

Sixteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time - July 19, 2026

Apple Valley Catholic Community

Two Parishes - One Mission

Sixteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time



The kingdom of heaven may be likened to a man who sowed good seed in his field.
Matthew 13:24

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.

Sixteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time - July 19, 2026

Mass Intentions

Sunday July 19, 8:45AM
Patrick Hayden

Sunday July 19, 10:45AM
George, Mary and Theresa Allen and Marie Parr

Teen Volunteer Opportunities

JULY 22 11AM-2:45PM

Lazarus House Food Pantry **distributing groceries.**

AUG. 19 11AM-2:45PM

Lazarus House Food Pantry **distributing groceries.**

AUG. 25 8:45AM-12PM

Household goods acton- ***Must be 14**

sheilab@avcatholic.org to RSVP



Upcoming Events

Aug 22 - Summer Social at St. Elizabeth

Adult Volunteer Opportunities



HOUSEHOLD
GOODS™

All those age 18 and over are invited to join AVCC Adult volunteers at Household Goods in Acton on Sat July 25 from 1-4 pm and/or Saturdays Aug 15 or Sept 12 from 8:45 am - 12:00 pm.

If you are available and interested in joining us or would like to be added to our email list to learn of other volunteer opportunities contact Mary at amato.mg@gmail.com

Thank you to everyone involved in the Catholic Heart Mission Trip last week. Through service to communities in need the kids grew in faith and friendship.



Eagle Scout Project

Hi, my name is Bobby Bruosta, and I'm a sophomore at Nashoba Regional High School and a member of Troop 1 in Stow.

For my Eagle Scout project, I'm working to refurbish the fence around the garden at the Church of St. Isidore. This garden is really important to our community because the garden committee grows fresh produce that is donated directly to the Stow Food Pantry to help families in need.

Right now, the fence is in poor condition and needs to be repaired and strengthened to protect the garden so it can continue to provide food for others. My project will replace and reinforce the fence, and also include a metal sign to help share the garden's mission with the community.

I'm asking for your support to help make this project possible. Donations will go directly toward materials like fencing, posts, and the sign. Any contribution, big or small, will make a difference and help support both this project and the families who rely on the food pantry.

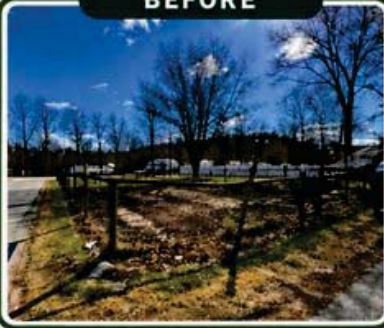
Thank you for considering a donation and for helping me give back to our community.

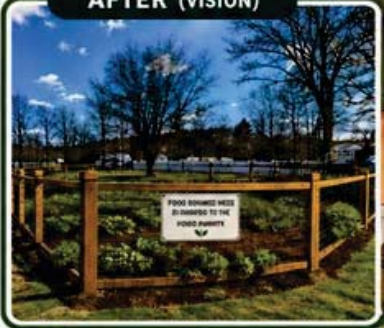
EAGLE SCOUT PROJECT



REFURBISHING THE CHURCH OF ST. ISIDORE FENCE

Installing a metal sign to share that the food grown in the garden is donated to the food pantry.

BEFORE

AFTER (VISION)



PROJECT GOAL

- ✓ Repair and refurbish the existing Church of St. Isidore fence
- ✓ Install a metal sign indicating that food grown in the garden is donated to the food pantry
- ✓ Support the local community through service & stewardship



DONATIONS NEEDED

Your support will help make this project!



Venmo: @Leah-Bruosta



CONTACT

 Bobby Bruosta

 Troop 1

 bbruosta@gmail.com

Thank you for supporting this Eagle Scout Project!

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Dear Parishioners,

We live in a world that expects immediate results. We want fast internet, instant answers, same-day deliveries, and quick solutions to life's problems. Unfortunately, we sometimes bring that same impatience into our relationships with other people and even into our relationship with God.



In this Sunday's Gospel, Jesus tells the Parable of the Wheat and the Weeds (Matthew 13:24-30). A farmer discovers that weeds have appeared among his wheat. His workers immediately want to pull them out. It seems like the obvious solution. But the farmer responds, "*No... let them grow together until the harvest.*"

At first, his answer seems surprising. Why wait?

Because the farmer knows that acting too quickly could damage the wheat that is still growing. What appears obvious in the moment may not be the wisest decision. Jesus uses this image to reveal something beautiful about the heart of God: God is patient. He does not rush to judgment because He knows that every human heart is still capable of being transformed by His grace.

Throughout the Gospels, we see this patience lived out in Jesus Himself. He spent three years walking beside Judas, aware of the betrayal that would come. Yet He continued to teach him, share meals with him, and offer him every opportunity to choose a different path. Jesus never stopped loving him or inviting him to conversion.

That same patience continues today. Perhaps you are praying for a son or daughter who no longer practices the faith. Maybe your marriage is going through a difficult season. Perhaps a friendship has been broken, or a family relationship has become strained. You may wonder if anything will ever change.

Today's Gospel invites us not to lose hope. God is often doing His greatest work beneath the surface, long before we can see the results. Just as a tree spends years developing strong roots before it reaches toward the sky, God quietly works within hearts in ways that are often hidden from us.

The same is true in our own lives. None of us is finished growing in faith. We all need God's patience, mercy, and grace. Thankfully, God never defines us by our failures. He continues to shape us, forgive us, and call us to become the people He created us to be.

This week, I invite you to pray for one person you may be tempted to lose hope over. Place that person into God's hands each day and ask the Lord to continue His work in their life. Then remember that someone has likely been just as patient with you, and that God certainly has.

Before you give up on someone, remember this simple truth: God hasn't.

May we learn to trust God's timing, believe in His grace, and patiently love others as He so patiently loves each one of us.

God bless,
Fr. Jeff

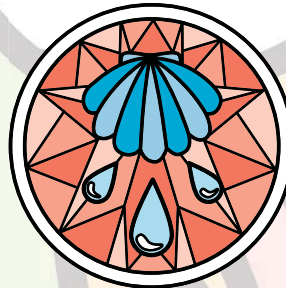
Faith Formation Registration is OPEN for 2026-2027



Programs for Everyone
in Grades K-12



First Communion
Confirmation



High School LIFT
Groups

Sixteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time - July 19, 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
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Director of Religious Education - Youth Ministry:
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Order of Christian Initiation for Adults
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122

Alpha Coordinator: Bernice Higdon
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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 7/5/26

Cash & Check offertory	\$ 3,516
Electronic offertory (EFT & Online):	\$ 8,157
Total Parish Support	\$11,673

St. Vincent de Paul collection:	\$ 12
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CONTRIBUTIONS FOR PARISH SUPPORT ST. ISIDORE

For the week ending 7/5/26

Cash & Check offertory	\$ 2,131
Electronic offertory (EFT & Online):	\$ 3,165
Total Parish Support	\$ 5,296

St. Vincent de Paul collection:	\$ 54
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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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