

APPLE VALLEY CATHOLIC COLLABORATIVE TWO PARISHES ONE MISSION



Jan the Elder Brueghel, c. 1596

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



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

Welcome— We're Glad You're Here!

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



These past 15 months we, the Apple Valley Catholic Community (“AVCC”), refused to allow the pandemic to stop us from Worship, Faith Formation, and everything we do.

When we were unable to attend Mass, Live Streaming Masses became part of our community. Our AV team stepped up, learned new ways, purchased the equipment needed and set the path for Live Streaming our Masses for the last 15 months and, nothing has stopped them from continuing.

When we reopened our Churches so many ministers, volunteers, teams, choir members and staff stepped forth to help in any way they could. When our children and teens were not able to attend in-person faith formation classes, new programs were introduced by the staff. Parents and teens volunteered so that our children & teens did not miss out on any faith formation.

When we thought that Alpha would have to be placed on hold – the Alpha team jumped in and made it work successfully online. Our buildings & grounds were maintained through the efforts of our Building & Ground teams, never missing a beat. Lectors, cantors, and ushers came further volunteering their time and talents to keep our Masses going strong. The decoration committees made sure our altars were decked to the nine for Christmas, Holy Week, Easter, and other Holy Days of Obligation Masses. Our choirs sang and our band played at Christmas, Easter, and other events through Live Streaming Masses.

New teams were formed. The check-in teams guaranteed that all who registered were check-in. This include using a new registration system. The team of ushers made sure that everyone was seated prior to Mass. They also made sure that if any needs came up during Mass they were there to assist. Temperature checks were done by this team for any volunteers prior to Mass. The cleaning teams made sure that our worship sites were cleaned and disinfected after each Mass.

The pandemic did not hold us back from our annual Remembrance Service, Taizé Prayer, Confessions, Baptisms, Weddings, 1st Communions or Confirmations. So many volunteers stepped forth to make it happen.

When we talk about community, we saw community at work here in the AVCC during the pandemic. Our community continued to flourish in the best way possible.

My friends in Christ, I extend my sincere gratitude and thanks to all ministers, volunteers, teams, and staff who, during these 15 months worked tirelessly to ensure that our two churches remained a place where not only worship took place but became a safe place for us to continue to worship, thrive and grow in our faith and community.

I was reminded every day these past 15 months that we stood up against the pandemic and continued with our Mission: to bring people to Jesus; growing disciples; and change the world.

I will ever be grateful and thankful for everyone who helped in any way. Without your time and talents, we would not have had all that we did. Thank you from my heart to yours.

I am yours in Christ,
Fr. Jeff

June 20 ~ Twelfth Sunday of Ordinary Time

In today’s gospel, we see a sleeping Jesus with frightened disciples in stormy waters. A scene that calls to mind those times when we have been afraid, worried, even desperate. Crying out to Jesus, we ask why is he not saving us, protecting us. Just as Jesus reassures the disciples, he does the same for us. The invitation Jesus gives us today is to assess our trust in him. As his disciples, do our lives witness to a trust, and faith that sustains us in good and not so good times? Is there someone in need of Christ’s reassurance today? “Don’t be afraid” he is with you!



Reinstatement of Sunday Mass Obligation Effective weekend of June 19-20, 2021

Dear friends in Christ,

On June 8, 2021, Cardinal Sean O'Malley, OFM Cap, our Archbishop for the Archdiocese of Boston announced that effective the weekend of June 19–20, 2021 the “Reinstatement of Sunday Mass Obligation” will take effect. Cardinal O'Malley noted in his announcement:

Aware that the opportunity to participate in Sunday Mass is increasingly available and increasingly safe for our Catholic people, we are joining dioceses in the Boston Province (Boston, Fall River, Springfield, Manchester, and Portland) in lifting the dispensation of the Sunday and Holy Day Mass obligation, effective the weekend of June 19 and 20, 2021.

We are mindful of the Lord's statement: “Where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them.” (Mt 18:20). While we certainly can pray alone, there is both strength and blessedness in communal prayer.

We do also note that attendance at Mass is our way of following the Third Commandment of the Decalogue: “Remember the sabbath day – keep it holy. For six days the LORD made the heavens and the earth, the sea and all that is in them; but on the seventh day he rested. That is why the LORD has blessed the sabbath day and made it holy.” (Ex. 20:8,11)

Most significantly, receiving the Eucharist is the center of every Catholic life. The Lord commands us to take and eat, and to do it in memory of Him. (Mt 26:26-30, Mk 14:22-26, Lk 22:14-20, 1 Cor 11:23-26, CCC 1324). The Eucharist is food for our difficult journey through life, filling us with joy and strengthening us to embrace our suffering. It transforms us from the inside out and creates a unity among us that is a strong witness to the whole world.

Therefore, it is with great confidence and trust in the Lord that we reinstate this Sunday Mass obligation. It has been a long, difficult year. People have experienced great pain and suffering throughout this pandemic. Loss of life has been immense. People continue to recover from the long-term effects of the coronavirus.

This obligation does not apply to those who are ill; those who have been recently exposed to COVID or any other communicable illness; those who are confined to their homes or to hospitals or other facilities due to illness, infirmity, frailty, or age; and those who are not yet able to be vaccinated, due to age or any health consideration. Parishioners should consult their local pastor if they have questions about the obligation.

Here at the Apple Valley Catholic Community, we will continue to offer the live stream Mass every Saturday at 4:00p and on our YouTube channel on Sundays for now. Keeping the

live stream Mass is not to replace coming to Mass on weekends to fulfill our Sunday Mass obligation but as a means for those who are sick, homebound, nursing home and hospital patients.

In the next few weeks, I will announce some changes to the live stream Mass time and our return to the Saturday Confessions & Vigil Mass at St. Isidore, with some changes announced at that time.

In Christ,
Fr. Jeff



God our Father, we give you thanks and praise for fathers young and old.

We pray for young fathers, newly embracing their vocation; may they find courage and perseverance to balance work, family and faith in joy and sacrifice.

We pray for our own fathers around the world whose children are suffering or have passed; may they know that the God of compassion walks with them in their sorrow.

We pray for all who are not fathers but still mentor and guide with fatherly love and advice.

We remember fathers, grandfathers, and great grandfathers who are no longer with us but who live forever in our memory and nourish us with their love.

Amen



Mass Intentions

June 20, 8:45 a.m.—Raymond Saint Hilaire,
Memorial Mass

June 20, 10:45 a.m.—Adam Jessop,
Memorial Mass

Mass Schedule

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

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

Class of 2020 High School Grads!

You missed out on a final Youth Ministry event last year! Let's make up for it with a Reunion and BBQ on June 24th at St. Elizabeth's from 6pm-8pm! RSVP to sheilab@avcatholic.org

Summer Service Weekend

High school teens are invited for a unique "stay home" Mission Trip! From July 22 - July 25, we will spend most of our time preparing and putting on a Carnival/Game Day for the children of the Lazarus House shelter in Lawrence.

If you choose to participate, you must commit to Thursday-Saturday. Sunday is a bonus day. If you can't participate Thursday-Saturday, please consider joining us on Sunday! Visit applevalleycatholic.org for more information or contact Sheila Bauer at sheilab@avcatholic.org

Faith Formation Registration

Welcome back! Thanks to the grace of God, it looks like AVCC will be able to offer faith formation sessions on site next year. Hallelujah! We can't wait to see everybody live and in person! And to get ready, our faith formation team is busy planning a very welcoming, dynamic, and engaging program to bring all our K-12 students back!

We also learned during Covid, that digital platforms can be very effective and helpful tools for religious education and sacramental preparation. As we continue to grow as discipleship leaders, we are excited about being able to offer both instructional models in a hybrid approach that will help to make faith formation even more accessible to everyone!

To learn more about our programs for specific grade levels, please [click here](#) or visit our website faith formation page:

<https://applevalleycatholic.org/growing-in-faith>

This year the Faith Formation fee is \$100 per student.

First Communion preparation is an additional \$75 per child.

Confirmation preparation is an additional \$150 per teen.

We are making it easy, so that everything can be done online! [Online Registration and Payment Here](#) and on our website:

<https://avcc.wufoo.com/forms/m10pcl8r15wlp9w/>

Calling All Current 9th Graders!

You must be getting very excited about returning to a more normal routine in Grade 10. One of the most exciting events in 10th grade is preparing for and celebrating your Confirmation. (Probably right behind getting your learner's permit...!) Confirmation prep at AVCC is a wonderful experience including Teen Alpha, beautiful service opportunities, and a strong foundation in liturgy and sacrament. If you would like to get a jump on doing your Confirmation prep this summer, please consider joining our Summer Teen Alpha starting with 5:00 Mass on Sunday, July 11 and meeting every evening that week from 5 - 8:30 until Thursday, July 15.

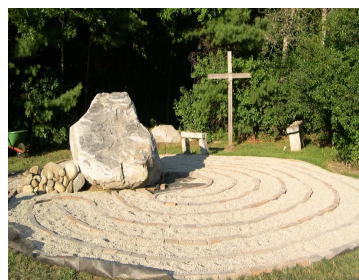
This program will be fully in person at St. Elizabeth's. We will cover the entire Alpha program in an intensive, retreat-like format. It is a lot of fun, builds great friendships, and will kick start your spiritual journey for next year! (For those of you who did Teen Alpha in Grade 9, you are already all set!). Teen Alpha will also be offered Sunday evenings on a weekly basis during the fall. This will be a hybrid program with some in person sessions and some Zoom sessions.

[Register for Summer Teen Alpha!](https://avcc.wufoo.com/forms/m12wjtpd12ir1ey/)
<https://avcc.wufoo.com/forms/m12wjtpd12ir1ey/>

Many Hands Make Light Work!

A few months ago we were approached by Sue Nordhausen and Charlotte Brewer, both representing the Family Ministries at the Acton Congregational Church, asking whether their Family Ministry group could walk and mend our labyrinth. Charlotte explained that as part of their Sunday school (grades 1-6) they have been studying labyrinths.

On June 6th in the heat of a 91 degree day this brave group descended on our labyrinth and within 30 minutes, pulled out the weeds, and prayed their way to the center! Our labyrinth was constructed through the efforts of an Eagle Scout project in 2005 by Greg Hart. Here's what it looked like in 2005, and what it looks like after some TLC on June 6th. If you are interested in helping with this ongoing effort, please contact Annmarie, annmariem@avcatholic.org.



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

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
(judy@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 (trin@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



Thank You

Your support of our parishes is a reflection of your faith that there is power in the name of Jesus to break every chain, and your desire that this generation and following generations come to know that truth. Thank You for your continued support of Jesus' mission in our world today!

... whoever is in Christ is a new creation: the old things have passed away; behold, new things have come. - 2Corinthians 5:17



**CONTRIBUTIONS FOR PARISH SUPPORT
ST. ELIZABETH**

For the week ending 6/6/21

Cash & Check Offertory	\$ 3,269
Electronic Offertory (EFT & Online):	\$ <u>7,028</u>
Total Parish Support:	\$ 10,297
Offertory since 7/1/2020:	
Total Collected Offertory:	\$ 579,425
Total Revised budgeted offertory:	\$ <u>581,403</u>
Over (Under) Revised Budget	\$ (1,978)
Revised budgeted net income	
for the year ended 6/30/2021:	\$ 63,602
Offertory Over (under) Revised Budget since 7/1/2020	\$ <u>(1,978)</u>
Projected net income for the year ended 6/30/2021	\$ 61,624
St. Vincent de Paul collection:	\$ 70

**CONTRIBUTIONS FOR PARISH SUPPORT
ST. ISIDORE**

For the week ending 6/6/21

Cash & Check Offertory	\$ 937
Electronic Offertory (EFT & Online):	\$ <u>2,506</u>
Total Parish Support:	\$ 3,443
Offertory since 7/1/2020:	
Total Collected Offertory:	\$ 201,210
Total Revised budgeted offertory:	\$ <u>200,404</u>
Over (Under) Revised Budget	\$ 806
Revised budgeted net income	
for the year ended 6/30/2021:	\$ 9,466
Offertory Over (under) Revised Budget since 7/1 /2020	\$ 806
Grand Annual over revised budget since 7/1/2020	\$ <u>6,687</u>
Projected net income for the year ended 6/30/2021	\$ 16,959
Grand Annual collection (121% of	
revised goal of \$32,560	\$ 39,247
St. Vincent de Paul collection	\$ 5