

St. Elizabeth of Hungary / St. Mark

5700 Bear Creek Boulevard, Bear Creek, Pennsylvania 18602



• 18TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME •

**HIS HEART WAS
MOVED WITH PITY
FOR THEM.**

© LPI

EIGHTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME | August 2, 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

July 26, 2026

Weekly	\$2291.00
Online	<u>\$783.00</u>
	\$3074.00
Diocesan	- <u>\$0.00</u>
TOTAL	\$3074.00

Thank you for your continued generosity.

Eucharistic Celebration

SATURDAY, AUG 1

4:00pm (M) Katherine Wood *Req. by Barbara Reiss*
 6:00pm (E) Reparation for Blasphemies Against Mary's Divine
 Maternity & Refusing to Receive Mary as the Mother of Men

SUNDAY, AUG 2

8:30am (M) For the Parishioners
 10:30am (E) Joseph Kachurak *Req. by Joan Altavilla*

MONDAY, AUG 3

9:00am (E) John Kosek *Req. by Bob, Judy, Patrick & Brian Quinlan*

TUESDAY, AUG 4

9:00am (E) Zoe Ann Kanavy *Req. by Elizabeth Dructor*

WEDNESDAY, AUG 5

9:00am (E) Dennie Gaughan *Req. by Ted & Dale Baird*

THURSDAY, AUG 6

9:00am (E) NO MASS

FRIDAY, AUG 7 **FIRST FRIDAY**

9:00am (E) John K. Kosek *Req. by Mary Nicosia*
Adoration following Mass until 12 Noon

SATURDAY, AUG 8

4:00pm (M) Charlie & Beatrice Morehead *Req. by Charlie & Elaine Morehead*
 6:00pm (E) Paul Dec *Req. by Dr. Gary & Benedetta Lawrence*

SUNDAY, AUG 9

8:30am (M) For the Parishioners
 10:30am (E) Joseph Kachurak *Req. by Stan & Jean Swaintek*



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

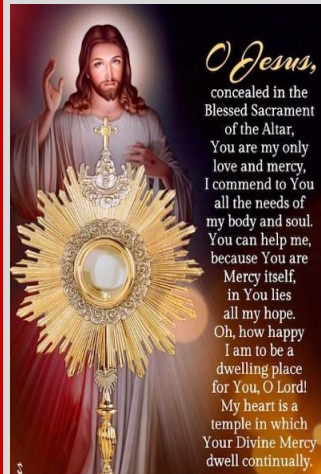


Noreen Catani Amico, Patricia Cronauer,
 Bobby Everett, Terry Franklin,
 Kelly Fry, Lea Furlong, James Geremia,
 Bernard Hendrzak, Erin Himes, Jake Johnson,
 Patrick Kildea, Michael Lilienthal, Mollie Litchman,
 James McClure, Amber Moyer, Carolyn Palencar,
 Donald Scharf, Mary Soos, Byran Stanton,
 Verna Stavish, Milo Grunza, John Tucker,
 Rev. Anthony Urban,
 Hank Walker, Loretta Washick

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

YOU ARE CALLED TO SIT WITH THE LORD

ADORATION of the BLESSED SACRAMENT



**First Friday,
 August 7, 2026
 immediately
 following the
 9AM Mass
 until 12 Noon.**

**All are
 welcome**

**"Of all the devotions, that of adoring Jesus
 in the Blessed Sacrament is the greatest af-
 ter the sacraments, the dearest to God and
 the one most helpful to us."**

-St. Alphonsus Liguori

*Expression of Sympathy is extended to John Corcoran
 and his family with the passing of John's wife, Dr.
 Virginia "Ginny" Corcoran who passed away July
 23rd. Ginny's funeral was held this past
 Tuesday at St. Elizabeth's Church. May
 the Risen Lord grant eternal rest to her and
 comfort to all you mourn her passing!*



Every parish family is reminded to
 complete the new updated Parish Regis-
 tration form. If it was misplaced, there
 are extra copies in vestibule or you can
 contact the Parish Office at 570-472-

3061. It is **IMPERATIVE** that the new registration forms
 be completed ASAP to update our Parish records.
THANK YOU to those who have already done so!

CALLING ALL CATHOLICS *for Life!*

**JOIN US AT THE
 Pennsylvania
 March *for Life*
 HARRISBURG, PA**

Save the Date!



SEPTEMBER 21, 2026

**RALLY 11AM | MARCH 12PM
 HARRISBURG, PA**

**PENNSYLVANIA
 MARCH FOR LIFE**

**DIOCESE OF
 SCRANTON**

ANNUAL FESTIVAL

FREE PARKING!

2 DAYS!

Church of
OUR LADY
of the
ABINGTONS

FREE PARKING!

(Dalton, PA - Seminary Road)

SAT. SEP 19

5 - 10 PM
PORK BBQ
(till sold out)

~ **MUSIC** ~
Megaband Duo

SUN. SEP 20

Noon - 6 PM
Chicken BBQ

~ **MUSIC** ~
Quietmen

HANDICAP PARKING AVAILABLE

RAFFLES, LOTS OF BASKETS!
PLENTY OF FOOD...FUN FOR ALL!

Church of Our Lady of the Abingtons under Pastor, Rev. Arbogaste Satoun, holds their Annual Fall Festival on [Saturday, September 19](#) (5PM - 10PM) and [Sunday, September 20](#) (Noon - 6PM) on the beautiful church grounds at 207 Seminary Road in Dalton, PA



Wedding of the Sea
Saturday, August 15, 2026

Join us and be part of this special tradition that welcomed over 100,000 attendees throughout history!

Schedule of Events:

- ◇ Mass of the Assumption of Mary
- ◇ Hard Rock Casino Ballroom, Seminole Ballroom, Parking Available—Casino Parking Lot
1000 Boardwalk, Atlantic City, NJ
- ◇ Doors open: 9:00AM
- ◇ Please note new time: Mass begins at 10:00AM
- ◇ Procession to the Surf: 11:15AM
- ◇ Mass celebrated by The Most Reverend Dennis Sullivan, Bishop Emeritus of Camden Diocese

Brunch at Fresh Harvest Seafood Buffet
11:15AM—3:00PM

Discounted tickets: \$45.00 if purchased in advance
(Regular: \$59.95)

To purchase, call the Parish Office at 609-345-1878.

[Home](#) > [Departures](#) > [WYD Seoul 2027](#) - Diocese of Scranton

Pilgrimage to World Youth Day

Trip Date: Aug 1, 2027 - Aug 10, 2027

Join Verso Ministries and the Diocese of Scranton for a life-changing week on pilgrimage. Experience the global Church firsthand amidst the unique and vibrant story of Catholicism in Korea. From remarkable saints, bustling markets, and moving shrines to Mass with the Pope and sleeping under the stars, join millions of Catholic young people in this worldwide encounter and celebration. You'll never experience God, the Church, or your faith the same way again.

Group Type

Private

Activity Level

Difficult ●●●

Price

From \$2,845

Deposit \$500

Hosted by

Diocese of Scranton

[Reserve Your Spot](#)

or call us at (574) 383-9396

Worship & Meditation

Readings for the week of August 2, 2026

Sunday:

Is 55:1-3/Ps 145:8-9, 15-16, 17-18/
Rom 8:35, 37-39/Mt 14:13-21

Monday:

Jer 28:1-17/Ps 119:29, 43, 79, 80, 95, 102/
Mt 14:22-36

Tuesday:

Jer 30:1-2, 12-15, 18-22/Ps 102:16-18, 19-21,
29, 22-23/Mt 14:22-36 or Mt 15:1-2, 10-14

Wednesday:

Jer 31:1-7/Jer 31:10, 11-12ab, 13/Mt 15:21-28

Thursday:

Dn 7:9-10, 13-14/Ps 97:1-2, 5-6, 9/
2 Pt 1:16-19/Mt 17:1-9

Friday:

Na 2:1, 3; 3:1-3, 6-7/Dt 32:35cd-36ab,
39abcd, 41/Mt 16:24-28

Saturday:

Hb 1:12-2:4/Ps 9:8-9, 10-11, 12-13/
Mt 17:14-20

Next Sunday:

1 Kgs 19:9a, 11-13a/Ps 85:9ab and 10, 11-12,
13-14/Rom 9:1-5/Mt 14:22-33



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Gospel Meditation

Encourage Deeper Understanding of Scripture

In his song, “Lose Yourself,” the artist Eminem raps, **“the mood all changed.”**

We all know that moment when the mood changes, when life turns from lighthearted to deadly serious. That happens in today’s Gospel. Jesus has just heard that John the Baptist, his cousin, forerunner, and friend, has been murdered. As Matthew tells us, **“When Jesus heard of it, he withdrew in a boat to a deserted place by himself.”** Until now, he had been teaching in parables and healing quietly. But John’s death signals a new phase. The shadow of the Cross begins to fall. Evil shows its teeth.

And how does Jesus respond? Not with rage or despair. He goes to a lonely place to go into deep communion with his Father. From that silence comes action. He feeds the multitude. Out of grief comes generosity. Out of sorrow, life.

This is the rhythm of every disciple’s life. When tragedy or violence breaks our hearts, we face a choice. We can react, or we can retreat into prayer — like and with Christ. This is the hidden place where pain becomes compassion and compassion becomes self-gift.

Lord Jesus, when life intensifies, draw me into Your quiet strength. In that hidden place with You and the Father, turn my heartbreak into the bread of love for the world. Amen.

— Father John Muir

Weekly Prayer

Sunday's Readings

First Reading:

Thus says the LORD:
All you who are thirsty,
come to the water! (Is 55:1)

Psalm:

The hand of the Lord feeds us; he answers all our needs. (Ps 145)

Second Reading:

For I am convinced that neither death, nor life,
nor angels, nor principalities,
nor present things, nor future things,
nor powers, nor height, nor depth,
nor any other creature will be able to separate us
from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord. (Rom 8:38-39)

Gospel:

Taking the five loaves and the two fish, and looking up to heaven,
he said the blessing, broke the loaves,
and gave them to the disciples,
who in turn gave them to the crowds. (Mt 14:19)

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The English translation of Psalm Responses from Lectionary for Mass © 1969, 1981, 1997,
International Commission on English in the Liturgy Corporation. All rights reserved.

Live The Liturgy Inspiration of the Week

When Jesus multiplied the loaves and fishes, he didn't create only what was needed — there were leftovers that could be saved and shared again. God is lavish in bestowing His grace upon us. He always gives enough to share.

Observances for the week of August 2, 2026

Sunday: 18th Sunday in Ordinary Time
Tuesday: St. John Vianney, Priest
Wednesday: The Dedication of the Basilica of St. Mary Major
Thursday: The Transfiguration of the Lord
Friday: St. Sixtus II, Pope, and Companions, Martyrs; St. Cajetan, Priest
Saturday: St. Dominic, Priest
Next Sunday: 19th Sunday in Ordinary Time



Virtues, Explained!

Respect, wrote the theologian Fr. Romano Guardini, is the “everyday form of reverence.” It is an admiration of the sacredness of a thing, and so respect for those made in God’s image flows naturally from our primary respect for God Himself.

Blessing of God’s Provision

Dear God,
Thank You for the ways You have always provided in the past, and be with us in these days as well. Bless our community — every family, every home, every person entrusted to our parish’s care. Provide for our needs — bodily, emotional, financial, mental, and spiritual — in Your holy and sacred name.
Amen.

(PRACTICING) CATHOLIC

The Miracles We Don't See

"Why aren't there miracles anymore?"

I've heard people say this more than once. Usually, it is someone who is a believer in Christ but not a Catholic, because Catholics understand that miracles happen at every Mass, to say nothing of the other miracles the Church recognizes. But even some Catholics often find themselves wondering why it's been so long since God gave us a good show. A good sundance in the sky. A good, flashy reason to believe.

I don't know what it looked like when the loaves and the fishes were multiplied. I believe it happened, and I have envisioned it often, but I just can't picture it. Did everyone blink and there was a giant pile of food? Did they just keep finding more? Was it all the same kind of bread, or did Jesus mix it up?

I think the Gospel is deliberately vague on this to test the patience of pathologically nosy people like myself. It's not important what it looked like. If those details mattered, they would be spelled out in Scripture.

How often we find ourselves unsatisfied with the answers God has for us.

I wonder if that's what Christ was thinking when he savored those last few minutes of solitude on the boat, where he had gone to be alone after hearing the crushing news of his cousin's execution. Was he imagining the crowds gathering on shore? Was he contemplating their enormous expectations for God — for him! — and anticipating their disappointment when every wish could not be granted?

Maybe. But that's not what the Scripture says.

"His heart was moved with pity," we are told. I think of him looking at them all, so weary and uncertain and hungry. Pity — this is what he felt. Not resentment, exhaustion or frustration. Pity. And his precious heart was moved.

What a miracle. No details, no explanation. No dancing sun. But what a miracle.

— Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman

Why do we do that?

Catholic Life Explained

Question:

If God is eternal and infinite, how can He have a mother? Why don't we call Mary just the mother of Jesus?

Answer:

The title of "Mary, Mother of God" can be confusing. We aren't implying that Mary existed from eternity or that she is divine herself. We aren't promoting some kind of Marian superpowers. The Church has fought for this title throughout the centuries for one simple reason: Christ's identity is at stake.

As the Church grew in the early centuries, theologians wrestled with what it meant for Jesus to be both God and man. Many distortions of his identity began to emerge. One of these was propagated by a man named Nestorius. Nestorius and his followers denied that Jesus' human nature and his divine nature were inseparable. Following that logic, Mary could have only conceived Jesus' *human* nature. But people don't give birth to a "nature." They give birth to a whole person. For Jesus, his whole person is both human and divine. In 431 A.D. the Council of Ephesus denounced Nestorius. The bishops affirmed that Jesus is both fully human and fully divine and proclaimed Mary *Theotokos*. Translating the Greek to English, that means "God-bearer." Note that this isn't "God-generator" or "God-creator." Mary bore Jesus, God and man, in her womb and gave him birth. She is mother to the whole person, the whole Jesus, and therefore Mother of God.

He said the blessing, broke the loaves, and gave them to the disciples, who in turn gave them to the crowds. They all ate and were satisfied, and they picked up the fragments left over--twelve wicker baskets full. Those who ate were about five thousand men, not counting women and children. - Mt 14:19c-21

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD.

Questions of the Week

Invite Parishioners to Reflect and Respond to Scripture

First Reading:

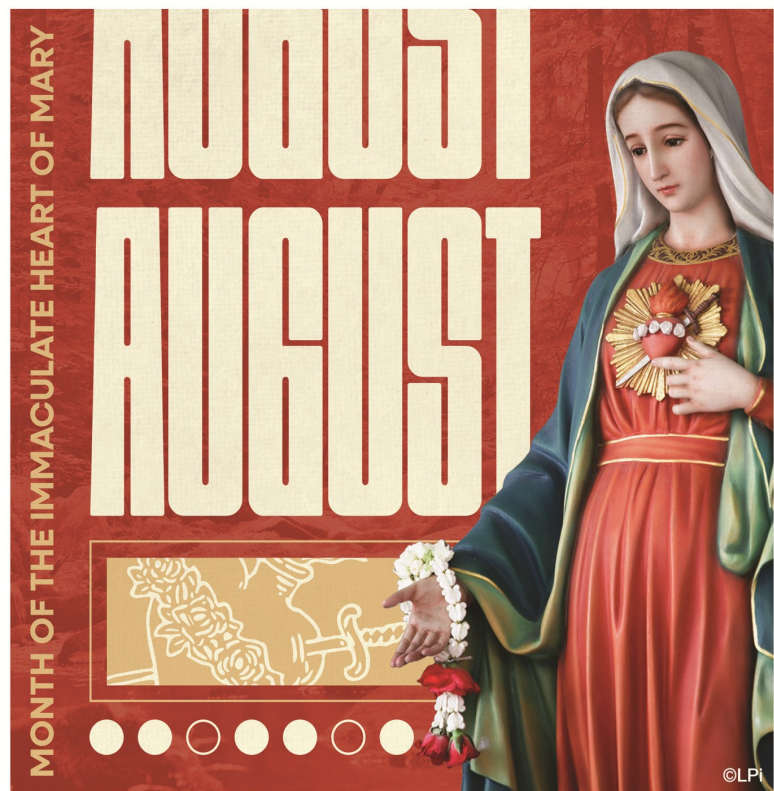
Isaiah speaks of the Lord's invitation to all to join in His feast of rich food and drink without cost. To whom can you show generosity to this week?

Second Reading:

Paul is convinced that nothing in this life can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord. When do you feel closest to God?

Gospel:

Moved with pity for the crowds, Jesus healed the sick among them and fed thousands with only five loaves and two fish. Can you think of a time when someone showed compassion toward you?



Thank You!

TO OUR GENEROUS SPONSORS

YOUR SUPPORT HELPS MAKE

St. Elizabeth St. Mark Parish Festival

A WONDERFUL SUCCESS!

The Walsh/Reyes Family

Judy Pomento

Allied Services

Helen Howley

CJ and Ella Zardus

Francis and Michele Sickle

Deborah Trubella and

Richard Mitchell

Friends of St. Elizabeth/St.

Mark Parish

Frank and Theresa Porta

The Art of the Bean

Colleen MacDaniel

Kevin and Christina Nordmark

Mr. & Mrs. Stan Swaintek

Susan Walker

Steve and Nicki Pachucki

Donna Polakoski

Mary Elizabeth Ferzoco

Advanced Electrical and

Communications

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Crawfords Tent Rentals

The Bear Creek Foundation

J&L Coffeehouse

Yogi's Potato Pancakes

Jo-Dan Buick GMC

Lyons Studio

In Loving Memory of:

Gerard Meehan

Francis "Yogi" Michael

Ralph Nordmark

Kay and Edmund Pachucki

Robert Pomento

Mary Eileen Kane

Special Thanks to Our Additional Sponsors:

The Bee Family ♥ Davenport Family ♥ Rosto Family

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WE APPR
YOU MO
THAN WO
CAN SA

Together we make our parish and community stronger!

Thank You!

TO OUR WONDERFUL

BASKET RAFFLE DONORS!

♥ *Your generosity helps make our festival a success!* ♥

Judy Pomento and Family	Laurie Ayre	Stan and Jean Swaintek	Rita and John Polney	Michelle Timchack
Annie Rood	The Nordmark Family	Bit of Bliss	Dave and Karen Kollar	WB/Scranton Railriders
Rita's Italian Ice	The Pachucki Family	The Mottley Family	Frank and MaryAnn Castellana	The Ohrin Family
The Plunker Family	Joanna Kenzakoski	Sue Walker	Paula Longo	Wayne Mitchell
Sue and Tom Kozerski	The Tinley Family	Friends of St. Elizabeth's	The Cibello Family	John and Ginny Corcoran
Bene and Gary Lawrence	The Lawrence Family	The Fong Family	Bear Creek Cafe	Dawn Harned/ Dunkin Donuts
Missy's Hair Designs	Wyoming Valley Beverage	Patti Isling	Nancy and Dr. Gary Neale	

You
Make a
Difference!

We couldn't do it without you! ♥

We appreciate
your support! ♥



Thank You!

to our St. Elizabeth St. Mark
volunteers for making the

SummerFest!

a success!

Co-chairs

Chrissy Nordmark

Annie Rood

Nicki Pachucki

Festival Committee

Bene and Dr. Gary Lawrence, Judy Pomento, Kevin Nordmark,
Ellen and Mario Sindaco, Dave and Karen Kollar, Sue Walker, Laurie Ayre,

Father Rawel, Sue Kozerski, Ted Haas, Linda Hamil,

Elaine and Charlie Moorehead, Stan and Jean Swaintek

Volunteers

Jim Schell, Steve Pachucki, Dan Rood, Austin Rood, Allie Pachucki, Sean Chalker,
Joanna Kenzakoski, Melissa Myers, Katie Myers, Lori Ohrin, Megan Ohrin, Jill Limongelli,
Angelo Limongelli, Sicilia Limongelli, Tom Kozerski, Elise Lawrence, Michele Lawrence,

Jodie Miscavage, Margie Morrow, Lois Elick, Joe Rother, Melissa Planker,

Colleen McDaniels, Kurtis Nordmark, Terry Hanlon, Diane McKnight, Chris Planker