



• 4TH SUNDAY OF EASTER •

**THAT THEY MIGHT
HAVE LIFE.**

St. Elizabeth of Hungary/St. Mark

FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER | April 26, 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
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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

April 19, 2026

Weekly	\$1949.00
Online	\$843.00
	\$2792.00
Diocesan	-\$10.00
TOTAL	\$2782.00

Thank you for your continued generosity.

Eucharistic Celebration

SATURDAY, APRIL 25

4:00pm (M) In Honor of St. Mark's Feast Day
6:00pm (E) Leslie Hannon Bailor *Req. by Joan Hannon*

SUNDAY, APRIL 26

8:30am (M) James Colandra *Req. by Ann Marie & Charlie Schenk*
10:30am (E) Gary Walker *Req. by Mary Ann & Ed Mengak*

MONDAY, APRIL 27

9:00am (E) Roseanne Smith *Req. by Butch & Jeannie Bidwell*

TUESDAY, APRIL 28

9:00am (E) David M. Soda *Req. by Theodore & Diane Haas*

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 29

9:00am (E) Michele Janowicz *Req. by Greg & Dawn Okrasinski*

THURSDAY, APRIL 30

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

FRIDAY, MAY 1

9:00am (E) For the Souls in Purgatory

SATURDAY, MAY 2

4:00pm (M) Lois Frankenfield Barbini *Req. by Charlie & Elaine Morehead*
6:00pm (E) Fred Bartridge *Req. by Cantafio Family*

SUNDAY, MAY 3

8:30am (M) St. Elizabeth/St. Mark First Holy Communicants
10:30am (E) St. Elizabeth/St. Mark First Holy Communicants

Congratulations & Welcome

Congratulations to Hunter George Bednarczyk II who was baptized last Saturday at St. Elizabeth's. Proud parents are Hunter and Kelley Bednarczyk.

"Blessings to you, sweet child, as you begin your walk with God. May His love shine brightly in your heart forever."



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



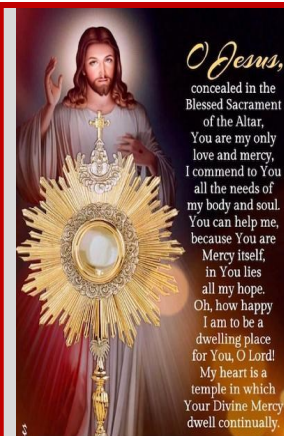
Noreen Catani Amico, Richard Emmert, Lea Furlong, James Geremia, Bernard Hendrzak, Erin Himes, Jake Johnson, Joseph Kachurak, Patrick Kildea, Michael Lilienthal, Mollie Litchman, Amber Moyer, Carolyn Palencar, Donald Scharf, Mary Soos, Byran Stanton, Verna Stavish, Scott Tiger, John Tucker, Rev. Anthony Urban, Hank Walker, Loretta Washick, Michelle Welebob

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



THE MOST BLESSED SACRAMENT IS RESERVED IN OUR CHURCH

We respectfully ask that all observe a reverent silence.



O Jesus,
concealed in the Blessed Sacrament of the Altar, You are my only love and mercy, I commend to You all the needs of my body and soul. You can help me, because You are Mercy itself, in You lies all my hope. Oh, how happy I am to be a dwelling place for You, O Lord! My heart is a temple in which Your Divine Mercy dwell continually.

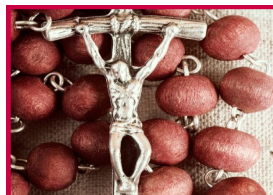
YOU ARE CALLED TO SIT WITH THE LORD ADORATION of the BLESSED SACRAMENT

First Friday, May 1, 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."



Pray the Rosary

Father Rawel's
Corner



"JESUS IS THE SHEPHERD
AND THE GATE"

Three readings of today, especially the Gospel reading, brings to us two images of Jesus, namely the Shepherd and the Gate.

The shepherd spends most of His time with His sheep. So, the sheep hear and respond only to His voice and feel comfortable in His presence. It is this love and responsibility that makes Him lead sheep into green pastures and fresh water to drink.

In the next part, Jesus speaks of Him being the Gate. Both figures of speeches give numerous messages to our Christian life in today's world.

Jesus is our Shepherd, and He is always close to us. As Christians, we are called to be attentive to Jesus, like the sheep of the shepherd. Even when a tough storm hits us hard, Jesus stands as a Gate that protects us from slipping away and being stolen by thieves and bandits. He also ensures that we, His sheep, are safe during dark times. During the bright times, He ensures that we have enough strength to face the night. Even when we are lost and afraid, He continues to search for us until He finds us. It is a good time for us to ask ourselves: Do I have a strong bond with Jesus? Am I able to recognize Jesus, the Good Shepherd's voice? Can I trust Him when everything seems dark?

May the Good Shepherd continue to keep us safe and protect us from any dangerous and harmful things of this world and lead us to Eternal Life! AMEN!!!

HAVE A BLESSED EASTER SEASON!!!!



**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.



Raffle Baskets

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 Pachucki at snap0208@aol.com or Annie Rood (570) 574-8664.



The following children will be receiving First Communion and Confirmation in the weeks to come. Please keep them in your prayers as they continue to move their faith in Christ.

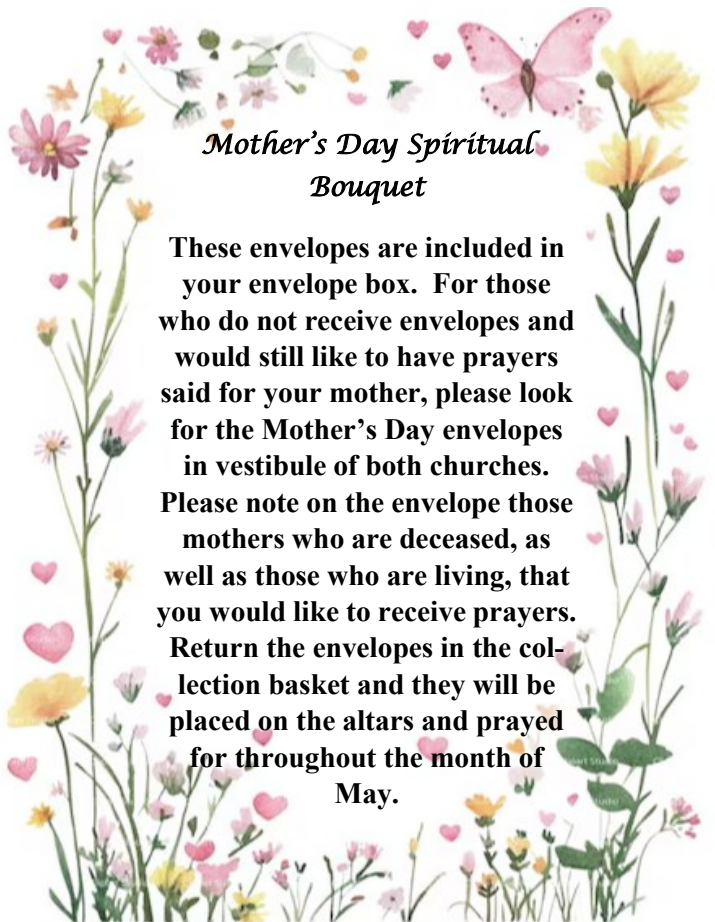
FIRST HOLY COMMUNION

Lily Crispell
Abigail Miscavage
Lily Tyrrell



CONFIRMATION

Brynn Andrukaitis
Angelo Limongelli
Mya Miscavage
Lily Tyrrell



*Mother's Day Spiritual
Bouquet*

These envelopes are included in your envelope box. For those who do not receive envelopes and would still like to have prayers said for your mother, please look for the Mother's Day envelopes in vestibule of both churches. Please note on the envelope those mothers who are deceased, as well as those who are living, that you would like to receive prayers. Return the envelopes in the collection basket and they will be placed on the altars and prayed for throughout the month of May.

Worship & Meditation

Readings for the week of April 26, 2026

Sunday:

Acts 2:14a, 36-41/Ps 23:1-3a, 3b-4, 5, 6/
1 Pt 2:20b-25/Jn 10:1-10

Monday:

Acts 11:1-18/Ps 42:2-3; 43:3, 4/Jn 10:11-18
(second choice)

Tuesday:

Acts 11:19-26/Ps 87:1b-3, 4-5, 6-7/
Jn 10:22-30

Wednesday:

Acts 12:24-13:5a/Ps 67:2-3, 5, 6 and 8/
Jn 12:44-50

Thursday:

Acts 13:13-25/Ps 89:2-3, 21-22, 25 and 27/
Jn 13:16-20

Friday:

Acts 13:26-33/Ps 2:6-7, 8-9, 10-11ab/
Jn 14:1-6

Saturday:

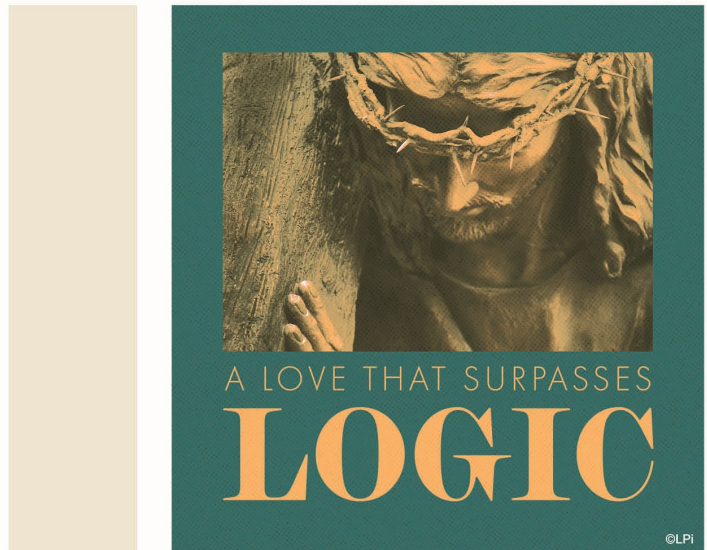
Acts 13:44-52/Ps 98:1, 2-3ab, 3cd-4/
Jn 14:7-14

Next Sunday:

Acts 6:1-7/Ps 33:1-2, 4-5, 18-19/1 Pt 2:4-9/
Jn 14:1-12



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Gospel Meditation

Encourage Deeper Understanding of Scripture

"I am the good shepherd. A good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep." John 10:11

My most boring job was working at an insurance company as a college student. My main task? Filing. Now imagine if I had told my supervisor, "I just want you to know, I'm willing to die for these files." She would have called a psychiatrist — or at least security.

There is something absurd in Jesus' words in today's Gospel: **"I am the good shepherd... I lay down my life for the sheep."** (John 10:11) It sounds noble, until you think about it. No one dies for sheep. Not a hired hand. Not even a good shepherd. Sheep are important, sure, but not worth a human life.

And yet, Jesus insists: *I will die for them.* The crowd understandably responds: **"He is out of his mind."**

C.S. Lewis once said that Jesus does not leave us the option of calling him merely a good teacher. If someone speaks like him, he is either lying, crazy, or telling the truth. John's Gospel won't let us stay sentimental. Jesus means it. He reveals a love that surpasses logic — a love that measures worth not by strength or success, but by the willingness to suffer unto death.

The Good Shepherd's madness is mercy. His cross makes no earthly sense and yet it makes divine sense. He lays down his life not for kings or saints but for sheep — for the ordinary, the unworthy, for you and me.

Think of someone who may feel unworthy of love. Do something simple and generous for them, not because they deserve it, but because Jesus did the same for you.

— *Father John Muir*

Weekly Prayer

Sunday's Readings

First Reading:

Peter said to them,
"Repent and be baptized, every one of you,
in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins;
and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. (Acts 2:38)

Psalm:

The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want. (Ps 23)
Or Alleluia.

Second Reading:

By his wounds you have been healed.
For you had gone astray like sheep,
but you have now returned to the shepherd and
guardian of your souls. (1 Pt 2:24-25)

Gospel:

"I came so that they might have life and have it more
abundantly." (Jn 10:10)

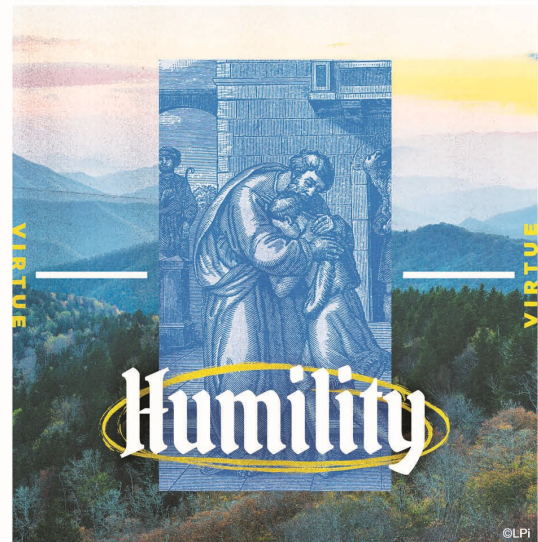
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Live The Liturgy Inspiration of the Week

"The sheep follow him, because they recognize his voice," Jesus says. Do we know the voice of Jesus when he speaks to us? Have we spent time in conversation with him? This week, listen for the voice of Jesus in your life, and follow where it leads.

Observances for the week of April 26, 2026

- Sunday:** 4th Sunday of Easter;
World Day of Prayer for Vocations
- Tuesday:** St. Peter Chanel, Priest and Martyr;
St. Louis Grignion de Montfort, Priest
- Wednesday:** St. Catherine of Siena, Virgin and
Doctor of the Church
- Thursday:** St. Pius V, Pope
- Friday:** St. Joseph the Worker; National Day of Prayer
- Saturday:** St. Athanasius, Bishop and Doctor of the Church
- Next Sunday:** 5th Sunday of Easter



Virtues, Explained!

True humility does not require us to ignore, underestimate, or hide our gifts — it merely demands that we use these gifts rightly, with the knowledge that they are from our Creator and meant for His glory, not our own.

Blessing of the Good Shepherd

Dear Jesus,
Be the Good Shepherd in my life.
Help me to know your voice and to respond.
Help me to find your fold and the paths on which you lead.
Bless me with verdant pastures and restful waters.
Refresh my soul.
Amen.

(PRACTICING) CATHOLIC

Mini Reflection: We can recognize what is real by where it comes from. What it sounds like. This ability to discern truth is written into our souls. We can ignore it, if we want. Suppress it. We can follow the stranger. But where will he lead?

The Devil's Long Con

The algorithm on my streaming service has been suggesting a lot of romantic scam documentaries lately. If you're not familiar, romantic scams are a particularly cruel form of "the long con."

Some man presents himself to some woman as Prince Charming. He wines her. He dines her. He charms her mom and makes her friends jealous. Little red flags pop up here and there, but she shrugs them all off. She accepts convenient explanations.

She just wants to be happy.

And then one day, Prince Charming vanishes, along with the contents of the woman's savings account. Every victim says the same thing: "I should have known better, but I wanted it to be real."

I think the reason I'm so drawn to these shows is that I identify with these women. No, I've never been the victim of a romantic scam (if my husband married me thinking he would gain access to some kind of fortune, he's the one who got scammed). But we have all told ourselves that something *is* right because it *feels* right. We have shrugged off doubts about a choice, a relationship, a habit.

We have accepted easy answers that don't pass the sniff test — because we really, really wanted an answer, and we really, really wanted it to be easy.

The devil is a romantic scammer. A third-party retailer hawking knock-off joy and fulfillment. A wolf in sheep's clothing. A false prophet. A thief, a robber who has climbed the fence, knowing the gate will not admit him.

These are all different ways of saying the same thing: we can recognize what is real by where it comes from. What it sounds like. This ability to discern truth is written into our souls. We can ignore it, if we want. Suppress it. We can follow the stranger.

But where will he lead?

— *Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman*

Why do we do that? Catholic Life Explained

Question:

What is the history behind the Feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross?

Answer:

Emperor Constantine's mother, Helena, is credited with having discovered the true cross around 330. She traveled to the Holy Land and uncovered the places associated with Jesus' life. Legend has it that Helena uncovered three crosses but was not able to detect the true cross until each of them was laid on a leper. Only one of them cured the leper, proving it to be the true cross. A great church was built at the site, and soon various portions of the cross were sent to other churches as relics to be venerated.

The day after the dedication of the Church of the Holy Sepulchre, September 14, 335, the actual cross was displayed for veneration. Egeria, a women traveler to Jerusalem around the year 386, kept a diary that has survived. She tells of the unique veneration of the wood of the cross that took place on Good Friday, something maintained ritually to this very day.

The Exaltation of the Holy Cross focuses on the gift of love that Jesus manifested by his total gift of self, offered for all. The cross, the ultimate form of capital punishment in its day, has become for us the ultimate symbol of love and triumph over evil and death.

“I am the gate.
Whoever enters
through me will be
saved, and will come
in and go out and
find pasture. A thief
comes only to steal
and slaughter and
destroy; I came so
that they might have
life and have it more
abundantly.”

- Jn 10:9-10

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Questions of the Week

Invite Parishioners to Reflect and Respond to Scripture

First Reading:

The crowds believed Peter’s proclamation that in raising the crucified Jesus from the dead, God made Jesus both Lord and Christ. Why do you believe that Jesus is our Lord and Savior?

Second Reading:

Peter speaks of Jesus’ wounds healing us. Can you think of a time when you have felt healed by God?

Gospel:

Jesus speaks of himself as the gate through which his followers pass and have abundant life. How has believing in Jesus enriched your life?



Edwin

"Pretty good, but you're still slicing. Shorten your backswing and start down with your left hip."

DOCTOR OF THE CHURCH

“
ALL THE WAY
TO HEAVEN
IS HEAVEN,
BECAUSE
JESUS SAID,
"I AM THE
WAY."
”

- ST. CATHERINE OF SIENA