

The background of the entire page is a night sky filled with stars. A particularly bright star is visible in the upper left quadrant, with a prominent four-pointed diffraction pattern. In the lower right, the silhouettes of three camels are shown walking across a dark, grassy hill against a lighter, hazy horizon. The overall color palette is dominated by deep blues and purples of the night sky, with a warm orange glow at the bottom where the camels are silhouetted.

Epiphany of the Lord

We saw his star at its rising
and have come to do him homage.

Matthew 2:2

APPLE VALLEY CATHOLIC COLLABORATIVE – TWO PARISHES ONE MISSION

St. Elizabeth of Hungary Parish
89 Arlington Street, Acton, MA 01720
(978) 263-4305/Fax (978) 263-9014
Office Hours: Sunday Noon—4 p.m.
Monday—Thursday: 9:00 a.m.—4:00 p.m.

St. Isidore Parish
429 Great Road, Stow, MA 01775
(978) 897-2710/Fax (978) 461-0577
Office Hours: Sunday 10:00 a.m.—Noon
Monday: 9:00 –3:00 p.m.
Tuesday: 9:00 a.m.—Noon

Visit us at <https://applevalleycatholic.org/>

Adoration Of The Blessed Sacrament & Confessions

Wednesday, January 8

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament from
5:00-7:00 p.m., St. Elizabeth Church

Confessions from 5:30-7:00 p.m.
St. Elizabeth, Old Rectory
(Building to the right of the Church)

Confession is also offered at St. Isidore
every Saturday from 4:00—4:45 p.m.

Got Questions about Life?... About Faith? Try Alpha!



What is Alpha?

Alpha is an opportunity to explore life and the Christian faith, in a friendly, open and informal environment. A place where you can belong to a group of people exploring these questions.

Alpha is not so much a *course*, but an experience! Gathering once a week over a ten week period, each Alpha brings together people from every walk of life. We begin each Alpha gathering by sharing a meal. We eat together, we listen to a talk and then we gather together in small groups for discussion. Over 29 million people across the globe have experienced Alpha.

We will be offering Winter Alpha Sessions starting on:

Tues., January 21, 9:45 a.m., St. Isidore
Thurs., January 23, 6:30 p.m., St. Isidore
and
Teen Alpha, January 21, 6:30 p.m.,
St. Elizabeth Parish Hall

In the meantime if you would like to learn more, check out alphausa.org; or contact avccalpha@gmail.com

Epiphany of the Lord



When Jesus was born in Bethlehem of
Judea, in the days of King Herod,
behold, magi from the east arrived in
Jerusalem, saying, "Where is the newborn
king of the Jews? We saw his star at its
rising and have come to do him homage."

Matthew 2:1-2

What's Next After Alpha? Connect Groups

A place where people go to
connect and grow!

Join a Connect Group! Connect Groups are where Alpha alumni go to connect and grow! They are an opportunity to continue to grow in the relationships that were formed in the Alpha course with each other and with God. They are places where members are known, loved and cared for by one another. We meet in homes, share a meal, have some fun, listen to a short talk by one of its members, have conversation and pray together.

Our first Alpha Connect Group gathering of the year is **Friday Evening January 24** at Sean O'Sullivan's home, 125 Hayward Rd., Acton from 6:30-8 p.m. We will continue every first and third Friday after that. If you would like to join this group that is starting, contact: avccalpha@gmail.com.

Apple Valley Adult Christian Service Ministry

We are a group of adults who desire to share our gifts and blessings in service to others. All are welcome to volunteer according to their own schedules and interests.

Please join us, all are invited! Contact Mary at amato.mg@gmail.com for more information about our ministry or to add your name to the mailing list. The next monthly meeting is on **January 27**. Parish Center, Room 1, 7:00 p.m. Follow AVCC Adult Christian Service Ministry on Facebook.



Accompanying others on the Journey of Faith Ananias Training 2020 Begins Wednesday, February 19

Inspired by the important role Ananias played in St. Paul's journey to Christ, Ananias Training **includes five sessions plus an optional retreat day**, and is designed equip people to accompany, or "be Ananias," to one another, within the Church as well as to those in the world. The training will use Scripture reflections, video, and facilitated discussions to help you to:

- Recognize the stages of another's spiritual journey through compassionate listening.
- Listen lovingly to their real questions and opinions God in order to guide the discovery of how God is present and active in a person's life.
- Talk about our relationship with God.
- Share how we came to be a disciple of Jesus.
- Share Jesus' own story in response to the spiritual hunger of another.

Training Schedule: Wednesday Evenings. Sessions build upon one another and completing all sessions bring most value to participation. February 19, March 4, March 18, April 1, April 22, May 6, April 4 (retreat day – highly recommended but not mandatory)

Cost: \$25 per person for the training, (\$30 for those outside St. Elizabeth or St. Isidore) \$12 for a copy of *Forming Intentional Disciples*, if needed. \$15 for retreat day*

*The stand alone retreat is open to the community at large at \$25 per person. Ananias Training participants receive a \$10 discount.

Please be in touch with Diahne Goodwin with questions or to register.

Your light is strong, your love is near; Draw us beyond the limits which this world imposes, To the life where your Spirit makes all life complete.

Roman Rite

SYMBOLON***The Catholic Faith Explained*****Next Monthly Discussion is January 15**

*The Sacraments and overview of
Baptism and Confirmation*

Symbolon: The Catholic Faith Explained features video and discussion sessions. Please join us on January 15, 7:00 - 8:30 p.m. at the St. Elizabeth Parish Center. The topic will be: The Sacraments and overview of Baptism and Confirmation. There is no cost to participate, but please sign up ahead of time (diahneg@applevalleycatholic.org) with Diahne so that we may plan well for the event.

Future dates and topics include:

Feb 12: The Eucharist

Mar 11: The Mass

April 15: Holy Spirit and the Life of Grace

May 13: Mary and the Saints

You are invited to participate in one or all – each session stands alone.

Apple Valley Catholic Mission Trips Summer 2022

AVCC Youth ministry is excited to be able to offer 2 Catholic Heart Work Camp Mission Trips next summer! Catholic Heart is an amazing experience for young people to serve those in need, deepen their faith, and make incredible friends.

Catholic Heart Hartford, CT.

Open to youth currently in grades 8 – 12

Sunday, July 5 – Friday, July 10

Cost \$495

Catholic Heart Boston, MA.

Open to kids currently in grades 7 – 12

Sunday, July 12 – Friday, July 17

Cost \$495

Space is limited. Registrations will be accepted with a \$100 deposit on a first-come, first-served basis.

Upcoming Programs for Middle School

The Archdiocese of Boston offers the following programs for middle school kids.

Keeping Kids Safe for Grades 5 and 6

Sun. Jan. 26, After the 10:45 Mass – 2 p.m.
St. Elizabeth Room 1 and Room 4

Keeping Kids Safe offers ways for early adolescents to protect themselves and stay safe while they are home alone, in public places with friends, and online. Topics such as sexual harassment, sexual abuse, and exploitation will be discussed in an age appropriate manner. Parents are welcome to attend.

Created for Love for Grades 7 and 8

Fri. Jan. 31, 6:00 p.m., St. Elizabeth Room
1 and Room 4

Created for Love presents the Church's teaching on Love, Marriage, and Chastity. Kids will learn about the importance of developing positive relationships in their lives, the sacrament of Marriage, and why the Church promotes chastity. Parents are welcome to attend. For both programs, please register with Barbara Dane at barbara@applevalleycatholic.org no later than January 21.



The gifts of God are multiplied,

and we in our time experience all that the first believers did. For though the gospel account tells us only of the days when three men, untaught by prophetic preaching or the testimonies of the Law, came from the distant East in order to know God, yet we see the same thing happening now even more clearly and on a far larger scale in the enlightenment of all who are called.

• Leo the Great, Fifth century

St. Isidore Grand Annual

Dear St. Isidore Parishioners,

As you know we are in the midst of our Grand Annual Collection. If you didn't receive a mailing regarding this collection, copies are at the entryways of the church. We are grateful to everyone who has already given.

We want to point out you can donate **appreciated stock** or **mutual fund units** as part your contribution to the Grand Annual. Donating some of those securities to St. Isidore's Grand Annual Collection helps reduce your capital gains tax.

As you plan for the upcoming year, you may want to consider donating a portion of your IRA Required Minimum Distributions (RMD) to St. Isidore, and if you are over 70 and 1/2 years old, you can use a tax efficient tool called a Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD) that counts toward your RMD, but is not considered taxable income. There are three simple steps involved in making a QCD:

1. Contact your IRA Company or Advisor and tell them you'd like to make a Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD) to St. Isidore Parish.
2. Your IRA company will send a check directly to St. Isidore Parish.
3. St. Isidore Parish receives your gift and the amount is excluded from your income.

You should consult with a tax or financial advisor regarding your specific situation and other potential tools that are available to you for planned giving. Please let Robin know if you plan on using one of these methods.

In closing, we thank you for your past financial support of the parish and we hope you will continue this support during this time.

Sincerely,
St. Isidore's Parish Finance Council

Mass Intentions

St. Isidore

Sunday, January 5, 8:45 a.m.
Albert 7 Stella Darby, Memorial Mass

St. Elizabeth

Sunday, January 5, 10:45 a.m.
Irene Bania, Memorial Mass

Sunday, January 5, 5:00 p.m.
Thomas Cavanaugh, Memorial Mass

Clothes Drive at St. Isidore January 18 & 19

My name is Terry Herring, I am a member of the St. Isidore and St. Elizabeth parish family. I am collecting **gently used men's and women's clothing, (pants, shirts, sweaters, tee shirts, sweatshirts, shorts, socks, boots, sneakers, shoes, coats etc.)** for The Dimock Center in Boston, Massachusetts. The Dimock Center is an Acute Treatment Services and Detox Center, it is located at 41 Dimock Street Boston, Massachusetts (www.Dimock.org). The center provides support to men and women for addictions including treatments, therapeutic support, after-care planning, and connections to onsite primary medical care.

Gently used clothing will go directly to the participants in this program at this center. The need is great all through the year, but especially during the colder months.

For additional information, or questions, please feel free to contact me at 978-897-9377, or email me at theresajh@aol.com Please type in the subject line: Dimock Donations. Thank you.

Virtus Training Sessions

Please sign up for Virtus training at least one week prior to each session. You may register with Barbara at:

barbara@applevalleycatholic.org or by calling 978-263-4305, ext. 16.

Wed., Jan. 22, 11:00 a.m., St. Elizabeth, Room 3

Wed., Feb. 12, 7:00 St. Elizabeth Parish Center Room 3

Sat., March 21, 10:00 a.m., St. Isidore, Upstairs Rectory

Thurs., April 23, 7:00 p.m., St. Elizabeth Parish Center Room 3.

Cancellation of Mass Due To Inclement Weather

If you don't have internet access, closings can be found on TV on Channel 4, WBZ. The names of closed institutions scroll continuously across the screen. Cancellation of Masses on Saturday evening or Sunday will be posted on the home page <https://www.applevalleycatholic.org/> at least one hour before Mass is scheduled to begin.

Weekday morning Masses are canceled whenever the local high school cancels class or has a delayed opening. St. Isidore follows NRHS and St. Elizabeth follows ABRHS.

Collaborative Worship Schedule

Saturday

5:00 p.m.—St. Isidore

Sunday

8:45 a.m.—St. Isidore
10:45 a.m.—St. Elizabeth
5:00 p.m.—St. Elizabeth

Daily Eucharist

Mon., 9:00 a.m.—St. Isidore
Tues., 9:00 a.m.—St. Isidore
Wed., 9:00 a.m.—St. Elizabeth

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

First Wednesday of each month
5:00—7:00 p.m.—St. Elizabeth

Sacrament of Reconciliation

St. Isidore

Saturdays, 4:00—4:45 p.m.

St. Elizabeth

First Wednesday of each month, 5:30—7:00 p.m.



Collaborative Pastoral Council:

Edward Kelly
Maria Mpelkas
Hayley Reynolds
Valerie Pietry
David Winders
Steve Ryan

Diahne Goodwin - ex officio
Deacon Charlie Cornell - ex officio
Fr. Jeffrey Archer - ex officio

Parish Finance Council:

Annamarie Mazzucotelli - ex officio
Fr. Jeffrey Archer - ex officio

St. Isidore:

Bill Oberlies - Vice-Chair
Charlie Corley
Dave Goulet
Glen Bunnell
Rosario Rizzo
Tom Moroney

St. Elizabeth:

Christopher Brodin - Vice-Chair
Dawn Gomez
Don Armstrong

Pastor: Rev. Jeffrey Archer
(frjeff@applevalleycatholic.org), (978) 263-4305 ext. 15

Deacon: Charles A. Cornell
(cac@applevalleycatholic.org), (978) 562-7447

Pastoral Associate/Collab. Dir. Pastoral Ministries:
Diahne Goodwin (diahneg@applevalleycatholic.org), (978) 263-4305 ext.13
(Adult Formation, Pastoral Care, RCIA, Pastoral Ministries)

Administrative Assistant: Janice Howes
(janice@applevalleycatholic.org), (978) 263-4305 ext. 10

Director of Finance & Operations: Annmarie Mazzucotelli,
(annmarie@applevalleycatholic.org), (978) 263-4305 ext. 11

Manager of Finance & Operations
Robin Ulichney
(robin@applevalleycatholic.org), (978) 897-2710

Collaborative Director of Music: Andrea Goodrich
(andreag@applevalleycatholic.org), (978) 263-4305 ext. 12

Interim Coordinator of High School Faith formation:
Sheila Bauer, (sheilab@applevalleycatholic.org), (978) 263-4305 ext. 23

Interim Coordinator of Youth Ministry: Kayla Dee,
(kaylad@applevalleycatholic.org), (978) 263-4305 ext. 23

Director of Faith Formation: Barbara Dane
(barbara@applevalleycatholic.org), (978) 263-4305 ext. 16 (Faith Formation for Grades 5-8 and GIFT)

Coordinator of Young Family Ministries: Joan Mattila
(joan@applevalleycatholic.org), (978) 263-4305 ext. 17

Pastoral Ministries Administrative Assistant: Judy Richardson
(judy@applevalleycatholic.org), 978 263-4305 ext. 19

Liturgical Coordinator: Mary Ryan
(mgr@applevalleycatholic.org), (978) 263-4305 ext. 35

Catholic Chaplain - Emerson Hospital:
Timothy Duff - (978) 287-3015