

*St. Elizabeth of Hungary/St. Mark*

5700 Bear Creek Boulevard, Bear Creek, Pennsylvania

SEVENTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

RAISED HIS EYES TO

**HEAVEN.**

— JOHN 17:1 —

SEVENTH SUNDAY OF EASTER | May 17, 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  
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Director of Music & Liturgy  
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**OFFICE HOURS / PHONE**

Tuesday & Wednesday  
9AM—3PM

Phone.....570-472-3061

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**RELIGIOUS EDUCATION**

Emily Bell  
Renee Sipple

Directors of Religious Education  
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**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 10, 2026

Weekly	\$1922.00
Online	\$763.00
	\$2685.00
Diocesan	-\$0.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$2685.00</b>

*Thank you for your continued generosity.*

# Eucharistic Celebration

## SATURDAY, MAY 16

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

6:00pm (E) Michele Janowicz *Req. by Janet Michael*

## SUNDAY, MAY 17 CONFIRMATION

8:30am (M) St. Elizabeth/St. Mark Confirmands

10:30am (E) St. Elizabeth/St. Mark Confirmands

## MONDAY, MAY 18

9:00am (E) Michele Janowicz *Req. by Bob & Cheryl Ryczak*

## TUESDAY, MAY 19

9:00am (E) David M. Soda *Req. by Theodore & Diane Haas*

## WEDNESDAY, MAY 20

9:00am (E) Stephen Maciag *Req. by Pam, Kate & Timothy Henrich*

## THURSDAY, MAY 21

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

## FRIDAY, MAY 22

9:00am (E) Dr. Arthur Jordan *Req. by Barbara & Michael Fox*

## 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*



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, Joseph Kachurak, 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**

Father Rawel's  
Corner



**"PRAYER -  
THE SOURCE OF LIFE"**

Today's readings show us how Jesus and Paul fulfilled the mission given to them by God.

In their lives we see commitment, honesty, faithfulness, and willingness to sacrifice. Their only desire was to give glory to the Father. Both Jesus and Paul speak words of farewell, knowing that their time has come and that their work of making God's truth and love known to the world is complete.

Jesus understood that trials are the part of life, and Paul followed the same path. Instead of giving up, they remained focused on their purpose. They dedicated their lives to a higher calling, revealing God through their words and actions.

Jesus knew that true glory comes from doing the Father's will, even in the face of danger and rejection. This teaches us to stand for the truth and to be ready to sacrifice for the Church and for those entrusted to us.

Jesus also knew the strength of prayer. That is why He prayed for His followers, asking that all may be one. Knowing that His absence would bring fear and uncertainty, He placed us in the loving care of the Father. Jesus' mission was to give eternal life, life lived with God, in God, and for God.

As we live each day, let us reflect on the work God has given us. Are we faithful like Paul in our daily duties? Do our actions give glory to God?

May the Lord, give us the grace to remain close to God and be faithful to God's mission.

**HAVE A GREAT EASTER SEASON!  
ALLELUIA ALLELUIA!!!!!!**



*The Sanctuary Candles at both Churches  
are burning in honor of our Confirmands.*



**The St. Elizabeth/St. Marks Knights of  
Columbus Council 10571 will meet in  
the Father Urban Center on Monday,  
May 18, 2026 at 6:00 P.M. All are  
welcome to attend.**

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. Thank you.



*Pray the  
Rosary*



As spring unfolds in beauty and renewal, the Church invites the faithful into a deeply personal and spiritual tradition: honoring the Blessed Virgin Mary throughout the month of May. For centuries, Catholics around the world have set aside these days to deepen their love for the Mother of God, seeking her intercession and reflecting on her unique role in salvation history.

The roots of this devotion stretch back to the early Church, but it flourished most prominently in medieval Europe, where May—rich with blooming flowers and new life—became a natural symbol of Mary’s purity, grace, and spiritual motherhood. Just as the earth comes alive in spring, so too are the faithful called to renew their devotion and imitate Mary’s “yes” to God.

Mary’s significance in the life of the Church cannot be overstated. As the Mother of Jesus Christ, she is the one who bore the Savior into the world. Yet her role extends far beyond that moment in Bethlehem. At the foot of the Cross, Christ entrusted her to the beloved disciple—and, through him, to all of us. In this way, Mary becomes our spiritual mother, guiding us closer to her Son.

Throughout May, many Catholic families and parishes participate in cherished traditions. Altars dedicated to Mary are adorned with fresh flowers, symbolizing her beauty and virtue. Children often take part in May crownings, placing a wreath of blossoms upon a statue of the Virgin, a simple yet powerful act of love and honor. The daily praying of the Rosary also takes on renewed importance, as the faithful meditate on the life of Christ through Mary’s eyes.

These practices are not merely sentimental. They are invitations into a deeper relationship with God. Mary always leads us to Jesus. Her humility, obedience, and unwavering faith stand as a model for every Christian striving to follow the Lord more closely. In a world often marked by noise and distraction, Mary’s quiet trust in God offers a path of peace.

This month is also an opportunity to reflect on Mary’s relevance today. She is a mother who understands suffering, having witnessed her Son’s Passion. She is a woman of courage, who trusted God even when the path was unclear. And she is a powerful intercessor, who continues to bring our prayers before her Son.

In honoring Mary, we do not take anything away from Christ. Rather, we follow her example, allowing her to point us more fully toward Him. As countless saints have testified, a true devotion to Mary always leads to a deeper love for Jesus.

As May begins, the Church gently calls us to slow down, to pray, and to draw near to our Blessed Mother. Whether through a daily Rosary, a quiet moment before a Marian image, or a simple prayer whispered in faith, this month offers a chance to grow spiritually and to rediscover the beauty of a life entrusted to God.

In the words echoed through generations of the faithful: Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us.

# Worship & Meditation

## Readings for the week of May 17, 2026

### Sunday:

Acts 1:1-11/Ps 47: 2-3, 6-7, 8-9/Eph 1:17-23/Mt 28:16-20

### Monday:

Acts 19:1-8/Ps 68:2-3ab, 4-5acd, 6-7ab/  
Jn 16:29-33

### Tuesday:

Acts 20:17-27/Ps 68:10-11, 20-21/  
Jn 17:1-11a

### Wednesday:

Acts 20:28-38/ Ps 68:29-30, 33-35a,  
35bc-36ab/Jn 17:11b-19

### Thursday:

Acts 22:30; 23:6-11/Ps 16:1-2a and 5, 7-8,  
9-10, 11/Jn 17:20-26

### Friday:

Acts 25:13b-21/Ps 103:1-2, 11-12, 19-20ab/  
Jn 21:15-19

### Saturday:

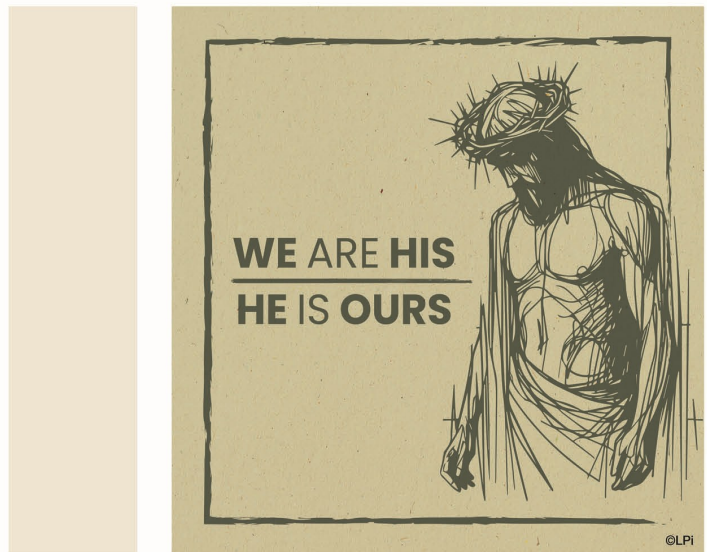
Acts 28:16-20, 30-31/Ps 11:4, 5 and 7/  
Jn 21:20-25

### Next 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



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## Gospel Meditation

### Encourage Deeper Understanding of Scripture

Not long after my brother's first child was born, a beautiful little girl named Mary Elise, I asked him what it was like. Was he nervous? Overwhelmed? He said, "When I first held her, I was in such shock. I think I just said, 'I am your dad. I am your dad.'" That moment marked a deep transformation for him. He was not just holding a baby; he was stepping into a new identity. Over the years, I have seen him live his fatherhood with quiet sacrifice, joy, and faithfulness. It started with that moment of truth.

This, I propose, is a glimpse of what Jesus means when he prays, "**Consecrate them in the truth.**" (John 17:17) To be consecrated is to be set apart in love, not taken out of the world. Consecration sends us into it with a new identity, always one that binds us to him and to others in love. Our bond to Jesus and others is the deep truth that he continually renews.

Whenever we speak deep truths about ourselves, we experience this renewal: "I have sinned;" "I need help;" "I forgive you;" "I take you as my husband;" "I believe in one God..." Whether in confession, in the liturgy, or in a recovery group, truth heals and transforms.

And the deepest truth of all? That we belong to the Risen and Ascended Christ. Our lives are no longer just ours. We are his and he is ours.

Name one truth you need to step into more deeply, about yourself, someone else, or God. Maybe put it on a note on your mirror. Let that truth consecrate you this week.

— *Father John Muir*

# Weekly Prayer

## Sunday's Readings

### First Reading:

When they entered the city  
they went to the upper room where they were staying.  
(Acts 1:13)

### Psalm:

I believe that I shall see the good things of the Lord in the  
land of the living. (Ps 27)  
Or Alleluia.

### Second Reading:

If you are insulted for the name of Christ, blessed are you,  
for the Spirit of glory and of God rests upon you. (1 Pt 4:14)

### Gospel:

Jesus raised his eyes to heaven and said,  
"Father, the hour has come.  
Give glory to your son, so that your son may glorify you,  
just as you gave him authority over all people,  
so that your son may give eternal life to all you gave  
him." (Jn 17:1-2)

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## Live The Liturgy Inspiration of the Week

Eternal life, Jesus tells us, is about knowing God.  
It's not about power or accomplishment. It's not  
earned or won. It's not a prize, and it's certainly  
not a finish line. It's a relationship — one that is  
ours to begin. How will we know God this week?

## Observances for the week of May 17, 2026

- Sunday:** The Ascension of the Lord; 7th Sunday of Easter;  
*World Communications Day*
- Monday:** St. John I, Pope and Martyr
- Wednesday:** St. Bernardine of Siena, Priest
- Thursday:** St. Christopher Magallanes, Priest, and  
Companions, Martyrs
- Friday:** St. Rita of Cascia, Religious
- Next Sunday:** Pentecost Sunday



## Virtues, Explained!

The virtue of loyalty is closely linked to the virtue of obedience, wherein we freely submit ourselves to rightful authority. We are called to be loyal to our bishops, to Scripture and Tradition, to the teaching authority of the Church, and to the Christian way of life.

## Blessing for Communications

Dear Jesus,  
On this World Communications Day,  
bless each of us as we communicate,  
whether by conversation, email,  
text, post, letter, or phone. May our  
words bring peace, comfort, healing,  
promise, joy, and love. May we bring  
your blessing wherever we go.  
Amen.

# Liturgical Life

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## ( PRACTICING ) CATHOLIC

**Mini Reflection:** We do the best we have, with the words that we have, to express who God is. But saying the words isn't enough. We have to take them into the silence of our hearts and hold them there, inviting the Spirit to move among them. Liberate them. Unleash them.

### When Words Fail

I love words (obviously; I'm a writer).

But sometimes, words are like teeny, tiny cages. They enclose and confine and restrict our understanding of supernatural realities that are, by their nature, bigger than language.

We do the best we have, with the words that we have, to express who God is. We use terms like "Father" and "Son" because they are the most accurate. But often, without really noticing, we give the words too much weight, and we find ourselves thinking of Jesus as a human son and the Creator as a human father, with all the implications those particular words carry for different people.

That's why I love hearing Christ speak to God the Father in the Gospels. These one-sided conversations (at least from our viewpoint) pull back the curtain just a little on the breathtaking intimacy that exists between the two. Our misunderstandings of their relationship — framed by our own human experience of fathers and sons, of time and place, of creation and death — are shattered.

"Now glorify me, Father, with you," Jesus says, "with the glory that I had with you before the world began."

*Before the world began.*

In our collective imagination, too often we imagine Jesus as being connected — tethered, really — to a certain time and place: the Incarnation, and all that came after. But let's not get confused: the Incarnation means that the Son became flesh, and dwelt among us. The Incarnation does not mean that the Son *became*.

The Son was. From the very beginning, He was. Begotten, not made. Consubstantial.

We say these words every week in the Creed. But saying them isn't enough. We have to take them into the silence of our hearts and hold them there. We have to invite the Spirit to move among them. Rearrange them. Liberate them. Unleash them.

Only then will we understand what words fail to explain.

— Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman

## Why do we do that? Catholic Life Explained

### Question:

Couldn't Jesus have done more good if he stayed on earth, rather than ascended into heaven?

### Answer:

This is an interesting question! During his earthly life, Jesus gave sight to the blind, healed paralytics, drove out demons, and fed thousands with only a few loaves of bread. Imagine what he could have done if he'd never ascended into heaven! Imagine what our world could be! It's an interesting thought to consider, especially as the world faces challenges that only seem to deepen and expand. Yet at the Last Supper, Jesus says, "It is better for you if I go." Why? His response must have seemed strange to the Apostles at the time. In his place, Jesus says, he will send the Paraclete, the Comforter, the Advocate. He promises to send the Holy Spirit.

Jesus' departure allows the Apostles to become the leaders he has formed them to be. Jesus is no longer situated in only one geographical location, and his Church will never be a political kingdom. Soon after the Ascension, we celebrate Pentecost — the descent of the Holy Spirit and the radical empowerment of the followers of Jesus. We share in that empowerment and in that mission. Jesus is present in the sacraments, and he is present in us. Through our faith, hope, and love, we are called to be the good he does here on earth!

“Now glorify me, Father, with you, with the glory that I had with you before the world began. I revealed your name to those whom you gave me out of the world. They belonged to you, and you gave them to me, and they have kept your word.” - Jn 17:5-6

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## Questions of the Week

Invite Parishioners to Reflect and Respond to Scripture

### First Reading:

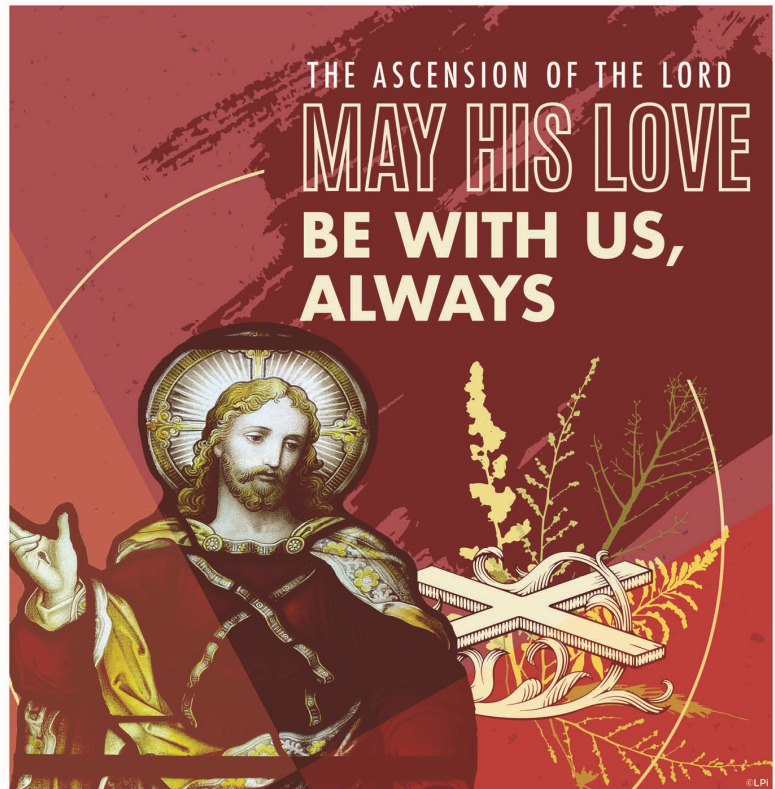
We hear how the Apostles gathered in prayer with others (including Mary) in Jerusalem shortly after Jesus' ascension into heaven. When do you find yourself being called to prayer?

### Second Reading:

Peter teaches that we may suffer insults and ridicule for our belief in Jesus. Have you ever been insulted by others for your faith?

### Gospel:

We hear Jesus praying for us to his heavenly Father. Have you ever prayed for Jesus in prayer?



**2026 St. Elizabeth/St. Mark  
Confirmands**

*Brynn Marie Theresa Andrukaitis*

*Angelo J. Richard Limongelli*

*Mya Elise Hildegard Miscavage*

*Lily Mae Cecilia Tyrrell*

**Heavenly Father,**

**We thank You for these beloved children of Yours, standing today in faith and commitment. Fill their hearts with the fire of Your Holy Spirit— a flame that will guide, comfort, and strengthen them through every season of life. Grant them wisdom to discern Your will, courage to live boldly for Christ, and compassion to serve others with joy.**

