

Twenty-Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time - September 27, 2026

Apple Valley Catholic Community

Two Parishes - One Mission

26th
Sunday
in Ordinary Time

THE PARABLE OF THE TWO SONS

"Which of the two did his father's will?" They answered, "The first." Jesus said to them, "Amen, I say to you, tax collectors and prostitutes are entering the kingdom of God before you."

Matthew 21:31



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 Sept 26, 5:00PM
Barbara A McCoee

Sunday Sept 27, 8:45AM
Carlos Colon

Sunday Sept 27, 10:45AM
Harry Sloate

Weekday Mass Schedule Changes

Effective October 5, 2026

Effective the week of October 5, 2026, our weekday morning Mass schedule will change. We will no longer celebrate weekday morning Mass on Mondays and Tuesdays.

Instead, weekday morning Mass will be celebrated on Wednesdays and Thursdays.

The new schedule is as follows:

ST. ELIZABETH OF HUNGARY
Wednesdays 9:00a Mass

ST. ISIDORE
Thursday 9:00a Mass

One Day Mass Location Change

Please note that on **Sat, Oct 3**, Confessions at 4:00p and Mass at 5:00p will be held at **St. Isidore** Church in Stow MA due to the Food Truck & Craft Beer Fest taking place at St. Elizabeth in Acton MA.

This is a ONE-TIME change for October 3 ONLY and is not a permanent change.

Upcoming Events

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

Oct 4 - Children's Mass at St. Isidore

Oct 4 - Blessing of the Animals at St. Elizabeth

Oct 9 - Friday Adoration 3-8pm at St. Elizabeth

Oct 10 - Rosary 4pm at St. Elizabeth

Oct 17 - Live Family Rosary at St. Elizabeth



Thank you to all who voted for your favorite saints in our "Name the Room" poll at the LIFT-Off BBQ.

The following Saints will have rooms named for them in the Parish Center and old St. Elizabeth Rectory. Keep an eye out for the new signage.



St. Martha
St. Maria Goretti
St. Joseph the Worker
St. Kateri Tekakwitha
St. Maximillian Kolbe
St. Bernadette
St. Teresa of Calcutta
St. Monica

October Events

Join Us for the Rosary in October



October is the month of the Holy Rosary! Join us Saturdays, October 10, October 17, and October 24 at 4 p.m., before the 5 p.m. Mass at St Elizabeth, as we gather to pray and reflect on the life of Jesus with Mary. Whether you pray the Rosary regularly or are just learning, everyone is welcome.

Special Outdoor Family Rosary: October 17
On Saturday, October 17 at 4 p.m., our Rosary will take place outdoors as a walking, interactive Rosary, with children helping bring the mysteries to life by acting them out. This is a wonderful opportunity for all ages to experience this prayer together.

Come on your own, bring a friend, or join us with your family!

Blessing of the Animals



Bring your furry, feathered or scaly friends to the annual Blessing of the Animals. Sunday Oct 4th at 1pm at St. Elizabeth's.



New Monthly Eucharistic Adoration

Join us on the second Friday of each month, starting Oct 9th from 3–8 p.m., for Eucharistic Adoration, a time to step away from the busyness of life, pray, and rest in Jesus' presence in the Blessed Sacrament.

Everyone is welcome. Come on your own, with a friend, or with your family. Whether Adoration is a familiar devotion or a new experience, we invite you to spend time with the Lord. Bring your gratitude, your worries, your intentions, or simply yourself. Stay for a few minutes or for a few hours, whatever your heart needs.

Could You Commit to a Holy Hour?

We need at least two people present throughout Adoration. Please consider signing up for a one-hour commitment to help ensure the Blessed Sacrament is never left unattended.

To sign up, please connect with Kelley Christie at kelleyc@avcatholic.org

A Special Invitation to Families

Family Hour will take place from 4–5 p.m., with a guided imaginative prayer for children at 4:30 p.m., inviting them to picture a Gospel scene and spend time with Jesus in prayer. Children are welcome throughout Adoration, and all parishioners are welcome during Family Hour.

Kindergarten -
Confirmation



Faith Formation Registration

Programs for Everyone in
Grades K-12



High School
Teen LIFT Groups



Food Truck Festival Volunteers Needed

Food Truck & Craft Beer Fest – Volunteer Role Guide

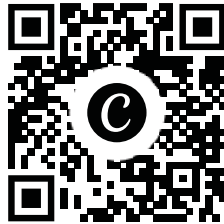
Saturday, October 3, 2026 – Noon to 6 PM

We are so excited for our **2nd Annual Food Truck & Craft Beer Fall Festival on Saturday, October 3, 2026, from Noon–6:00 PM** at St. Elizabeth's! Our first year drew over 700 people! To make this special community event possible, we need the help of many volunteers. If you have some time that day—whether it's an hour or a few—your presence will make a big difference. From welcoming guests and assisting with children's activities to helping with set-up, clean-up, and everything in between, there are plenty of ways to get involved. Please prayerfully consider lending a hand and sign up to be part of this fun and meaningful day of community, food, music, and fellowship!

Use the QR code or go to

avcatholic.org/volunteer

to sign up to help



Guest Check-In Team

- Welcome guest, and collect donations (cash or credit card)
- Verify registration (pre-sales)
- Issue wristbands (different colors for 21+ and minors)
- Maintain a friendly, helpful atmosphere

Beer Ticket Sales & Distribution

- Check IDs for guests purchasing beer tickets
- Sell tickets according to pricing guidelines
- Handle cash/card payments accurately
- Provide correct tickets and explain where to redeem them
- Politely refuse sales to guests without proper ID or showing visible intoxication

Carnival Games

- Make and serve popcorn
- Take pre-purchased tickets - no money exchanged needed)
- Assist with the Carnival games, temporary tattoos, etc. helping children/parent

Parking Lot/Event Monitors

- Managing help to control the parking lot
- Monitoring the perimeter of the event
- Help cover volunteers that need a short break

Event Setup

- Arrange tables, chairs, tents, signage, and supplies; distribute trash bins; help vendors as needed.
- This will begin on Saturday October 3 at 8:00a
- Cleaning Crew
- Collect and recycle bottles, cans, and cardboard throughout the day
- Remove full trash bags and replace with fresh liners throughout the day
- Pick up litter or debris around entrances, parking lots, and outdoor areas throughout the day
- Make sure event spaces stay neat and organized (e.g., pushing in chairs, wiping off tables)
- End of the event (starting at 6:00p: Break down equipment, remove trash, pack supplies, and restore the site to its original condition. Clean up will begin around 6:00p.

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AGES**



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&
CRAFT BEER
FEST**



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AVCATHOLIC.ORG

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and buy tickets
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at:**



Carnival Games
for Kids, Live
Music, plus
entertainment
from Magenta
Dance Place



Twenty-Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time - September 27, 2026

Dear Friends,

There is a small but powerful moment in this weekend's Gospel that I believe speaks to every one of us. Jesus tells the story of a father who asks his two sons to go work in his vineyard. The first son responds rather bluntly: "*I will not.*" But later, he changes his mind and goes.



Those few words, "*he changed his mind and went*" tell us something beautiful about our relationship with God. Our first answer does not have to become our final answer.

We have all made choices we regret. We have said things we wish we could take back. There may even have been times when, through our actions or decisions, we have said "no" to God. But the first son reminds us that the story does not have to end there. He changed his mind. He turned around. He went into the vineyard. That is the beauty of repentance.

Sometimes we hear the word repentance and immediately think about guilt, punishment, or feeling badly about ourselves. But Christian repentance is much more hopeful than that. Repentance means recognizing that the direction we are traveling is not where God wants us to go, and then, with the help of His grace, turning around.

That is why repentance is really an invitation from God. God is saying to us: *You do not have to remain where you are. You do not have to be trapped by yesterday. You can come back. You can begin again.*

Perhaps there are two family members who have not spoken for years because of something that happened long ago. One phone call, "*Can we talk?*", might begin the process of healing. Perhaps there is someone who has been away from Mass for many years and wonders whether it has been too long to return. It hasn't. Perhaps there is someone carrying guilt over a decision made years ago and wondering whether God could possibly forgive them. He does.

Our past does not have to dictate our future. This is at the very heart of our faith. The Cross and Resurrection of Jesus remind us that sin, failure, and even death never have the final word. Through Christ, there is forgiveness. There is mercy. There is new life. And there is always grace.

Grace does not pretend that our mistakes never happened. Grace allows God to take us from where we have been and lead us toward where He is calling us to be. That is exactly what happens to the first son. His story could have ended with the words, "*I will not.*" But it didn't. He was given another opportunity, and he chose a different direction.

Perhaps that is the question Jesus places before each of us this week. Not simply, "*What have you done in the past?*" but rather: "*Where are you willing to go from here?*"

Maybe there is something in our lives that needs to change. Maybe there is someone we need to forgive...an apology we need to make...maybe we need to return to Confession...prayer...or Mass. Or maybe we simply need to ask God for the grace to take one small step in a different direction.

Whatever it may be, remember the first son. He said no. Then he turned around. And so can we.

That is the beauty of repentance. Repentance is not being trapped by yesterday's "no"; it is allowing God's grace to help us turn around today. Through the grace and mercy of Jesus Christ, we can always begin again.

God Bless,
Fr. Jeff

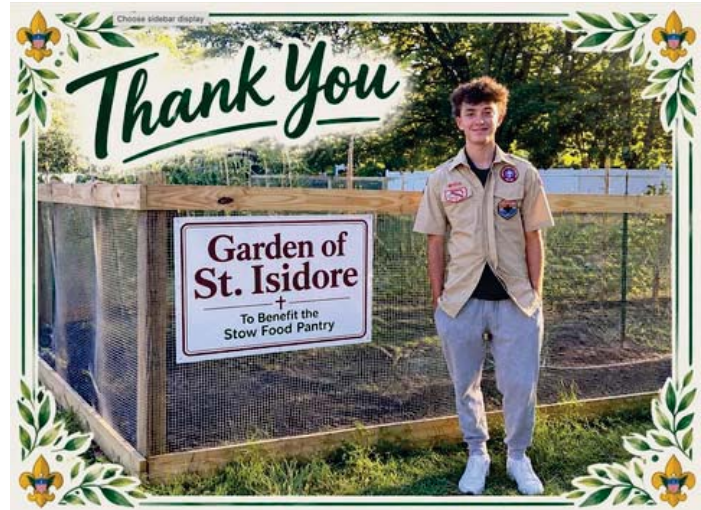
St. Isidore Garden Fence

I just wanted to take a couple of minutes to say thank you to everyone who helped support my Eagle Scout project here at St. Isidore.

For my project, I built a fence around the garden that helps support the Stow Food Pantry. It definitely took a lot more time and work than I originally thought it would – which I guess is one of the things you're supposed to learn from an Eagle Scout project!

Thank you again to everyone who donated, volunteered, encouraged me, or helped in any way. I really appreciate your support, and I'm proud that I was able to do this project here at St. Isidore.

Thank you.
Bobby



Help Us Pour the Fun | Become a Keg Sponsor!

As we prepare for our second annual Food Truck & Craft Beer Fest on October 3rd, we're inviting parishioners, friends, and local supporters to consider becoming Keg Sponsors. This is a simple and meaningful way to help underwrite the beer we'll have on tap that day. Your support helps cover the cost of kegs from our local brewery partners, allowing more of the proceeds from beer sales to go directly toward supporting parish ministries. Whether you sponsor half a keg or a full one, you'll be helping us raise a glass to community, hospitality, and mission.



\$300 1/2 Keg Sponsor: A 1/2 keg sponsor will receive: Free entry for 4 (\$40 value), 6 free beer/wine tickets (\$42 value), your choice of 2 event t-shirts or 2 event pint glasses plus sponsorship recognition

\$150 1/4 Keg Sponsor: A 1/4 keg sponsor will receive: Free entry for 2 (\$20 value), 4 free beer/wine tickets (\$28 value) and plus sponsorship

Scan the QR code here or go to



avcatholic.org/trucksandbrews to sponsor a keg

A Message from Archbishop Henning, Bishop McManus, Bishop da Cunha, and Bishop Byrne for the Clergy, Religious, and Lay Faithful of Massachusetts

In June during his Apostolic Visit to Spain, our Holy Father Pope Leo XIV delivered an appeal to defend human dignity and protect life from conception to its natural end. “Every legislative task,” he said, “ultimately confronts a decisive question: what conception of the human person inspires laws, and what kind of society do those laws build?”

Just two months after the Holy Father’s address, Massachusetts passed one of the most expansive and permissive abortion laws in the nation, telling us what kind of society they desire for Massachusetts: one which leaves its most vulnerable citizens—children in the womb and their pregnant mothers—at perilous risk. This law is a tragedy, and the Catholic legislators who helped to enact it have caused grave scandal.

The Prioritizing Patient Access to Care Act permits abortion throughout pregnancy for any reason, and it allows these grisly procedures—dangerous to mothers and cruel to their unborn children—to be performed in non-hospital settings. Laws function as teachers. This new law falsely teaches that human beings who are ill or inconvenient are not worthy of life; that motherhood can be incompatible with women’s freedom, well-being, and flourishing; and that no viable alternatives to abortion exist in the face of difficult diagnoses.

Alternatives do exist. A 2023 peer-reviewed article published in the *Cureus Journal of Medical Science* found that 60% of women considering an abortion would choose life if they had more material and emotional support. We want to help women and families to choose life! We invite every expectant mother in distress to ask us for help. We ask that elected officials and healthcare providers—especially those whose consciences are rightly troubled by the new law—work to ensure that life-sustaining care for vulnerable children in utero and that mothers and fathers who feel alone and overwhelmed have all they need to welcome and raise their children with confidence.

The Lord Jesus Christ saw the forgotten and reached out to the neglected. As Bishops, we call upon all to see the dignity of the poor, the unborn, the sick and the elderly. No one is expendable, no one is a burden. All have a sacred God-given dignity. The foundation of social justice is this inviolable dignity of the human person. The Prioritizing Patient Access to Care Act unjustly condemns to death our most vulnerable children and pits a mother against her own child.

In his Encyclical *Magnifica Humanitas*, Pope Leo teaches: “Human dignity does not depend on a person’s abilities, wealth or position in life, nor on the right or wrong choices made; instead, it is a gift that precedes and transcends each person, endowed by God as an expression of his unfailing love,” There is no stage of development or characteristic which would render a child unworthy of life—even if that life will be short or require palliative care.

May Our Lord Jesus Christ protect us all from harm, may He inspire us with self-giving love, and may He guide our civil leaders to enact laws which protect and promote the dignity of every person from conception to natural death.

What Can We Do?

Each year, Respect Life Month offers the opportunity to renew our reverence for life and take concrete actions to witness to the beauty and sanctity of this foundational gift of the Lord. Here are some of the concrete actions you might consider this year:

We Pray. First and foremost, we pray. With the passage of this bill our leaders and our Commonwealth have failed in the duty to uphold the sacred dignity of every human life. In prayer, we seek the mercy of a loving God for our failures and for this sin against His Law of Love. We pray for our civil leaders that the Lord will give them wisdom and strength to do their duty to protect life and uphold the common good.

We Witness. As disciples, we are also called to give witness. We urge you to contact your representatives and make known your desire for just laws which protect every person in this state.

We speak up There is also an effort underway to pause and even possibly overturn this immoral law. We encourage you to take part in this effort and raise your own voice in opposition to the law and in favor of life.

We walk with families Scripture commands us “Choose life that you may live” (Deut. 30:19) A culture of life requires families, parishes, and schools to live that reverence for life. We need families who form their sons and daughters in the summons to promote and defend life. We need ministries that accompany and support women and families in crisis. In our state with such a radical law, it is more important than ever for us to make clear our desire to welcome and nurture the gift of life.

For Free and Confidential pregnancy support visit: Pregnancyhelpboston.org

To learn more about the Suspend and Repeal Effort, including finding a petition signing location, visit: Repeal188.com

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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

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Thank You

CONTRIBUTIONS FOR PARISH SUPPORT ST. ELIZABETH

For the week ending 9/6/26

Cash & Check offertory	\$ 4,207
Electronic offertory (EFT & Online):	\$ 8,106
Total Parish Support	\$ 12,313

St. Vincent de Paul collection:	\$ 522
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CONTRIBUTIONS FOR PARISH SUPPORT ST. ISIDORE

For the week ending 9/6/26

Cash & Check offertory	\$ 7,085
Electronic offertory (EFT & Online):	\$ 3,095
Total Parish Support	\$ 10,180

St. Vincent de Paul collection:	\$ 88
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CONTRIBUTIONS FOR PARISH SUPPORT ST. ELIZABETH

For the week ending 9/13/26

Cash & Check offertory	\$ 3,455
Electronic offertory (EFT & Online):	\$ 5,699
Total Parish Support	\$ 9,154

St. Vincent de Paul collection:	\$ 650
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CONTRIBUTIONS FOR PARISH SUPPORT ST. ISIDORE

For the week ending 9/13/26

Cash & Check offertory	\$ 2,455
Electronic offertory (EFT & Online):	\$ 3,705
Total Parish Support	\$ 6,160

St. Vincent de Paul collection:	\$ 19
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