

Fourteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time - July 5, 2026

Apple Valley Catholic Community Two Parishes - One Mission



Fourteenth Sunday
in Ordinary Time

Come to me,
all you who labor
and are burdened,
and I will give you rest.

Matthew 11:28

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, disability, gender, sexual orientation, immigration status, age, socioeconomic class, marital situation, 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.

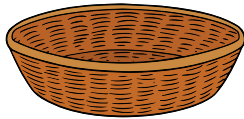
Mass Intentions

Saturday July 4, 5:00PM
Anita Pessolano

Sunday July 5, 8:45AM
Frank & Jeanne Senna

Sunday July 5, 10:45AM
Mai Ryan

Second Collection July 11/12



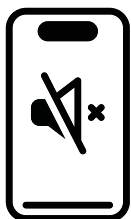
Next week's second collection will support the Holy Father's "Peter's Pence" collection that provides funds for emergency and disaster relief.

This collection also provides support to The Catholic University of America (CUA) that educates priests, lay people for ministry, and will assist the Inner-City Parishes of the Archdiocese of Boston.

Your generosity will assist the Holy Father as well as the various Apostolic works at home and abroad.

For information on these Collections, go to:

1. www.usccb.org/nationalcollection/peters-pence
2. www.cua.edu
3. www.BostonCatholic.org



Please remember to keep our worship spaces sacred by silencing your cell phones.

Upcoming Events

July 4-11 - Catholic Heart Mission Trip

July 13-17 - Vacation Bible School

July 18 - Summer Social at St. Elizabeth



Please keep our teens and chaperones in your prayers as they spend this week growing in faith and learning service at Catholic Heart Work Camp in Cumberland, MD.

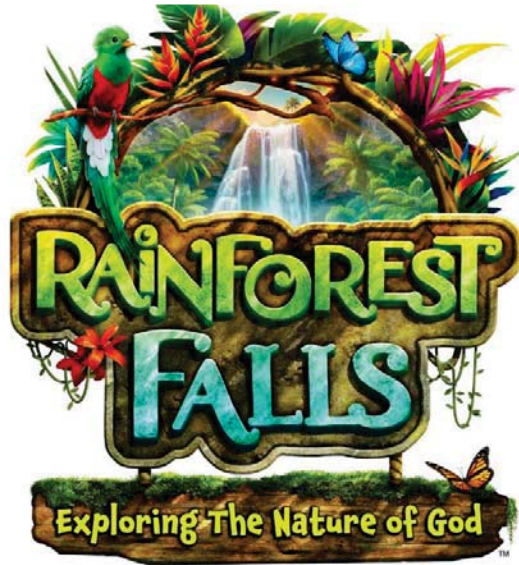


AVCC members took part in the National Eucharistic Pilgrimage Parade in Lexington as part of America's 250th Celebration.

Interested in one of the "American Saints" T-shirts seen here? You can purchase one after Mass for \$10, at the Parish Center Hall during office hours or by reserving one with this QR code.



Get ready to travel to the Rainforest



VBS 2026

July 13-17



Faith Formation

**Registration is OPEN for
2026-2027**

Programs for Everyone
in Grades K-12



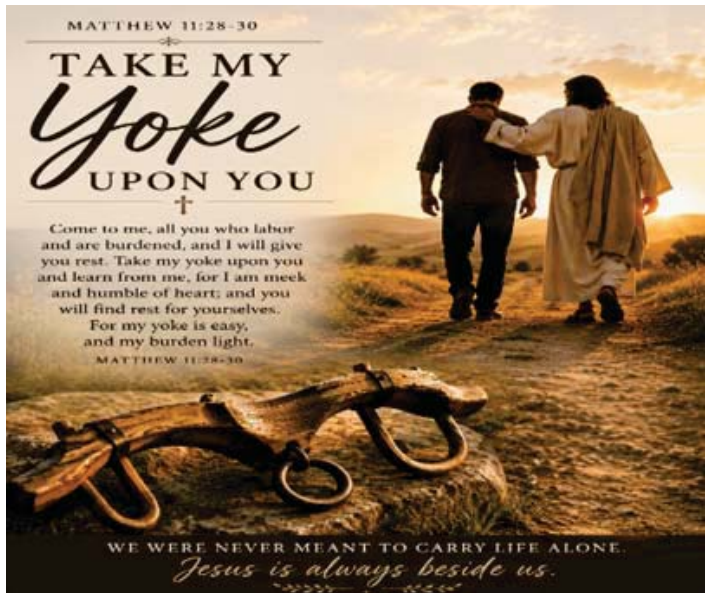
First Communion
Confirmation

High School LIFT
Groups

Dear Friends in Christ,

One of the most beautiful images Jesus gives us in the Gospel is also one that many people no longer understand. He says:

"Come to me, all you who labor and are burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you... For my yoke is easy, and my burden light." (Matthew 11:28-30). At first glance, those words can seem confusing. If Jesus promises us rest, why does He immediately speak about taking up a yoke?



Most of us have never seen a yoke. In Jesus' day, a yoke was a sturdy wooden beam placed across the shoulders of two oxen. Together they pulled a plow or a heavy cart. The weight was never intended for one animal alone. It was shared. That image helps us understand what Jesus is saying.

He is not placing another burden on our shoulders. He is inviting us to walk beside Him. He is saying, "Let Me carry this with you." That changes everything.

Many of us try to live as though we are pulling life's heaviest loads by ourselves. We carry worries...struggle with illness...grief...financial pressures...broken relationships...loneliness...and uncertainty about the future. We convince ourselves that we simply need to work harder, be stronger, or figure it out on our own. But Jesus never asked us to do that.

Instead, He extends an invitation to us. He says, "**Come to me.**" Notice that Jesus does not promise a life without burdens. Every disciple will have crosses to carry. What He promises is that we will never carry them alone. When we place ourselves under His yoke, Christ walks beside us. He bears the greater weight. He strengthens us when we are weak. He steadies us when we stumble. He gives us peace even when our circumstances have not yet changed.

Perhaps that is why Jesus describes Himself as "meek and humble of heart." He is not a harsh master demanding more from us. He is a loving Savior who comes alongside us with gentleness, compassion, and mercy. His strength is never intimidating; it is comforting. His leadership is never oppressive; it is life-giving.

This week, I invite you to reflect on one simple question: What burden am I still trying to carry by myself? Take that burden to Jesus in prayer. Speak to Him honestly. Place it into His hands. Then trust that He is already standing beside you, inviting you to walk with Him.

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The burden may not disappear overnight, but something else will happen. You will discover that the weight becomes lighter because Christ is carrying it with you.

May we never forget that our faith is not about carrying more; it is about walking more closely with the One who says to each of us: "*Come to me... Take my yoke upon you... and you will find rest for your souls.*"

In Christ,
Fr. Jeff

June Summer Social



Many thanks go out to the Locke Road Ramblers who dodged the rain and entertained us with their bluesy folk music at the June Summer Social.

Look for them again at the August 22nd Summer Social!



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GROWTH
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PURPOSE
Living out our faith together every day.

7PM EVERY TUESDAY

ST ELIZABETHS OF HUNGARY PARISH CENTER HALL
at the fire pit in the back

QUESTIONS? CONTACT THE LEADERS!

Maddy P: mprimrose38@gmail.com
Charlotte D: charlotteeduhamel@gmail.com
Sheila B: sheilab@avcatholic.org

COME AS YOU ARE. LEAVE STRONGER IN FAITH.



Save the Date

Our July Summer Social will take place on Saturday July 18th around the fire pit at St. Elizabeth's after the 5:00pm Mass and will include a visit from the Kona Ice Truck.

Fourteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time - July 5, 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

CARES Coordinator:
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ext. 113

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

Director of Religious Education - Youth Ministry:
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(978) 263-4305 ext. 123

Coordinator of Faith Formation K-6: Kelley Christie
kelleyc@avcatholic.org, (978) 26-4305 ext. 117

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

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

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

Order of Christian Initiation for Adults
("OCIA") 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
danielf@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 6/21/26

Cash & Check offertory	\$ 2,857
Electronic offertory (EFT & Online):	\$ 8,201
Total Parish Support	\$11,058

St. Vincent de Paul collection:	\$ 55
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CONTRIBUTIONS FOR PARISH SUPPORT ST. ISIDORE

For the week ending 6/21/26

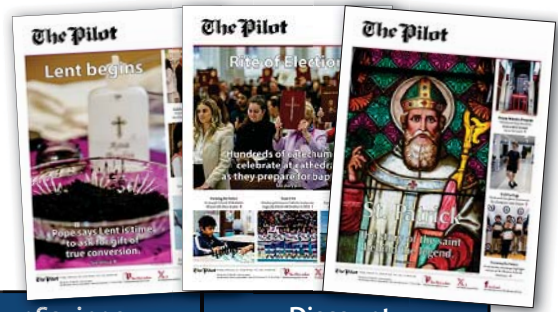
Cash & Check offertory	\$ 1,851
Electronic offertory (EFT & Online):	\$ 2,716
Total Parish Support	\$ 4,567

St. Vincent de Paul collection:	\$ 5
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