

St. Elizabeth of Hungary/St. Mark

5700 Bear Creek Boulevard, Bear Creek, Pennsylvania 18602



• 15TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME •

**AS HE SOWED,
SOME SEED FELL.**

©LPI

FIFTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME | July 12, 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



*Hospitality and God's
gracious love to all*

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 5, 2026

Weekly	\$2419.00
Online	<u>\$881.00</u>
	\$3300.00
Diocesan	- <u>\$220.00</u>
TOTAL	\$3080.00

Thank you for your continued generosity.

Eucharistic Celebration

SATURDAY, JULY 11

4:00pm (BC Charter School Pavilion) For All Volunteers

4:00pm (M) NO MASS

6:00pm (E) NO MASS

SUNDAY, JULY 12

8:30am (M) For the Parishioners

10:30am (E) Daniel Halapin *Req. by Dr. Gary & Benedetta Lawrence*

MONDAY, JULY 13

9:00am (E) Angelo Talerico Jr. *Req. by Joan Steidle & Family*

TUESDAY, JULY 14

9:00am (E) Zoe Ann Kanavy *Req. by Tom & Grace Mielczarek*

WEDNESDAY, JULY 15

9:00am (E) Joseph Kachurak *Req. by Rick & Barbara Capitan*

THURSDAY, JULY 16

9:00am (E) NO MASS

FRIDAY, JULY 17

9:00am (E) John Kosek *Req. by The Bianco Family*

SATURDAY, JULY 18

4:00pm (M) Mr. & Mrs. John Hack *Req. by Barbara Reiss*

6:00pm (E) Albert B. Hamel *Req. by Tom & Stephanie Hamel*

SUNDAY, JULY 19

8:30am (M) John Kosek *Req. by Charlie & Carol Burd*

10:30am (E) Darlene Elias Stone *Req. by Debbie Trubela Mitchell*



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, Amber Moyer, Carolyn Palencar, Donald Scharf, Mary Soos, Byran Stanton, Verna Stavish, Milo Grunza, John Tucker, Rev. Anthony Urban, Hank Walker, Loretta Washick

IMPORTANT NOTICE

The records at St. Elizabeth/St. Mark Parish have not been updated in years. Parishioners have moved, landlines dropped, phone number have changed and emails may not have been available at the time. It is important for the parish directory to be up to date with current contact information for communication and event planning purposes. Accurate contact info helps everyone stay connected.

The office staff is asking **EVERY PARISHIONER** to complete the new registration form inserted in this week's bulletin ASAP. You may drop it in the collection basket or in the mail. If you have completed a registration form in the last 6 months you do not need to fill out this new form. Thank you for your consideration.



Our Lady of Victory Church Harveys Lake, PA

Fatima Devotions will be held every 13th of the month from May through October. Services start at 7 pm and include: Fatima prayers, the Rosary, and Marian hymns. Light refreshments will be served again this year after the devotions. The public is welcome to attend and celebrate Our Blessed Mother.

Monday July 13, 2026 7:00PM



MISSION APPEAL

Next weekend, July 18th-19th, the Little Sisters of Mary Immaculate of Gulu will conduct a mission appeal in both St. Mark and St. Elizabeth churches at all Masses.

The Little Sisters of Mary Immaculate of Gulu (LSMIG) are an indigenous Order of Catholic Sisters founded in 1936 in the Archdiocese of Gulu, in Northern Uganda (East Africa).

After nearly 30 years of civil war, the Sisters are dealing with an influx of 1.56 million refugees in Uganda, many of them unaccompanied children.

Sr. Scovia Apiyo and Sr. Nighty Akello will speak at all Masses that weekend on their need for financial support for their mission.

Their Mission Brief is inserted in today's bulletin.

Please be as generous as possible. Thank you!

Father Rawel's Corner



GOOD SOIL OR HARD- ENED HEART?

In the Gospel of Mathew, Jesus reveals the mystery of the human heart. The Word of God is living and powerful. Yet its fruitfulness depends on the openness of the one who receives it.

The seed that falls on the path represents a hardened heart. When the word is heard, but not understood or welcomed, it remains on the surface.

The rocky ground symbolizes a superficial heart. The word is received with joy, but there is no depth when difficulties arise, when faith demands sacrifice, enthusiasm fades. Without roots, without prayer, reflection, and perseverance faith withers under the heat of trial.

The thorny ground reveals a divided heart. The word grows, but so do the thorns. Anxiety about the future, attachment to wealth, desire for comfort these choke the life of grace. It is not open rebellion against God, but distraction that suffocated spiritual fruit.

Finally, the good soil represents the receptive heart. It hears, understands, and perseveres. It allows the word to sink deep, to transform attitudes, choices, and relationships.

What kind of soil am I today? The good news is that soil can change. Hardened ground can be broken by repentance. Stones can be removed through discipline. Thorns can be uprooted by detachment and trust. The Divine Sower never stops sowing seeds. His grace is always offered.

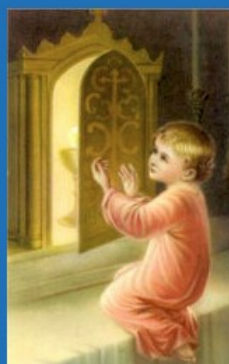
Lord Jesus, Divine Sower, soften the hardened place of our hearts. Remove what is shallow and uproot what chokes your word. Make us good soil, ready to receive your grace and bear fruit for your kingdom. AMEN.

HAVE A BLESSED AND WONDERFUL WEEKEND!!!

Precious Blood of Our Lord

The month of July is dedicated to the Precious Blood. The feast of the Precious Blood of our Lord was instituted in 1849 by Pius IX, but the devotion is as old as Christianity. The early Fathers say that the Church was born from the pierced side of Christ, and that the sacraments were brought forth through His Blood.

"The Precious Blood which we worship is the Blood which the Savior shed for us on Calvary and reassumed at His glorious Resurrection; it is the Blood which courses through the veins of His risen, glorified, living body at the right hand of God the Father in heaven; it is the Blood made present on our altars by the words of Consecration; it is the Blood which merited sanctifying grace for us and through it washes and beautifies our soul and inaugurates the beginning of eternal life in it."



Blood of Christ,
Eucharistic drink and
refreshment of souls, save
us.

SOLEMN NOVENA

IN HONOR OF

Saint Ann

JULY 17 TO 26, 2026

PREACHERS: FR. RICK FRECHETTE, C.P. AND FR. JACK CONLEY, C.P.

NOVENA DEVOTIONS After 8 & 11:45 A.M. & 6:30 P.M. Masses; Novena Devotions only at 3:30 P.M.	DAILY MASSES 7:00, 8:00 & 11:45 A.M. & 6:30 P.M.	MASS OF THE ANOINTING OF THE SICK Thursday, July 23, 1:30 P.M.
DIVINE LITURGY - BYZANTINE RITE Tuesday, July 21, 6:30 P.M.	CONFESSIONS Lower Basilica for 30 minutes prior to each Mass & the 3:30 P.M. Novena Service, and after all services	CHILDREN'S MASS & NOVENA PRAYERS Saturday, July 25, 10:00 A.M.; Special Blessing for Families and Grandparents

SUNDAY, JULY 19

MASSES

7:00 A.M., 8:00 A.M.,
11:45 A.M., & 6:30 P.M.

NOVENA DEVOTIONS

After 8:00 & 11:45 A.M. & 6:30 P.M. Masses;
w/Novena only at 3:30 P.M.

SAINT ANN'S FEAST DAY

SUNDAY, JULY 26

CONFESSIONS 4:00 A.M.

MASSES & DEVOTIONS

4:30, 7:00, 8:00, 10:00 & 11:45 A.M.

3:30 P.M. (Novena only)

LANGUAGE SERVICE

1:30 P.M. - POLISH in Upper Basilica

4:45 P.M. - SPANISH in Upper Basilica

Individual Blessing with Relic of St. Ann After Each Devotion

SOLEMN CLOSING SUNDAY, JULY 26, AT 6:30 P.M.

Pontifical Mass celebrated by Most Reverend Joseph C. Bambera, D.D., J.C.L.

CTV COVERAGE OF THE SOLEMN NOVENA

Every Day at 12:00 pm and 3:30 pm; Weeknights at 7:00 pm

(except Thursday, July 23 at 8:00 pm)

Closing Mass live Sunday, July 26 at 7:30 pm; Rebroadcast Monday, July 27 at 12:00 pm

**BASILICA OF THE NATIONAL SHRINE OF ST. ANN
PASSIONIST MONASTERY**

1239 SAINT ANN STREET

SCRANTON, PA 18504

For the convenience of the people attending the novena, refreshments will be available on the monastery grounds during the entire novena.



**OUR CALL TO
SERVE**

CATHOLIC MINISTRIES APPEAL

The **Catholic Ministries Appeal** for the **Year 2025-2026** has closed. Thank you to all who have provided their generous financial support for this Appeal.

St. Elizabeth Parish Goal: \$18,133.00

Total Committed: \$10,270.00

% to Goal: 56.64%

Under: -\$7,863.00

Expected Rebate: \$0.00

**Catholic Ministries Appeal 2026-2027 Parish Goal
\$18,649.00**

Worship & Meditation

Readings for the week of July 12, 2026

Sunday:

Is 55:10-11/Ps 65:10, 11, 12-13, 14/
Rom 8:18-23/Mt 13:1-23 or 13:1-9

Monday:

Is 1:10-17/Ps 50:8-9, 16bc-17, 21 and 23/
Mt 10:34-11:1

Tuesday:

Is 7:1-9/Ps 48:2-3a, 3b-4, 5-6, 7-8/
Mt 11:20-24

Wednesday:

Is 10:5-7, 13b-16/Ps 94:5-6, 7-8, 9-10, 14-15/Mt 11:25-27

Thursday:

Is 26:7-9, 12, 16-19/Ps 102:13-14ab and 15, 16-18, 19-21/Mt 11:28-30

Friday:

Is 38:1-6, 21-22, 7-8/Is 38:10, 12abcd, 16/
Mt 12:1-8

Saturday:

Mi 2:1-5/Ps 10:1-2, 3-4, 7-8, 14/Mt 12:14-21

Next Sunday:

Wis 12:13, 16-19/Ps 86:5-6, 9-10, 15-16/
Rom 8:26-27/Mt 13:24-43 or 13:24-30



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Gospel Meditation

Encourage Deeper Understanding of Scripture

Sometimes I feel capable of absorbing almost anything except God's Word. My mind soaks up song lyrics, sports trivia, and endless online content. But what was the reading at Mass this morning? I struggle to recall. That realization discourages me, and it leads to an uncomfortable question. What is my heart really for? Is it shaped for constant information and distraction, or is it truly designed for God? Am I capable of deeply receiving His Word?

Jesus speaks directly to this today with a simple image. **"The seed sown on rich soil is the one who hears the word and understands it."** By comparing the Word of the Kingdom to a seed, Jesus reveals something hopeful about us. The human heart is made for that seed. Soil and seed belong together. No matter how compacted, rocky, or overgrown the ground has become, the Sower never stops sowing.

God loves our hearts. He sees them as a farmer sees his fields, full of potential. Human hearts can indeed **"understand the Word."** Understanding does not mean mastering information. It means letting the Word sink in, interacting with it, and giving it a home. It means trusting that, beneath the surface, God is at work in quiet and hidden ways.

When we allow the Holy Spirit to loosen the soil of our hearts through prayer, repentance, and simplicity, the same Word that created the universe begins to bear fruit in us, 30, 60, even a hundredfold.

Lord Jesus, Sower of life, soften the soil of my heart. Let Your Word take root in me again, and bring forth the fruit You desire. Amen.

— Father John Muir

Weekly Prayer

Sunday's Readings

First Reading:

My word shall not return to me void,
but shall do my will,
achieving the end for which I sent it. (Is 55:11)

Psalm:

The seed that falls on good ground will yield a fruitful harvest. (Ps 65)

Second Reading:

I consider that the sufferings of this present time are as nothing compared with the glory to be revealed for us.
(Rom 8:18)

Gospel:

Amen, I say to you, many prophets and righteous people longed to see what you see but did not see it, and to hear what you hear but did not hear it. (Mt 13:17)

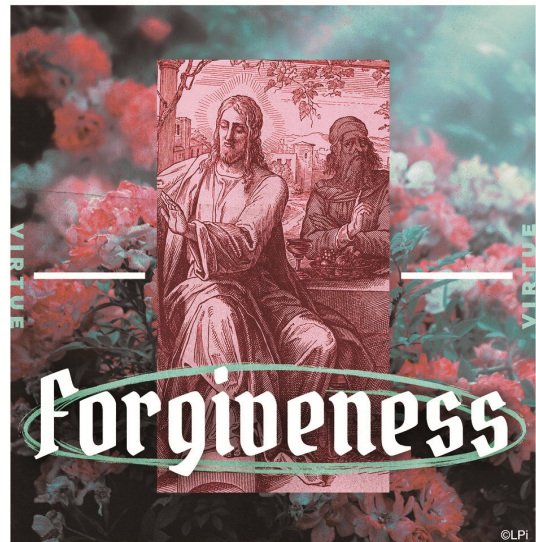
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Live The Liturgy Inspiration of the Week

Our hearts are fertile ground for the Word of God, but we must be careful gardeners. Be conscious of what damages and depletes the soil of your heart. Pay attention to what nourishes it, so that the goodness of the Word can bloom forth into the world.

Observances for the week of July 12, 2026

Sunday:	15th Sunday in Ordinary Time
Monday:	St. Henry
Tuesday:	St. Kateri Tekakwitha, Virgin
Wednesday:	St. Bonaventure, Bishop and Doctor of the Church
Thursday:	Our Lady of Mount Carmel
Saturday:	St. Camillus de Lellis, Priest
Next Sunday:	16th Sunday in Ordinary Time



Virtues, Explained!

Forgiveness is love in action. It is mercy extended for no other reason than a desire to be like God, who forgives us out of sheer goodness. The Catechism says that forgiveness proves that "love is stronger than sin."

Blessing for Abundant Growth

Dear God,
Bless our efforts in Your Name.
Help us to understand Your will.
Allow us to follow the invitation You have provided.
We want to be rich soil — help us respond deeply and abundantly to every place You call.
Amen.

(PRACTICING) CATHOLIC

The Gardener and the Soil

I began writing this piece by googling “how do you make soil fertile?” which should tell you everything you need to know about my own abilities as a gardener.

I remember seeing a packet of seeds in the store one summer as a child and convincing my mother to buy them. They were delphiniums, which bloom into a beautiful cone shape if you know what you’re doing. Alas, I didn’t. I chose for my garden a particularly dry spot of earth right next to my backyard playset, scattered the seeds, congratulated myself, and went on my merry way. I returned occasionally to water the area, but only when I remembered to.

Nothing grew, not even a little sprout. I was more than heartbroken — my faith was shaken. I had planted these seeds! I had watered them! (A little.) There was sunlight! All my childhood books and rhymes said this was all you needed. Was it all a lie?

Of course it wasn’t a lie. Seeds need soil, sunlight, water, and oxygen — good soil, adequate sunlight for whatever the plant is, and consistent water.

So what seeds need more than anything is a gardener. (At least, delphiniums do.)

When I hear the parable of the rich soil and the rocky ground in the Gospel of Matthew, I often miss the point. I think Jesus is trying to give me a message about how I should be. “Be better.” That’s what I think he’s telling me.

I forget that I am only the soil. I cannot enrich myself; all my efforts to do so will come to nothing. What he is telling me is to ask the gardener: “Make me what I need to be.”

— Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman

Why do we do that?

Catholic Life Explained

Question:

My friend has never heard of Christ and I want to share the Gospel with her but I’m afraid to. How do I share my faith?

Answer:

There are a lot of ways to bring up the topic of religion, without being judgmental or pushy. Begin by asking what her thoughts are about religion, or what her experience was growing up. Finding common ground is often easier than you think, because the questions and problems we have about God, the presence of evil, our purpose in life, and our relationship with God are universal concerns.

Why are you afraid? If you do not want to insult or offend someone, don’t be pushy or judgmental. If you are uncertain about how to explain your own faith, do a little reading or practice with a friend. If you measure success only by this person converting, focus your attention more on beginning the conversation, not on bringing it to a perfect close! Faith is a journey of many acts of belief, many discussions about God, and many choices about how we practice what we preach. In some we will have great success; in others we will need forgiveness and perseverance. The most important thing to keep in mind is that the Holy Spirit is always at work and our most humble efforts can bear great fruit. Have faith in God because He has faith in you!

And he spoke to them at length in parables, saying: "A sower went out to sow...Some seed fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked it. But some seed fell on rich soil, and produced fruit, a hundred or sixty or thirtyfold. Whoever has ears ought to hear."

- Mt 13:3, 7-9

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 encourages us to trust in the reliability of God's word and purposes. When do you find yourself trusting in the Lord?

Second Reading:

Paul places his hope in God's promised future, when both people and creation itself will be freed from corruption and decay. Is there something you or your family have been hoping for lately?

Gospel:

Jesus teaches his disciples to be open (be "rich soil") to the often mysterious meaning of the parables about the kingdom of Heaven. Are you someone who is open to new or different ideas?

15th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME





LITTLE SISTERS OF MARY IMMACULATE OF GULU – LSMIG
1000 Fairfield Street, Scranton, PA. 18509
Tel: (+1) 570-817-0642 E-mail: littlestersmig@gmail.com

MISSION BRIEF: THE LITTLE SISTERS OF MARY IMMACULATE OF GULU (LSMIG)

Who we are: The Little Sisters of Mary Immaculate of Gulu (LSMIG) are an indigenous Order of Catholic Sisters founded in 1936 by Servant of God Bishop Angelo Negri, in the Archdiocese of Gulu, in Northern Uganda (East Africa).

The **Charism** of LSMIG is to share *God's love and kindness to All*. Our **mission** is to witness to the love of Jesus Christ to the poor and most vulnerable members of the society through: Catholic education, health, pastoral and social services in hard-to-reach areas. Our mission stations are in Uganda, Kenya, Italy, and the USA.

Our current Need: The LSMIG Sisters are uniquely serving a people of northern Uganda who are emerging from a nearly 30 years of civil war while concurrently dealing with influx of refugees from South Sudan and the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC). Uganda is a home to 1.56 million refugees. Among the refugees are children who arrived in Uganda unaccompanied. The little girls in particular have suffered sexual violence which has made them become child-mothers at 13-15 year of age.

In picture is Sister Lucy providing child care as the mothers go to Class



Our sisters are responding courageously with limited resources, to the need of these refugee children and teen-mothers through catholic education and catholic youth outreach programs. We developed a unique Catholic Elementary Education center blended with Vocational training, Daycare and Kindergarten to support education of the child mothers and their babies on the same campus. Our LSMIG Sisters have made this bold move to break the cycle of teenage pregnancy and child motherhood and to give the teenage-mothers and their babies a second chance in school through an innovative Catholic Education.

We kindly invite you, through your Pastor, to consider financial support for the mission of the Little Sisters of Mary Immaculate of Gulu in Uganda, to break the cycle of child motherhood in the refugee camps and to impart our Catholic values of God's love and kindness to these refugee children through Catholic Education.

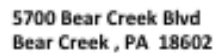
You can make your gift with a check or in cash to your Parish, with a memo for the LSMIG.

Please pray for us and be assured of our prayers for you, your Parish, your family and your loved ones. Thank you for your generosity!

May God graciously bless you.

Sister Mary Cecilia Draru, LSMIG
Zonal Leader-USA Mission

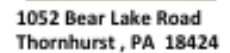
LIGHT IN DARKNESS



The Parish Community of
St. Elizabeth/St. Mark

We are so happy that you've chosen to join our faith family!

PLEASE PRINT LEGIBLY and COMPLETELY



Type of Registration

____ **New Parishioner Registration**

____Current Parishioner Update

FAMILY SURNAME		TODAY'S DATE	
Primary Street Address	City	State	Zip Code

Do you live in this area year round or seasonally? ____ Year Round ____ Seasonally Seasonal Dates			
Seasonal Street Address	City	State	Zip Code

May we share your personal information with our Parish Ministries? ☐ Yes ☐ No

1st Head of Household-First Name		Middle Name	Last Name	Suffix
Marital Status	____Single	____Married	____Separated	____Divorced ____Widowed
Interfaith Marriage _____Yes _____No			If Divorced-Are you in need of Annulment :_____Yes ____No	
Have you ever been married before _____Yes _____No			If yes, how many times _____	
1st Head of Household - Primary Phone Number			1st Head of Household - Additional Phone Number	
1st Head of Household—Email Address			Receive Parish Email?	
			_____ YES ____No	
1st Head of Household —Date of Birth			1st Head of Household —Occupation	
1st Head of Household —Sacraments Completed			_____Baptism ____1st Communion ____Confirmation	
Church of Baptism Name >>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>				
Street		City	State	Zip Code

