

FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

HE WENT UP THE
MOUNTAIN AND BEGAN
TO TEACH.

— MATTHEW 5:1 —



St. Elizabeth of Hungary / St. Mark

5700 Bear Creek Boulevard, Bear Creek, Pennsylvania 18602

FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME | February 1, 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

Jan 25, 2026

Weekly	\$988.00
Online	\$808.00
	\$1796.00
Diocesan	-\$40.00
TOTAL	\$1756.00

Thank you for your continued generosity.

The Parish Budget is set at \$5000.

Eucharistic Celebration

Saturday, January 31, 2026 — Sunday, February 8, 2026

Sat, JAN 31

4:00pm (M) Elizabeth “Betty” Antol
Joan Steidle & Family

6:00pm (E) Tyrone Gayeski
Judy Pomento

Sun, FEB 1

8:30am (M) Rose BaizRossi
Charlie & Elaine Moreheard

10:30am (E) Barbara Jasulevicz
Dr. Gary & Benedetta Lawrence

Mon, FEB 2

9:00am (E) John “Jack” Kelly
Knights of Columbus #6050

Tues, FEB 3

9:00am (E) Elizabeth “Betty” Antol
Butch & Jeannie Bidwell

Wed, FEB 4

9:00am (E) For the Parishioners

Thurs, FEB 5

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

Fri, FEB 6 **FIRST FRIDAY**

9:00am (E) For the Parishioners
Adoration after Mass—12 Noon

Sat, FEB 7

4:00pm (M) Paolo Civello
Family

6:00pm (E) Gary Walker
Judy Pomento

Sun, FEB 8

8:30am (M) For the Souls in Purgatory

10:30am (E) Gary Walker
Dr. Diane Polachek & Family



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

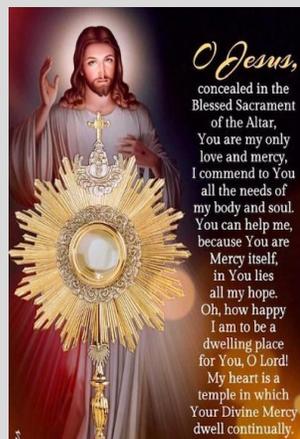


Noreen Catani Amico,

Laurie Ayre, Ginny Corcoran, Richard Emmert, Lea Furlong, Kevin Gardner, Bernard Hendrzak, Erin Himes, Jake Johnson, Joseph Kachurak, Patrick Kildea, Michael Lilienthal, Mollie Litchman, 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

YOU ARE CALLED TO SIT WITH THE LORD



ADORATION of the BLESSED SACRAMENT

**First Friday,
February 6, 2026
immediately
following the
9AM Mass**

All are welcome

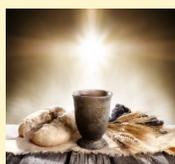
“Of all the devotions, that of adoring Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament is the greatest after the sacraments, the dearest to God and the one most helpful to us.”

-St. Alphonsus Liguori

Mass Intentions (\$10.00) are now available for the 2026 year. Please book early to reserve your special dates.



Also, the Sanctuary Candle (\$10.00) and the Bread and Wine (\$20.00) are available at both Churches for your loved one's intentions.



Knights of Columbus Applications for the 2026 Joe Zabra Knights of Columbus Scholarship are now available. The scholarship is open to graduating High School Seniors that are in good standing in the St. Elizabeth/ St. Mark Parish. Deadline to submit applications is **May 3, 2026**. Recipient(s) will be notified soon after, and the scholarship(s) will be presented in June. Please contact Glenn Cronauer, Grand Knight, at 570-417-8511 if you would like an application.

Father Rawel's
Corner



The sermon on the Mount teaches us to be humble. Each beatitude affirms that the afflicted or suffering people are blessed. Jesus declares that they are already blessed. We see that the beatitudes are the first declarations of God's grace. The beatitudes are a like a road map to earn entry to God's kingdom. Jesus speaks today of how we find happiness and how we are totally blessed. He had a view of happiness different from many others. He could preach beatitudes because He lived them. According to Pope Francis, ' This is a new law, the one we call the Beatitudes, it's Lord's new law for us the road map for Christian' s life which gives us an indication to move forward on the right path.'

When we see the reality of life, no one wants to mourn. It is a sorrowful state. But the second beatitude says, " Blessed are those who mourn...." Jesus tells us about the kingdom of heaven, where mourning becomes a blessing, and the mourners will be comforted there. Beattitudes are the characters to reach the kingdom of God, but these are the roadmap that helps us to move forward on the right path of God.

May the Lord grant us a pure heart to help us to be merciful so that we may establish your kingdom on earth.

HAVE A BLESSED WEEKEND!



Lectors and Eucharistic Ministers are needed for 4:00PM Mass at St. Mark's Church. Please contact office at 570-472-3061 if interested.



The 2026 Offertory Envelopes are available in Cry Rooms of both Churches for pick-up. If you cannot find your envelopes, please call office as they might have been delivered to wrong Church. Also, if you know of a family that wants their envelopes, but is unable to pick them up, please deliver the envelopes to them. Our Church depends on everyone's gracious contributions.



Anyone who wishes to have their Year-End- 2025 Tax Statements mailed to them can call the office at 570-472-3061.



Catholic Charismatic Renewal Diocese of Scranton

Monday, February 2

Let us pray for A RENEWAL in the Holy Spirit this year!

AT OUR FIRST 2026 DIOCESAN

PRAYER MEETING 7:30 PM

Divine Mercy Parish
Hall

New Venue!

312 Davis St
Scranton, PA 18505

(Right down the street from Davis St Exit off I 81)

Music: Under the direction of Ted Mike, but any music minister from a prayer group is welcomed.

Translation equipment is available and we will do our best to translate.

Fellowship: After the meeting. If you can, bring a dessert or finger food (nothing that really requires forks and knives)!



Prince of Peace Mardi Gras

Saturday, February 7, 2026
6:30pm—10pm

Arcaro & Genell Banquet Room
Main Street Old Forge

Tickets are \$40 per person ADULTS ONLY
Includes Hors D'oeuvres and Buffet, Beer, Wine & Soda
Accepting reservations for tables of 8 or 10
Reserve early — 570-457-5900

Live Music by Michael Milleninum



ST. BLAISE

FEAST DAY
FEBRUARY 3

The blessing of throats on St Blaise's feast is a powerful reminder of God's healing grace, offering strength and protection from illness.

When we receive this blessing with Faith and Trust that the Lord is working powerfully in our lives according to His Holy Will, wonderful things are possible.

Blessing of the throats will take place this weekend (1/31 & 2/1) at all Masses following the Homily.

"May the Lord bless you and may Saint Blaise intercede for all your health needs."

Worship & Meditation

Readings for the week of February 1, 2026

Sunday:

Zep 2:3; 3:12-13/Ps 146:6c-7, 8-9a,
9b-10/1 Cor 1:26-31/Mt 5:1-12a

Monday:

Mal 3:1-4/Ps 24:7, 8, 9, 10/Heb 2:14-18/
Lk 2:22-40 or 2:22-32

Tuesday:

2 Sm 18:9-10, 14b, 24-25a, 30-19:3/
Ps 86:1-2, 3-4, 5-6/Mk 5:21-43

Wednesday:

2 Sm 24:2, 9-17/Ps 32:1-2, 5, 6, 7/Mk 6:1-6

Thursday:

1 Kgs 2:1-4, 10-12/1 Chr 29:10, 11ab,
11d-12a, 12bcd/Mk 6:7-13

Friday:

Sir 47:2-11/Ps 18:31, 47 and 50, 51/
Mk 6:14-29

Saturday:

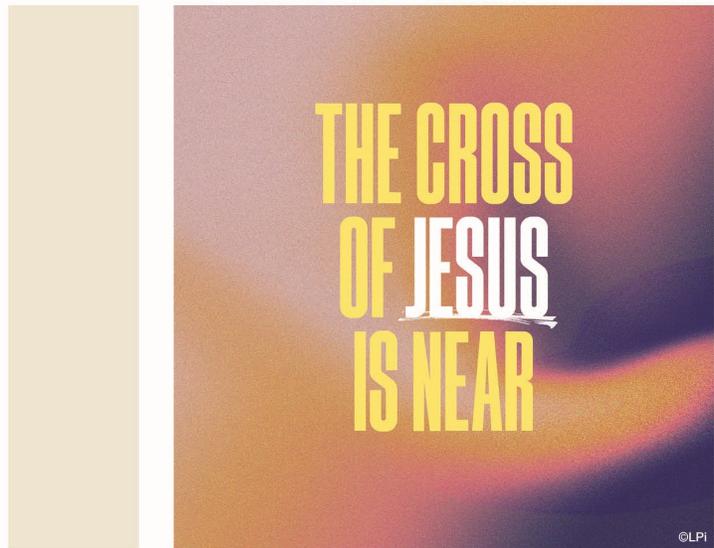
1 Kgs 3:4-13/Ps 119:9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14/
Mk 6:30-34

Next Sunday:

Is 58:7-10/Ps 112:4-5, 6-7, 8-9/1 Cor 2:1-5/
Mt 5:13-16



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Gospel Meditation

Encourage Deeper Understanding of Scripture

A priest I know was once falsely accused of a terrible crime. The claim was wild and easily disproved, but for a while, it didn't matter. In the atmosphere shaped by the abuse crisis of the early 2000s, the public assumption was guilty until proven innocent. His name was dragged through the mud, and his ministry placed on hold. I had the privilege — and the burden — of walking closely with him during that time.

He was angry. He was confused. He felt abandoned and deeply disoriented. The last thing on his mind was the words of Jesus in today's Gospel: **“Blessed are you when they insult you and persecute you and utter every kind of evil against you falsely because of me ... Rejoice and be glad” (Matthew 5:11-12)**. Rejoice? He felt anything but.

And yet... something holy slowly grew in him. Not overnight, and not without pain. But as the truth came to light and his name was cleared, I watched him become more Christlike — more patient, more compassionate, more detached from human approval.

Maybe you haven't faced something so dramatic. But where do you feel judged? Misrepresented? Overlooked? Maybe someone else got the credit or the promotion. Maybe someone you love isn't getting their due. In those moments, the Cross of Jesus is near. When we feel accused, that's when we ask him for the grace not just to endure, but somehow, mysteriously, to rejoice and be glad.

— *Father John Muir*

Weekly Prayer

Sunday's Readings

First Reading:

But I will leave as a remnant in your midst
a people humble and lowly. (Zep 3:12)

Psalm:

Blessed are the poor in spirit; the kingdom of heaven is theirs!
(Ps 146)
Or Alleluia.

Second Reading:

Rather, God chose the foolish of the world to shame the wise,
and God chose the weak of the world to shame the strong.
(1 Cor 1:27)

Gospel:

"Blessed are the poor in spirit,
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven." (Mt 5:3)

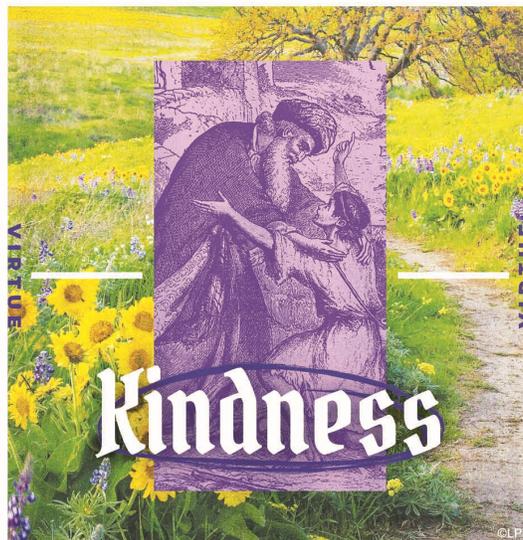
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Live The Liturgy Inspiration of the Week

Blessed are the poor, the meek, the persecuted. These are radical words in a world that insists the opposite: blessed are the wealthy. Blessed are the forceful. Blessed are the comfortable. Do we have what it takes to be radical?

Observances for the week of February 1, 2026

- Sunday:** 4th Sunday in Ordinary Time
Monday: The Presentation of the Lord,
World Day for Consecrated Life
Tuesday: St. Blaise, Bishop and Martyr;
St. Ansgar, Bishop
Thursday: St. Agatha, Virgin and Martyr
Friday: St. Paul Miki and Companions, Martyrs
Next Sunday: 5th Sunday in Ordinary Time;
World Marriage Day



Virtues, Explained!

Also known as benevolence or beneficence and derived from the theological virtue of charity, kindness is a way of seeing others through the eyes of God, who has adopted us as His own.

Bless Us, Lord

Jesus,
You are good and gracious, every moment of every day. You invite us to be meek, merciful, clean of heart, peacemakers. Give us the grace to seek these virtues, and to seek you. May your blessing accompany us on our way.
Amen.

Liturgical Life

(PRACTICING) CATHOLIC

Mini Reflection: How similar we all are in sin. How similar we all are in potential. How different we look to the world. And yet, how wondrous it is that we are all offered the same hope: “Rejoice and be glad, for your reward will be great in Heaven.”

What Stays the Same

Somewhere, there is a monk whose life is very quiet and who devotes long hours to prayer. And somewhere there is a nun, cloistered in a life of contemplation, who speaks very little except to God.

Somewhere, there is a father whose days are filled with noise, who hasn't finished a Rosary in years because he keeps falling asleep. Somewhere there is a mother whose voice is weak with giving direction and offering counsel.

Somewhere, there is a teenage girl with much to say, but few people to listen — fewer, at least, than she would like.

Somewhere there is a woman who holds a positive pregnancy test in one hand and a phone in the other, and somewhere there is a man on the other end of that phone who waits for her to speak.

In the Beatitudes, Jesus utilizes a literary device called anaphora. Both as a reader and a writer, I love anaphora. It's a clean, unfussy way to communicate a point. By repeating the same word or phrase at the beginning of successive clauses, you're basically saying the same thing over and over again, just a little bit differently each time. Those small differences tease at your audience's brain, gently highlighting the consistencies.

Discipleship is a lot like anaphora. It's the differences — those little aberrations from person to person, life to life — that so beautifully illustrate what remains the same across the broad spectrum of what it means to live out the Beatitudes.

Me. You. The monk. The nun. The father. The mother. The lonely girl. The man and woman who decided their own future without realizing it. How similar we all are in sin. How similar we all are in potential. How different we look to the world.

And yet, how wondrous it is that we are all offered the same hope: “Rejoice and be glad, for your reward will be great in Heaven.”

— Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman

Why do we do that? Catholic Life Explained

Question:

Can you explain what we mean by a vocation or calling? I have heard this term used in many different contexts and am not sure what it means. Does it apply to religious life?

Answer:

A vocation or calling refers to a spiritual experience whereby a person senses within oneself the closeness of God and what he is asking in one's life. It is a realization of what one's part in God's plan could be. Vocation comes in all kinds of ways. Some are as dramatic as St. Paul's, being knocked off his horse, blinded, and hearing God's voice. Others are less dramatic, often occurring over time through little events and personal interests. Others happen in a hurry, accompanied by great spiritual insight or conversion. We often think that this applies to religious vocation, but in fact, every Christian has a vocation, a calling to serve others in and through the church. Whether married or single, religious or lay, we are all called to live out our baptismal commitment to preach and teach the Gospel message. Each of us has our role to play in God's plan, and we become coworkers with God in the work of redemption. With a little confidence, a willing spirit and God's grace, we can and will respond to his unique call.

“Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy. Blessed are the clean of heart, for they will see God.”
- Mt 5:7-8

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

Questions of the Week

Invite Parishioners to Reflect and Respond to Scripture

First Reading:

Zephaniah speaks of a “remnant” of Israel who will live humbly and seek justice. Are there people in your life who live this way?

Second Reading:

Paul describes members of the Corinthian church as foolish, weak and despised. How would you characterize your faith community?

Gospel:

Jesus begins his “Sermon on the Mount” with the many ways that people are blessed. What do you consider your biggest blessing?

