



Third Sunday of Easter

"Thus it is written that the Christ would suffer and rise from the dead on the third day."

Luke 24:46

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>**

Dear Friends in Christ,

On March 15, 2021, the Congregation for the Doctrine of Faith issue a statement regarding the blessing of unions of persons of the same sex. I imagine by now most if not all of you have read it. Many Catholics throughout the world are hurt, disappointed, frustrated, and saddened by what was noted in this statement. Members of our own faith filled community wrote me letters, sent me emails, and expressed their disappointment as well.

I would like to share with you where I stand in support of the LGBTQ community, their families, and friends.

As I accompany everyone in our community on their faith journey, I will continue to accompany LGBTQ individuals and couples, their immediate and extended families, their own families, and friends in their faith journeys, to welcome them into our community, to learn from their experience, and to grow together as a church.

At an early age I was taught and understood two key principles of our Catholic faith that I hold in the depth of my heart and soul. First, we are God's children, each and every one of us. Second, Jesus reminds us to "Love one another..." (John 13:34). My ministry as a priest of Jesus Christ and, as a child of God, is built on these two key principles of our Catholic faith.

I affirm LGBTQ individuals along with their families and friends and to let them know that they will always have a valued place in the Apple Valley Catholic Community as long as I am the Pastor. I see you, I value you, and most importantly I recognize you as a gift of God and as a child of God. I affirm the entire Apple Valley Catholic Community, each member, as a gift of God and a child of God. I stand for and will always stand for inclusion, as Jesus Christ did, and will always follow his commandment to "Love one another." I will not push anyone, no matter who you are, to the margins. For in Christ, there are no margins. As God's children we are all part of the body of Christ as the bible reminds us "For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ." (1-Corinthians 12:12)

My values are twofold. First, love surpasses everything. This was and remains the ministry of Jesus Christ. Second, we are ALL God's children, equally loved by our heavenly Father and created in His image. God is pure love, and His love does not hate, nor discriminate, nor push anyone to the margins of society.

If you have been hurt, felt unwelcomed, isolated, frustrated, confused, not loved, or felt pushed away, know that I am there for you. I welcome you, cherish you, and would never marginalize you, your families, or friends.

As your Pastor I will continue to accompany each person in our community on their faith journeys. For this I was ordained and for this I will continue in my ministry. I value and see each and every one of you and welcome you with open arms. This is my truth and the truth I will always stand for.

Finally, there will be some who will disagree with what I wrote and that is fine. Please know that in your disagreement I still see you as a child of God, loved and valued. We can hold our differences. However, we should never go against the commandment that Jesus gave to us "Love one another." I will not and it is my hope that those who disagree will not as well.

I am yours in Christ,

Fr. Jeff



Last Call For Summer Mission Trippers!!

This year we are going to serve in the greater Hartford area June 27 - July 2.

Open to all kids currently in grades 7- 12. Don't miss out!

[What is Catholic Heart Work camp like?](#)

Catholic Heart Work Camp provides a Covid safe opportunity to help those in need, to engage in deep spiritual experiences, and to have lots of fun!!

[For more information and registration, click here!](#)



Holy Week And Triduum At Apple Valley Catholic Community

Our Holy Week and Triduum celebrations this year included:

- ◇ Live-streamed and in person Palm Sunday Masses with palms being blessed and handed out.
- ◇ Live-streamed Holy Thursday Mass and Good Friday Liturgy.
- ◇ Virtual Stations of the Cross with our Confirmation candidates.
- ◇ A Collaborative Guide to Live stream celebrations.

On Easter Sunday we welcomed over 280 worshipers to our two services. Thank you to everyone for registering in advance, wearing your mask and being mindful of social distancing. Thank you for everyone who helped to make our celebration welcoming and safe, especially those who helped with greeting, seating and clean-up.

- ◇ Our lectors and music ministry for making our celebrations vibrant and joyful.
- ◇ Our environment & art teams for making our worship and gathering spaces beautiful.
- ◇ Our building & grounds team and scout volunteers for sprucing up our church entrance and grounds.
- ◇ Our AV team for making our Triduum liturgies accessible via live-stream and YouTube to those who could not attend in person.

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!

The next session of Alpha will begin on **April 29, 7:00 p.m.** online. If you would like to learn more go to www.applevalleycatholic.org/alpha or to alphausa.org.

Contact alpha@avcatholic.org with questions.

Are You Familiar With Zoom? Do You Know How To Move People In And Out Of Breakout Rooms On Zoom?



If you answered "yes" to these questions, then the AVCC Alpha Team is looking for you. The Spring Alpha sessions will start on Thursday evenings, beginning April 29 through June from 6:40-8:30 p.m. This volunteer position can be shared among 2 or even 3 people on a rotating schedule. The tech person would also be responsible for uploading videos and musical reflections. For more information, contact Bernice Higdon at: alpha@avcatholic.org



Mass Intentions

April 17, 4:00 p.m. Mass
Tony Pizzaro, Memorial Mass

April 18, 8:45 a.m. Mass
Jack Clary, Memorial Mass

The AVCC Annual Youth Ministry Auction Is Back!!!



Like everybody else...we are going virtual this year by hosting an online auction! Proceeds support our kids' mission trips, service projects, and programs. This is so important now as our kids are coming back to in person events at church!

How: We will be using the "Bidding for Good" website for non-profit donations. Don't worry! We will teach you how to do it.

When: Bidding is open between May 15 - 23

Where: From the comfort of your very favorite couch at home.



Great! How Can I Help?
We Need Some Auction Items!



- ◇ Vacation Homes
- ◇ 2 Hour Teaching Experiences for adults or kids: Crafts, Cooking, Sports Training!
- ◇ Themed Dinner Party (Italian, BBQ, etc.)
- ◇ Outings: Boat trips, golf, pool parties
- ◇ Tickets for anything fun!

To make a donation, please contact:
(All dates to be mutually agreed upon and covid safe!) Sheila Bauer,
sheilab@avcatholic.org

Social Justice Ministry

The newly formed Social Justice Ministry will have an organizational meeting on Monday April 26, 7 pm, via zoom. The meeting is open to anyone interested in planning social justice projects. Contact Sheila Bauer, sheilab@avcatholic.org for the meeting link.

Congratulations To Our Newly Confirmed On Friday, April 16

Bridget Barlett	Kacie Benn
Rafael M. Chavez	Casey Corkery
Shaun Costello	Keira Baglio
Taylor Dennison	Abigail Dennison
Paige Pittorino	Keelin Fox
Robert Goyette	Megan Hebert
Natalie Hibbard	Taylor Lammey
Paige Maffei	Molly Martin
Tyler Martin	Andrew Matarese
Anna McCarthy	Sean Nelson
Maeve Tobin	Michaela Olson
Aidan O'Sullivan	Emily Grace Phillion
Margaret Matz	Candela Boza Prada
Lucas Villasenor	Sienna Redmond
Joy Silva	Lila Stanton
Stephen Sullivan	Alyssa Dalto
Nolan Westberg	Catherine Bussiere
Liam Flynn	Molly Tobin
Ronan Wheeler	Isabelle Perraud
Sarah Keefe	Ava Kobelski
Isabelle Clare	

We extend our heartfelt congratulations and offer our prayers for each of you. You have taken an important step in your journey of faith by readying yourselves to become fully initiated into the Body of Christ. May the Holy Spirit continue to guide each of you according to the path that God has set out for your life.

2021 Catholic Appeal Update

Our heartfelt thanks to all who have helped make our campaign a success so far. Whether you are attending Mass in person or watching from home, I invite you to join me in supporting the Catholic Appeal. We recognize that many of you may be navigating your own financial challenges but ask for your prayerful consideration of a gift to the 2021 Catholic Appeal at whatever level is comfortable for you. If you have not received a Catholic Appeal letter or email request, donations can be made on line at www.bostoncatholicappeal.org

St. Elizabeth has raised \$27,160 toward the 2021 Catholic Appeal goal of \$55,677.55. St. Isidore has raised \$7,125 toward the 2021 Catholic Appeal of \$23,883.48. Every gift, regardless of the size, is meaningful and can make an impact. Your participation in our Appeal is very much appreciated by our parish and the thousands that are served through the Archdiocesan Central Ministries.

Pastor: Rev. Jeffrey Archer
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Deacon: Charles A. Cornell
(charliec@avcatholic.org), (978) 562-7447

Collaborative Office & Communication Manager: Janice Howes
(janiceh@avcatholic.org), (978) 263-4305 ext. 10

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

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

Coordinator of High School Youth Ministry:
Sheila Bauer, (sheilab@avcatholic.org),
(978) 263-4305 ext. 23

Director of Faith Formation: Barbara Dane
(barbarad@avcatholic.org), (978) 263-4305 ext. 16
(Faith Formation for Grades 5-8)

Coordinator of Young Family Ministries: Tom Spataro
(toms@avcatholic.org), (978) 263-4305 ext. 17

Operations & Finance Administrative Assistant: Judy Richardson
(judyjr@avcatholic.org), 978 263-4305 ext. 19

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

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



Did You Miss A Live Stream Taizé Prayer Or A Mass?

You can access Masses that were live streamed and past Taizé prayer services on our You Tube channel. Click the link for our Apple Valley Catholic You Tube Channel https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCc_NMgiWv6jLws6XgHA1_HQ to view past Taizé services or Masses. Subscribe to the channel to be notified of new live streams.

Thank You

Thank you for your continued support of our Collaborative and our Communities. Your faith in action encourages everyone to love and empower each other to better serve the world as Christ's heart, hands and feet. "The two disciples recounted what had taken place on the way, and how Jesus was made known to them in the breaking of the bread." - Luke 24:35

CONTRIBUTIONS FOR PARISH SUPPORT ST. ELIZABETH

For the week ending 4/4/21

Cash & Check Offertory	\$ 5,506
Electronic Offertory (EFT & Online):	\$ <u>16,058</u>
Total Parish Support:	\$ 21,564
Offertory since 7/1/2020:	
Total Collected Offertory:	\$ 473,579
Total Revised budgeted offertory:	\$ <u>468,403</u>
Over (Under) Revised Budget	\$ 5,176
Revised budgeted net income	
for the year ended 6/30/2021:	\$ 63,602
Offertory Over (under) Revised Budget since 7/1/2020	\$ <u>5,176</u>
Projected net income for the year ended 6/30/2021	\$ 68,778
St. Vincent de Paul collection:	\$ 210

CONTRIBUTIONS FOR PARISH SUPPORT ST. ISIDORE

For the week ending 4/4/21

Cash & Check Offertory	\$ 1,052
Electronic Offertory (EFT & Online):	\$ <u>2,655</u>
Total Parish Support:	\$ 3,707
Offertory since 7/1/2020:	
Total Collected Offertory:	\$ 164,260
Total Revised budgeted offertory:	\$ <u>164,996</u>
Over (Under) Revised Budget	\$ (736)
Revised budgeted net income	
for the year ended 6/30/2021:	\$ 9,466
Offertory Over (under) Revised Budget since 7/1/2020	\$ (736)
Grand Annual over revised budget since 7/1/2020	\$ <u>4,408</u>
Projected net income for the year ended 6/30/2021	\$ 13,138
Grand Annual collection (113% of	
revised goal of \$32,560	\$ 36,968
St. Vincent de Paul collection	\$ 5