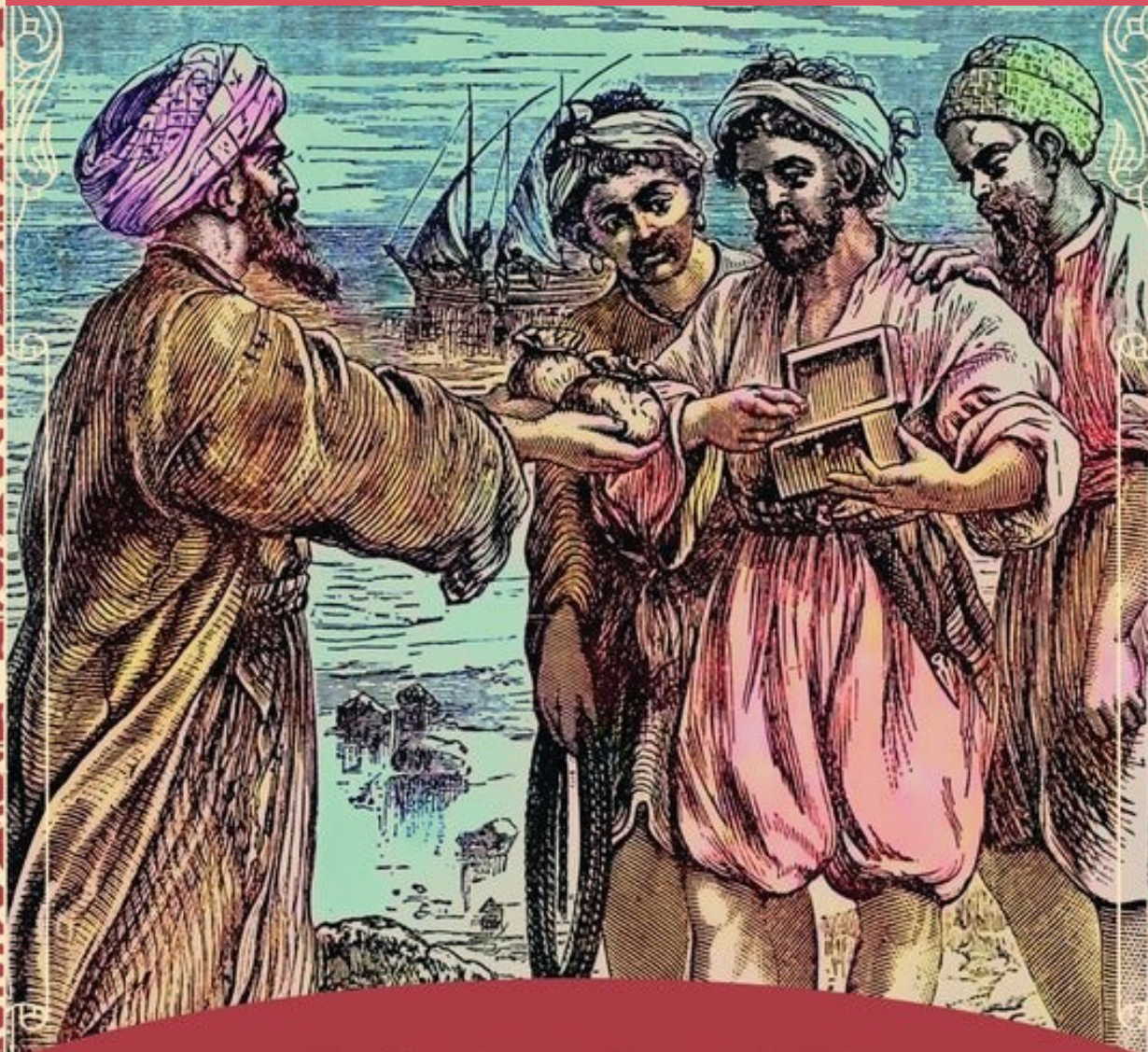


St. Elizabeth of Hungary/St. Mark

5700 Bear Creek Boulevard, Bear Creek, Pennsylvania 18602



• 17TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME •

**LIKE A MERCHANT
SEARCHING FOR
FINE PEARLS.**

©LPI

SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME | July 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
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

July 19, 2026

Weekly	\$2313.00
Online	<u>\$763.00</u>
	\$3076.00
Diocesan	- <u>\$15.00</u>
TOTAL	\$3061.00

Thank you for your continued generosity.

Eucharistic Celebration

SATURDAY, JULY 25

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

6:00pm (E) Marjorie Katcavage *Req. by Dr. Gary & Bene Lawrence*

SUNDAY, JULY 26

8:30am (M) John G. Urbanavage Sr. *Req. by Charlie & Carol Burd*

10:30am (E) Gary Walker *Req. by Verna Stavish*

MONDAY, JULY 27

9:00am (E) John Kosek *Req. by Pete Carlson*

TUESDAY, JULY 28

9:00am (E) Zoe Ann Kanavy *Req. by Amer. Legion Women's Aux #274*

WEDNESDAY, JULY 29

9:00am (E) Eleanor Scalese *Req. by Susan & Marty Kelly*

THURSDAY, JULY 30

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

FRIDAY, JULY 31

9:00am (E) Robert Pomento *Req. by Judy Pomento*

SATURDAY, AUG 1

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

6:00pm (E) Reparation for Blasphemies Against Mary's Divine
Maternity & Refusing to Receive Mary as the Mother of Men

SUNDAY, AUG 2

8:30am (M) For the Parishioners

10:30am (E) Joseph Kachurak *Req. by Joan Altavilla*



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



Noreen Catani Amico, Ginny Corcoran,
Patricia Cronauer, Bobby Everett, Terry Franklin,
Kelly Fry, Lea Furlong, James Geremia,
Bernard Hendrzak, Erin Himes, Jake Johnson,
Patrick Kildea, Michael Lilienthal, Mollie Litchman,
James McClure, Amber Moyer, Carolyn Palencar,
Donald Scharf, Mary Soos, Byran Stanton,
Verna Stavish, Milo Grunza, John Tucker,
Rev. Anthony Urban,
Hank Walker, Loretta Washick

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



Notice Regarding Sexual Abuse of a Minor

It is the policy of the Diocese of Scranton to report any allegation of sexual abuse of a minor to law enforcement. If you are a victim of sexual abuse committed by a priest, deacon, religious or lay employee or volunteer of the Diocese of Scranton, you are encouraged to immediately report the matter to law enforcement. If any priest, deacon, religious, lay employee or volunteer of the Diocese of Scranton has cause or reason to suspect that a minor has been subjected to any form of abuse, including child sexual abuse, the matter will be reported to law enforcement.

It is also the policy of the Diocese to adhere to all civil and state regulations. In accordance with the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania's Child Protective Services Laws, reports of suspected child abuse should also be made immediately by phone to the 24-Hour Child Abuse hotline (ChildLine) at 1-800-932-0313 or electronically at www.compass.state.pa.us/cwis. To this end, the Diocese is equally committed to adhering to the norms of the Code of Canon Law and to upholding the tenets of the USCCB Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People, which includes supporting victims of sexual abuse in their pursuit of emotional and spiritual well-being. As such, information regarding an allegation of sexual abuse of a minor should also be reported to the Victim Assistance Coordinator Mary Beth Pacuska at 570-862-7551.

IMPORTANT NOTICE

Every parish family is reminded to complete the new updated Parish Registration form that was inserted in the bulletin the past two weekends. If it was misplaced, there are extra copies in vestibule or you can contact the Parish Office at 570-472-3061. Please complete and submit ASAP. THANK YOU!



Thank you from the Little Sisters of Mary Immaculate of Gulu. St. Elizabeth/St. Mark Parish collected **\$1669.00** for the LSMIG mission in Uganda. May God bless you abundantly for your caring and generous contributions.



**SPEAK LITTLE,
listen much.**

ST. IGNATIUS of LOYOLA
FEAST DAY—JULY 31

**Father
Rawel's
Corner**



**"CHOOSING THE TREASURE
THAT LASTS FOREVER "**

Very often, we come before God with a list of requests: health, success, peace in our families, and security for the future. While these requests are valid, today's readings challenge us to look deeper: What do we truly desire? What is our hearts priority?

In the first reading, God says to Solomon, "Ask what I should give you". Imagine hearing these words ourselves. What would we ask for? Wealth? Stability? Latest gadgets? But Solomon asked for something different, an understanding mind. He knew he could not lead or live well without wisdom. His request shows us that true greatness begins with humility and complete dependence on God.

In the second reading, St. Paul reminds us that God is present in every circumstance of our life. Although He does not promise a life free from pain but promises us his faithful presence. Hence, our wounds, disappointments, and silent cries are not a waste. In and through our sufferings, God shapes us and molds us into our trust self. Even in our tears, He is quietly weaving our brokenness into a larger, divine purpose.

In the Gospel, Jesus compares the kingdom to a hidden treasures and priceless pearl. The kingdom of God is not forced upon us; it is to be discovered. Our painful sacrifices lead to the gaining of the precious treasure, as St. Paul in Philippians 3:7-8 considers everything as a loss compared to knowing Christ. In finding Him, we discover our greatest treasure.

May the loving, Lord give us wisdom and understanding hearts and teach us to choose God above all. AMEN!

HAVE A BLESSED WEEKEND!!!!



**PRINCE of PEACE
PARISH OLD FORGE**

**TAKE-OUT ONLY
Roasted Chicken Dinner
and Basket Raffle
and 50/50 drawing**

SUNDAY AUGUST 16TH, 11AM TO 3PM
Arcaro and Genell Parking Lot Main Street
The dinner will be prepared by Arcaro & Genell
\$17 Includes ½ Roasted Chicken, Corn,
Pasta Salad, a Roll and Dessert
For Tickets Call the Rectory 570-457-5900
Deadline to order tickets is Monday August
10th
Walk-Ins are Limited
Place Your Order Early

**Solemn Novena
in honor of
Saint Ann**

*Basilica of the National Shrine of St. Ann
Passionist Monastery*

1239 St. Ann Street Scranton, PA

July 26th

CONFESSIONS 4:00AM

**MASSES & DEVOTIONS
4:30, 7:00, 8:00, 10:00 & 11:45AM
3:30PM (Novena only)**

**LANGUAGE SERVICE
1:30PM—Polish in Upper Basilica
4:45PM —Spanish in Upper Basilica**

Individual Blessing with Relic of St. Ann after each Devotion

**SOLEMN NOVENA CLOSING
6:30PM**

**Pontifical Mass celebrated by
Most Reverend Joseph C. Bambera, D.D., J.C.I**

JOIN US FOR
Glasses
in the
Garden

**A BEAUTIFUL EVENING.
A GREATER PURPOSE.**

**DELICIOUS FOOD
by State Street Grill**

- ✓ CHEF-INSPIRED APPETIZERS & HORS D'OEUVRES
- ✓ FRESH, SEASONAL INGREDIENTS
- ✓ LOCALLY LOVED FLAVORS



WINE.



BOURBON.



LIVE JAZZ.



SILENT AUCTION.



AUGUST 6
6:00 – 9:00 PM



STONE MEADOW GARDENS
CLARKS SUMMIT, PA



SCAN TO LEARN
MORE & PURCHASE
TICKETS!

PROCEEDS BENEFIT

PROVIDENCE
PREGNANCY CENTER



CASA DE MARIA
MATERNITY HOME



GREAT FOOD. GREAT COMPANY. GREATER IMPACT.

Worship & Meditation

Readings for the week of July 26, 2026

Sunday:

1 Kgs 3:5, 7-12/Ps 119:57, 72, 76-77, 127-128, 129-130/Rom 8:28-30/Mt 13:44-52 or 13:44-46

Monday:

Jer 13:1-11/Dt 32:18-19, 20, 21/Mt 13:31-35

Tuesday:

Jer 14:17-22/Ps 79:8, 9, 11 and 13/
Mt 13:36-43

Wednesday:

Jer 15:10, 16-21/Ps 59:2-3, 4, 10-11, 17, 18/
Jn 11:19-27 or Lk 10:38-42

Thursday:

Jer 18:1-6/Ps 146:1b-2, 3-4, 5-6ab/
Mt 13:47-53

Friday:

Jer 26:1-9/Ps 69:5, 8-10, 14/Mt 13:54-58

Saturday:

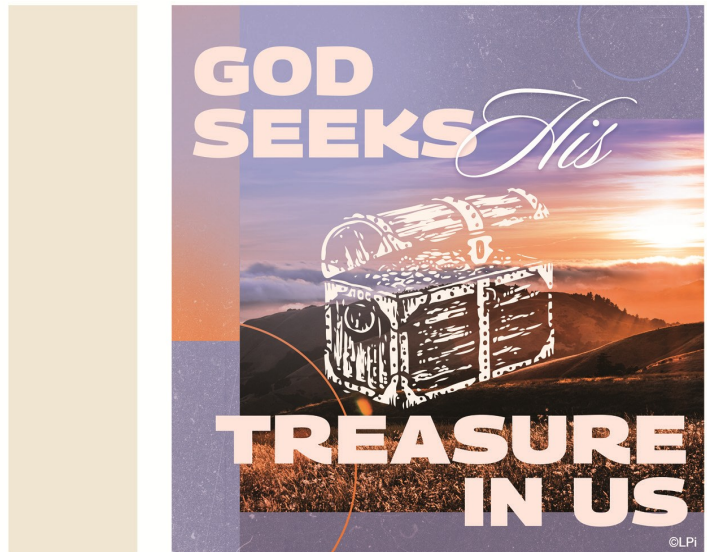
Jer 26:11-16, 24/Ps 69:15-16, 30-31, 33-34/
Mt 14:1-12

Next Sunday:

Is 55:1-3/Ps 145:8-9, 15-16, 17-18/
Rom 8:35, 37-39/Mt 14:13-21



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Gospel Meditation

Encourage Deeper Understanding of Scripture

Around the time that the gold rushes ended in the nineteenth-century West, a curious phenomenon arose in New England known as money diggers. These were men who roamed the countryside with shovels, divining rods, and superstitious hope, convinced that treasure lay buried beneath their feet. Surely there must be gold under our feet. But there was not. The craze of these wild goose chases caused many to lose farms, families, and sanity.

In this week's Gospel, Jesus inaugurates a new era of spiritual money digging. He announces, **"The kingdom of heaven is like a treasure buried in a field."** He invites us to become treasure seekers who search in the right place. What is of greatest value is not money beneath our feet, but the infinite treasure hidden deep in the humanity of Jesus himself, God's own blessed life. The glory of heaven lies veiled in his ordinary life, his teaching, his suffering, his Church.

This teaching about the Kingdom changes things. Now we see the Church's doctrinal and moral teachings are not arbitrary rules. They are a treasure map. Follow them, and we will uncover divine happiness. Ignore them, and we will wander aimlessly, spade in hand, digging in empty fields, discouraged.

Where have we wasted energy seeking treasure in the wrong places? How have we given up on seeking the treasure of truly finding God's love for us? If so, let us repent of both. Then let us dust off our shovels and get back to digging deep into the field of Christ Jesus and his Church. After all, He never ceases seeking his treasure in us.

— *Father John Muir*

Weekly Prayer

Sunday's Readings

First Reading:

"Give your servant, therefore, an understanding heart
to judge your people and to distinguish right from wrong.
For who is able to govern this vast people of yours?" (1 Kgs 3:9)

Psalm:

Lord, I love your commands. (Ps 119)

Second Reading:

We know that all things work for good for those who love God,
who are called according to his purpose. (Rom 8:28)

Gospel:

"The kingdom of heaven is like a treasure buried in a field,
which a person finds and hides again,
and out of joy goes and sells all that he has and buys that field."
(Mt 13:44)

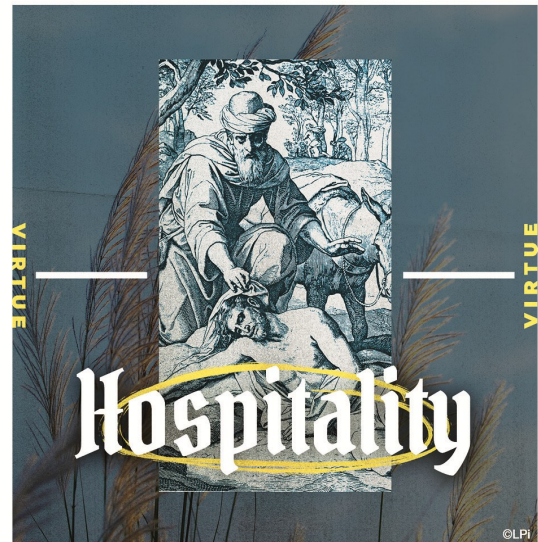
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Live The Liturgy Inspiration of the Week

Christ compares the kingdom of Heaven to buried treasure — the find of a lifetime, one you would risk everything to keep. Are we doing all we can to hold onto this treasure that we have been lucky enough to discover? What is Heaven worth to us?

Observances for the week of July 26, 2026

- Sunday:** 17th Sunday in Ordinary Time
Wednesday: Sts. Martha, Mary and Lazarus
Thursday: St. Peter Chrysologus, Bishop and Doctor of the Church
Friday: St. Ignatius of Loyola, Priest
Saturday: St. Alphonsus Liguori, Bishop and Doctor of the Church
Next Sunday: 18th Sunday in Ordinary Time



Virtues, Explained!

The virtue of hospitality is characterized by kindness and welcome, particularly to those who are strangers. It is the practice of true Christian love — love purely for the sake of the one "who loved us first" (1 John 4:19).

Blessing for Our Parish

Dear God,
Pour Your blessing upon our
parish, in need of Your renewal and
inspiration.
Prune the places that need pruning,
and pour fresh grace and courage
into our midst.
Help us to find You and, with great
joy, follow You wholeheartedly.
Amen.

(PRACTICING) CATHOLIC

Choosing Heaven

My children often ask me questions about Heaven. What does Heaven look like? Is there nighttime in Heaven? Do you get hungry in Heaven? Are there oceans in Heaven? Will we feel bored in Heaven?

My answer is almost always the same: “I can’t tell you for sure.” I guess I didn’t realize how little we actually know about Heaven until I had kids who were obsessed with hearing the details.

But accepting human ignorance is liberating in a way, because it allows me to see clearly — and cling wholeheartedly to — the three things I do know for sure: Heaven is where God is, and Hell is where He isn’t, and it’s completely my decision where I want to be.

The choice, you see, is everything.

We need to pay attention to how Jesus describes the kingdom of Heaven in his parables. It is, he tells us, a treasure — but a treasure buried in a field owned by someone else. It is a beautiful pearl — and a very expensive pearl. It is a bountiful yield — one which must be carefully, even painstakingly sifted through.

It’s so easy to imagine the delight of the man who finds the treasure, who encounters the pearl, who hauls the bursting net aboard, just as it is easy to call ourselves followers of Christ, to hang a Rosary from our windshield and go to Mass.

It’s less easy, and a great deal more uncomfortable, to contemplate what comes next: the sacrifice, the commitment, the perseverance through uncertainty.

Heaven is an incredible stroke of luck — one that requires a good deal of follow-through. We can never earn it, but we must choose it. Again and again and again, we must choose it.

— Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman

Why do we do that?

Catholic Life Explained

Question:

Why are Catholics required to give money to the Church?

Answer:

Offering money and other goods to God and the Church is, before all else, a statement of gratitude. We see this when we look at how our spiritual ancestors showed their gratitude to God for the gifts they had received (e.g. Genesis 14:18-20 and Genesis 28:16-22). One of the ways they offered thanks to God was through a practice called “tithing,” in which 10 percent of a person’s goods (crops, livestock, money, etc.) were given back to God.

Today, the practice of tithing — giving 10 percent — is still common in many Protestant communities, but it is not required for Catholics. Instead, the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* teaches us that, “The faithful also have the duty of providing for the material needs of the Church, each according to [their] own abilities” (no. 2043). This means that, although we are not bound to practice “tithing” in the traditional sense, we do share a responsibility to share our money or other resources with our parish communities. Like our spiritual ancestors, we give as a sign of our gratitude for the many gifts that God has given to us. Beyond this, we also share our resources with other Catholic organizations to help them finance their ministries, to continue and grow their outreach to the poor and the needy, and to provide just wages for their employees.

How much we give depends on our individual circumstances, but since we share a responsibility for the programs, outreach, and health of our parish communities and Catholic organizations, this question gives us a wonderful opportunity to ask some important questions about the quality of our giving and what our priorities are. Remember, we are only stewards of our time, talents, and treasures and as the First Letter of Peter reminds us, “As each one of you has received a gift, use it to serve one another as good stewards of God’s varied graces” (4:10).

“The kingdom of heaven is like a treasure buried in a field, which a person finds and hides again, and out of joy goes and sells all that he has and buys that field.” - Mt 13:44

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Questions of the Week

Invite Parishioners to Reflect and Respond to Scripture

First Reading:

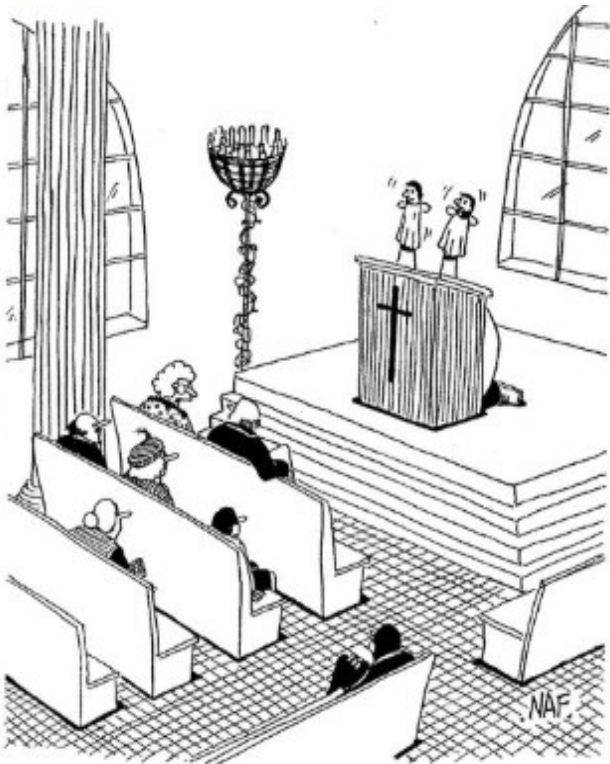
The Lord grants Solomon's request to give him a wise and discerning heart so he can rule justly over the people of Israel. Have you ever had a wish come true?

Second Reading:

Paul speaks of God working with believers according to his purposes. How would you describe your purpose or passion in life?

Gospel:

Jesus often speaks in parables about the kingdom of Heaven that invite you to imagine how God works in the world. Where do you see God at work in your family?



“I know he said he was going to make his sermons more entertaining but this is just crazy!”

JULY 26th FEAST DAY St. Joachim & St. Anne



Patron saints of grandparents, parents, and women in labor.



SAINT JOACHIM & SAINT ANNE

THE PARENTS OF MOTHER MARY AND THE GRANDPARENTS OF JESUS CHRIST

FEAST DAY - JULY 26th

Today the Church celebrates the parents of the Virgin Mary, the grandparents of Jesus, Saints Joachim and Anne. In their home, Mary came into the world, accompanied by the extraordinary mystery of the Immaculate Conception. Mary grew up in the home of Joachim and Anne; she was surrounded by their love and faith: in their home she learned to listen to the Lord and to follow his will. Saints Joachim and Anne were part of a long chain of people who had transmitted their faith and love for God, expressed in the warmth and love of family life, down to Mary, who received the Son of God in her womb and who gave him to the world, to us. How precious is the family as the privileged place for transmitting the faith!

~Pope Francis, Angelus, July 26, 2013.

According to tradition, Joachim was a very wealthy and generous man. He and his wife, Anne, however, were childless until they were advanced in years. One day, before Anne conceived the Blessed Virgin Mary, Joachim arrived at the Temple to make an offering. It was rejected by a man named Rubim, most likely a Levitical priest, because Joachim was childless. "It is not right for you first to bring your offerings, because you have not made seed in Israel." Children were exceedingly important at that time; to be childless was understood as disfavor from God.

Distressed, Joachim left the Temple and studied the Scriptures to see if he could find anyone of importance who, like he and Anne, were childless. When he came upon Abraham, he recalled that Abraham was only given a child in his old age. Rather than returning home to Anne, Joachim embarked on a forty-day period of fasting and praying in the desert, beseeching God for a child.

Anne, for her part, also went to pray, asking God for a child. As she prayed, an angel appeared to her and said, “Anne, Anne, the Lord has heard your prayer, and you shall conceive, and shall bring forth; and your seed shall be spoken of in all the world.” An angel also appeared to Joachim and said, “Joachim, Joachim, the Lord God has heard your prayer. Go down hence; for, behold, your wife Anne shall conceive.” Nine months later, Anne bore a daughter, and the couple named her Mary. Because of a vow they had made, when Mary was only three, Joachim and Anne brought her to the Temple where she took up residence until it was time for her to be married. She was educated by the priests and holy women and spent her days in prayer and union with God.

The Presentation of Mary in the Temple is a liturgical feast first celebrated in the Eastern Church as early as the sixth century and the Western Church in the eleventh century, giving credence to a lived faith and liturgical acceptance of her presentation by her parents. Interestingly, in the old city of Jerusalem, there is an ancient church that still stands next to the Temple Mount in which it is believed that the Blessed Virgin Mary was born and might have lived during her early days after being presented in the Temple.

Though not much more is known about Saints Joachim and Anne, devotion to them, especially to Saint Anne, began to grow as early as the sixth century. Churches were built in her honor, prayers were offered for her intercession, devotions were formulated, and patronages were attributed to her. It wasn’t until the sixteenth century that devotion to Saint Joachim began to grow when his feast day was placed on the General Roman Calendar.

Regardless of the authenticity of the legends about Saints Joachim and Anne, we know for certain that the Blessed Virgin Mary, the Immaculate Conception, had parents. They loved her, raised her, and offered her to God. Today they are saints under the names of Joachim and Anne, and the faithful continue to seek their intercession. They are especially called upon for their intercession for grandparents. In fact, on a spiritual level, just as the Blessed Virgin Mary can be seen as our spiritual mother, so also Saint Joachim and Anne can be seen as our spiritual grandparents in the order of grace.

Pray to this holy couple today, especially asking their intercession for your grandparents or your grandchildren. Ponder what it would have been like to give birth to the Mother of the Son of God. Prayerfully imagine what it would have been like to watch their daughter, who was “full of grace,” grow and mature into adulthood. Though these holy parents might not have understood all of the mysteries that surrounded their daughter, they would have known, by a grace of spiritual intuition, that their daughter was chosen by God and given a singular grace that budded forth in an abundance of virtue for all to see, especially for her parents to see.

The feast encourages the faithful to emulate the virtues of Joachim and Anne: **faithfulness, patience, and dedication to God’s will**. Just as Mary was nurtured in their home, the feast reminds families of the importance of creating a loving and prayerful environment for the next generation. It also serves as a celebration of grandparents’ role in passing on spiritual wisdom and guidance.

Prayer: Saints Joachim and Anne, you were given the incredible privilege and responsibility to give birth to and raise the Immaculate Conception, the Mother of God. Her presence in your lives touched you both deeply and left you in awe of God’s grace. Please pray for me, that I may come to love your daughter and your Grandson with the same love you bore for each of them, so that I will enjoy their company in Heaven one day, just as you do today. Saints Joachim and Anne, pray for me. Jesus, I trust in You.