

SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

# BEHOLD THE LAMB OF GOD.

JOHN 1:29



*St. Elizabeth of Hungary/St. Mark*  
5700 Bear Creek Boulevard, Bear Creek, Pennsylvania 18602

## SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME | JANUARY 18, 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



*Hospitality and God's  
gracious love to all*

#### 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.

#### STEWARSHIP

Jan 11, 2026

Weekly	\$4360.00
Online	<u>\$966.00</u>
	\$5326.00
Diocesan	-\$5.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$5321.00</b>

*Thank you for your continued generosity.*

The Parish Budget is set at \$5000.

# Eucharistic Celebration

Saturday, January 17, 2026 —Sunday, January 25, 2026

## Sat, JAN 17

4:00pm (M) Elizabeth "Betty" Antol  
*Eleanor Morrison*

6:00pm (E) Richard Polney  
*John & Rita Polney*

## Sun, JAN 18

8:30am (M) Walter "Lucky" Marshall  
*Frank & Joannie Tiripicehio*

10:30am (E) Dr. Mike "Mickey" Stretanski  
*Dr. Diane Polacheck & Family*

## Mon, JAN 19

9:00am (E) John "Jack" Kelly  
*Ann Marie & Charlie Schank*

## Tues, JAN 20

9:00am (E) Elizabeth "Betty" Antol  
*The Michael Family*

## Wed, JAN 21

9:00am (E) Raymond Jamisen  
*Pat Gillern*

## Thurs, JAN 22

9:00am (E) NO MASS

## Fri, JAN 23

9:00am (E) Alice Pohler  
*Joe & Debbie Foy*

## Sat, JAN 24

4:00pm (M) Elizabeth "Betty" Antol  
*Ann Marie & Harry Ives*

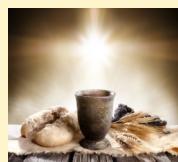
6:00pm (E) Glenn Cronauer Sr.  
*Cronauer Family*

## Sun, JAN 25

8:30am (M) For the Parishioners  
10:30am (E) Carol Pitcavage  
*Steve & Mer Rish*

*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.*



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***

## FEAST OF THE HOLY SPOUSES

The Congregation of the Oblates of St. Joseph will host their annual Feast of the Holy Spouses on Sunday, January 25th, at 3:00 p.m. in the Chapel of St. Joseph, Route 315, Laflin. Principal celebrant & homilist will be Rev. Timothy Kennedy, Pastor of Holy Ghost Byzantine Catholic Church, Jessup. The Mass fulfills the Sunday obligation. Father Kennedy, married to Angie Kennedy, celebrates Liturgy in both the Byzantine & Latin Rites. A social will immediately follow the Mass. This annual feast, approved by the Vatican in 1989 for the Oblate Congregation to celebrate publicly, honors the spousal roles of the Blessed Virgin Mary & St. Joseph, parents of the Child Jesus. All are welcome to participate.





### STRENGTH FROM GOD

You might have heard well that sometimes you need to let go in love; and we all know that love is strength and power. You might have watched a movie, "the children's train" where we learnt that letting go requires a lot of strength and love. John the Baptist knew that Jesus is the true Lamb of God and announced it to all who came to him. He does not become self-centered, retaining his followers to himself but directs them to Jesus. Love also demands strength to speak as John the Baptist spoke openly without fear. And that is what the light does - it dispels darkness. And so, Jesus calls him the greatest of all the prophets. Light does not hide but shows path ahead, it brings visibility and clarity.

Love does the same. It is not self-seeking but self-giving. In our daily lives as well, we must be aware and sure that we are not the focus but Jesus. It is to whom we direct every soul. Jesus is the light which ignites every soul until the light reaches the ends of the earth. The more one shares Him with others the brighter and warmer light one receives and feels. At the end it is true that the more you grab and hold on to the world the more you lose but letting go would fetch you more light and strength from God.

May the Lord grant us the grace to love those around us and direct them selflessly towards you. Lord guide us to be a light to the ends of the world.

**HAVE A BLESSED WEEKEND!**



### St. Elizabeth / St. Mark Parish

5700 Bear Creek Blvd,  
Bear Creek, PA 18602



**Pork Roast Dinner**  
**Sunday 18-Jan-2026**  
**2-4 PM**  
**TAKE OUT ONLY**

**Pork Roast w/ Cabbage & Sauerkraut, mashed potato, green beans, dinner roll butter & cake**

**Take Out Only - \$15**

**Call 570-851-0213 or e-mail**  
**stelizabethbells@outlook.com**

Please include your name, phone number and the number of people that will be attending. Someone will contact you to confirm.



### 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.



### Ecumenical Prayer Service to be held Jan. 22 at Cathedral of Saint Peter

The Diocese of Scranton will once again mark the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity with an Ecumenical Celebration of God's Word, which will be held on Thursday, Jan. 22, 2026, at 12:10 p.m. at the Cathedral of Saint Peter in Scranton.

Christians of all denominations are warmly invited to attend this prayerful gathering, which reflects the Church's ongoing commitment to unity among all followers of Jesus Christ.

The Most Rev. Joseph C. Bambera, Bishop of Scranton, will serve as leader of prayer for the traditional ecumenical prayer service. Bishop Bambera is currently serving his final year as Chairman of the U.S. Bishops' Committee on Ecumenical and Interreligious Affairs.

The guest preacher for this year's prayer service will be Rev. Dr. Nora Foust, Regional Conference Minister, Penn Central Conference, United Church of Christ.

The Ecumenical Prayer Service will be broadcast live at 12:10 p.m. on CTV: Catholic Television of the Diocese of Scranton. It will also be made available on the Diocese of Scranton website, YouTube channel, and across all Diocesan social media platforms.

### Free program at King's College: The Organ and Catholic Liturgy:

King's College will host a free public lecture on "The Organ and Catholic Liturgy" at the George & Giovita Maffei Family Commons, 29 West North Street, Wilkes-Barre on **Monday, February 9, 2026** at 7:00 p.m. The program is sponsored by the Pennsylvania Northeast Chapter of the American Guild of Organists; presenter will be Fr. Michael B. Wurtz, C.S.C., S.L.D., Assistant Professor of Theology at King's College and Secretary of the Society for Catholic Liturgy. A light reception will follow. Come and learn why the Second Vatican Council stated that the pipe organ "is to be held in high esteem." For more information, please contact John Vaida, Dean, at 570-650-6459 or email Raphael Micca, Secretary at:

**rdmicca@agopane.org**



Special thank you to two donors who gave generously in memory of their loved ones:

**~Mr. Nelson Landmessar in memory of  
William Landmessar Sr**  
**~Catherine Sweeney in memory of  
Mary Mercer**

# Worship & Meditation

## Readings for the week of January 18, 2026

### **Sunday:**

Is 49:3, 5-6/Ps 40:2 and 4, 7-8, 8-9, 10/  
1 Cor 1:1-3/Jn 1:29-34

### **Monday:**

1 Sm 15:16-23/Ps 50:8-9, 16bc-17, 21 and  
23/Mk 2:18-22

### **Tuesday:**

1 Sm 16:1-13/Ps 89:20, 21-22, 27-28/  
Mk 2:23-28

### **Wednesday:**

1 Sm 17:32-33, 37, 40-51/Ps 144:1b, 2,  
9-10/Mk 3:1-6

### **Thursday:**

1 Sm 18:6-9; 19:1-7/Ps 56:2-3, 9-10a, 10b-  
11, 12-13/Mk 3:7-12

### **Friday:**

1 Sm 24:3-21/Ps 57:2, 3-4, 6 and 11/  
Mk 3:13-19

### **Saturday:**

2 Sm 1:1-4, 11-12, 19, 23-27/Ps 80:2-3, 5-7/  
Mk 3:20-21

### **Next Sunday:**

Is 8:23-9:3/Ps 27:1, 4, 13-14/1 Cor 1:10-13,  
17/Mt 4:12-23 or 4:12-17



## Gospel Meditation Encourage Deeper Understanding of Scripture

It's common to hear belief in Jesus and the Church mocked as blind faith and credulity. But in reality, it is deeply human and rational. Think about it: we rely on the testimony of others constantly. I trust chemists who certify the safety of toothpaste and cleaning products. I trust engineers when I use a microwave or drive over a bridge. Why? Because they have studied and seen what I have not, and their testimony proves itself in daily life. That kind of trust is not irrational; it is how human knowledge works.

In today's Gospel, John the Baptist declares: **"Now I have seen and testified that he is the Son of God" (John 1:34).** That is the language of an eyewitness. It invites us into a very human act: trusting someone who has directly encountered something — or Someone — we have not yet fully seen ourselves.

The Church's faith is built on this kind of reliable sight-based testimony. The Apostles did not make abstract claims. They saw, followed, suffered for, and proclaimed Jesus Christ. Over centuries, their witness — carried in Scripture, in the lives of the saints, and in the sacramental life of the Church — has proven dependable. We come to know its truth by assenting to it, by living and studying it, praying with it, trusting it.

Faith in Christ is not a childish leap into the dark. It is a step into the light of testimony that proves itself over time.

— Father John Muir



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# Weekly Prayer

## Sunday's Readings

### First Reading:

I will make you a light to the nations,  
that my salvation may reach to the ends of the earth.  
(Is 49:6)

### Psalm:

Here am I, Lord; I come to do your will. (Ps 40)

### Second Reading:

Grace to you and peace from God our Father  
and the Lord Jesus Christ. (1 Cor 1:3)

### Gospel:

John the Baptist saw Jesus coming toward him and said,  
"Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the  
world." (Jn 1:29)

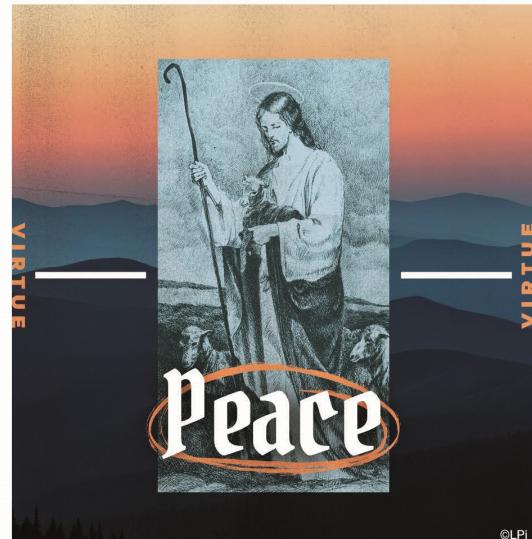
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## Live The Liturgy Inspiration of the Week

Do we recognize Christ when we see him? Do we have the courage to point him out, to show others who he is? John cried out so the whole world could hear: "He is the Son of God." Always and everywhere, let us do the same.

## Observances for the week of January 18, 2026

<b>Sunday:</b>	2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time
<b>Monday:</b>	Martin Luther King Day
<b>Tuesday:</b>	St. Fabian, Pope and Martyr; St. Sebastian, Martyr
<b>Wednesday:</b>	St. Agnes, Virgin and Martyr
<b>Thursday:</b>	Day of Prayer for the Legal Protection of Unborn Children
<b>Friday:</b>	St. Vincent, Deacon and Martyr; St. Marianne Cope, Virgin
<b>Saturday:</b>	St. Francis de Sales, Bishop and Doctor of the Church
<b>Next Sunday:</b>	3rd Sunday in Ordinary Time; Celebrate Catholic Schools Week



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## Virtues, Explained!

Our modern Catholic understanding of peace is derived from the Hebrew concept of *shalom*, or wholeness, and refers not just to an absence of violence but to a personal reconciliation with one's Creator.

## Blessing of the Beloved

Dear God,  
Bless and anoint us today. You are our Father and guide.  
Remind us of our identity in You: loved, called, and equipped for mission.  
Bless us as we journey, giving us strength for each day and grace in each step.  
Amen.

# Liturgical Life

## (PRACTICING) CATHOLIC

**Mini Reflection:** John the Baptist recognizes Jesus when he sees him, though there is nothing extraordinary-looking about him. This is how Jesus comes to us today: veiled in the ordinary. He is in the people who are easiest to miss, the easiest to ignore, the easiest from whom it is to turn away.

### Behold the Lamb

"Behold the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world."

Be honest. When the priest or deacon read this line from the Gospel today, did your brain finish it with: "Blessed are those who are called to the supper of the Lamb"? (Mine did. And then I almost blurted out: "Lord, I am not worthy that you should enter under my roof, but only say the word and my soul will be healed." Because it's Sunday morning, and I'm tired.)

We hear the words of John the Baptist every Sunday in the *Agnus Dei*. If you have been Catholic since childhood, the words of this rite are probably ingrained in your memory, like a groove worn across a wooden floor by the scratching of an often-used chair. That's the beautiful thing about our liturgy: it gets inside of you, and it doesn't leave. I've never met a Catholic, however long-fallen-away, who did not recall the responses of the Mass.

When the priest says or chants the *Agnus Dei*, he is showing us the Host — the most ordinary-looking thing you ever did see. Nothing interesting about it whatsoever. Nothing that would make a person give it a second glance.

John the Baptist recognizes Jesus when he sees him, though there is nothing extraordinary-looking about him. There is nothing that would make a person give Jesus a second glance, if that person expected redemption to come in a loud, aggressive show of power.

And this is how Jesus comes to us today: veiled in the ordinary. He is in the people who are easiest to miss, the easiest to ignore, the easiest from whom it is to turn away.

Consider what the world could look like, if an instinct to love and reverence those people were as deeply ingrained in us as the beautiful words so easily on our lips: "Lord, I am not worthy that you should enter under my roof, but only say the word and my soul will be healed."

— Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman

### Why do we do that?

#### Catholic Life Explained

##### Question:

How many times a day can a person receive communion?

##### Answer:

To find an answer to this question, we need to turn to the Church's Code of Canon Law. Here we read, "One who has received the blessed Eucharist may receive it again on the same day only within a Eucharistic celebration in which that person participates ..." (no. 917). This tells us that the standard answer would be that we can receive communion twice in a day.

Having said that, we also want to be sure that we pay attention to the entire instruction. The phrase "within a Eucharistic celebration in which that person participates" is important. It means a) that we always have to think of receiving communion as being within a celebration of the Mass and b) we have to be participants in that celebration — we can't simply show up "in time" for communion.

So, when would this rule apply?

For example, if you attend Mass on a Saturday morning and then take part in the Sunday Vigil Mass on Saturday evening, you could licitly receive communion at both celebrations. Or, another example, if you receive communion at a wedding or funeral Mass, you could also receive communion at a daily Mass or Sunday Vigil celebrated on the same day. We always want to be sure that we observe the rules for fasting from food and drink before receiving the eucharist (see Code of Canon Law, no. 919).

We should also remember that the Code of Canon Law instructs that anyone who is in danger of death or seriously ill may also receive communion a second time (no. 91, §2).

# Liturgical Life

John the Baptist saw Jesus coming toward him and said, "Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world. He is the one of whom I said, 'A man is coming after me who ranks ahead of me because he existed before me.'" - Jn 1:29-30

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

## Questions of the Week

Invite Parishioners to Reflect and Respond to Scripture

### First Reading:

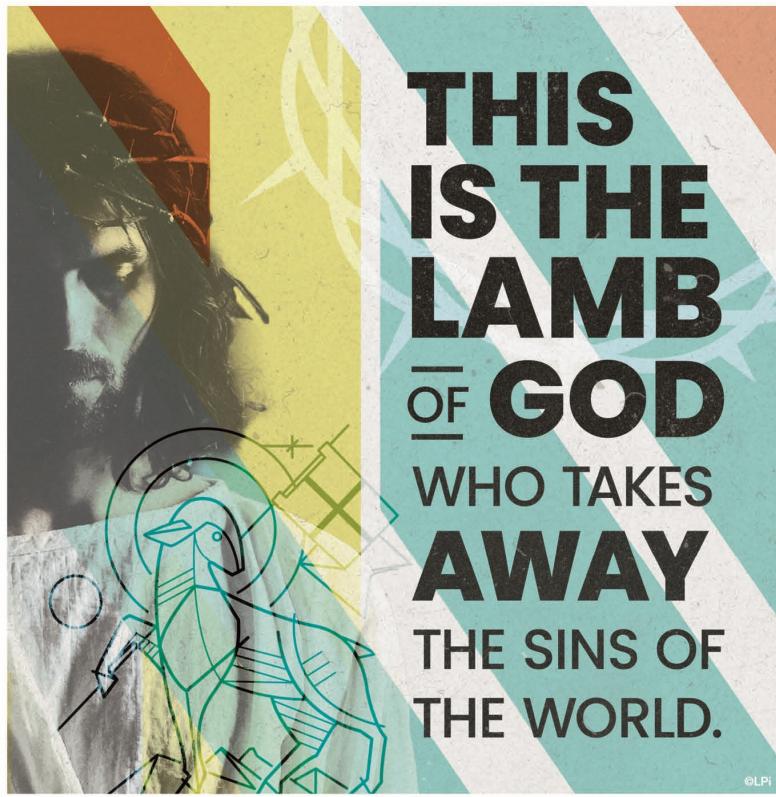
Isaiah teaches that God chose Israel to reveal His glory and bring salvation to the world. Why do you think God uses people to do His will?

### Second Reading:

Paul opens his letter to the Corinthians with a plea for unity and holiness of all believers. Where do you see your faith community unified and holy?

### Gospel:

John the Baptist testifies to others that Jesus is the Son of God who will baptize with the Holy Spirit. With whom do you talk about Jesus?



NATIONAL MARRIAGE WEEK

# Swing Dance

Feb  
7th

Featuring  
LIVE!  
SWING FEVER DANCE BAND  
With

Full Big  
Band  
17-Piece & Vocalists

DANCE INSTRUCTION FROM PHILIP SPINKA & JILL WETZEL



\*MUST BE 18+ TO ATTEND

**Saturday, Feb 7<sup>th</sup>, 2026** ★ **Diocesan Pastoral Center**

**\$20 in Advance**

**\$25 at the Door**

**\$10 - ADVANCE TABLE RESERVATION OPTION**

**8 Seats/Table**

★ **330 Wyoming Ave, Scranton** ★

★ **4:00PM - 8:00PM** ★

**SWING DANCE INSTRUCTION 4-5PM**

**OPEN DANCE FROM 5-8PM**

**BRING YOUR OWN FOOD & DRINK!**

To Purchase your Tickets:  
Visit [dioceseofscranton.org](http://dioceseofscranton.org)

or call  
(570) 207-2213 ext 1133



**DIocese of  
SCRANTON**



**OUR CALL TO  
SERVE**  
CATHOLIC MINISTRIES APPEAL