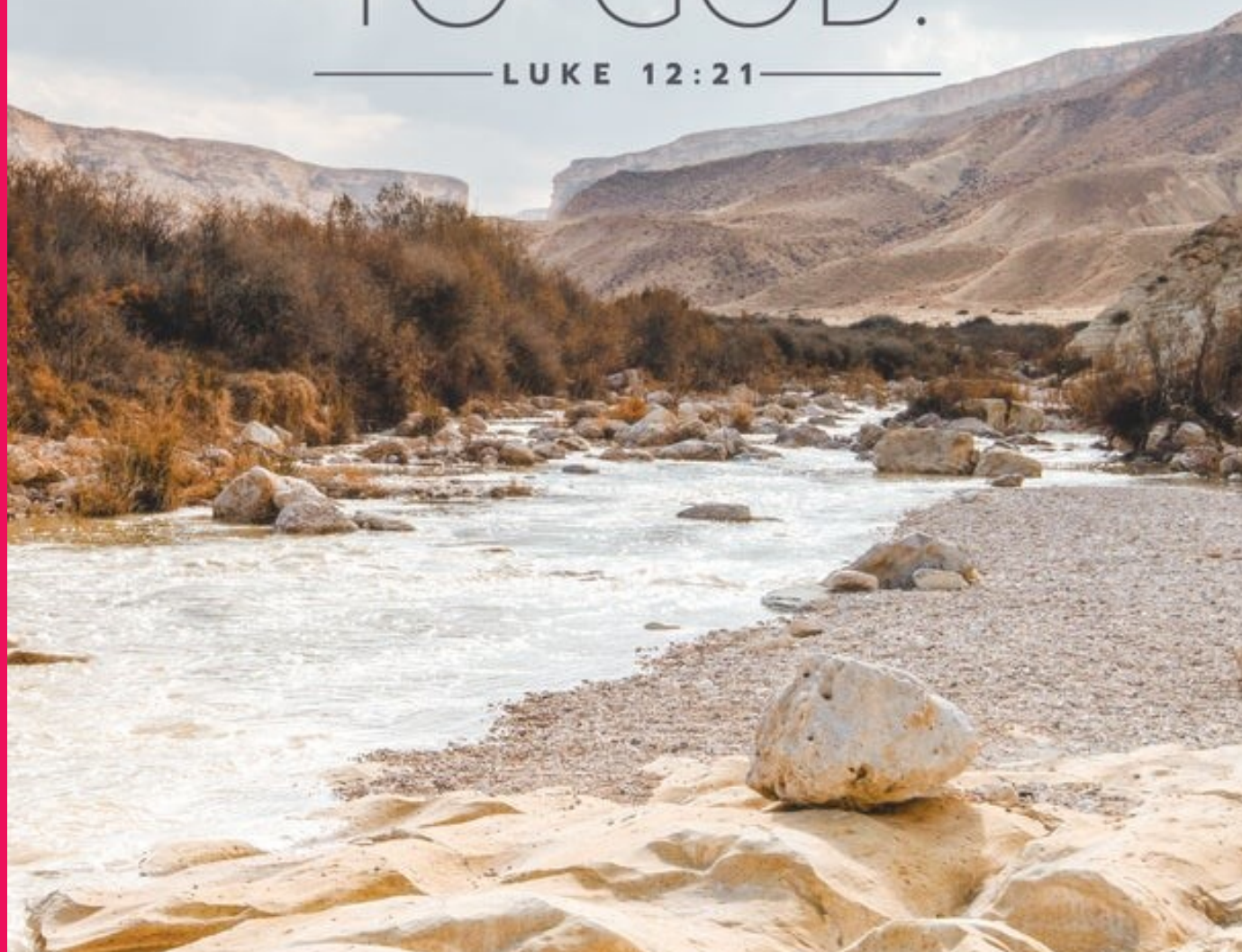


EIGHTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

RICH IN WHAT MATTERS TO GOD.

— LUKE 12:21 —



St. Elizabeth of Hungary/St. Mark

5700 Bear Creek Boulevard, Bear Creek, Pennsylvania 18602

EIGHTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME | AUGUST 3, 2025

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 27, 2025

Weekly \$2174.00

Online +\$738.00

\$2912.00

Diocesan -\$0.00

TOTAL: \$2912.00

Thank you for your continued generosity.

Parish Weekly Budget set at \$5000

Eucharistic Celebration

Saturday, August 2, 2025 — Sunday, August 10, 2025

Sat, AUG 2

- 4:00pm (M) Katherine Wood
Barbara Reiss
- 6:00pm (E) Nancy Hallinan
Dr. Gary & Benedetta Lawrence

Sun, AUG 3

- 8:30am (M) David M. Soda
Ted & Diane Haas
- 10:30am (E) Stella Sawicki
Dr. Gary & Benedetta Lawrence

Mon, AUG 4

- 9:00am (E) Mary Morrette
Ted & Diane Haas

Tues, AUG 5

- 9:00am (E) Aidan Gann
Jim O'Hara

Wed, AUG 6

- 9:00am (E) Remedias Cardozo (Father)

Thurs, AUG 7

- 9:00am (E) NO MASS

Fri, AUG 8

- 9:00am (E) Alice Dinucca
Cornerstone Sisters

Sat, AUG 9

- 4:00pm (M) Donna Anthony
Steve & Kathy Rector
- 6:00pm (E) John & Pearl Brzycki
Joseph & Marcia Boris

Sun, AUG 10

- 8:30am (M) James J. Straub Jr.
Paul Lukasiewicz
- 10:30am (E) Mr. Thomas Cox Sr.
Theodore & Diane Haas



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



Noreen Catani Amico,
Andrew Chismar, Lea Furlong, Tyrone Gayeski,
Bernard Hendrzak, Jake Johnson,
Joseph Kachurak, Patrick Kildea,
Michael Lilienthal, Mollie Litchman,
Carolyn Palencar, Richard Sawicki, Mary Soos,
Byran Stanton, John Tucker,
Rev. Anthony Urban, Gary Walker,
Hank Walker, Loretta Washick

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



Notice Regarding Sexual Abuse of a Minor

It is the policy of the Diocese of Scranton to report any allegation of sexual abuse of a minor to law enforcement. If you are a victim of sexual abuse committed by a priest, deacon, religious or lay employee or volunteer of the Diocese of Scranton, you are encouraged to immediately report the matter to law enforcement. If any priest, deacon, religious, lay employee or volunteer of the Diocese of Scranton has cause or reason to suspect that a minor has been subjected to any form of abuse, including child sexual abuse, the matter will be reported to law enforcement.

It is also the policy of the Diocese to adhere to all civil and state regulations. In accordance with the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania's Child Protective Services Laws, reports of suspected child abuse should also be made immediately by phone to the 24-Hour Child Abuse hotline (ChildLine) at 1-800-932-0313 or electronically at www.compass.state.pa.us/cwis. To this end, the Diocese is equally committed to adhering to the norms of the Code of Canon Law and to upholding the tenets of the USCCB Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People, which includes supporting victims of sexual abuse in their pursuit of emotional and spiritual well-being. As such, information regarding an allegation of sexual abuse of a minor should also be reported to the Victim Assistance Coordinator Mary Beth Pacuska at 570-862-7551.



*The Sanctuary Candle is burning this week
in memory of Tony Kocylowski
by wife Marianne Kocylowski.*

Pray
THE ROSARY





August is the month dedicated to the Immaculate Heart of Mary, and it is also a month which contains a number of Marian feast days, including the Dedication of the Basilica of St. Mary Major, in Rome, on August 5, the Assumption of Our Lady into Heaven, a solemnity, on August 15, and the Queenship of the Blessed Virgin Mary which falls on August 22nd.

In addition to this, a number of the feast days of saints with a particular Marian connection occur during this month, including St. Alphonsus Liguori on August 1, St. Dominic — who was so associated with the rosary — on August 8, St. Maximilian Kolbe, the martyr of Auschwitz, on August 14, and also St. Bernard, who is commemorated on August 20th.

In addition, St. John Eudes and St. John Vianney, whose feast days fall on the 4th and the 19th of August respectively, were also noted for their Marian devotion. So, all in all, August is a very Marian month.

Naturally enough, devotion to the Immaculate Heart of Mary is very closely linked with devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus. It was not until the nineteenth century that the Immaculate Heart devotion itself became widespread.

This happened because of the immense popularity of the “Miraculous Medal” which was a result of the revelations made to St. Catherine Labouré in 1830 at the Rue de Bac convent in Paris. This medal actually has the official title of the “Medal of the Immaculate Conception” because of its inscription, “O Mary, conceived without sin, pray for us who have recourse to thee.”

When Catherine saw the vision of this medal, she heard a voice saying, “Have a Medal struck after this model. All who wear it will receive great graces; they should wear it around the neck. Graces will abound for persons who wear it with confidence.” A little later, in 1836, a society dedicated to the Immaculate Heart of Mary was started at the Church of Notre-Dame des Victoires in Paris, and from this point on, the devotion became really well known.

In 1832, a new priest, Charles Desgenettes, found himself battling against general religious indifference. He persisted in prayer and was saying Mass on December 3, 1836 when he heard a voice telling him to consecrate his parish to the Holy and Immaculate Heart of Mary. He drew up the statutes which were accepted by the archbishop of Paris within a week, and so began the work of the famous Confraternity of Our Lady of Victories, an association that was to have a worldwide influence.

Ten years later, on September 8, 1840, our Lady appeared to a novice called Justine Bisqueyburu; in her hands she held her Immaculate Heart pierced with a sword and surrounded with flames, and also a scapular of green cloth. On the reverse of this was “a heart all burning with rays more brilliant than the sun and as transparent as crystal; this heart, surmounted by a cross, was pierced with a sword, and around it were the words: ‘Immaculate Heart of Mary, pray for us now and at the hour of our death.’” This new Green Scapular received papal approval from Pope Pius IX in 1870, and has become popular because of its association with healings and conversions.

It is good to say the prayer, “Immaculate Heart of Mary, pray for us now and at the hour of our death,” when asking for spiritual favors or healings, and the Green Scapular has been regarded as being very efficacious for the conversion of the lapsed and unbelievers, attaining peace of mind, and for physical healings.

Devotion to Mary’s Immaculate Heart is really concerned with the love that her heart has for Jesus, for God, and so it is not an end in itself, but rather meant to be a model for the way we should love God. The whole aim of this devotion, then, is to unite mankind to God through Mary’s heart.

Father Rawel's Corner



Once a European tourist, traveling to Asia, paid a visit to famous wise and holy rabbi who lived there.

The European was surprised when he saw how simply the man lived - in a single room with only books and table and chair.

" Rabbi! Where is your furniture?" Asked the European tourist." Where is yours?" The rabbi asked. The European tourist answered, "My furniture? I'm only passing through here." The wise rabbi responded: " So am I!"

Qoheleth said " All things are vanity." The Hebrew word used here for "vanity" means something without substance, something like a puff of smoke. If you read the book of Qoheleth, you get the impression that the author enjoyed all the best things life has to offer: pleasure wealth, power and knowledge. Yet he found nothing is lasting value or satisfaction. The conclusion of this book tells us to enjoy each day as it comes and not become too attached to anything this world has to offer. Qoheleth's conclusion is to just enjoy each day as it comes was the best idea anyone could come up with.

But Jesus has more to offer. Jesus offers us something that is lasting. Jesus calls the rich farmer a " fool" in today's parable, because the farmer thought he was set for life, he had all he needed. He was wealthy in worldly goods, but he didn't grow rich in the sight of God.

St. Paul gives the same message in today's second reading: " think of what is above, not of what is on earth."

The parable Jesus gives us follows a few comments he made about greed and how dangerous it is. It's one of the capital sins and gives rise to things like cheating, stealing, lying, quarrel, fighting and even war.

Is Jesus saying it is sinful to be rich and successful?

Jesus is saying it is a sin if that is our main focus in life, if we build our security only on the things this world can give us, if we forget where our blessings come from.

There are two remedies that help us keep our priorities in balance.

First of all, there is a third commandment, which tells us to keep holy the Lord's Day. Honoring God reminds us of who God is and that we owe God everything we have and everything we are.

Secondly, there is a remedy to help us not forget about the needs of others. Keep on balancing our lives. Balancing in our lives is always loving God with heart, mind and soul and loving our neighbor as ourselves.

HAVE A WONDERFUL WEEKEND!

St. Elizabeth/St. Mark SummerFest

Saturday, August 23, 2025
Noon – 7:00 p.m.
Bear Creek Community Charter School Pavilion
Bear Creek Twp.

Live MUSIC

Cornhole Tournament

Basket Raffles
50/50 Drawings

Bake Sale

BINGO

Homemade Foods
Pierogi Piggy
Chicken Dinner
Pork BBQ
Haluski and MUCH more .

Worship & Meditation

Readings for the week of August 3, 2025

Sunday:

Eccl 1:2; 2:21-23/Ps 90:3-4, 5-6, 12-13, 14, 17 (1)/Col 3:1-5, 9-11/Lk 12:13-21

Monday:

Nm 11:4b-15/Ps 81:12-13, 14-15, 16-17/
Mt 14:13-21

Tuesday:

Nm 12:1-13/Ps 51:3-4, 5-6ab, 6cd-7, 12-13/
Mt 14:22-36 or Mt 15:1-2, 10-14

Wednesday:

Dn 7:9-10, 13-14/Ps 97:1-2, 5-6, 9/
2 Pt 1:16-19/Lk 9:28b-36

Thursday:

Nm 20:1-13/Ps 95:1-2, 6-7, 8-9/
Mt 16:13-23

Friday:

Dt 4:32-40/Ps 77:12-13, 14-15, 16
and 21/Mt 16:24-28

Saturday:

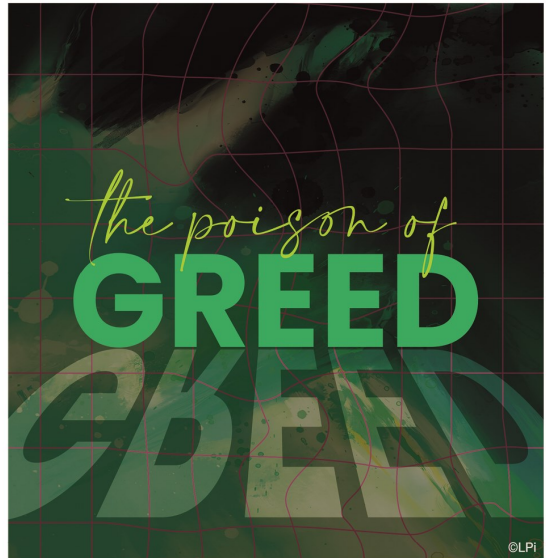
Dt 6:4-13/Ps 18:2-3a, 3bc-4, 47
and 51/Mt 17:14-20

Next Sunday:

Wis 18:6-9/Ps 33:1, 12, 18-19, 20-22 (12b)/
Heb 11:1-2, 8-19 or 11:1-2, 8-12/Lk 12:32-48
or 12:35-40



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Gospel Meditation

Encourage Deeper Understanding of Scripture

Recent studies suggest that millennials will be the first generation in America to be worse off than their parents in terms of financial earnings and job status. Many lament this. I propose that this week's Gospel provides a hopeful way to see the trend as good news.

The Lord Jesus says, **“Take care to guard against greed, for though one may be rich, one's life does not consist in possessions” (Luke 12:15).** Greed damages us with the deception that we are what we possess. But to Jesus, this is simply not true. What makes us happy is who we are, who we become.

Does not the expectation that every generation should do better than their parents subtly mask the poison of greed? A similar attitude is mirrored in the man who demands that Jesus justly arrange his share of the family inheritance. Despite the injustice, Jesus will not play that game. In fact, he seems to prefer that the man have less than his parents. What good would having more be to this man if he becomes enslaved and miserable by greed? What good would it be for us to have more if it means we become much less?

In allowing the man to have less, Jesus opens a space for him to become more: a man free to love. In that much more meaningful sense, perhaps he was better off than his parents. Maybe the millennials will be, too.

— *Father John Muir*

Weekly Prayer

Sunday's Readings

First Reading:

For what profit comes to man from all the toil
and anxiety of heart
with which he has labored under the sun? (Eccl 2:22)

Psalm:

If today you hear his voice, harden not your hearts. (Ps 90)

Second Reading:

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

Gospel:

Thus will it be for all who store up treasure for themselves
but are not rich in what matters to God." (Lk 12:21)

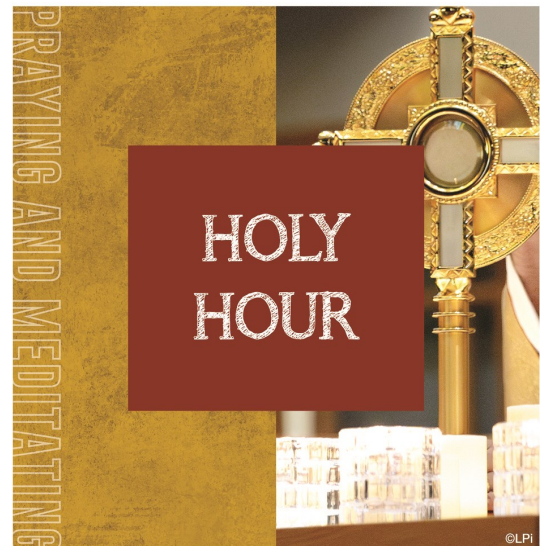
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Live The Liturgy Inspiration of the Week

Jesus warns us that at any moment we can
be called before God to face judgment. When
we are, our life will be measured not in dollars
or accomplishments, but in what matters to
God. What do we have to show for our time
spent on earth?

Observances for the week of August 3, 2025

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



Devotions, *Explained!*

A holy hour is the practice of
spending one hour's time in
the presence of the Blessed
Sacrament, praying and
meditating on the agony of
Jesus Christ.

Prayer for Open Hands

Lord, I do not know what any day
holds,
I cannot take for granted any of
the gifts You have given.
Help me to use them, then, as You
would have me.
Help me to live according to Your
invitations.
Amen.

(PRACTICING) CATHOLIC

Mini Reflection: If I die tonight, the deadlines will go unmet, and no one will even notice. But God, when He meets me in the world to come, will surely ask me why I couldn't take 45 minutes to accept a gift He tried again and again to give me.

The Barn

It's 9:08 on a Saturday morning, and I am too darn busy for confession.

I've probably written before about how hard I find it to get to confession — I say 'probably' because I really can't remember. I whine about it so frequently that it's hard to tell if I've made it the subject of a written piece or if it is simply an oft-recited refrain from the Litany of Colleen's Perpetual Complaints.

During the week, it's tough to get to confession because I have little kids who are attached to me like Velcro, and I don't need them listening in on (and eventually repeating to everyone) my sins. On the weekend it's a little easier, but our parish doesn't offer it before or after Sunday Mass, just on Saturdays. Saturday is when I get most of my work done, so getting absolution usually comes at the expense of productivity.

And that, friends, right here, is my barn. Productivity. That's the proverbial storehouse of my earthly harvest. For the rich man in the parable, it's a literal barn, filled to bursting with sellable crops. For you it might be money or your job title or what your life looks like to other people on social media. For me, it's Getting Things Done. That's my barn, the repository that holds the whole of my worldly preoccupations.

And it's so full I want to tear it down and build a new one. A bigger one. One that can hold more worry, more time for work, more focus on output and crossing things off a to-do list. Vanity of vanities, indeed.

If I die tonight, the deadlines will go unmet, and no one will even notice. But God, when He meets me in the world to come, will surely ask me why I couldn't take 45 minutes to accept a gift He tried again and again to give me.

I have to burn the barn, friends. I don't want to, but I have to. I'm closing my laptop and going to church.

— Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman

Why do we do that?

Catholic Life Explained

Question:

Does watching Mass on TV fulfill my Sunday obligation?

Answer:

In the age of instant communication, email, voice mail and teleconferencing, many people wonder if these media of communication can be used for sacraments. Many priests, I am sure, have had people ask about going to confession on the phone. While it may seem like a convenient way to do things, there are many reasons why we don't.

Watching the Mass on television can be a good thing, especially for those who are shut-in. But it really doesn't fulfill our obligation. The obligation to attend Mass is more than just simply listening to the Mass or following the prayers and the readings. Gathering together as a community of faith is important. Sacraments are community events where we encounter God and one another. When we gather together, we are most visibly the Church, the Body of Christ. Besides, television is a one-way medium. It allows us to watch without really being able to give a response. In faith, our response is as important as anything that we hear. We need to take an active part in the religious expression of our community.

“But God said to him, ‘You fool, this night your life will be demanded of you; and the things you have prepared, to whom will they belong?’ Thus will it be for all who store up treasure for themselves but are not rich in what matters to God.” - Lk 12:20-21

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Questions of the Week

Invite Parishioners to Reflect and Respond to Scripture

First Reading:

The author of Ecclesiastes speaks of the futility of an anxious heart and restless mind. What helps to ground you in your day-to-day living?

Second Reading:

Paul encourages the Colossians to put to death the “old self” (bad behavior) and to live into the “new self” (life in Christ). What could you do this week to practice this “new self”?

Gospel:

Jesus tells the crowds the parable of the rich fool, warning against excessive material wealth. How do you balance your material needs with “what matters to God”?

TRANSFIGURATION

