



APPLE VALLEY CATHOLIC COLLABORATIVE – TWO PARISHES ONE MISSION

**St. Elizabeth of Hungary Parish
89 Arlington Street, Acton, MA 01720**



**St. Isidore Parish
429 Great Road, Stow, MA 01775**

Welcome!

**Apple Valley Catholic Collaborative Office:
89 Arlington Street, Acton, MA 01720**

**Office Hours: Closed due to the pandemic. Reach out to staff by phone or email.
(978) 263-4305/Fax (978) 263-9014 — Visit us at <https://applevalleycatholic.org>**



Happy Easter, I take this opportunity to wish you and your loved ones a Happy Easter.

This Easter, as was the same last Easter, looks a lot different. We are not all gathered in God's sacred Churches. We might be at home with family or visiting others while tucked away in private homes. Yet we are still able to celebrate what God did for us.

We remember the purpose and the significance of the truth that we celebrate. God's grand story of redemption, through his Son's victory over sin and death rests at the center of what we as Catholics & Christians believe and trust. The resurrection of Jesus reminds us that no matter how dark it is, light – that is the light of our Lord & Savior Jesus Christ – is always more powerful than darkness. No matter how much difficulty there is in the world, LOVE – the love of Christ -- conquers all fear and fills us with hope and new life.

I am reminded on that first Easter Sunday night; the resurrected Jesus finds His disciples locked in a room separated from the world. He comes to them with these words "Peace be with you." At that His disciples comes alive again. Despair is gone and rejoicing erupts. Christ is truly risen from the dead. The realization that God has raised His son, just as He promised, ignites in the disciples a new reality. Death and darkness no longer rules. HOPE is restored. On this Easter Sunday and, throughout the years, let us continue to be guided by the light of Jesus Christ in everything we experience. Let us stand in solidarity with each other that His light, the light of LOVE conquers all.

Wishing you and your loved ones a Blessed Easter.

I am yours in Christ,
Fr. Jeff

We Are Easter People!



At Easter, we celebrate that Our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, conquered death, rose from the dead, and remains very much alive. To the world of non-believers: WHAT!?! It is quite a big reality to swallow. But for the believer, it is a reality that inspires us to the point where we find ourselves constantly sharing the Gospel with everyone we meet! Right?

So what does Easter mean to you? The question is not what you believe. The question is what impact does Easter have on you? How do your actions demonstrate the power of Easter? What does it mean when you hear that we, the Church, are an Easter People?

You may be saying right now that you have no intention of becoming an evangelist, passing out Bibles to all you meet. But, I would like to suggest that you actually have a more powerful way of evangelizing others: everyday stewardship.

Actions speak louder than words and the way you live your life can be a great testimony to all those you encounter. By acknowledging the gifts you have been given, cultivating those so they grow, and then sharing them fully with God and with others in God's name will give testimony to your belief that Jesus is alive and seeking a relationship with each of His brothers & sisters (You).

If more of us won't live our lives in this manner, then non-believers and non-intentional disciples will ask the question, "What difference does Easter make anyway?" Jesus died and rose for you and me. To be sure, it DOES make a difference.



Come Join Us!

Do you know someone who:

- ◇ Has expressed an interest in becoming Catholic?
- ◇ Has a child over the age of seven who has not been baptized?
- ◇ Was baptized Catholic as a child; but has not celebrated the Sacraments of Confirmation and Eucharist?
- ◇ Has been coming to Mass for years with their Catholic family?

We offer an opportunity to come together in a small group to learn more about our faith. Sessions focus on the teachings and experience of Church and prepare individuals to celebrate the Sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation, and Eucharist during the Easter season. Children and Youth take part in the parish ministry appropriate to their age group for most part.

You are welcome to participate in the process with your questions, your insights and your faith story in a warm accepting setting. We will meet you where you are in your journey.

For more information please contact Trina Toups, RCIA Coordinator at 978 204-1798 or at trin@avcatholic.org

Taizé Prayer — This Friday, April 9

Christ is Risen! Alleluia! Today we begin the Great Fifty Days of Easter. After forty days of penitence and fasting, we celebrate the glorious resurrection of Jesus. Easter is too big to celebrate for only one day. The Church celebrates the Octave of Easter – eight days of celebration! Every day in Easter Week is a Solemnity which is the highest rank of liturgical feasts.

One way our community is celebrating the Octave of Easter is with a live stream Taizé Prayer of the Resurrection this Friday, April 9 at 7:30 p.m. Join us for a festive 30-minute service of joyful singing, prayer, and scripture. The link is on the website.



This year 16 amazing adults in the Apple Valley Catholic Community chose to invest their time and energy into the lives of our early adolescents. They committed to helping kids build an authentic and lasting faith in Jesus in a new and innovative way during the pandemic. Although the small groups have not yet even met in person, with the wonders of video technology, our kids in grades 5- 8, and their leaders, are experiencing evangelization and transformation in new and beautiful ways.

How did they do this? Together we have explored and trained as small group leaders in a relational ministry approach called EDGE. EDGE is part of the Lifeteen program for Catholic Youth Ministry. Relational ministry happens when you take a lot of people (we have 60) and put them into small groups (we have 8) that meet frequently and consistently.

Relational ministry is personal. Bonds are formed, Stories are shared. Life happens together in the context of God's love, the Church's teachings, and prayer. The kids have learned a lot of catechetical content this year based on Scripture and Tradition. They have done deep dives into prayer, sacrament, and the liturgical year. And we have even managed to have some fun with crazy Zoom games!

But more than that, during this time of social isolation, which for middle school kids is akin to purgatory, they have found a place to belong. They have connected with other kids and caring adults to share their experiences, their fears, their joys, and their faith in a safe, supportive, and non-judgmental community. This matters. At a time when their families may not feel comfortable coming to Church, these kids have found a way to be Church.

We are beginning to plan for EDGE experiences this summer and next year. If you are interested in learning more about being a student or leader in the EDGE program, please contact Barbara Dane barbarad@avcatholic.org

Let us rejoice and celebrate! Alleluia!

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. It's 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 Guests gather each week viz Zoom where they watch a video and then have an opportunity to discuss the talk in small groups. Over 29 million people across the globe have experienced Alpha. There is no cost to you, consider trying it! bring a friend!

We will be offering Alpha again soon, but in the meantime if you would like to learn more go to www.applevalleycatholic.org/alpha or to alphausa.org.

Contact alpha@avcatholic.org with questions or if you would like to be emailed when the next Alpha will begin.

Easter Collection Clergy Health & Retirement Trust

The Easter Collection supports the retirement, medical and financial needs of priests of the Archdiocese of Boston in good standing. These priests have given their lives to faithfully serve Christ, the Church, and you. Please be generous to this important collection. For more information, please www.clergyfunds.org.

April Confession Change

Our monthly Wednesday night confessions for **April only** has changed. The new date is Wednesday **April 14, from 4:00 – 6:00 p.m.** We'll go back to the first Wednesday of every month again in May.



Have You Been Waiting to Go on a Mission Trip? The wait is over!

This summer AVCC is heading to Covid-ready Catholic Heart Work Camp and we can't wait! Please join us!

Where: CHWC Hartford, CT

When: June 27-July 2

Who: Any current 7-12th graders. But space is limited!

Why: Because we can't wait to serve in Jesus' name!

How Much: CHWC is \$495. A \$100 deposit is due by April 1. \$395 balance is due by May 1.

How do I register? Easy! Just go to our website: <https://applevalleycatholic.org/youth-ministry>

What if I have questions? Contact Sheila Bauer sheilab@avcatholic.org or Barbara Dane at barbarad@avcatholic.org

Collaborative Adult 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.

Children's Liturgy Of The Word (CLOW) Offered Sunday Mornings 9:30 a.m. Via Facebook Live!

Young children and their parents can log into our Apple Valley Catholic Collaborative Face Book page to participate on Sunday mornings at 9:30 a.m. from their homes in a live and interactive Children's Liturgy Of the Word (CLOW).



Collaborative Mass Schedule

Saturday - 4:00 p.m. Live Stream/Recorded Mass

Sunday - 8:45 a.m. Mass at St. Isidore

Sunday - 10:45 a. m. Mass St. Elizabeth

Sunday - 5:00 p.m. Mass St. Elizabeth

Don't Forget to Register for Mass!

Please make sure to register in advance! Walk-ins are welcome if there is room, but are not guaranteed a seat and may have to wait until all those pre-registered are checked in to be seated. Registration opens at 9:00 a.m. Tuesday and closes at noon on Saturday, or when full. Register on our website www.applevalleycatholic.org/mass-times or by calling Judy 978-263-4305 x19 on Tuesday & Wednesdays.

**You Matter to God!
You Matter to Us!**

**May God bless you and our community. As always,
please let us know how we can be of help and support for
you and your loved ones.**



Pastor: Rev. Jeffrey Archer
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(978) 263-4305 ext. 23

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(Faith Formation for Grades 5-8)

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Collaborative Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults ("RCIA") :
Trina Toups (trinat@avcatholic.org)

St. Elizabeth's St. Vincent DePaul: Conference of Acton/Boxborough
(978) 263-4305 ext. 14

St. Isidore's St. Vincent De Paul Conference of Stow
(978) 263-4305 ext. 21

