

the
Resurrection of the *Lord*



EASTER
SUNDAY

St. Elizabeth of Hungary/St. Mark

5700 Bear Creek Boulevard, Bear Creek, Pennsylvania 18602

EASTER SUNDAY OF THE RESURRECTION OF THE LORD | April 5, 2026

St. Elizabeth Church (E)
5700 Bear Creek Blvd
Bear Creek, PA 18602

St. Mark Church (M)
1052 Bear Lake Rd
Thornhurst, PA 18424

Mission Statement

Humbly guided by the Holy Spirit, our mission is to help people:

~ Through prayer and worship, discover God's desire to be in a relationship with us ~ Discover and develop the gifts and talents God has bestowed on each person ~ Share our faith in Jesus Christ through a welcoming community, beautiful liturgy and ongoing faith formation ~ Be of service to one another, to the communities in which we live and especially to those in need. ~

SERVED BY

Rev. Rawel Toppo
Administrator
rawelt81@gmail.com

Rev. Anthony M. Urban
Pastor Emeritus

Rev. William J. Karle
Pastor Emeritus

PARISH WEBSITE

Churchofstelizabethstmark.org

FIND US ON FACEBOOK



The Roman Catholic Community
of St Elizabeth of Hungary and
St. Mark



WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Monday-Wednesday, Friday 9:00AM
(E)

First Fridays — Adoration after Mass—
12Noon (E)

Weekend Masses

Saturday 4:00PM (M)

Saturday 6:00PM (E)

Sunday 8:30AM (M)

Sunday 10:30AM (E)

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

St. Mark's Church—1/2 hr before all
Masses

St. Elizabeth's Church —1/2 hr before
all Masses

~ or anytime by appointment ~

OFFICE STAFF

Amanda Proch
Business Manager
stelizabethbearcreek@
outlook.com

Mer Rish
Office Secretary
Director of Music & Liturgy
stelimar@ptd.net

OFFICE HOURS / PHONE

Tuesday & Wednesday
9AM—3PM

Phone.....570-472-3061

Fax.....570-472-3503

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Emily Bell
Renee Sipple

Directors of Religious Education
saintelizabethccd@gmail.com

DAILY TV MASS

WARMING FAITHFUL HEARTS

Cathedral of St Peter in Scranton, available on
CTV: Catholic Television of the
Diocese of Scranton.

Weekdays 12:10p.m., 3:30p.m. and 7:00p.m.

Weekends, Saturday Vigil Mass 5:30 p.m. and
rebroadcast on Sunday morning at 10:00a.m.

STEWARDSHIP

Mar 29, 2026

Weekly	\$3413.00
Online	\$978.00
	\$4391.00
Diocesan	-\$150.00
TOTAL	\$4241.00

Thank you for your continued generosity.

Eucharistic Celebration

SATURDAY, APRIL 4 HOLY SATURDAY

8:00pm (M) For the Parishioners

SUNDAY, APRIL 5 EASTER SUNDAY

8:30am (M) For the Parishioners

10:30am (E) For the Parishioners

MONDAY, APRIL 6

9:00am (E) Michele Janowicz *Req. by Laurie & Nando Smacchi*

TUESDAY, APRIL 7

9:00am (E) Pete Ferguson *Req. by Pat & Dave Johnson*

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 8

9:00am (E) Michael Antosh *Req. by Kevin Flannery & Family*

THURSDAY, APRIL 9

9:00am (E) NO MASS

FRIDAY, APRIL 10

9:00am (E) Michele Janowicz *Req. by Nando & Samantha Smacchi*

SATURDAY, APRIL 11

4:00pm (M) John & Florence Klepacky *Req. by Charles & Elaine Morehead*

6:00pm (E) Victoria Rish *Req. by Steve & Mer Rish*

SUNDAY, APRIL 12 DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY

8:30am (M) Michele Janowicz *Req. by Taylor & Bridget Smacchi*

10:30am (E) Gary Walker *Req. by St. Elizabeth's Choir*

This week we pray for our sick, elderly and homebound parishioners and friends, especially...



*Noreen Catani Amico, Richard Emmert,
Lea Furlong, Kevin Gardner, James Geremia,
Bernard Hendrzak, Erin Himes, Jake Johnson,
Joseph Kachurak, Patrick Kildea, Michael Lilienthal,
Mollie Litchman, Amber Moyer, Carolyn Palencar,
Donald Scharf, Mary Soos, Byran Stanton, Verna Stavish,
Scott Tiger, John Tucker, Rev. Anthony Urban,
Hank Walker, Loretta Washick, Michelle Welebob*

Please notify office when names should be removed. 570-472-3061



**The Sanctuary Candle at
St. Elizabeth's and St. Mark's
is burning in honor and memory of all
parishioners, living and deceased.**

Eucharistic Adoration

for Vocations

7pm April 23rd

Chapel of Christ the King

at King's College
29 W. North Street
Wilkes-Barre, PA 18711



**Live Music by
Joel Kankiewicz &
King's College Students**

Sacrament of Reconciliation
will also be available.

Refreshments to follow!

Searching for your purpose in life?

Longing to hear God's voice?

In need of community?

Join us!



WEDDING ANNIVERSARY MASS

Sunday, June 28th, 2026

2:30pm

Cathedral of St. Peter
315 Wyoming Ave, Scranton PA 18503

Celebrating Milestone Anniversaries:

10 YEARS 25 YEARS 40 YEARS 50 YEARS

Diocesan Wedding Anniversary Celebration

Every summer, the diocese holds a Wedding Anniversary Celebration for couples celebrating their 10th, 25th, 40th, and 50th years of marriage in Saint Peter's Cathedral, where couples renew their wedding commitment. This year's Mass will be held on June 28, 2026, at 2:30 PM.

Mark your calendar if you are celebrating your 10th, 25th, 40th or 50th Anniversary in 2026, or share this news with others who may be doing so. Stay tuned for additional information about this year's Wedding Anniversary Mass.

For more information, please call Bridget Maille, Program Coordinator, Family Life at 570-207-2213 x 1133 or email here at familylife@dioceseofscranton.org

Father Rawel's
Corner



A CALL TO BELIEVE

Today the Church celebrates Easter, the greatest feast in the Church. On this day, we commemorate the resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ. It became the greatest feast because resurrection is the basis of Christianity. And it is through Easter that Jesus proclaims that He is the true God. That is why the Easter message became the core of the disciples' proclamation later.

It is a feast of hope and victory. Jesus has done the greatest miracle through His own resurrection going beyond human nature. He won over sin and death and calls us for a new life of freedom. It's a feast of hope because, through His resurrection, we are saved and have received a new life; thus, we are called the Easter people. Some of the editions of the Bible refer to His passage as the 'empty tomb'. But it is not the empty tomb' rather it is a pointer towards Christ who has risen.

So, the message of Easter is also not something about emptiness rather, it's all about fullness of life in Jesus Christ. And the fruit of the resurrection is the increase of faith in the people. So, Easter removes the emptiness from our life and replaces it with the Easter joy of hope, victory and life after death.

CHRIST IS RISEN ALLELUIA!!

On behalf of Staff, Students, Teachers and all Parishioners wish you all HAPPY EASTER!!



Baskets for our Summer Festival can be dropped off at either church starting [this Saturday](#). Please make sure your basket is wrapped and ready to display. Please have your name with your basket. Thank you in advance for your support of our Summer Festival. If you have any questions please feel free to contact Chrissy Nordmark at (570) 899-4277, Nicki Pachucki at snap0208@aol.com or Annie Rood (570) 574-8664. Thank you.

**BUS TRIP
PILGRIMAGE**



St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Knights of Columbus, Swoyersville, is sponsoring a Bus Trip Pilgrimage to the National Centre for Padre Pio in Barto, PA, on [Saturday, May 9, 2026](#). Cost is \$65/person, includes Bus Trip, Lunch at Center, beverages & snacks on bus. Leave Swoyersville at 7:30am, return at 6:00pm. For more information, call Mark Perugino at 570-262-2896, or check our Facebook and website, setonpa.com.

*He has risen,
Have faith in Him,
And He will always
be there for you!*

*Have a blessed and
happy Easter!*

*Father Rawel and St. Elizabeth Staff -
Amanda and Mer*



Worship & Meditation

Readings for the week of April 5, 2026

Sunday:

Acts 10:34a, 37-43/Ps 118:1-2, 16-17, 22-23/Col 3:1-4 or 1 Cor 5:6b-8/Jn 20:1-9 or Mt 28:1-10 Or Lk 24:13-35

Monday:

Acts 2:14, 22-33/Ps 16:1-2a and 5, 7-8, 9-10, 11/Mt 28:8-15

Tuesday:

Acts 2:36-41/Ps 33:4-5, 18-19, 20 and 22/Jn 20:11-18

Wednesday:

Acts 3:1-10/Ps 105:1-2, 3-4, 6-7, 8-9/Lk 24:13-35

Thursday:

Acts 3:11-26/Ps 8:2ab and 5, 6-7, 8-9/Lk 24:35-48

Friday:

Acts 4:1-12/Ps 118:1-2 and 4, 22-24, 25-27a/Jn 21:1-14

Saturday:

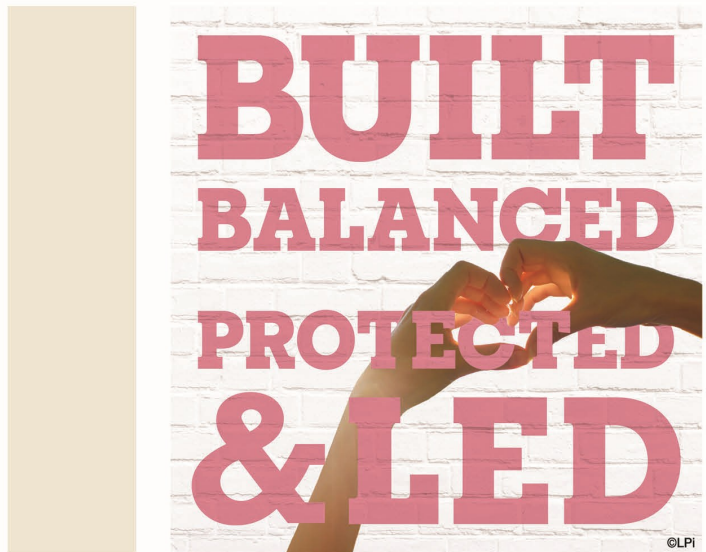
Acts 4:13-21/Ps 118:1 and 14-15ab, 16-18, 19-21/Mk 16:9-15

Next Sunday:

Acts 2:42-47/Ps 118:2-4, 13-15, 22-24/1 Pt 1:3-9/Jn 20:19-31



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Gospel Meditation

Encourage Deeper Understanding of Scripture

Zander Price was the fastest kid at my grade school. He won every race on Field Day. To me, his swiftness meant he was the greatest. Zander was the best.

It's the same with the speediest Apostle on Easter morning. John tells us he **“ran faster than Peter and arrived at the tomb first.”** (John 20:4) But only *after* Peter entered did John go in, see the burial cloths, and believe. Here is a symbol of two dimensions of the Church. John, the beloved disciple, represents the contemplative, mystical life: affection, prayer, intimacy. Peter, the rock, represents the Church's institutional life: steady, authoritative, structured...but slower.

Of course, John runs faster! Love is the heartbeat of Christian faith, so love will always arrive first. Peter's role is, in a sense, secondary. He arrives later, but is still very much needed. John waits for him. The Church must be built, balanced, protected, and led. Love without structure can vanish; structure without love becomes lifeless.

This dynamic is not just historical — it is personal. In you, there is a John who longs to run to the tomb in love. Let him run! Pray, sing, love Jesus. There is also a Peter, who eventually gets to the tomb and takes charge. The Risen Christ wants both. Remember: if you want to get to the mystery of Jesus' resurrection *fast*...love him, for love is best.

— *Father John Muir*

Weekly Prayer

Sunday's Readings

First Reading:

To him all the prophets bear witness,
that everyone who believes in him
will receive forgiveness of sins through his name. (Acts 10:43)

Psalm:

This is the day the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad. (Ps 118)
Or Alleluia.

Second Reading:

If then you were raised with Christ, seek what is above,
where Christ is seated at the right hand of God. (Col 3:1)

Gospel:

Mary of Magdala came to the tomb early in the morning,
while it was still dark,
and saw the stone removed from the tomb. (Jn 10:1)

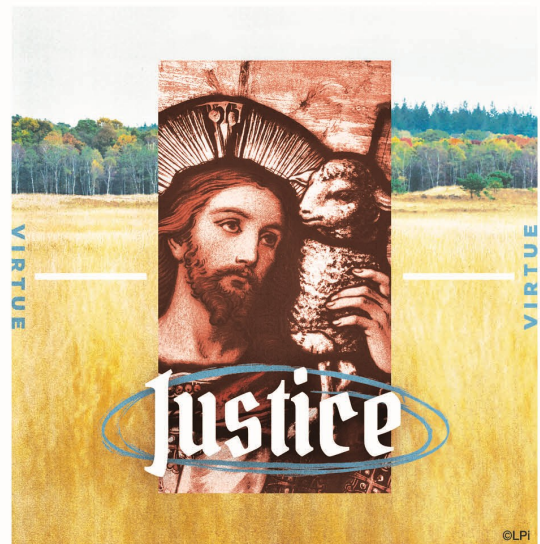
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Live The Liturgy Inspiration of the Week

The disciples didn't understand, at first, what happened at the tomb. Often, we can't fathom the purpose of God's plan. We only see a stone in the wrong place. When we pause and look deeper, we see it: God has moved the stone. So, we must ask ourselves: why?

Observances for the week of April 5, 2026

- Sunday:** Easter Sunday
- Monday:** Monday within the Octave of Easter
- Tuesday:** Tuesday within the Octave of Easter
- Wednesday:** Wednesday within the Octave of Easter
- Thursday:** Thursday within the Octave of Easter
- Friday:** Friday within the Octave of Easter
- Saturday:** Saturday within the Octave of Easter
- Next Sunday:** 2nd Sunday of Easter (Divine Mercy)



Virtues, Explained!

The cardinal virtue of justice has to do with the fulfillment of our duty to one another and to God. It gives us a framework for existing in the world alongside one another, in reverence with our respective rights, property, and obligations.

Easter Blessing

Dear Lord,
Where there has been death, bring new life! Renew and redeem the sorrow in our stories with Your goodness and grace. Bless our hearts and homes this Easter and always. Amen.

(PRACTICING) CATHOLIC

Mini Reflection: I go to church — to Catholic Mass, specifically — for the same reason Mary Magdalene went to the tomb. I go because it is the last place I saw Christ, and I am desperate to see him again.

While It Is Still Dark

If you are a person who is religious in any way, chances are that at some point, someone has asked you to give a reason why.

I meet lots of people who identify as *spiritual* but not *religious*, lots of people who are more comfortable splashing in the shallow end of belief but hesitating to wade into the more uncertain depths of doctrine. So when they ask the question “Why do you believe what you believe?” it usually comes out as “Why do you go to church?”

They want to know why I come to this specific place at this specific time. What am I expecting to happen?

We read that Mary Magdalene went to the tomb “while it was still dark.” I imagine she could not sleep. She was traumatized. Grieving. Confused. Angry, perhaps. Doubting? Maybe. It’s possible. We cannot know what was in her heart.

We only know what she did. We only know where she went. And we know that it was dark, that the light of Easter’s dawn had not yet pierced the sky.

Often, I am grieving when I go to church, or angry, or confused, or all three. I have gone many times with a doubting and resentful heart.

Because, you see, it is still dark. The dawn of eternity, which will illuminate all understanding, has not yet even begun to creep across my horizon.

My answer to the question, when I am asked, is that I go to church — to Catholic Mass, specifically — for the same reason Mary Magdalene went to the tomb. I go because it is the last place I saw Christ, and I am desperate to see him again

— Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman

Why do we do that? Catholic Life Explained

Question:

Why is the Easter season so long? And should we be doing something special for it?

Answer:

You’ve probably noticed the priest continuing to wear white vestments at the Sunday liturgy. While we celebrated Christ’s resurrection several weeks ago, the Easter season extends fifty days — just over seven weeks — from Easter Sunday to Pentecost. For most of that time — about six weeks — Jesus is still with the disciples, teaching and encouraging them. The Easter season isn’t just a celebration of when Jesus is with us. At the Last Supper, Jesus promised to send an “advocate” or “counselor” when he left. At the Ascension, he directs the disciples to await “power from on high” — the coming of the Holy Spirit. The Ascension completes the Paschal Mystery, beginning with Jesus’ suffering and death and continuing in the resurrection. But the Holy Spirit ushers in a new era for the Church.

After spending weeks in prayer, fasting, and service during Lent, it may seem odd that we don’t widely have similar practices for Easter. That doesn’t mean you can’t embrace the season! Commit to taking moments of little joy throughout the weeks, like random acts of kindness towards others. Consider reading the Acts of the Apostles to learn more about the early Church or picking up an Easter devotional to pray with. He is still risen indeed!

When Simon Peter arrived after him, he went into the tomb and saw the burial cloths there, and the cloth that had covered his head, not with the burial cloths but rolled up in a separate place. Then the other disciple also went in, the one who had arrived at the tomb first, and he saw and believed. - Jn 20:6-8

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Questions of the Week

Invite Parishioners to Reflect and Respond to Scripture

First Reading:

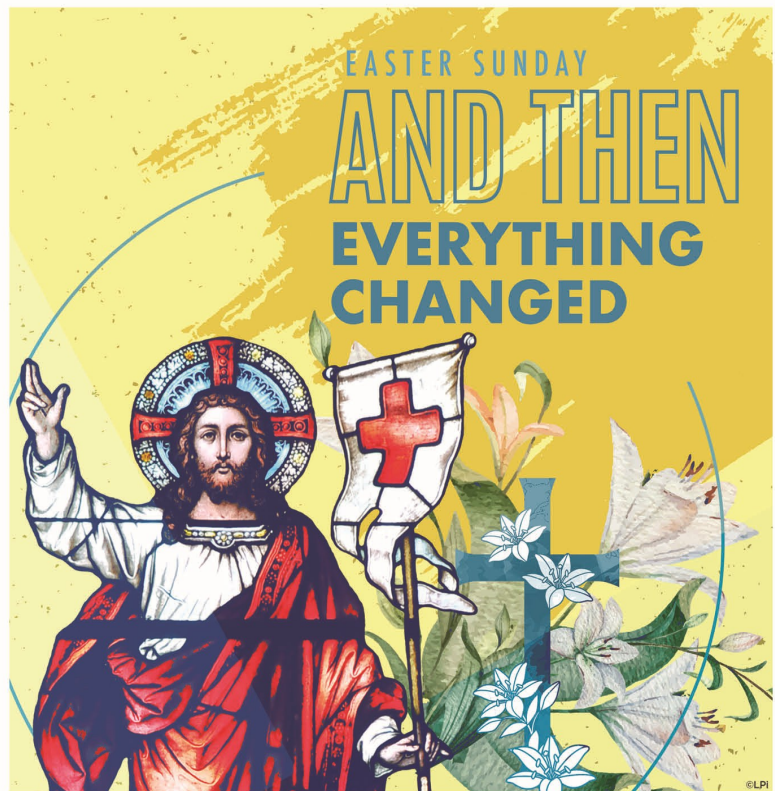
Peter testifies to others about what the Apostles witnessed with the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus. Do you ever share your faith with friends or family?

Second Reading:

Paul encourages the Colossians to see themselves as already risen with Christ, anticipating his return in glory. Does anticipating Christ's return impact any of your daily decision-making?

Gospel:

Both the angel of the Lord and the risen Jesus greet Mary Magdalene and the other Mary with these words of comfort: "Do not be afraid." Who in your circle of friends or family needs to be comforted this week?



Divine Mercy Sunday

APRIL 12, 2026

Divine Mercy Parish, 312 Davis Street, Scranton, PA



Rev. Paul A. McDonnell, O.S.J, Pastor

Rev. Mr. Martin Castaldi, Deacon

SCHEDULE

12:30 PM

Rosary and Sacrament of Reconciliation
(Divine Mercy Story)

2:00 PM

Liturgy (Mass)
Exposition of Blessed Sacrament

3:00 PM

Chaplet of Divine Mercy
Solemn Benediction
Procession with the Blessed Sacrament
Blessing with Relic of St. Faustina
Veneration of the Divine Mercy Painting

Refreshments will be available • Handicap Accessible & plenty of parking available

Everything needed to fulfill the request of Jesus for complete forgiveness of sins and all punishment due for those sins, available on this day.

- All are invited to join in the Divine Mercy celebration -