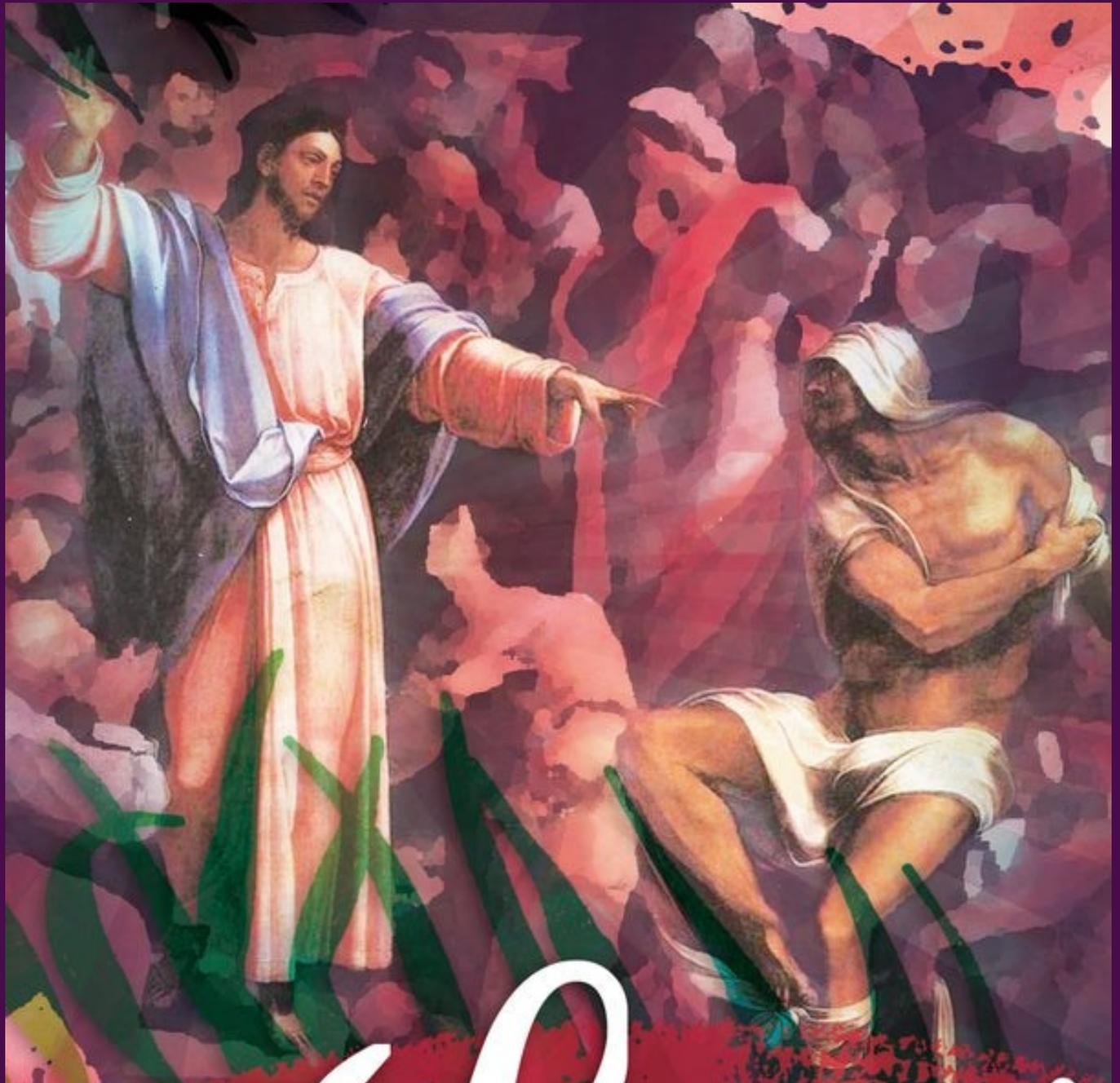


St. Elizabeth of Hungary/St. Mark

5700 Bear Creek Boulevard, Bear Creek, Pennsylvania 18602



FIFTH
SUNDAY
OF

Lent

FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT | March 22, 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 15, 2026

Weekly	\$2646.00
Online	<u>\$1023.00</u>
	\$3669.00
Diocesan	<u>-\$240.00</u>
TOTAL	\$3429.00

Corned Beef/Ham Dinner —\$949

Thank you for your continued generosity.

Eucharistic Celebration

SATURDAY, MARCH 21

4:00pm (M) Joseph Reiss *Req. by Barbara Reiss*
6:00pm (E) Rose Kindred *Req. by Dr. Gary & Benedetta Lawrence*

SUNDAY, MARCH 22

8:30am (M) Louis B. Catina *Req. by His Family*
10:30am (E) Margaret Grella *Req. by Stan & Jean Swaintek*

MONDAY, MARCH 23

9:00am (E) John Sterba *Req. by Debbie Trubela Mitchell*

TUESDAY, MARCH 24

9:00am (E) Amy Verner Campbell *Req. by Debbie Trubela Mitchell*

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 25

9:00am (E) Robert J. Spence *Req. by Mr. & Mrs. Mark Kwapich*

THURSDAY, MARCH 26

9:00am (E) NO MASS

FRIDAY, MARCH 27

9:00am (E) Bridget McAree *Req. by Marina Reilly & Family*
6:00pm (E) Stations of the Cross

SATURDAY, MARCH 28

4:00pm (M) Barbara Malley *Req. by John & Vincent Guarcello*
6:00pm (E) Frances Polney *Req. by John & Rita Polney*

SUNDAY, MARCH 29 **PALM SUNDAY**

8:30am (M) Blessings on 42nd Wedding Ann. for Marty & Carol Grego
10:30am (E) Shirley Kozerski *Req. by Tom & Sue Kozerski*

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



*Noreen Catani Amico, Ginny Corcoran,
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



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 Pachicki at snap0208@aol.com or Annie Rood (570) 574-8664. Thank you.

Father Rawel's
Corner



"I AM THE
RESURRECTION AND
LIFE"

The word of God in all the three readings of today clearly tells us that there is no life without God.

In the First Reading prophet Ezekiel is commanded by God to speak to the valley of dry Bones and to let them know that He is God, He will breathe His spirit into them, and they shall live.

Similarly, the Second Reading tells us that there is no life without the spirit of God and if Christ is in us, though the body dead because of sin, the spirit is life because of righteousness.

In the Gospel we see Jesus bringing back Lazarus to life and showing to us that He is the resurrection and the life and without Him we have no life.

All the three readings emphasis that God is actively laboring towards humility with love to bring the humanity close to Him. He is the God of living and not of the dead and so He wants all of us to be part of Him. Most often we as humans go away from God in various ways and to live as dead corps in the world without any meaning to our lives. The fact that we are disconnected from God by sinning, by talking ill of the other, by destroying the image and dignity of the other, by plotting against the other and in many other ways when we don't live in accordance with God, we are dead even though we are living physically.

Lord, help us to be connected with you always for you are the resurrection and the life. Pour out your spirit of life in our hearts so that we may always live in you.

HAVE A BLESSED LENTEN SEASON!

St. Elizabeth/St. Mark Parish

5700 Bear Creek Blvd, Bear Creek Village, PA 18702



Soup Supper

Monday 5 - 7pm

Feb 23, Mar 2, 9, 16, 23, 30

Eat In - \$12 All you can Eat Soup & Salad, Dessert
Take Out - \$12 Pint of Soup, Salad, Roll, Dessert
(\$6 per extra Pint of Soup)



Chrism Mass

Please Plan to Join Us!
Tuesday, March 31, 2026
4:00 p.m.
Cathedral of Saint Peter
315 Wyoming Avenue, Scranton

All the faithful of the Diocese of Scranton are invited to attend the annual Chrism Mass at the Cathedral of Saint Peter, 315 Wyoming Ave., Scranton, on **Tuesday, March 31, 2026 at 4:00p.m.**

Lenten & Holy Week Calendar

Ash Wednesday

Mass with Distribution of Ashes:
St. Elizabeth—9:00AM
St. Mark—6:00PM

Way of the Cross

Fridays during Lent at 6:00PM
February 20th — St. Mark
February 27th — St. Elizabeth
March 6th — St. Mark
March 13th — St. Elizabeth
March 20th — St. Mark
March 27th — St. Elizabeth
April 3rd — St. Mark

Palm Sunday

MASSES
St. Mark — 4:00PM (Vigil) March 28th
St. Elizabeth — 6:00PM (Vigil) March 28th
St. Mark — 8:30AM March 29th
St. Elizabeth — 10:30AM March 29th

Holy Thursday

Mass 7PM St. Elizabeth
followed by Night Prayer 8:45PM

Good Friday

Service 2:00PM St. Elizabeth
Way of the Cross 6:00PM St. Mark

Holy Saturday

Easter Basket Blessing 12Noon St. Elizabeth
Easter Vigil 8:00PM St. Mark

Easter Sunday

MASSES
St. Mark — 8:30AM
St. Elizabeth — 10:30AM

Have a Blessed and Happy Easter!

He Is Alive!!!

Worship & Meditation

Readings for the week of March 22, 2026

Sunday:

Ez 37:12-14/Ps 130:1-2, 3-4, 5-6, 7-8/
Rom 8:8-11/Jn 11:1-45 or 11:3-7, 17, 20-27,
33b-45

Monday:

Dn 13:1-9, 15-17, 19-30, 33-62 or 13:41c-
62/Ps 23:1-3a, 3b-4, 5, 6/Jn 8:1-11

Tuesday:

Nm 21:4-9/Ps 102:2-3, 16-18, 19-21/
Jn 8:21-30

Wednesday:

Is 7:10-14; 8:10/Ps 40:7-8a, 8b-9, 10, 11/
Heb 10:4-10/Lk 1:26-38

Thursday:

Gn 17:3-9/Ps 105:4-5, 6-7, 8-9/Jn 8:51-59

Friday:

Jer 20:10-13/Ps 18:2-3a, 3bc-4, 5-6, 7/
Jn 10:31-42

Saturday:

Ez 37:21-28/Jr 31:10, 11-12abcd, 13/
Jn 11:45-56

Next Sunday:

Mt 21:1-11 (37)/Ps 22:8-9, 17-18, 19-20, 23-
24/Is 50:4-7/Phil 2:6-11/Mt 26:14-27:66 or
27:11-54



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Gospel Meditation

Encourage Deeper Understanding of Scripture

A friend of mine wrote an imaginative reflection on the raising of Lazarus that caught me off guard. She proposed that when Jesus called Lazarus from the tomb, the man was not joyful but angry and annoyed. After so much suffering, maybe death felt like a release. He had finally escaped the pain. And then, suddenly, Jesus' voice cuts through the silence: **"Lazarus, come out!" (John 11:43)** The light stings his eyes. The pain returns. And now he is dragged back into a world that had broken him.

It startled me at first, but the more I sat with it, the more it made sense. Sometimes, people do not want to be raised. Not at first. Think of those in the grip of addiction, despair, or numbness. The tomb can feel safer than the risk of living again. Yet Jesus, moved by the grief and faith of others (Martha, Mary, the community) calls the dead man out. Lazarus obeys. But he is still bound, head to foot. Jesus says to the bystanders, **"Untie him and let him go" (John 11:44).**

That is often how healing happens: slowly, reluctantly. Not just by a personal decision, but through the love and persistence of others. Resurrection is not always euphoric. It may begin in protest and confusion and only later turn to gratitude and freedom. But Christ's voice breaks through, anyway.

Lenten challenge: Who in your life needs to be called back to life? Pray for them. If that person is you, listen for the voice. It is calling even now.

— *Father John Muir*

Weekly Prayer

Sunday's Readings

First Reading:

I will put my spirit in you that you may live,
and I will settle you upon your land;
thus you shall know that I am the LORD. (Ez 37:14)

Psalm:

With the Lord there is mercy and fullness of redemption. (Ps 130)

Second Reading:

If the Spirit of the one who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you,
the one who raised Christ from the dead
will give life to your mortal bodies also,
through his Spirit dwelling in you. (Rom 8:11)

Gospel:

"I am the resurrection and the life;
whoever believes in me, even if he dies, will live,
and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die."
(Jn 11:25-26)

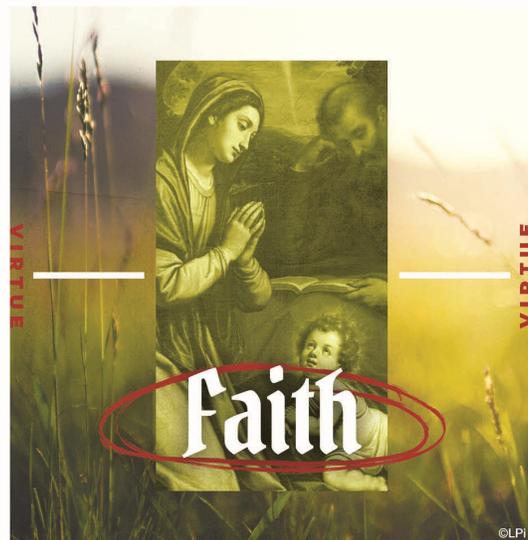
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Live The Liturgy Inspiration of the Week

"Lazarus, come out!" Jesus calls into the tomb.
These same words he cries into the depths
of our hearts. "Come out!" God is calling you.
Come out from the sleep of your indifference.
Easter is near. Now is the time. Come out!

Observances for the week of March 22, 2026

Sunday: 5th Sunday of Lent
Monday: St. Turibius of Mogrovejo, Bishop
Wednesday: The Annunciation of the Lord
Next Sunday: Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord;
Holy Week begins



Virtues, Explained!

The virtue of faith is "man's response to God, who reveals himself and gives himself to man." (CCC 26). Faith is encouraged by the complementary virtues of hope and love, and through the gift of understanding our faith grows and strengthens.

Blessing for New Life

God, in Your goodness, restore our hope.
Where we feel imprisoned, break our chains.
Where we feel discouraged, bring us light.
Where the ground feels dry, break through with life anew.
Amen.

(PRACTICING) CATHOLIC

Mini Reflection: Jesus could have raised any random person from the dead on this, the Fifth Sunday of Lent. So if it could have been anyone, why was it Lazarus?

What Lazarus Wanted

"It must be so crazy, being God," one of my friends said in high school. "Does it feel like playing The Sims all day? Just making people do stuff because you want to see what happens?"

I think we all sometimes fall into this warped manner of thinking about God's omnipotence. It's understandable, to a degree. The flimsiness of our own agency in this world, our real ability to impact or change anything ... well, it all feels especially puny when you put it next to the power of the Creator. "Oh God, thy sea is so great," goes the old fisherman's prayer. "And my boat is so small."

But today, in the raising of Lazarus from the dead, we are reminded that God is all about giving us agency.

Jesus could have raised any random person from the dead on this, the Fifth Sunday of Lent. His intention was clear: to foreshadow his own passion, death and resurrection, and to exhibit the closeness of God to those who mourn. "This illness is not to end in death," he tells his companions. "But is for the glory of God, that the Son of God may be glorified through it." (John 11:4)

So if it could have been anyone, why was it Lazarus?

I think the answer has to be that this was something Lazarus agreed to. Perhaps not in an explicit way, for he didn't know the mind or the plans of God. But in his friendship with Jesus, in the strength of his faith and the depth of his devotion to God, in every prayer he ever uttered — "Lord, let your will be done" — he was agreeing to it. Over and over, in what he said and what he did, Lazarus, beloved friend of Christ, said, "Lord, I love you. Lord, use me."

In this last full week of Lent, let us say it with him: "Lord, I love you. Lord, use me."

— Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman

Why do we do that? Catholic Life Explained

Question:

Why is the Vatican sometimes called the "Holy See?"

Answer:

A little background in ecclesiology will help explain why we call the Vatican the Holy See. The Church is very structured and organized in its hierarchy. A diocese is a geographic area governed by a bishop appointed by the Pope. Each diocese is further broken down into parishes, which have pastors who represent the bishop in his teaching authority.

The diocese of Rome has a particular role in the Church because of its importance and antiquity. The Pope is head of the Church because he is the Bishop of Rome. Every bishop has a seat or throne, which is the symbol of his teaching authority and is located in the cathedral of each diocese. The Latin word for seat is "sedes." So each diocese can be referred to as a "see." Most people think that St. Peter's is the cathedral of Rome, but St. John Lateran Basilica is actually the cathedral of the Archdiocese of Rome. This is where the Pope's seat or throne as Bishop of Rome is found. So, the Holy See is a reference to the chair of Peter, the Pope's Chair.

And when he had said this, he cried out in a loud voice, "Lazarus, come out!" The dead man came out, tied hand and foot with burial bands, and his face was wrapped in a cloth. So Jesus said to them, "Untie him and let him go." - Jn 11:43-44

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Questions of the Week

Invite Parishioners to Reflect and Respond to Scripture

First Reading:

We hear from the prophet Ezekiel the Lord's promise to raise His people from the dead. What gives you hope in this promise?

Second Reading:

Paul teaches that the Holy Spirit dwells in those who believe in Jesus and that same Spirit will raise our mortal bodies from the dead. How should this impact the way we live our lives today?

Gospel:

Despite her grief over the death of Lazarus, Martha believes that Jesus is the resurrection and the life, the Son of God. How has this season of Lent strengthened your faith in Jesus?

