



*Rejoice*

## Seventh Sunday of Easter

*I will not leave you orphans, says the Lord.  
I will come back to you, and your hearts will rejoice.*

*John 14:18*

**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



**St. Isidore Parish**  
429 Great Road, Stow, MA 01775  
(978) 897-2710/Fax (978) 461-0577

Office Hours: Suspended during Coronavirus

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

Dear Sisters & Brothers in Christ;

Governor Baker issued his 4-phase plan to open the state of Massachusetts. Phase I, which started March 18, 2020, allows for construction, manufacturing and places of worship to begin opening. This is good news for us as we are now able to start to prepare to open our churches in the Archdiocese of Boston. However, there is a lot of preparation work needed before any Church can be open. In the Apple Valley Catholic Community, I have started looking at all that must be done before our doors open. Below, please find a section from Cardinal Sean message to all Pastor's, Priest, Deacon, Lay ministers, and staff.

*If a parish within the Archdiocese of Boston, after careful and deliberate preparation, considers that they are able to meet all of the State, Municipal, and Archdiocesan guidelines, they may request permission from their Regional Bishop to begin Masses as early as Saturday evening, May 23. The Regional Bishop should grant that permission only if he is convinced that the parish can in fact comply with all of the guidelines. Many, or even most, parishes may well need more time to prepare, and may choose Sunday, May 31 (the Feast of Pentecost), as the date for their reopening.*

*Parishes should not resume Masses before they are ready, and the decision to delay the resumption of Masses until May 31 may very well be the best decision for a parish. No matter what the start date, no parish should have Mass unless they can do it safely, and in compliance with the guidelines."*

I will be working with a team to prepare all that needs to be done in order to open. It is the recommendation of the Archdiocese of Boston that any collaborative that has 2 or more Churches should consider opening one Church first, allowing for Masses there for a two- or three-week period then begin to open the other Church (es). In following this recommendation, I have decided to begin the process of preparing to open St. Elizabeth of Hungary first. When this will happen, I cannot say as of yet. It might be May 31, 2020 or June 7, 2020. The goal is

safety first, meeting all the State, Municipal, and Archdiocese guidelines before we open. Directives regarding when and how to proceed with the celebration of First Communion and Confirmation, funerals, weddings, baptisms and such events are still to be determined. Thank you for your patience as we continue to work out details.

Early next week I will send out another email with an update as well as some key details around the opening of St. Elizabeth of Hungary. Until then please know that Mass will continue to be available from our collaborative every Sunday morning by 9:00 a.m. on our Facebook page (Apple Valley Catholic Collaborative) and Website. This will be in place for the foreseeable future.

Be assured of my prayers for you and your families.

God Bless You.

I am yours in Christ,

Fr. Jeff

Archdiocese of Boston reopening guidance:  
<https://rcabrisk.org/re-opening-guidance/>

Massachusetts Safety Stands for -places  
of worship:  
<https://www.mass.gov/lists/safety-standards-for-places-of-worship>

### **Apple Valley Catholic Collaborative Online Mass**

Until we are able to return to our two Churches, we are celebrating the Mass at St. Elizabeth of Hungary & St. Isidore. Every Sunday the recorded Mass will be posted on our Apple Valley Catholic Community website ([www.applevalleycatholic.org](http://www.applevalleycatholic.org)) and on our Facebook page (Apple Valley Catholic Collaborative). The recorded online Mass will be posted each Sunday by 9:00 a.m. Please join us online each Sunday for the celebration of Mass.

### Mass Celebrated For All Those Who Have Died Of Covid-19

On Friday, May 29, Bishop Robert Reed will celebrate the CatholicTV daily Mass for all those who have died of COVID-19. If you would like to submit the name of a loved one who has passed away from the virus, please visit [www.CatholicTV.org/memorial](http://www.CatholicTV.org/memorial). All names submitted will be placed on the altar during Mass.

Please join us in praying for all those who have died and for their families. Friday’s Mass will be broadcast on CatholicTV live at 9:30 a.m. ET and again at 12:30 p.m., 7 p.m., and 11:30 p.m. You can also watch the Mass at [WatchtheMass.com](http://WatchtheMass.com), [YouTube.com/CatholicTV](http://YouTube.com/CatholicTV), or [CatholicTV.org/Masses](http://CatholicTV.org/Masses).



On this Memorial Day weekend, we pray for those who courageously laid down their lives for the cause of freedom. May the examples of their sacrifice inspire in us the selfless love of Your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ. Bless the families of our fallen troops, and fill their homes and their lives with Your strength and peace.



### Thank You!

While our lives have been disrupted, we are also seeing that God is working in many ways around us. Through the people on the front lines as well as through countless acts of kindness and generosity we witness daily.

As you support our churches in the Apple Valley Catholic Collaborative, as your means allow, you share your gifts lovingly and in justice with others. Whether you send your support through Online Giving, EFTs, mailed-in envelopes or the 90 Days Now Campaign, please know of our heartfelt gratitude.

#### CONTRIBUTIONS FOR PARISH SUPPORT ST. ELIZABETH

##### For the week ending 5/17/20

Mailbacks:	\$ 2,214
Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT):	\$ 756
90-Days NOW!	\$ 1,951
Online Giving	\$ <u>605</u>
Total Parish Support:	\$ 5,526
Total Parish Support since 7/1/2019:	\$ 573,179
Target Parish Support since 7/1/2019:	\$ <u>602,731</u>
Over (Under) Target since 7/1/2019:	\$ (29,552)

Target is \$698,000 for the year ended 6/30/2020

St. Vincent de Paul online giving:	\$ -
St. Vincent de Paul collection:	\$ 40

#### CONTRIBUTIONS FOR PARISH SUPPORT ST. ISIDORE

##### For the week ending 5/17/20

Mailbacks:	\$ 2,260
Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT):	\$ 2,048
90-Days Now!	\$ 135
Online Giving	\$ <u>295</u>
Total Parish Support:	\$ 4,738
Total Parish Support since 7/1/2019:	\$ 228,995
Target Parish Support since 7/1/2019:	\$ <u>229,707</u>
Over (Under) Target since 7/1/2019:	\$ (714)

Grand Annual (67% of 65K goal) \$ 43,725

Target is \$260,000 for year ended 6/30/2020

St. Vincent de Paul online giving	\$ 25
St. Vincent de Paul collection	\$ 25



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Timothy Duff - (978) 287-3015

**St. Elizabeth's St. Vincent DePaul:** (978) 263-4305 ext. 14

## Prayer Line

*Prayer makes a difference!*

Can you take a few minutes each week to pray for others? Do you need prayers yourself? Connect with our email prayer group!

To join the group or to request prayers, please send an email to Cathy Griffin, [nusham-rockgirl@gmail.com](mailto:nusham-rockgirl@gmail.com). For requests, to protect privacy, we only use first names or no name.



This allows you to make offertory and other contributions (beyond the special 90 Day Now Campaign) throughout the year, without writing checks or worrying about cash donations. This site lets you set up automatic contributions and change the timing or the amount of your gift at any time. Please go on our website page:

<https://22049.sites.ecatholic.com/donate>

## Scripture for the week of May 24, 2020

24 SUN Acts 1:12-14/1 Pt 4:13-16/Jn 17:1-11a  
25 Mon Acts 19:1-8/Jn 16:29-33  
26 Tue Acts 20:17-27/Jn 17:1-11a  
27 Wed Acts 20:28-38/Jn 17:11b-19  
28 Thu Acts 22:30; 23:6-11/Jn 17:20-26  
29 Fri Acts 25:13b-21/Jn 21:15-19  
30 Sat Acts 28:16-20, 30-31/Jn 21:20-25  
31 SUN Vigil: Gn 11:1-9 or Ex 19:3-8a, 16-20b or Ez 37:1-14 or Jl 3:1-5/Rom 8:22-27/Jn 7:37-39  
Day: Acts 2:1-11/1 Cor 12:3b-7, 12-13/Jn 20:19-23

## Stay Updated On Apple Valley Catholic Collaborative

To keep up to date on General Apple Valley Catholic Collaborative announcements join our **Constant Contact List** which can be found on our website.

*Find us on Facebook:*

*Apple Valley Catholic Collaborative,  
Apple Valley Catholic Youth Ministry  
Apple Valley Catholic Young Adults!*