

THE EXALTATION OF THE HOLY CROSS
THAT THE WORLD
MIGHT BE
SAVED.

— JOHN 3:17 —



St. Elizabeth of Hungary/St. Mark

5700 Bear Creek Boulevard, Bear Creek, Pennsylvania 18602

EXALTATION OF THE HOLY CROSS | SEPTEMBER 14, 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

Sept 7, 2025

Weekly	\$3463.00
Online	<u>\$778.00</u>
	\$4241.00
Diocesan	-\$145.00
GAZA	<u>-\$861.00</u>
TOTAL:	\$3235.00

Thank you for your continued generosity.

Eucharistic Celebration

Saturday, Sept 13, 2025 — Sunday, Sept 21, 2025

Sat, SEPT 13

4:00pm (M) Arlene Starr
Nancy Bielski

6:00pm (E) Ned McLarney
John & Ann Tucker

Sun, SEPT 14

8:30am (M) For the Parishioners

10:30am (E) Nicole Lane
Gail Gayeski

Mon, SEPT 15

9:00am (E) David M. Soda
Ted & Diane Haas

Tues, SEPT 16

9:00am (E) Joseph Imperial
Fran & Myrna Bianco

Wed, SEPT 17

9:00am (E) Marie Plascenia
Fran & Myrna Bianco

Thurs, SEPT 18

9:00am (E) **NO MASS**

Fri, SEPT 19

9:00am (E) Jim Vipand
Mr. & Mrs. Christian Brown

Sat, SEPT 20

4:00pm (M) Chester Bielski
Nancy Bielski

6:00pm (E) Joseph Duseau
Joseph & Marcia Boris

Sun, SEPT 21

8:30am (M) Ralph Nordmark
Chrissy & Kevin Nordmark

10:30am (E) Mary Grouke
Steve & Mer Rish



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



*Noreen Catani Amico, Laurie Ayre,
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*

**THE MOST BLESSED
SACRAMENT IS RESERVED IN OUR CHURCH**

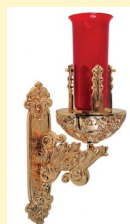
**We respectfully ask that all observe a
reverent silence.**



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 Mal and Victoria Denisco
by Frank and Molly Litchman.*

Father Rawel's Corner



THE CROSS OF CHRIST

"How splendid is the Cross of Christ! It brings life, not death; light not darkness; paradise not loss. It is the wood on which the Lord, like a warrior, was wounded in hands, feet, and side but healed thereby our wounds. A tree has destroyed us; a tree has now brought life."

These words of Theodore of Studite beautifully capture the essence of today's feast.

The crucifix holds a place of honor in every Christian heart, home, and place of worship. It is with the sign of the cross that we begin our actions. In 326, St. Helena - the empress and mother of Emperor Constantine - discovered the true cross. All the readings align with today's feast. As the proverb goes, "Familiarity breeds contempt," so did the people of Israel. They became discontent with God, Moses, and the food provided to them. As a result, the Lord sent poisonous serpents, and many Israelites died. At their pleading, Moses was instructed to make a bronze serpent and place it on a pole - anyone who looked at it was saved. In the second reading, St. Paul explains how Jesus brought life through the Cross. The disobedience of Israelites brought the serpent; the Obedience of Jesus crushed the serpents of sin and shame. Therefore, God has exalted Him.

May the Cross of Christ, give us the courage and strength to share the burden of one another. And help us to cling on to the cross in our trials and temptations for you alone can save us. Amen.

HAVE A GLORIOUS WEEKEND!

CCD Religious Education Registration

We look forward to welcoming back all returning and new students to our Parish's CCD program this year.

Classes for children in grades K-8 will be held on Sundays at

9:30 a.m., beginning Sunday, September 28.

Registration will take place after the 10:30 a.m. Mass in St. Elizabeth's Parish Hall on Sunday, September 14.

Calendars will be distributed at that time.

If you are unable to register in person, online registration is available by emailing Emily Bell and Renee Sipple at saintelizabethCCD@gmail.com

The Parish Council is sponsoring a Fundraiser to help cover our Parish operating expenses. On **Sunday Sept 28, 2025 from 1PM - 4PM** a **Takeout Dinner** (Ham, scalloped potato, corn, roll with butter and cake) will be available for **\$15.00 per meal**. Reserve dinners by calling **570-841-0213** and leave a message including your Name, Phone Number and the number of meals desired or e-mail the same to stelizabethbells@outlook.com. Someone will call you back to confirm your request, doing so will allow us to know the amount to prepare.



GAZA RELIEF FUND

\$861.00 was collected for the Humanitarian Relief and Pastoral Support in Gaza providing vital emergency aid, medical care, and relief to those suffering in the region. Thank you for your generosity.



Each Mass takes us to the foot of the Cross, where the sacrifice of Jesus Christ to God the Father (made on our behalf over two thousand years ago) is made present to us.

In addition to "praying the Mass" with an engaged mind and heart, we also actively participate by joining (offering up) our own sacrifices and intentions.

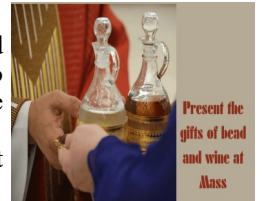
This is a privilege we have as Catholics because we have been united to Christ through the sacrament of baptism. He is the head of the Church, and we are His Body.

Just as the priest offers the Holy Sacrifice for a particular intention, we, too, can offer it for a personal intention. To do so is to apply the infinite, redeeming Blood of Jesus Christ to a particular person or cause.

You can offer your intentions for loved ones either by purchasing a Sanctuary Candle for \$10 and/or Bread and Wine for \$20.00.

Jesus then presents our sacrifices and intentions to God the Father, who looks on us with favor because we have united ourselves to His Son.

What a gift each Mass is, for this fact alone!





10TH ANNUAL DIOCESE OF SCRANTON

BE A CATHOLIC MAN CONFERENCE

CHRIST IS KING

SAT, OCT. 4, 2025, 8 AM - 3:00 PM

Holy Redeemer High School, 159 S. Penna. Ave., Wilkes-Barre

Speakers: Mike Aquilina, David Bereit, Fr. Charles Connor

Adoration, Reconciliation, Exhibitors, Mass- Bishop Bambera

\$40, (Early \$30 by 9-15-25) Students \$15, Priests/Deacons/Seminarians FREE

Morning coffee & box lunch included


ONLINE info and registration:
BeACatholicMan.com

BY MAIL: Send name, address, email & parish with check or money order (payable to "Be a Catholic Man") Put "Men's Conference" in check memo.

Mail to: Be a Catholic Man, PO Box 669, Wyalusing, PA 18853

Contact: Mike Kilmer 570-721-0872 • mkilmer@thekilmergroup.com





Chicken Dinner Drive-Thru

\$15/ Dinner

Limited quantity available- order early!
Tickets must be purchased in advance.
Visit our website www.stjosephscenter.org



SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 21 NOON-4PM

2010 Adams Ave Scranton

Dinners include:

- Half Chicken
- Baked Beans,
- Cole Slaw,
- Potato Salad,
- Roll, Water and a Cookie.

Worship & Meditation

Readings for the week of September 14, 2025

Sunday:

Nm 21:4b-9/Ps 78:1bc-2, 34-35, 36-37,
38/Phil 2:6-11/Jn 3:13-17

Monday:

1 Tm 2:1-8/Ps 28:2, 7, 8-9/Jn 19:25-27 or
Lk 2:33-35

Tuesday:

1 Tm 3:1-13/Ps 101:1b-2ab, 2cd-3ab, 5, 6/
Lk 7:11-17

Wednesday:

1 Tm 3:14-16/Ps 111:1-2, 3-4, 5-6/Lk 7:31-35

Thursday:

1 Tm 4:12-16/Ps 111:7-8, 9, 10/Lk 7:36-50

Friday:

1 Tm 6:2c-12/Ps 49:6-7, 8-10, 17-18, 19-20/
Lk 8:1-3

Saturday:

1 Tm 6:13-16/Ps 100:1b-2, 3, 4, 5/Lk 8:4-15

Next Sunday:

Am 8:4-7/Ps 113:1-2, 4-6, 7-8 (see 1a, 7b)/
1 Tm 2:1-8/Lk 16:1-13 or 16:10-13



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Gospel Meditation

Encourage Deeper Understanding of Scripture

One of my favorite movies is the 1991 comedy *What About Bob?* Bill Murray plays a troubled, paranoid hypochondriac named Bob Wiley who innocently but annoyingly hounds Dr. Leo Marvin, played by Richard Dreyfuss. Bob is paralyzed by his fear of, well, everything, and is convinced the psychologist can heal him. But Dr. Marvin's failed attempts to heal Bob end up driving the doctor to attempt to murder Bob. He fails. The surprise is that, having faced death head on, Bob is suddenly healed. He attributes his healing to Dr. Marvin for breakthrough "death therapy." In facing the cause of his deepest illness and dysfunction, Bob is healed.

Underneath this light-hearted comedy is a dead-serious resonance with this week's feast: the Exaltation of the Holy Cross. Christ is lifted up on the cross to force us to face the truth of sin and death. In that reckoning we find healing. Like Moses' snake on a pole, the cross says: this is what is causing your sickness – rebellion, disobedience, sin. Look at it! Don't run from it. Now seeing it exposed, we see life. We see our physician mercifully healing us. In this sense, we are all like Bob Wiley. The "death therapy" of the cross is our only hope for healing.

This week I invite you to "exalt the cross." If you don't have one in your house, get one. Use it for prayer. Gaze on it frequently. It teaches us to not be afraid. It heals us.

— Father John Muir

Weekly Prayer

Sunday's Readings

First Reading:

"We have sinned in complaining against the LORD and you.
Pray the LORD to take the serpents from us." (Nm 21:7)

Psalm:

Do not forget the works of the Lord! (Ps 78)

Second Reading:

He humbled himself,
becoming obedient to death,
even death on a cross. (Phil 2:8)

Gospel:

For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son,
so that everyone who believes in him might not perish
but might have eternal life. (Jn 3:16)

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Live The Liturgy Inspiration of the Week

God did not send his son into the world to condemn it. The cross is not a symbol of judgment — the cross is what mercy looks like when it is lived out. How will we bring the cross into our lives this week? How will we live the mercy which has saved us?

Observances for the week of September 14, 2025

Sunday:	The Exaltation of the Holy Cross
Monday:	Our Lady of Sorrows
Tuesday:	Sts. Cornelius, Pope, and Cyprian, Bishop, Martyrs
Wednesday:	St. Robert Bellarmine, Bishop and Doctor of the Church; St. Hildegard of Bingen, Virgin and Doctor
Friday:	St. Januarius, Bishop and Martyr
Saturday:	Sts. Andrew Kim Tae-gŏn, Priest, and Paul Chŏng Ha-sang, and Companions, Martyrs [M]
Next Sunday:	25th Sunday in Ordinary Time; Catechetical Sunday



Devotions, *Explained!*

A litany is an ancient form of prayer incorporating repetitive refrains (often "hear our prayer" or "pray for us"). Litanies are used in a variety of liturgical settings and in both private and public acts of devotion.

Prayer of Love

Dear God,
Expand my heart in new ways
today,
to understand the love You have
for me,
to take that love deeply into
myself,
and to act from that love.
Amen.

(PRACTICING) CATHOLIC

Mini Reflection: When the unfaithful of the Israelites were bitten by the serpents, they were healed by looking upon the instrument of their suffering: the serpent itself, mounted on Moses' staff. To heal us, God invites us to look upon the cross.

The Cross is Not Negotiable

"Holiness isn't for wimps," Mother Angelica famously said. "And the cross isn't negotiable, sweetheart — it's a requirement."

I love Mother Angelica, and I love this quote. Following God is *tough*, and to do it you have to make a decision to be *tough*, to endure tough things — and ultimately, to love the toughness of it all, because within that struggle God meets us with mercy and salvation.

But in light of today's readings, I think Mother Angelica would forgive me for tweaking her words a tiny bit.

Holiness *is* for wimps, *because* the cross isn't negotiable.

When the unfaithful among the Israelites were bitten by the serpents, they were healed by looking upon the instrument of their suffering: the serpent itself, mounted on Moses' staff. With a literary flourish that puts Homer and Shakespeare to shame, God inverts that primitive symbol. To heal us, he invites us to look upon the cross — the sacrifice which achieved our redemption.

Jesus came here to die on that cross for us. For the wimps. Because we couldn't do it ourselves, even if we tried. We couldn't right all of our wrongs, not if we had a million years to do it. We would keep screwing it up. We would keep failing. We're wimps; that's what we do.

But the cross — the cross is a magnificent invitation to something more. Divinity Himself, assuming the cloak of flesh and the weight of sin, so that when we look at the cross, we might recognize ourselves. So that we might see what we have been, what we are, what we could be.

And none of it is negotiable.

— Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman

Why do we do that?

Catholic Life Explained

Question:

I have a friend who says she doesn't need to attend Mass because she prays to God every day. What are your thoughts on this justification?

Answer:

If the only reason for going to church were to talk to God, your friend might be right. Prayer is not something limited to a physical place or even a holy place. If the sole purpose of the Church were prayer, it would be a narrow purpose indeed. The Church is a community of believers, formed by "one Lord, one faith, one Baptism." It is an outward sign of our faith in God instituted by Christ, and the purpose of the Church is to give us grace, that is, a share in God's life.

Coming to Mass is not really for God's sake, but for ours. If we believe that Jesus is truly present in the holy Eucharist, then we will want to be in his presence. We will want to be fed by him. Our daily prayer and good works are strengthened by our authentic encounter with our Lord. For Catholics, it is at Mass that we celebrate the source and summit of our faith. If this is true, why would we ever stay away?

Jesus said to Nicodemus: “No one has gone up to heaven except the one who has come down from heaven, the Son of Man.” For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world might be saved through him. - Jn 3:13, 17

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

Questions of the Week

Invite Parishioners to Reflect and Respond to Scripture

First Reading:

In their desert wanderings, the Israelites learned that repentance leads to healing. What needs healing in your life?

Second Reading:

Paul taught the Philippians that the humility and obedience of Jesus — even to the point of death by crucifixion — led to Jesus' exaltation. When have you been challenged to be humble and obedient?

Gospel:

Jesus reveals to Nicodemus that his death on the cross would lead believers to eternal life and save the world. What have you been taught about the meaning of the cross?

