

*For the sake of
His sorrowful Passion, have mercy
on us and on the whole world.*

DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY

St. Elizabeth of Hungary/St. Mark

5700 Bear Creek Boulevard, Bear Creek, Pennsylvania 18602

SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER SUNDAY OF DIVINE MERCY | April 12, 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

April 5, 2026

Weekly	\$5597.00
Online	<u>\$1013.00</u>
	\$6610.00
Diocesan	<u>-\$690.00</u>
TOTAL	\$5920.00

Thank you for your continued generosity.

Eucharistic Celebration

SATURDAY, APRIL 11

4:00pm (M) John & Florence Klepacky *Req. by Charlie & Elaine Morehead*

6:00pm (E) Victoria Rish *Req. by Steve & Mer Rish*

SUNDAY, APRIL 12 **DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY**

8:30am (M) Michele Janowicz *Req. by Taylor & Bridget Smacchi*

10:30am (E) Gary Walker *Req. by St. Elizabeth's Choir*

MONDAY, APRIL 13

9:00am (E) Ilona Conway *Req. by Flo & Al Reitmeier*

TUESDAY, APRIL 14

9:00am (E) William Warren *Req. by Paul & Julie Lukasiewicz*

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 15

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

THURSDAY, APRIL 16

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

FRIDAY, APRIL 17

9:00am (E) Ilona Conway *Req. by Jim & Jean O'Malley*

SATURDAY, APRIL 18

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

6:00pm (E) Joseph Svetz *Req. by Dr. Gary & Benedetta Lawrence*

SUNDAY, APRIL 19

8:30am (M) For the Parishioners

10:30am (E) For the Souls in Purgatory

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



Please prayer for the soul of Joseph Kachurak who passed away Holy Saturday evening. His funeral was held this past Friday at St. Elizabeth's Church. Also, please keep Joe's wife, Edith, and their family in your prayers.



Eternal rest grant unto him, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon him. May his soul and all the souls of the faithful departed rest in peace. Amen.

Eucharistic Adoration

for Vocations

7pm April 23rd

Chapel of Christ the King

at King's College
29 W. North Street
Wilkes-Barre, PA 18711



Division of Vocations
VOCATIONS

**Live Music by
Joel Kankiewicz &
King's College Students**

Sacrament of Reconciliation
will also be available.

Refreshments to follow!

Searching for your purpose in life?

Longing to hear God's voice?

In need of community?

Join us!



**WEDDING ANNIVERSARY
MASS**

Sunday, June 28th, 2026

2:30pm

Cathedral of St. Peter

315 Wyoming Ave. Scranton PA 18503

Celebrating Milestone Anniversaries:

10 YEARS

25 YEARS

40 YEARS

50 YEARS

Diocesan Wedding Anniversary Celebration

Every summer, the diocese holds a Wedding Anniversary Celebration for couples celebrating their 10th, 25th, 40th, and 50th years of marriage in Saint Peter's Cathedral, where couples renew their wedding commitment. This year's Mass will be held on **June 28, 2026**, at 2:30 PM.

Mark your calendar if you are celebrating your 10th, 25th, 40th or 50th Anniversary in 2026, or share this news with others who may be doing so. Stay tuned for additional information about this year's Wedding Anniversary Mass.

For more information, please call Bridget Maille, Program Coordinator, Family Life at 570-207-2213 x 1133 or email here at familylife@dioceseofscranton.org



*The Sanctuary Candle is burning at
St. Elizabeth's Church this week
in memory of Victoria Rish
requested by Steve and Mer Rish.*

Father Rawel's
Corner



MY LORD AND MY GOD

In the acts of the Apostles, the early Christian community is portrayed as remarkably united, sharing everything they had. This invites reflection on the essence of communal living and generosity. It underscores the importance of selflessness, emphasizing that a harmonious community is built on individuals who prioritize the needs of others.

In the second reading, the theme of faith emerges prominently. John encourages believers to recognize that genuine love for God is intricately linked to keeping his commandments. The passage emphasizes that faith is not just a passive acceptance but an active commitment to following God's will. Love and obedience thus become inseparable components of the thriving spiritual life.

In today's Gospel passage, we encounter the post-resurrection appearance of Jesus. The story of Thomas highlights the transformative power of encountering the risen Christ. Jesus' invitation to touch his wounds becomes the profound symbol of faith in the face of doubt. The passage encourages believers to embrace faith not solely based on tangible evidence but on a profound trust in the divine.

Together these passages weave a tapestry of communal living, faith, and the transformative power of encountering the risen Christ. The call to obey God's commandments as an expression of love reinforces the idea that faith is an active, transformative force in our lives. Finally, the encounter with the risen Christ in John 20 prompts us to embrace a faith that transcends doubt, finding assurance in the tangible presence of the divine.

HAVE A WONDERFUL 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.

Divine Mercy Sunday

APRIL 12, 2026

Divine Mercy Parish, 312 Davis Street, Scranton, PA



Rev. Paul A. McDonnell, O.S.J., Pastor
Rev. Mr. Martin Castaldi, Deacon

SCHEDULE

12:30 PM

Rosary and Sacrament of Reconciliation
(Divine Mercy Story)

2:00 PM

Liturgy (Mass)

Exposition of Blessed Sacrament

3:00 PM

Chaplet of Divine Mercy

Solemn Benediction

Procession with the Blessed Sacrament

Blessing with Relic of St. Faustina

Veneration of the Divine Mercy Painting

Refreshments will be available - Handicap Accessible & plenty of parking available

Everything needed to fulfill the request of Jesus for complete forgiveness of sins and all punishment due for those sins, available on this day.

- All are invited to join in the Divine Mercy celebration -



On behalf of St. Elizabeth / St. Mark Parish and the team that coordinated the Lenten Soup Supper (Soup's for the Soul) this year, we'd like to thank all our patrons and volunteers for their support resulting in successfully raising \$4,494.00 to help with our Parish Finances. Special thanks to all our volunteers for donating their time, treasure and talents: Jean & Stan Swaintek, Bene & Gary Lawrence, Nicki & Steve Pachucki, Chrissy & Kevin Nordmark, Ted & Dianne Haas, MaryBeth & Vince Zardus, Judy Pomento, Annie Rood, Elaine Moorehead, Linda & John Crognale, Linda Hamill, Nancy Roman, Lila Bell, Rylee Sipple, and Tom & Sue Kozerski.

IN CONCERT

MARYWOOD UNIVERSITY CHAMBER SINGERS

free admission

FRIDAY, APRIL 17 AT 7:30 P.M.

CATHEDRAL OF SAINT PETER
315 WYOMING AVENUE, SCRANTON



Worship & Meditation

Readings for the week of April 12, 2026

Sunday:

Acts 2:42-47/Ps 118:2-4, 13-15, 22-24/
1 Pt 1:3-9/Jn 20:19-31

Monday:

Acts 4:23-31/Ps 2:1-3, 4-7a, 7b-9/Jn 3:1-8

Tuesday:

Acts 4:32-37/Ps 93:1ab, 1cd-2, 5/
Jn 3:7b-15

Wednesday:

Acts 5:17-26/Ps 34:2-3, 4-5, 6-7, 8-9/
Jn 3:16-21

Thursday:

Acts 5:27-33/Ps 34:2 and 9, 17-18, 19-20/
Jn 3:31-36

Friday:

Acts 5:34-42/Ps 27:1, 4, 13-14/Jn 6:1-15

Saturday:

Acts 6:1-7/Ps 33:1-2, 4-5, 18-19/Jn 6:16-21

Next Sunday:

Acts 2:14, 22-33/Ps 16:1-2 and 5, 7-8,
9-10, 11/1 Pt 1:17-21/Lk 24:13-35



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Gospel Meditation

Encourage Deeper Understanding of Scripture

"Then he said to Thomas, 'Put your finger here and see my hands, and bring your hand and put it into my side, and do not be unbelieving, but believe.'" (John 20:27)

In my early 20s, I volunteered at a parish youth group. I witnessed teens encountering Jesus with a fresh, romantic wonder that reminded me of my own teenage conversion. But something had changed in me. I was quietly jaded and cynical. When teens shared stories of encountering Christ, I'd want to sarcastically murmur, "Well, good for you." I had grown suspicious of the zeal I once knew.

Then we brought the group on a pilgrimage. I was standing in an old church in France, ignoring a long-winded tour guide. I found myself before a crucifix. In that moment, I heard something, not audibly, but unmistakably in my heart: "I came to be your friend... and you wish to be my enemy? Why do you stand far from me? I suffer gladly for you. I was pierced for you. Why do you run from me?" My heart opened. I saw how cold and cynical I had become. But Jesus had not given up on me. He had returned, and his mercy broke through.

So I can relate to the scoffing — and transformation — of Thomas when the Risen Jesus presents his wounds for inspection. Thomas is not simply doubting; he is guarded, suspicious, even cynical. But Jesus comes to him. No lecture. Just understanding and mercy. He invites Thomas to touch his wounds. This burns away his cynicism like the morning mist.

Divine Mercy Challenge: This week, rejoice with someone who is newly alive in faith. If your own heart has grown skeptical or tired, ask Jesus to help you. He will.

— *Father John Muir*

Weekly Prayer

Sunday's Readings

First Reading:

They ate their meals with exultation and sincerity of heart, praising God and enjoying favor with all the people. (Acts 2:46-47)

Psalm:

Give thanks to the LORD for he is good, his love is everlasting. (Ps 118)

Or Alleluia

Second Reading:

Although you have not seen him you love him; even though you do not see him now yet believe in him, you rejoice with an indescribable and glorious joy, as you attain the goal of your faith, the salvation of your souls. (1 Pt 1:8-9)

Gospel:

Jesus said to him, "Have you come to believe because you have seen me?

Blessed are those who have not seen and have believed." (Jn 20:29)

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The English translation of Psalm Responses from Lectionary for Mass © 1969, 1981, 1997,
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Live The Liturgy Inspiration of the Week

How does Christ prove himself to Thomas? Not by his face or his words, but by his wounds. So, when we look for God to show Himself in relief or in triumph, we must remember the wounds of Christ. This is where we find our salvation.

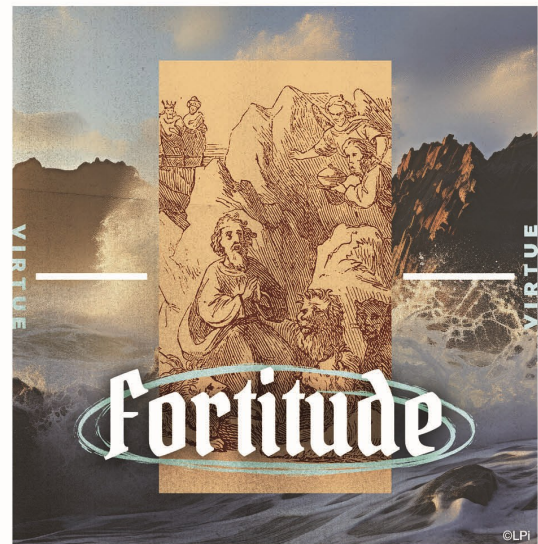
Observances for the week of April 12, 2026

Sunday: 2nd Sunday of Easter (Divine Mercy)

Monday: St. Martin I, Pope and Martyr

Wednesday: *Tax Day*

Next Sunday: 3rd Sunday of Easter



Virtues, Explained!

The virtue of fortitude actually requires, first and foremost, the feeling of fear. In order to grow in fortitude, one must face a thing which frightens him, doing so specifically *in pursuit of the good*.

Divine Mercy Blessing

Dear Jesus,
May your mercy flow over us,
filling our gaps and healing our wounds.
Open our hearts more deeply
with knowledge of your love for us,
understanding of the depth of your
passion,
and trust in your never-ending mercy.
Amen.

(PRACTICING) CATHOLIC

Mini Reflection: There is a reason Christ showed his wounds as he said the words, “Peace be with you.” It was not just a means of identifying himself — it was a catechism lesson. *Here*, he was saying. *Here is the peace you will not find anywhere else.*

Within Thy Wounds

The prayer I love best in the world is the Anima Christi. This private, devotional litany of supplication, begins with the phrase “*anima Christi, sanctifica me*” (“soul of Christ, sanctify me”) and continues on to appeal individually to each aspect of Our Lord’s crucified flesh: “*Body of Christ, save me; blood of Christ, inebriate me; water from Christ’s side, wash me; passion of Christ, strengthen me; Oh good Jesus, hear me.*”

Then comes my favorite part: “*within thy wounds hide me.*”

The Anima Christi is a prayer traditionally said after receiving Holy Communion. The ancient Celts spoke of *liminal places*, where the veil separating this world from the next is particularly thin, and I believe the moments immediately following the reception of Holy Communion, when the Host is dissolving on my tongue, create a liminal place. When I am in that place, I am as intimately connected to God as I can be while my heart is still beating.

And when I am there, holding God within me, what are the words that I speak? It’s overwhelming to think about. What could possibly be right to say?

There is no right or wrong answer, I suppose. But the best words I can think of are these: “Within thy wounds, Lord, hide me.”

There is a reason Christ showed his wounds as he said the words, “Peace be with you.” It was not just a means of identifying himself — it was a catechism lesson. *Here*, he was saying. *Here is the peace you will not find anywhere else.*

— Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman

Why do we do that? Catholic Life Explained

Question:

Where did the Feast of Divine Mercy come from?

Answer:

If you were born well before the year 2000, you know the Feast of Divine Mercy has not always been celebrated in the Church. In the early 1900s, a young Polish nun began receiving private revelations. Jesus appeared to her during her times of prayer, speaking a message of mercy and love for the world. She received a set of prayers — the Divine Mercy Chaplet — and the request to have a feast day established to remind the Church of the mercy of God. St. Faustina died in 1938, on the cusp of war and in the midst of one of the most violent centuries in the history of the world.

Her story and her diaries began circulating in Poland and beyond. It quickly became apparent that this was a holy young woman, and the cause for her canonization opened. In the year 2000, she was canonized by the first-ever Polish pope, St. John Paul II. On her canonization day, he established the second Sunday of Easter as Divine Mercy Sunday, “a perennial invitation to the Christian world to face, with confidence in divine benevolence, the difficulties and trials that mankind with experience in the years to come.”

Now a week later his disciples were again inside and Thomas was with them. Jesus came, although the doors were locked, and stood in their midst and said, "Peace be with you." Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here and see my hands, and bring your hand and put it into my side, and do not be unbelieving, but believe." - Jn 20:26-27

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

Questions of the Week

Invite Parishioners to Reflect and Respond to Scripture

First Reading:

In the immediate aftermath of Jesus' resurrection and ascension, the community of believers in Jerusalem experienced much joy and harmony. In what ways do you help build up your faith community?

Second Reading:

With Jesus' resurrection from the dead, Peter can now speak of an inheritance that awaits all believers and will one day be revealed to us. How should knowledge of this upcoming gift impact our living in the present moment?

Gospel:

Thomas needed concrete evidence before he would believe that Jesus had risen from the dead. What convinces you that Jesus is risen and alive?





St. Catherine of Siena



St. John, Pittston



Cathedral of St. Peter



St. Jude Church



Annunciation Church

A Portrait of Faith

Art Auction to celebrate parishes of the Diocese of Scranton

Own an original piece of artwork
that honors the beauty of OUR DIOCESE!

The Catholic Foundation is holding a special online auction to celebrate the rich heritage and architecture of local churches.

- Over 20 original pieces by accomplished artist Austin Burke will be up for auction online.
- All proceeds will benefit the Catholic Foundation and expand its impact on parishes, schools, and Catholic Ministries.
- The winning bidder and a guest for each piece will be invited to a reception at the Cathedral Rectory on May 13, 2026. Dinner and photos with the Bishop are included!

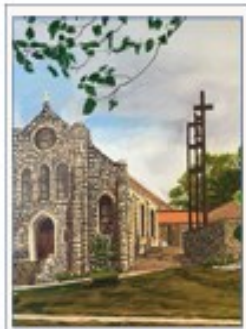
Scan for Auction Website
or visit dioceseofscranton.org



**Online Auction
takes place:
April 13 — May 1**



<https://catholicfoundationscranton.org>



St. Catherine of Siena



St. John, Pittston



Cathedral of St. Peter



St. Jude Church



Annunciation Church

A Portrait of Faith Art Auction to celebrate Churches of the Diocese of Scranton

By bidding on a painting, you will have the opportunity to bring home a piece of shared history while supporting the future of the church.



Resurrection Church



Sacred Heart of Jesus



St. Nicholas Church



St. Thomas Aquinas



St. Patrick Church



Epiphany Church



St. John, Honesdale



St. Mary of Vilna



St. Rose of Lima



Cathedral Prayer Garden



St. Mary of Czestochowa



St. Mary of Mount Carmel



St. Luke Church



St. Matthew Church



Marian Chapel, Marywood