.org, (978) 263-4305 ext. 111

Financial Consultant: Annmarie Mazzucotelli  
annmariem@avcatholic.org

Director of LIFT, Baptism Coordinator:  
Tom Spataro toms@avcatholic.org, (978) 263-4305  
ext. 113

Director of Music - Arline Carboneau,  
arlinec@avcatholic.org, (978) 263-4305 ext. 112

Director of Religious Education - Youth Ministry:  
Sheila Bauer, sheilab@avcatholic.org,  
(978) 263-4305 ext. 123

Coordinator of Faith Formation Grades 5-7:  
Adam Tocci  
adamt@avcatholic.org, (978) 263-4305 ext. 116

Coordinator of Faith Formation K-4: Kelley Christie  
kelleyc@avcatholic.org, (978) 26-4305 ext. 117

Finance & Operations Administrative Assistant:  
Virginia Tawa  
viriniat@avcatholic.org, 978 263-4305 ext. 119

Office Coordinator/Communications:  
Kaitie Duhamel  
kaitied@avcatholic.org, 978-263-4305 ext. 110

Liturgical Coordinator: Mary Ryan  
maryr@avcatholic.org, (978) 263-4305 ext. 135

Collaborative Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults  
("RCIA") Trina Toups trinat@avcatholic.org, (978) 263-4305 ext.  
122

Alpha Coordinator: Bernice Higdon  
alpha@avcatholic.org, (978) 263-4305 ext. 124

Custodian: Daniel Farah  
daniel@avcatholic.org

St. Elizabeth's St. Vincent DePaul  
Conference of Acton/Boxborough: (978) 263-4305 ext.114

St. Isidore's St. Vincent De Paul  
Conference of Stow: (978) 263-4305 ext.121

## Thank You

Jesus Christ seeks to be in relationship with each and everyone one of us. To encounter Jesus is to experience his love in a meaningful and life transforming way. Your support of our parishes is a reflection of your faith that Jesus Christ is Lord, and your desire that our generation and following generations come to know this. Our faith in action is life changing for ourselves and for those who encounter us. Thank You for your continued engagement and support!

### CONTRIBUTIONS FOR PARISH SUPPORT ST. ELIZABETH

For the week ending 4/12/26

Cash & Check offertory	\$ 4,895
Electronic offertory (EFT & Online):	\$ 6,104
Total Parish Support	\$10,999
St. Vincent de Paul collection:	\$ 205

### CONTRIBUTIONS FOR PARISH SUPPORT ST. ISIDORE

For the week ending 4/12/26

Cash & Check offertory	\$ 1,865
Electronic offertory (EFT & Online):	\$ 2,671
Total Parish Support	\$ 4,536
St. Vincent de Paul collection:	\$ 11

Please note that only online donations to Saint Vincent de Paul are recorded. Cash left in the door boxes and checks made out directly to Saint Vincent de Paul are not included in our records.

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