

*St. Elizabeth of Hungary/St. Mark*

5700 Bear Creek Boulevard, Bear Creek, Pennsylvania 18602



PENTECOST SUNDAY

**RECEIVE**

THE HOLY SPIRIT.

— JOHN 20:22 —

# PENTECOST SUNDAY | May 24, 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](http://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

May 17, 2026

|              |                  |
|--------------|------------------|
| Weekly       | \$2174.00        |
| Online       | <u>\$843.00</u>  |
|              | \$3017.00        |
| Diocesan     | <u>-\$10.00</u>  |
| <b>TOTAL</b> | <b>\$3007.00</b> |

*Thank you for your continued generosity.*

# Eucharistic Celebration

## SATURDAY, MAY 23

4:00pm (M) Katherine Wood *Req. by Barbara Reiss*

6:00pm (E) Mother's Day Intentions

## SUNDAY, MAY 24 **PENTECOST SUNDAY**

8:30am (M) Richard Wisniewski *Req. by Eleanor Morrison*

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

## MONDAY, MAY 25 **MEMORIAL DAY**

8:00am (E) Richard Wisniewski *Req. by Butch & Jeannie Bidwell*

## TUESDAY, MAY 26

9:00am (E) Michele Janowicz *Req. by Rodney & Rosemary Serena*

## WEDNESDAY, MAY 27

9:00am (E) Louis B. Catina *Req. by His Family*

## THURSDAY, MAY 28

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

## FRIDAY, MAY 29

9:00am (E) Richard Wisniewski *Req. by Laura Battle*

## SATURDAY, MAY 30

4:00pm (M) George & Irene Cooney *Req. by Kathy & Steve Rector*

6:00pm (E) Michele Janowicz *Req. by Helen Aston*

## SUNDAY, MAY 31

8:30am (M) Mother's Day Intentions

10:30am (E) Joseph Kachurak *Req. by Al Sheridan*



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



*Noreen Catani Amico, Patricia Cronauer, Richard Emmert, Bobby Everett, 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, Michelle Welebob*

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

The recipients of the 2026 Knights of Columbus Council 10571 Joe Zabra Scholarship are:



**Annalie Werner  
Billy Hall  
Cassie Sipple  
Lizzy Pachucki  
Rowan Cronauer  
Taran Lawrence**

These six high school graduates have demonstrated dedication to their parish, schools, and community throughout their academic journey. The scholarships will be presented at the 10:30 A.M. mass on June 7, 2026. Congratulations!



*The Sanctuary Candle is burning in memory of Michael Mykulyn by Tom and Sue Kozerski.*



A heartfelt thank you to Mario Sindaco for restoring the corpus on the crucifix which is now hanging on the wall by the confessional at St. Elizabeth's Church.

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](mailto:snap0208@aol.com) or Annie Rood (570) 574-8664. Thank you.



**ORPHEUS CHORAL SOCIETY  
SPRING CONCERT**

The Orpheus Choral Society of the Wyoming Valley, under the direction of Gabriel Jenceleski and accompanied on piano by Susan Lauer, will present its Spring Concert at St. John the Evangelist Church on [Saturday, May 30](#) at 2:00 PM. The program will run approximately 45 minutes and include beloved religious, secular, and patriotic selections. A free-will offering will be accepted.



"HOLY SPIRIT GIVES LIFE  
AND UNITY"

In the first reading, we hear the story of the Tower of Babel. People wanted to become great by their own power and forgot God. Because of pride, they were divided and could not understand one another.

This story shows what happens when we depend only on ourselves. Pentecost is God's answer to Babel. Through the Holy Spirit, God brings people together and creates unity among different languages, cultures, and hearts.

In the second reading, St. Paul speaks about the suffering of the whole creation. Human life is full of pain, weakness, and confusion. Many times, we do not know how to pray or what to ask from God. At such moments, the Holy Spirit helps us. The spirit prays within us and gives us strength to go forward. Even when life is difficult, the spirit fills us with hope and reminds us that God is close to us.

In the Gospel, Jesus invites all who are thirsty to come to Him. He promises the Holy Spirit as living water flowing from within. This living water gives new life, joy, and courage. Filled with Spirit, we are called to spread love, peace and unity in our families, communities, and society. Pentecost invites us to open our hearts and allow the Holy Spirit to Guide our words and actions.

May the Holy Spirit come and fill our hearts with your presence, heal our divisions, strengthen our faith, and help us to live as instruments of your love and peace.

**HAVE A BLESSED PENTECOST SUNDAY  
ALLELUIA!!! ALLELUIA!!!**

Memorial Day is a U.S. federal holiday observed on the last Monday of May honoring military personnel who died while serving in the armed forces. Originally called Decoration Day, it was first observed on May 30, 1868, promoted by John A Logan, commander of the Grand Army of the Republic, to honor Union soldiers. Over time, the holiday expanded to commemorate all U.S. military personnel who have died in any conflict.

Common Memorial Day traditions include visiting cemeteries and memorials, placing flags, flowers and wreaths on the graves of veterans, and participating in parades and ceremonies. *The National Moment of Remembrance, observed at 3:00PM local time, encourages Americans to pause for reflection and honor the fallen.*

In anticipation of encouraging parishioners and friends to attend local parades, in remembrance of our fallen soldiers, Father Rawel is moving Monday's Memorial Day Mass to 8:00AM.

Please check your local papers for times of parades.



Congregation of the Oblates of St. Joseph

Chapel Of St. Joseph

1880 Route 315 Highway

Pittston, PA 18640-6100

570-674-7542

**FEAST OF ST. JOSEPH MARELLO**

*Founder of the Oblates of St. Joseph*

**Saturday—May 30, 2026**

**Masses at 8:00 AM & 12 NOON**

**Social will follow the Noon Mass**

**TRIDUUM OF MASSES  
IN PREPARATION FOR THE FEAST DAY**

**May 27—28 — 29, 2026**

**Masses at 8:00 AM & 12 NOON**

# Worship & Meditation

## Readings for the week of May 24, 2026

### Sunday:

**Vigil:** Gn 11:1-9 or Ex 19:3-8a, 16-20b or Ez 37:1-14 or Jl 3:1-5/Ps 104:1-2, 24 and 35, 27-28, 29b-30/Rom 8:22-27/Jn 7:37-39 or, for the **Extended Vigil:** Gn 11:1-9/ Ex 19:3-8a, 16-20b/Ez 37:1-14/Jl 3:1-5/ Rom 8:22-27/ Jn 7:37-39 (see Lectionary for Mass Supplement, 62) **Day:** Acts 2:1-11/Ps 104:1 and 24, 29-30, 31 and 34/ 1 Cor 12:3b-7, 12-13/Jn 20:19-23

### Monday:

Gn 3:9-15, 20 or Acts 1:12-14/Ps 87:1-2, 3 and 5, 6-7/Jn 19:25-34

### Tuesday:

1 Pt 1:10-16/ Ps 98:1, 2-3ab, 3cd-4/ Mk 10:28-31

### Wednesday:

1 Pt 1:18-25/ Ps 147:12-13, 14-15, 19-20/ Mk 10:32-45

### Thursday:

1 Pt 2:2-5, 9-12/ Ps 100:2, 3, 4, 5/ Mk 10:46-52

### Friday:

1 Pt 4:7-13/ Ps 96:10, 11-12, 13/Mk 11:11-26

### Saturday:

Jude 17, 20b-25/ Ps 63:2, 3-4, 5-6/ Mk 11:27-33

### Next Sunday:

Ex 34:4b-6, 8-9/Dn 3:52, 53, 54, 55, 56/ 2 Cor 13:11-13/Jn 3:16-18



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## Gospel Meditation

### Encourage Deeper Understanding of Scripture

*"He breathed on them and said to them, 'Receive the Holy Spirit. Whose sins you forgive are forgiven them, and whose sins you retain are retained.'" (John 20:22-23)*

For those of us who go to confession regularly, there is often a familiar frustration: "Why do I keep confessing the same sins?" It can feel like a loop, cleansed but unchanged.

Pentecost reveals a hopeful perspective. When the Risen Jesus breathes on his ashamed and fearful disciples and gives them the Holy Spirit, he echoes Genesis, when God breathes life into Adam. This is not just primarily the removal of guilt, but new creation.

In confession, we receive more than forgiveness. We receive a fresh outpouring, the breath of the Spirit, and a renewed mission. Jesus does not say to us, "You're forgiven, now go back to your old life." He says, so to speak, **"As the Father has sent me, so I send you."** (John 20:21)

That is why penance is not just saying a few prayers. It is reorientation. It is the Spirit summoning us to live differently: with mercy and healing.

Just as Adam was sent into the world, and the Apostles were sent out after Pentecost, so too we are sent from the confessional — not just clean, but consecrated.

**Pentecost Challenge:** After your next confession, ask the Holy Spirit for one way you can participate in Christ's healing will for you. Then take one small, concrete step, and do not look back.

— *Father John Muir*

# Weekly Prayer

## Sunday's Readings

### First Reading:

Then there appeared to them tongues as of fire,  
which parted and came to rest on each one of them.  
And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit. (Acts 2:3-4)

### Psalm:

Lord, send out your Spirit, and renew the face of the earth. (Ps 104)  
Or Alleluia.

### Second Reading:

As a body is one though it has many parts,  
and all the parts of the body, though many, are one body,  
so also Christ. (1 Cor 12:12)

### Gospel:

Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you.  
As the Father has sent me, so I send you." (Jn 20:21)

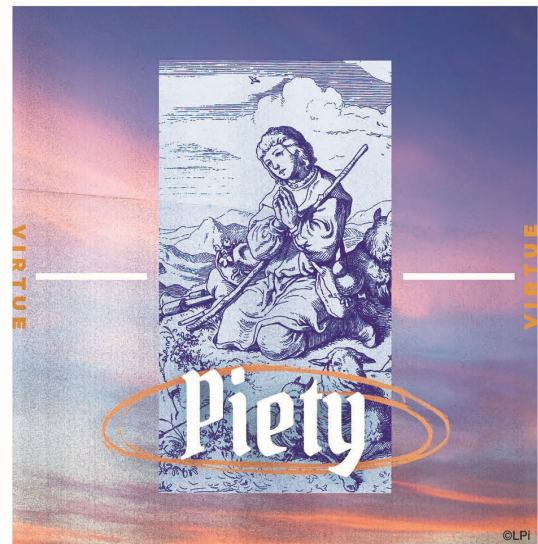
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## Live The Liturgy Inspiration of the Week

Today, Jesus calls the Holy Spirit "the Advocate." The Latin for lawyer is "advocatus." Like a lawyer, the Holy Spirit defends us. The Holy Spirit guides us. So, when you're in trouble, don't forget: ask for your lawyer, and do what he tells you.

## Observances for the week of May 24, 2026

- Sunday:** Pentecost Sunday
- Monday:** Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of the Church; *Memorial Day*
- Tuesday:** St. Philip Neri, Priest
- Wednesday:** St. Augustine of Canterbury, Bishop
- Friday:** St. Paul VI, Pope
- Next Sunday:** The Most Holy Trinity



## Virtues, Explained!

"Piety denotes the reverence which we give to our faith and to our country," writes St. Thomas Aquinas. "And since God is the Father of all, the worship of God is also called piety."

## Pentecost Prayer

Come Holy Spirit,  
Descend upon us and fill us with the  
fire of Your love!  
Remind us of Your dreams for us,  
ignite us with new zeal,  
place new visions on our hearts,  
and the grace to work alongside You.  
Amen.

## ( PRACTICING ) CATHOLIC

**Mini Reflection:** Much of what Jesus does in his resurrected Body is extraordinary and superhuman. He's passing through locked doors. He's in two places at once. But today, he's just breathing. So we have to ask ourselves: why?

### Signs of Life

If you're asthmatic, you know the phrase "as natural as breathing" doesn't always make a lot of sense.

Maybe that's because breathing isn't always natural. Sometimes, it's supernatural.

I come from a family of asthmatics. In my earliest childhood memories, my sister's nose and mouth are covered with a bulbous plastic mask connected by clear tubes to her transportable nebulizer. The machine whirs loudly as it vaporizes the medication that will open her lungs. In these memories, I watch my sister — her little eyes wide, her chest contracting and constricting with great difficulty — and wonder what it feels like.

Because I don't have asthma, and I don't think about breathing, unless I'm climbing a flight of stairs or chasing down one of my kids. It's such a utilitarian thing, breathing. It's unimpressive, unremarkable. Literally anyone can do it.

Until they can't.

Dead men don't breathe. That's what I think as I read the words of John's Gospel: "He breathed on them." (John 20:22) So much of what Jesus does in his resurrected Body is extraordinary and superhuman, making it unmistakable that here is a Body no longer playing by the rules of the physical world. He's passing through locked doors. He's in two places at once.

But today, he's just breathing.

So we have to ask ourselves: why? His Blood no longer requires oxygen. If he were asthmatic, neither bonfire nor damp night air could cause his lungs to constrict. His Flesh has been perfected.

But here we see a reality that is as spiritual as it is physical: where there is breath, there is life.

In Genesis, God breathes into dust and creates man. In today's Gospel, He breathes His Spirit onto man, and creates a Church.

— Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman

## Why do we do that? Catholic Life Explained

### Question:

Someone close to me has left the Church. How should I reach out to them?

### Answer:

For many of us, this can be a challenging question. When people we love leave the Church, we may not always know how to relate to them in certain ways. Are some conversation topics off limits? Are there certain behaviors or decisions we can't support in good conscience? When someone or something is lost, Jesus shows two different attitudes in his parables.

One is *actively seeking*. Don't give up on this person and their life of faith. Ask them about their spiritual journey. Invite them to spend time with you in faith settings, as appropriate, and outside of them. Continue in relationship with those you love.

The other attitude Jesus shows is *consistent witness in the waiting*. In the parable of the Prodigal Son, the father doesn't go after the son. He waits for his return. However, the son knows his father is trustworthy. He remembers his father's fair treatment of the hired hands and knows it is safe to return, despite all he has done.

Your ability to change someone is quite small. However, you can change yourself. Make sure you consistently treat others with kindness, compassion, and respect. If your loved one wants a deeper conversation, they'll know you are a person to trust, a place to which they can return.

Jesus stood up and exclaimed, "Let anyone who thirsts come to me and drink. As Scripture says: *Rivers of living water will flow from within him who believes in me.*"

He said this in reference to the Spirit that those who came to believe in him were to receive.

- Jn 7:37b-39a

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## Questions of the Week

Invite Parishioners to Reflect and Respond to Scripture

### First Reading:

We see how the Holy Spirit filled the Apostles, and they were able to proclaim a message that unified the large crowds in Jerusalem. Have you ever felt united in purpose with a large group of people?

### Second Reading:

Paul teaches that each of us receives the manifestation of the Holy Spirit for some benefit. What gift of the Holy Spirit would friends or family say you possess?

### Gospel:

The resurrected Jesus sends the disciples forth equipped with the power of the Holy Spirit to forgive or retain sins. Does forgiving others come easily to you?

