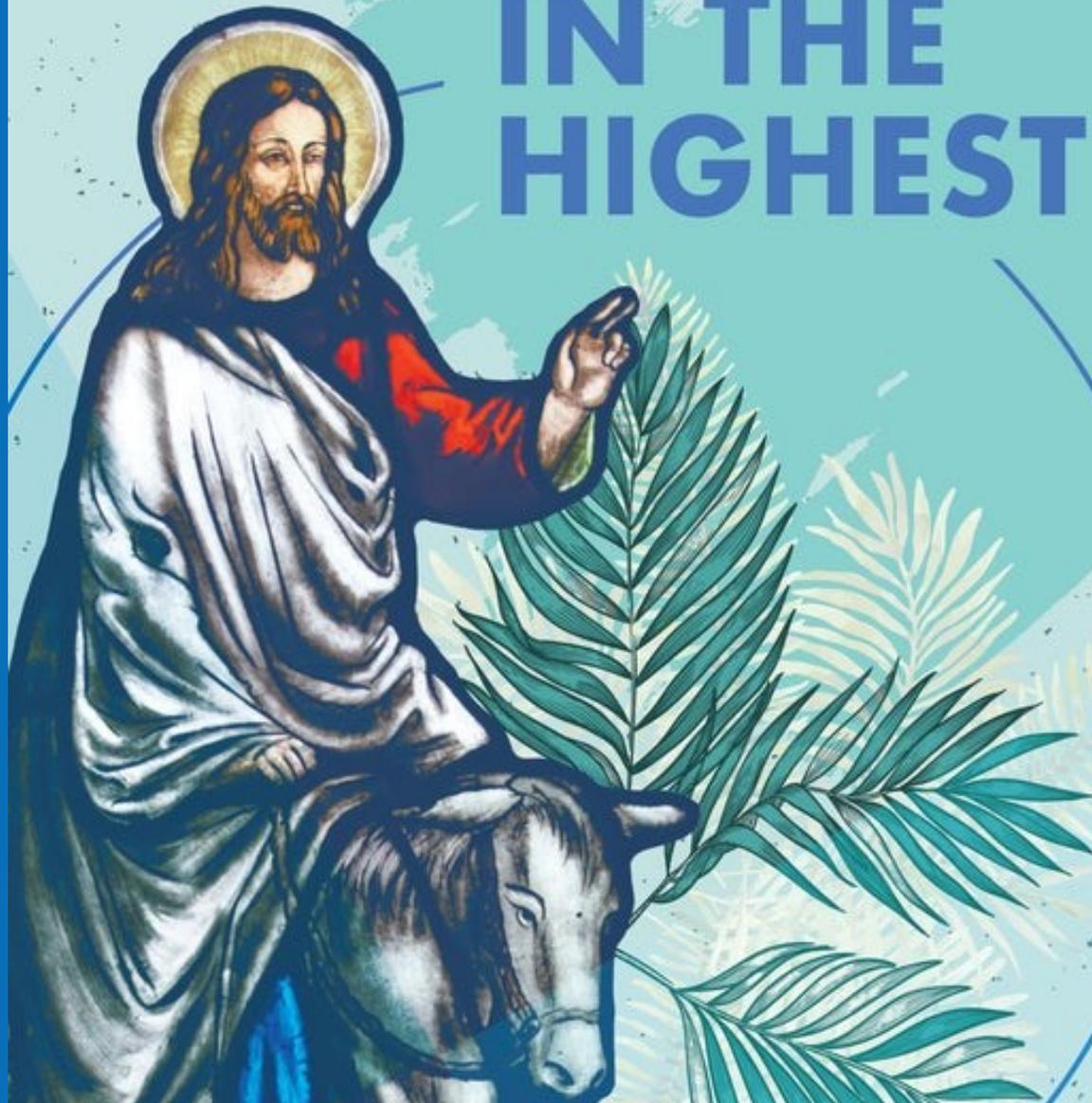


PALM SUNDAY OF
THE PASSION OF THE LORD

HOSANNA IN THE HIGHEST



St. Elizabeth of Hungary/St. Mark

5700 Bear Creek Boulevard, Bear Creek, Pennsylvania 18602

PALM SUNDAY OF THE PASSION OF THE LORD | March 29, 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 22, 2026

Weekly	\$2348.00
Online	\$948.00
	\$3296.00
Diocesan	-\$45.00
TOTAL	\$3251.00

Thank you for your continued generosity.

Budget is set at \$5000

Eucharistic Celebration

SATURDAY, MARCH 28 PALM SUNDAY

4:00pm (M) Barbara Malley *Req. by John & Vincent Guarcello*

6:00pm (E) Frances Polney *Req. by John & Rita Polney*

SUNDAY, MARCH 29

8:30am (M) Blessings on 42nd Wedding Ann. for Marty & Carol Grego

10:30am (E) Shirley Kozerski *Req. by Tom & Sue Kozerski*

MONDAY, MARCH 30

9:00am (E) Michele Janowicz *Req. by Kim Osborne*

TUESDAY, MARCH 31

9:00am (E) Clarence Michael *Req. by Casper & Patty Noto*

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 1

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

THURSDAY, APRIL 2 HOLY THURSDAY

7:00pm (E) Tom & Carol Silvi *Req. by Liz & John Strasberger*

FRIDAY, APRIL 3 GOOD FRIDAY

2:00pm (E) **Passion of the Lord**

6:00pm (M) **Stations of the Cross**

SATURDAY, APRIL 4 HOLY SATURDAY

8:00pm (M) For the Parishioners

SUNDAY, APRIL 5 EASTER SUNDAY

8:30am (M) For the Parishioners

10:30am (E) For the Parishioners

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



*Noreen Catani Amico, 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 Ravel's
Corner



"HE LOVED US FIRST"

Palm Sunday invites us to stand before a love that never withdraws, never gives up, and never stops searching for us.

As Jesus enters His passion, He does not shield Himself from pain but opens His heart fully so no human tear, fear, or loneliness remains untouched by His compassion. The cross becomes the place where love absorbs every human wound and transforms suffering into a pathway of redemption.

Jesus' cry, "My God My God, why have you forsaken me?" Echoes the cries we hide within our hearts yet in that cry, God draws near to us.

In today's world, many people carry hidden pain in their hearts broken relationships, disappointments, tiredness and responsibilities, and the pain of being misunderstood. The Passion of Jesus speaks of this pain. He was betrayed by Judas, denied by Peter, abandoned by his closest friends, and condemned by the crowd.

Jesus understands every sorrow we face. Yet He never stops loving us. His humility in Philippians teaches us to let go of pride and choose service. Isaiah reminds us that God gives strength to those who trust Him. His silence before His accusers teaches us to surrender our struggles to God. Jesus' journey assures us that suffering is never the last word God can turn every cross into new life. On this palm Sunday, we are invited to walk with Him, to allow His love to heal our wounds, and to become instruments of compassion and hope in a hurting world.

May the almighty Lord fill us with His unconditional love, grace to forgive, and carry our crosses with hope.

HAVE A BLESSED HOLY WEEK!



*The Sanctuary Candle at
St. Elizabeth's Church
is burning in memory of Shirley Kozerski
by Tom and Sue Kozerski.*



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 29, 2026

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

Monday:

Is 42:1-7/Ps 27:1, 2, 3, 13-14/Jn 12:1-11

Tuesday:

Is 49:1-6/Ps 71:1-2, 3-4a, 5ab-6ab, 15 and 17/Jn 13:21-33, 36-38

Wednesday:

Is 50:4-9a/Ps 69:8-10, 21-22, 31 and 33-34/Mt 26:14-25

Thursday:

Ex 12:1-8, 11-14/Ps 116:12-13, 15-16, 17-18/1 Cor 11:23-26/Jn 13:1-15

Friday:

Is 52:13-53:12/Ps 31:2 and 6, 12-13, 15-16, 17 and 25/Heb 4:14-16; 5:7-9/Jn 18:1-19:42

Saturday:

Easter Vigil: Gn 1:1-2:2 or 1:1, 26-31a/Ps 104:1-2, 5-6, 10, 12, 13-14, 24, 35 (30) or Ps 33:4-5, 6-7, 12-13, 20-22 (5b)/Gn 22:1-18 or 22:1-2, 9a, 10-13, 15-18/Ps 16:5, 8, 9-10, 11 (1)/Ex 14:15-15:1/ Ex 15:1-2, 3-4, 5-6, 17-18 (1b)/Is 54:5-14/Ps 30:2, 4, 5-6, 11-12, 13 (2a)/Is 55:1-11/Is 12:2-3, 4, 5-6 (3)/Bar 3:9-15, 32-4:4/Ps 19:8, 9, 10, 11 (Jn 6:68c)/Ez 36:16-17a, 18-28/Ps 42:3, 5; 43:3, 4 (42:2)/Rom 6:3-11/Ps 118:1-2, 16-17, 22-23/Mt 28:1-10

Next Sunday:

Acts 10:34a, 37-43/Ps 118:1-2, 16-17, 22-23 (24)/Col 3:1-4 or 1 Cor 5:6b-8/Jn 20:1-9 or Mt 28:1-10 Or Lk 24:13-35

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Gospel Meditation

Encourage Deeper Understanding of Scripture

Just prior to this week's Passion narrative in St. Matthew's Gospel, there is a small, striking story describing a woman's scandalous action toward Jesus: **"A woman came up to him with an alabaster jar of costly perfumed oil, and poured it on his head"** (Matthew 26:7). The ointment was pure nard, worth more than 300 denarii. A year's wages. Maybe a dowry, maybe a family inheritance. In any case, she breaks it. She does not measure or ration. She pours it all out, irreversibly, over Jesus. Why does this image begin Holy Week?

Because what she does with the jar, Jesus will soon do with his life. The jar must be broken so the fragrance can be released. Jesus' body will be broken so his priceless divine and human love can be poured out. She gives everything, just as he is about to give everything. And He sees it: **"She has done a good thing for me"** (Matthew 26:10). Her act is lavish, impractical, scandalous in its apparent wastefulness. And he loves it. It is what Holy Week is all about.

What jar are you still holding onto? Your time? Your comfort? Your plan for how life should go? Don't just wave palms today. Let yourself be broken open so your love, too, can be poured out.

Lenten Challenge: Offer something costly to Jesus this Holy Week — not out of guilt, but love. Your attention. Your forgiveness. Your time. Break the jar. Trust that nothing poured out for him is ever wasted.

— *Father John Muir*

Weekly Prayer

Sunday's Readings

First Reading:

I gave my back to those who beat me,
my cheeks to those who plucked my beard;
my face I did not shield
from buffets and spitting. (Is 50:6)

Psalm:

My God, my God, why have you abandoned me? (Ps 22)

Second Reading:

He humbled himself,
becoming obedient to the point of death,
even death on a cross.
Because of this, God greatly exalted him. (Phil 2:8-9)

Gospel:

The centurion and the men with him who were keeping watch
over Jesus
feared greatly when they saw the earthquake
and all that was happening, and they said,
"Truly, this was the Son of God!" (Mt 26:54)

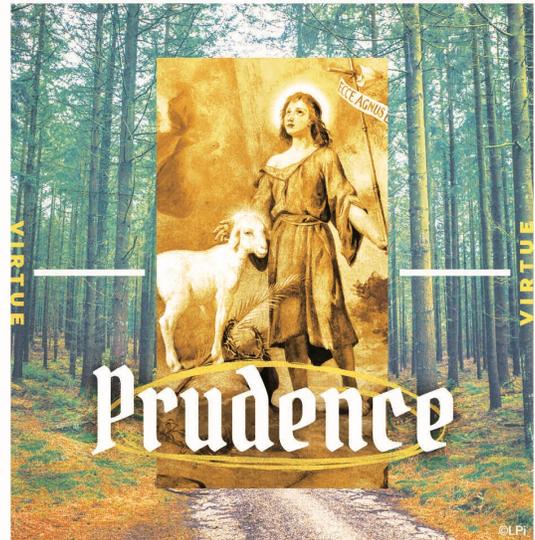
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Live The Liturgy Inspiration of the Week

This week, we see things that break our heart —
God betrayed. This week, we see things that shake
our faith — God bleeding on a cross. This week,
this Holy Week, with all its difficult moments, can
change us, if we let it. Are we ready?

Observances for the week of March 29, 2026

- Sunday:** Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord;
Holy Week begins
- Wednesday:** April Fools' Day
- Thursday:** Holy Thursday
- Friday:** Good Friday
- Saturday:** Holy Saturday
- Next Sunday:** Easter Sunday



Virtues, Explained!

The virtue of prudence is
like glasses for a soul made
nearsighted by original sin.
Prudence disposes our practical
reason to not only discern what is
good, but to choose the right way
of achieving that good.

Blessing for Holy Week

Be with us this week, Lord,
journeying closer and closer to
Your pierced and Sacred Heart.
Immerse us in Your intense and
undying love.
Help us to encounter Your passion
in new ways that inform, surprise,
and inspire us.
Amen.

(PRACTICING) CATHOLIC

Mini Reflection: The chasm between man and his Creator is an ancient one, and it is driven deep and wide. But this week — this Holy Week — a bridge is built across the chasm. And God reaches out His hand.

The Humanity of Holy Week

We have all sold Jesus out, at one point or another. Some of us have done it more than once, and we've done it for a lot less than 30 pieces of silver.

We have all denied Christ, and we have done it more than three times and under much less pressure than Peter, who feared for his life when he shouted, "I do not know the man!"

We have all struck the face of God — out of anger? Fear? Confusion? All of the above? — screaming, in agony, "Prophecy for me!"

At one point or another, we have all looked at our Lord beaten and betrayed, and we have all said, as Pilate did: "What shall I do with Jesus called Christ?"

And we have all hung on the cross chosen for us, crying out in bewilderment: "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?"

Holy Week is a week where we see humanity, in all its vulnerability and ignorance. We see it in the "villains" of the piece, like Judas, and in the morally neutral characters like Pilate and the Jews who have been misled about Jesus. We even see it in the "good guys" like Peter.

In this, the holiest week of the year, we see ourselves at our very worst. The chasm between man and his Creator is an ancient one, and it is driven deep and wide — by the pridefulness of Adam and Eve, yes, but also by every poor choice you and I have ever made.

Every "I don't know the man!"

Every "Prophecy!"

Every "What shall I do with Jesus?"

These cries echo forth from the depths of this chasm.

But this week — this Holy Week — a bridge is built across the chasm. And God reaches out His hand.

— Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman

Why do we do that? **Catholic Life Explained**

Question:

What is the difference between a chastisement and a punishment?

Answer:

The distinction between chastisement and punishment is, in many ways, a subtle one, but which is still relevant in our Catholic tradition.

First, chastisement is a concept that is grounded in Sacred Scripture. Here, we see chastisement as a response by God to people's actions that is intended to teach a lesson. As St. John Paul II observed, "chastisement appears to be ... a kind of divine pedagogy, in which the last word is reserved to mercy: He scourges and then shows mercy, casts down to the depths of the nether world, and he brings up from the great abyss" (Tobit 13:2). The idea here is that in order to capture our attention or to highlight how we have not lived out our covenant-relationship with God as we should, there are times when God uses events in life to draw us back to the quality of relationship or faith that we should have.

The concept of punishment, however, has a different sense. The Catechism of the Church observes that punishment is the consequence of a damaging action that "has the primary aim of redressing the disorder" and to protect the community and the common good from further damage or harm (see no. 2266). Although we always hope that someone who is being punished for a crime or some other harmful action will learn from their actions, punishment isn't necessarily intended to teach a lesson in the same way that a chastisement is.

Ultimately, how we make the distinction between chastisement and punishment is a matter of discernment. As with almost everything in life, our experiences can be an opportunity for grace — or for something less — depending on how open we are to recognizing the movement of God's Spirit within them.

*Say to daughter
Zion,
“Behold, your king
comes to you,
meek and riding on
an ass,
and on a colt, the
foal of a beast of
burden.”*

- Mt 21:5

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Questions of the Week

Invite Parishioners to Reflect and Respond to Scripture

First Reading:

Isaiah speaks of his obedient response to God’s call despite his suffering. Have you ever suffered for your faith?

Second Reading:

Paul recounts how Jesus’ life was characterized by humility and obedience. In what ways do you live by these virtues?

Gospel:

There are numerous unique features to Matthew’s account of the passion of the Lord, including the details of Judas’ suicide. What parts of the passion narrative do you find most engaging?

