

Eighteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time - August 2, 2026

Apple Valley Catholic Community

Two Parishes - One Mission

18th
Sunday
in Ordinary Time

Taking the five loaves and the two fish, and looking up to heaven, he said the blessing, broke the loaves, and gave them to the disciples, who in turn gave them to the crowds.

Matthew 14:19



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 Aug 1, 5:00PM
Mary Hawe

Sunday Aug 2, 8:45AM
Janice Demurjian

Sunday July 26, 10:45AM
Josie Amato

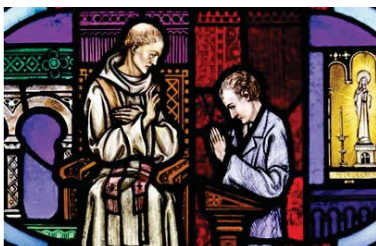
Please Note: 5:00PM Mass Intentions

Due to a recent data loss, please contact the parish office if you had arranged a Mass Intention for any upcoming 5:00 PM Mass. 978-263-4305 x110 or kaitied@avcatholic.org

Monthly Wednesday Night Confessions

St. Isidore

Canceled for Wednesday August 5, 2026



There will be no Confessions at St. Isidore on Wed Aug 5, 2026. Fr. Jeff's schedule has changed and he will not be available. This is for August 2026 only. Confessions will return on Wed Sept 7, 2026

Remember: Confessions are always held every Saturday at St. Elizabeth from 4:00p-4:45p

Weekday Morning Mass

There will be no morning Masses at St. Elizabeth or St. Isidore on the following days: Monday & Tuesday August 3 & 4 and Monday and Tuesday August 10 & 11.

Upcoming Events

Aug 22 - Summer Social at St. Elizabeth

Aug 30 - Blessing of the Backpacks

Sept 13 - LIFT Off Annual BBQ at St. Elizabeth

Oct 3 - Food Truck and Craft Beer Festival at St. Elizabeth

St. Isidore Kitchen Refresh



We are in the process of cleaning and organizing things that belong in the St. Isidore church kitchen.

We will set out extra items in the parish hall for a couple of weeks. Some may have been left behind in the past by a parishioner. Please feel free to take anything that belongs to you.

Also, if you know an item is needed for current kitchen use, please place it back in the kitchen on the center island.

Thanks,
Janet, Rosemary and Susan



SUMMER HAPPENINGS AROUND AVCC

Blessing of local seminarian Vince Barcinas prior to a pilgrimage



Thank you to our teen “elves” who helped out with Christmas in July at Lazarus House



Vacation Bible School participants singing one of the songs they learned at Mass on Sunday



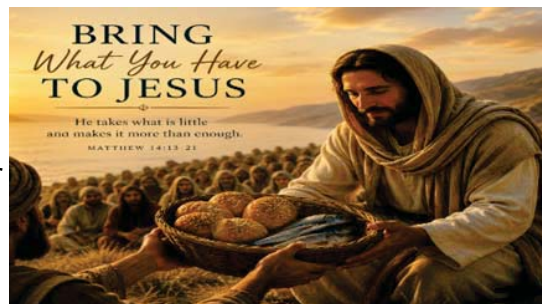
AVCC Staff volunteering at Household Goods



Bring What You Have to Jesus

Have you ever found yourself saying, "*I just don't have enough*"? Not enough time to get everything done. Not enough patience to deal with a difficult situation. Not enough energy after a long week. Not enough faith to face an uncertain future. At one time or another, I think every one of us has felt that way.

The disciples certainly did.



In this Sunday's Gospel ([Matthew 14:13-21](#)), a crowd of more than five thousand people has followed Jesus into a deserted place. As the day grows late, the disciples begin to worry. The people are hungry, and there is no place nearby to buy food. Looking at the enormous need before them, the disciples come to what seems like the only logical conclusion: "Send the crowds away."

Then Jesus says something unexpected: "*There is no need for them to go away; give them some food yourselves.*" Imagine what must have been going through the disciples' minds. They look at what they have and reply, "*We have only five loaves and two fish.*"

Notice where their attention is focused. They are thinking about what they **don't** have. Isn't that often where our attention goes as well? But Jesus doesn't criticize them for having so little. He doesn't ask them to find more bread or catch more fish. Instead, He simply says, "*Bring them here to me.*"

Those may be some of the most comforting words in the entire Gospel.

Jesus isn't asking the disciples to solve the problem on their own. He is asking them to trust Him with what they already have. Once those five loaves and two fish are placed into His hands, they become more than enough. Not only is everyone fed, but twelve baskets of food are left over.

That is how God works.

Throughout our lives, we often focus on our limitations. We think our faith is too small, our talents too ordinary, our resources too limited, or our past mistakes too great for God to accomplish anything meaningful through us. Yet Jesus has never asked us to begin with abundance. He simply asks us to place what we have into His hands.

Perhaps your "five loaves and two fish" are simply the gifts God has already placed in your life: your [experience](#), your [wisdom](#), your [ability to listen](#), your [encouragement of someone](#) who feels discouraged, your [willingness to begin again](#) after a setback, or your quiet [faithfulness](#) in the responsibilities entrusted to you. They may seem small in your eyes, but when placed into the hands of Jesus, they become instruments of His grace in ways we may never fully see.

This miracle also reminds us of something beautiful about God's love. Jesus doesn't merely provide enough. He provides abundantly. Everyone eats. Everyone is satisfied. There are even

baskets left over. That is the generosity of God. His **grace** is always greater than our weakness, His **mercy** greater than our failures, and His **love** greater than our fears.

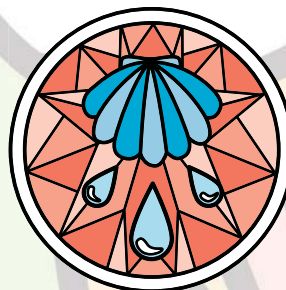
As we gather for Mass this weekend, I invite you to bring your own "five loaves and two fish" to Jesus. Bring Him your worries, your hopes, your family, your work, your joys, and even your struggles. Place them into His hands with confidence.

You may discover what the disciples learned that day: Jesus isn't asking for everything you don't have. He is asking you to trust Him with what you do have. And in His hands, even the smallest gift can become a blessing far beyond anything we could imagine.

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

Eighteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time - August 2, 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:
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 K-6: Kelley Christie
kelleyc@avcatholic.org, (978) 26-4305 ext. 117

Finance & Operations Administrative Assistant:
Virginia Tawa
virginiat@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

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 7/19/26

Cash & Check offertory	\$ 5,059
Electronic offertory (EFT & Online):	\$ 7,720
Total Parish Support	\$ 12,779

St. Vincent de Paul collection:	\$ 5
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CONTRIBUTIONS FOR PARISH SUPPORT ***ST. ISIDORE***

For the week ending 7/19/26

Cash & Check offertory	\$ 2,173
Electronic offertory (EFT & Online):	\$ 2,490
Total Parish Support	\$ 4,663

St. Vincent de Paul collection:	\$ 25
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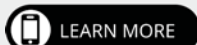
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