



SIXTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
JESUS ENTERED
A VILLAGE
WHERE MARTHA
WELCOMED HIM.

— LUKE 10:38 —

St. Elizabeth of Hungary/St. Mark

5700 Bear Creek Boulevard, Bear Creek, Pennsylvania 18602

SIXTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME | JULY 20, 2025

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
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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 13, 2025

Weekly	\$2714.00
Online	+ <u>\$1021.00</u>
	\$3735.00
Diocesan	- <u>\$20.00</u>
TOTAL:	\$3715.00

Thank you for your continued generosity.

Parish Weekly Budget set at \$5000

Eucharistic Celebration

Saturday, July 19, 2025 — Sunday, July 27, 2025

Sat, JULY 19

4:00pm (M) Jack Hack
Barbara Reiss

6:00pm (E) Eileen Kane
Judy Pomento

Sun, JULY 20

8:30am (M) Louis Catina
Ruth Catina

10:30am (E) Stella Sawicki
Stan & Jean Swaintek

Mon, JULY 21

9:00am (E) Janice Motovidlak

Tues, JULY 22

9:00am (E) Frank & Sandy Rizzo
Debbie & Rich Mitchell

Wed, JULY 23

9:00am (E) Helen Orloski
The Carlson Family

Thurs, JULY 24

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

Fri, JULY 25

9:00am (E) Special Intentions for Wayne & Mary Beth Stelly
Pat Rossi

Sat, JULY 26

4:00pm (M) Eugene Cooney
Steve & Kathy Rector

6:00pm (E) John & Agnes Tucker
John & Ann Tucker

Sun, JULY 27

8:30am (M) For the Parishioners

10:30am (E) Mr. & Mrs. Theodore Haas Sr.
Theodore & Diane Haas



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



*Noreen Catani Amico,
Andrew Chismar, Lea Furlong,
Bernard Hendrzak, Jake Johnson,
Joseph Kachurak, Michael Lilienthal,
Mollie Litchman, Carolyn Palencar,
Richard Sawicki, Mary Soos, Byran Stanton,
John Tucker, Rev. Anthony Urban,
Gary Walker, Hank Walker, Loretta Washick*

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

MASS IN REMEMBRANCE OF VICTIMS OF VIOLENT OR TRAGIC DEATH

The Mass is scheduled for Thursday, July 24, 2025 at 7:00PM in St Peter's Cathedral, 315 Wyoming Avenue, Scranton. All persons who have lost a loved one through tragic and traumatic death are invited to this liturgy. The Mass will be televised on CTV: Catholic Television and also by livestream on the diocesan web-site, www.dioceseofscranton.org.

**St. Elizabeth/St. Mark
SummerFest**

**Saturday, August 23, 2025
Noon - 7:00 p.m.**

**Bear Creek Community Charter
School Pavilion
Bear Creek Twp.**

Live MUSIC

**Cornhole
Tournament**

**Basket Raffles
50/50 Drawings**

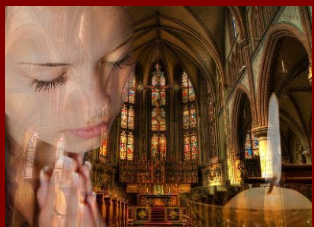
Bake Sale

BINGO

**Homemade Foods
Pierogi Piggy
Chicken Dinner Pork BBQ
Haluski and MUCH more.**

**THE MOST BLESSED SACRAMENT
IS RESERVED IN OUR CHURCH**

**We respectfully ask that all
observe a reverent silence.**



Father Rawel's Corner



BLESSING ON ENCOUNTERING GOD

In the first reading, Abraham welcomes three visitors with kindness and generosity. This small act becomes a way of encountering God. The meeting of these guests was the blessed moment for Abraham and his wife Sarah. They brought God's message to the broken family and filled them unending hope.

In the second reading, St. Paul talks about the joy he finds even in his suffering for Christ. He sees himself as servant of the Gospel, helping others understand the great mystery: "Christ in you the hope of glory." He encourages us to stay faithful and trust that God is with us, even in the challenging times.

In the Gospel reading, Jesus visits Martha and Mary. Mary chooses to sit and listen to Jesus while Martha is busy serving. Jesus praises Mary, showing that being with Him and listening to His word is more important than being busy with tasks. He also reminds us that whatever task is chosen, to do it with total commitment and not to complain. Hence, Jesus reminds us to balance our "being and doing" and open our hearts to encounter God in our work and in quiet moments of prayer to receive His blessings in abundance.

May the dear Lord teach us to be generous. Grant us your heart and mind so that we may be ever faithful and recognize Your encounter in every step of our lives.

HAVE A WONDERFUL WEEKEND!



VACATIONING??? If you're traveling this summer, please remember to "make up" your envelopes for your

parish contributions when you get back! The parish relies upon the consistent weekly giving of its members in order to meet its obligations. While we all may take a vacation, as you know, bills *never* do, and so we still need everyone's generosity to make ends meet.



MAKE TIME FOR MASS!!! As you take to the road or skies this summer, take God along with you, or at least make time for Him on weekends. If you're out of town on a weekend, you

can check the internet for available churches to attend Sunday Mass in the area where you will be. Check out www.masstimes.org.

SAINT JOSEPH'S CENTER

SUMMER FESTIVAL



FRIDAY
JULY 25
4 to 10 pm

SATURDAY
JULY 26
4 to 10 pm

SUNDAY
JULY 27
Noon to 7 pm



FOOD FUN GAMES

Location: Marywood University
Plenty of Free Parking & Shuttle Service

STJOSEPHSCENTER.ORG



JULY 25 & 26
7 TO 9 PM

TELETHON



The diocese has instructed all parishes to be equipped with an AED defibrillator device. Our parish has purchased two of these defibrillators, one for St. Mark's church and

one for St. Elizabeth's church. Before we can install it, people need to be trained in how to use and operate this piece of equipment. And each church should have at least one person present at both of their Masses who are trained in using this device if a situation occurs.

A trained instructor will come here to our parish and conduct the class on the operation of the AED. But before we set a date for this training, we need to know how many people are interested in learning this life saving method. If you are already trained, please let us know as well.

There is a sign-up sheet in the sacristy/vestibule if you are interested. The sooner we get volunteers; the sooner we will be able to install the devices to help save a life if needed. Thank you for your consideration.

SOLEMN NOVENA in Honor of ST. ANN JULY 17-26, 2025

NOVENA DEVOTIONS	DAILY MASSES
After 8 & 11:45 A.M. & 5:30 P.M. Masses; w/Novena only at 3:30 - 7:30 P.M. Mass & Novena in Spanish	7:00, 8:00 & 11:45 A.M. & 5:30 P.M. July 17-25: 7:30 P.M. Mass in Spanish (Solemn Closing in Spanish: Fri, July 25, 7:30 pm)

CONFESSIONS

Lower Basilica for 30 minutes prior to each Mass & the 3:30 P.M. Novena Service, and after all services

SOLEMN CLOSING SATURDAY, JULY 26, AT 7:30 P.M.

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

CTV COVERAGE OF THE SOLEMN NOVENA

Every Day at 12:00 pm and 3:30 pm

Weeknights at 7:00 pm (except Thursday July 24 at 8:00 pm)

Closing Mass live Saturday July 26 at 7:30 pm,

Rebroadcast Sunday July 27 at 12:00 pm

Basilica of the National Shrine of St. Ann
1239 Saint Ann Street Scranton, PA 18504

Worship & Meditation

Readings for the week of July 20, 2025

Sunday:

Gn 18:1-10a/Ps 15:2-3, 3-4, 5 (1a)/Col 1:24-28/Lk 10:38-42

Monday:

Ex 14:5-18/Ex 15:1bc-2, 3-4, 5-6/Mt 12:38-42

Tuesday:

Sg 3:1-4b or 2 Cor 5:14-17/Ps 63:2, 3-4, 5-6, 8-9/Jn 20:1-2, 11-18

Wednesday:

Ex 16:1-5, 9-15/Ps 78:18-19, 23-24, 25-26, 27-28/Mt 13:1-9

Thursday:

Ex 19:1-2, 9-11, 16-20b/Dn 3:52, 53, 54, 55, 56/Mt 13:10-17

Friday:

2 Cor 4:7-15/Ps 126:1bc-2ab, 2cd-3, 4-5, 6/Mt 20:20-28

Saturday:

Ex 24:3-8/Ps 50:1b-2, 5-6, 14-15/Mt 13:24-30

Next Sunday:

Gn 18:20-32/Ps 138:1-2, 2-3, 6-7, 7-8 (3a)/Col 2:12-14/Lk 11:1-13



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Gospel Meditation

Encourage Deeper Understanding of Scripture

One of my close friends is a hermit priest who lives on a desert mountain. Recently I found myself in a group conversation about him. One vehemently objected, "What does he do up there all day? Nothing! Priests are down here working, running parishes, making a difference, and he... he is doing nothing! What a waste." The words dripped with indignation and resentment. Most of the group quietly nodded in silent agreement. Were they correct?

No! To see why, consider a similar scenario in this week's Gospel. Jesus visits his friends Martha and Mary. A hardworking and exasperated Martha complains to Jesus that her sister is attending to him rather than to urgent household tasks. Our Lord, rather than praising hospitality, explicitly celebrates the less-productive sister for doing the **"one necessary thing."** He praises her for she **"has chosen the better part"** (Luke 10:42). Mary is busy doing what matters.

Before we freak out like Martha, consider that all work — domestic, manual, professional, ministerial, contemplative — is done to help us (sooner or later) to experience the love that makes us happy. We should be thankful for those who focus on the "better part" of radical, ceaseless prayer. They invite us to remember the purpose of all work is the enjoyment of love. Contemplatives, hermits, anyone fervently committed to prayer—they invite us to cast aside our forgetful, resentful, and self-aggrandizing attitudes in exchange for hearts ready to do what is finally necessary.

— Father John Muir

Weekly Prayer

Sunday's Readings

First Reading:

They asked Abraham, "Where is your wife Sarah?"
He replied, "There in the tent."
One of them said, "I will surely return to you about
this time next year,
and Sarah will then have a son." (Gn 18:10)

Psalm:

He who does justice will live in the presence of the Lord. (Ps 15)

Second Reading:

It is Christ in you, the hope for glory.
It is he whom we proclaim. (Col 1:27-28)

Gospel:

The Lord said to her in reply,
"Martha, Martha, you are anxious and worried
about many things.
There is need of only one thing.
Mary has chosen the better part
and it will not be taken from her." (Lk 10:42)

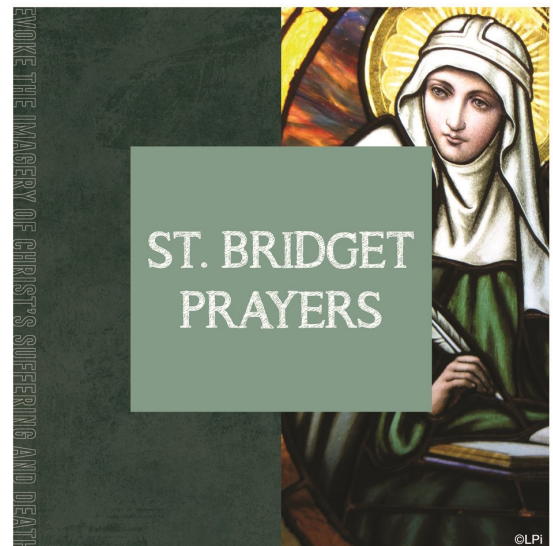
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Live The Liturgy Inspiration of the Week

In life, there are so many "Marthas" — people and situations that distract us from God. But if we imitate Mary and sit calmly at the feet of Jesus, his Word will guard our hearts from the anxiety of the world.

Observances for the week of July 20, 2025

Sunday:	16th Sunday in Ordinary Time
Monday:	St. Lawrence of Brindisi, Priest and Doctor of the Church
Tuesday:	St. Mary Magdalene
Wednesday:	St. Bridget, Religious
Thursday:	St. Sharbel Makhlūf, Priest
Friday:	St. James, Apostle
Saturday:	Sts. Joachim and Anne, Parents of the Blessed Virgin Mary
Next Sunday:	17th Sunday in Ordinary Time



Devotions, *Explained!*

The St. Bridget Prayers evoke the imagery of Christ's suffering and death, plead for the forgiveness of the supplicant's sins, for a happy death, for fear and love of the Lord, and for a renunciation of worldly desires.

Prayer for Focus

Lord, help me to remember what matters and who matters.
And then help me to prioritize
rightly and wisely, with Your
heaven as my guide.
Amen.

(PRACTICING) CATHOLIC

Mini Reflection: Are you anxious about many things? Then you need to be right where Mary is: at the feet of Jesus, with all your burdens.

Martha's Burdens

It's time to admit it: I've been unfair to Mary in the past. Been a little catty about her. *Oooh, Mary, she's so holy.* Well, do you like to eat, Mary? Who made your lunch? Yeah, that's right: it was Martha. Because you know what? It's the Marthas who get things done in the world while the Marys lounge around reading Aquinas and attending silent retreats and going to Eucharistic Adoration whenever they want.

And there you have it, folks: my bitterness on full display! I tend to identify with Martha, not with Mary, and I need to stop doing that.

Because I am not Martha instead of Mary. I am both. We are all both.

Mary was a woman; she was expected to do the serving, too. She shared that burden; she wasn't abandoning it, heaping her portion on Martha. And it's so wrong to assume that Mary didn't have the same cares and anxieties as Martha — perhaps she even had more!

Here's the difference: Mary, unlike Martha (and me, I guess) knew where to go with them.

We typically see our burdens as an impediment to a relationship with Christ. *I'm so busy. I'm so overwhelmed. There are so many demands on me, on my time, on my person, on my finances. Take a number, Jesus. Get in line.* But we're thinking the wrong way. Burdens aren't an obstacle that stands between us and Christ. Burdens are the straightest path to his feet.

God knows about burdens, okay? Aside from being all-wise and all-knowing, he basically completed a doctorate in suffering, taking on a human form (itself kind of a burden, if you think about it) and for 33 years lived among the hardest and heaviest burdens this world has to offer.

Why did he do this? Well, part of the reason was so that we could finally understand that our burdens aren't a barrier between us and God. On the contrary, they connect us to him.

Are you anxious about many things? Then you need to be right where Mary is: at the feet of Jesus, with all your burdens.

— Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman

Why do we do that? Catholic Life Explained

Question:

July 22 is the feast of Mary Magdalene. I've heard a lot of stories about her, but who was she really?

Answer:

Mary Magdalene has been the subject of speculation and scholarship over the last 2,000 years. Mary Magdalene makes her first named appearance in Luke 8:2. She is one of several women following Jesus. Luke specifically mentions that Mary had previously been delivered from demonic possession. Whatever her life looked like before she met Jesus, it wasn't good! Because of this association with being a repentant sinner, Mary Magdalene has been associated with other similar stories in the Gospel, such as the woman caught in adultery or the woman who bathes Jesus' feet with her tears.

Mary Magdalene shows up again by name at the end of the Gospels, when she stands with the Blessed Virgin Mary at the foot of the Cross. Mary is also present in the garden of the resurrection. She is one of the women who goes to bring spices to Jesus' tomb, where they find the stone rolled away. Mary stays in the garden weeping, believing his body has been stolen. Jesus approaches her and calls her by name, and she becomes the first witness to the resurrection! While many of the details of Mary Magdalene's life have been lost to time, she is an example of powerful conversion, deep faith, and intimate love for Christ.

The Lord said to her in reply, "Martha, Martha, you are anxious and worried about many things. There is need of only one thing. Mary has chosen the better part and it will not be taken from her."
- Lk 10:41-42

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

Questions of the Week

Invite Parishioners to Reflect and Respond to Scripture

First Reading:

Abraham's treatment of the three strangers modeled the value of hospitality in the ancient world. What are some ways you show kindness and warmth to others?

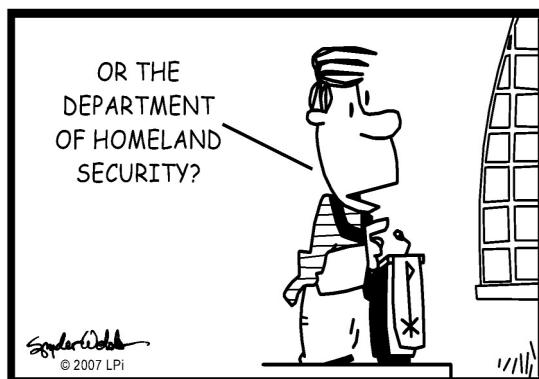
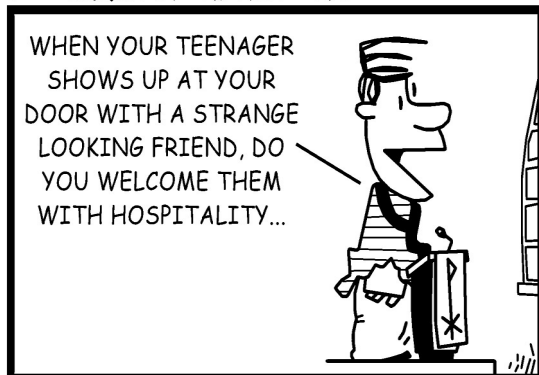
Second Reading:

Paul found reasons to rejoice despite suffering for his faith in Christ and his mission to the Gentiles. How do you find joy and hope in difficult situations?

Gospel:

Jesus teaches Martha that her anxiety and worry can be calmed by listening to his words. How can you be present this week to an anxious friend or co-worker?

16TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME



22 July

St Mary Magdalene



Except for the Mother of Our Lord, few women are more honored in the Bible than St. Mary Magdalene. Referred to as the 'Apostle to the Apostles', she is the woman from whom Our Lord drove out seven demons. She remained with the Lord during His last agony on the cross and, according to St. Mark and St. John, was the first to see Him after the Resurrection.

 Catholic Fortress
facebook.com/thecatholicfortress



**Pursue a lasting love ...
Create hope for the future!**

*Natural Family Planning...supporting God's
gifts of love and life in marriage*

What Does it Mean to Pursue a Lasting Love?

As men and women caught in the responsibilities of daily life, it's easy to lose sight of the fact that we are destined for eternity. The thought that God's love *endures forever* is something difficult for our time-bound selves to comprehend. It's a lofty claim that can be easy to leave on the shelf as an "ideal"—rather than a truth we intentionally integrate into our marriage, here and now.

Because of the consequences of original sin, we do not come into this world knowing how to love as God loves. Instead, we receive and experience God's love for us throughout our lives, even as we learn to model that love in how we treat others. As Pope Francis says:

When a person discovers God, the true treasure, he abandons a selfish lifestyle and seeks to share with others the charity which comes from God. He who becomes a friend of God, loves his brothers and sisters, commits himself to safeguarding their life and their health....
(Pope Francis, Homily, 2014)*

Learning from the Trinity

A key way we can learn more about God's love is by examining the Trinitarian relationship between God the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. The Trinity is three distinct persons united in one Godhead. The inner life of the Trinity is interpersonal, self-giving, and communicative.

As Christians, we are challenged to have faith that is "the confidence of what we hope for and the assurance of what we do not see" (Heb. 11:1). The first step in pursuing a lasting love, with the Trinity as our example,

is the belief that a lasting love is possible—that we truly can and do daily participate in a divine reality that is beyond what can be seen on the surface.

Love is Free, Total, faithful, and Fruitful!

Church teaching maintains that married love must be free, total, faithful, and fruitful. This is exactly how the Trinity loves!

In the Trinity, love is freely given between the three persons. The persons of the Trinity willingly place themselves at the service of their communion. There is no coercion or ulterior motive.

The total gift of each person to the other allows for the one-ness of the Trinitarian relationship.

Secondly, the persons of the Trinity give themselves totally to one another. Though each person of the Trinity retains their unique personhood, they hold nothing back from the participation in Trinitarian love. The total gift of each person to the other allows for the one-ness of the Trinitarian relationship.

Third, Trinitarian love is faithful. The steadfastness of the Trinity is an indispensable part of a love which endures for all eternity. And finally, love is fruitful. The love of the Trinity is life-giving. All of creation, all of mankind, all goodness, all beauty results and flows from the love of the Trinitarian relationship.

The Human Person as Gift

It is only from the foundational understanding of love that we can come to know what a person is. The human person is made by love and for love. St. John Paul II phrases it beautifully in what is known as his personalistic norm. He states that human beings are subjects and not objects. Objects are meant to be used. Subjects are meant to be received as a gift. When we see our spouse and our children as gifts, the way that we relate to them shows just how much we value them.

Our families are especially called to be an icon of Trinity—where our hearts are stretched by loving one another and we are prepared to participate in eternal love. Then, spouses are called in a unique and intimate way to enter into a lasting love through the reception of one another as a gift in the sexual embrace. Spouses are called to open their hearts to God in marital intimacy such that each marital act be oriented towards the openness to life and the good of one another.

Natural Family Planning, an Expression of Love

With this end in mind, it is also important to note that there are times when, for serious reasons, it may not be prudent for a couple to have a child. In keeping with the vision of a lasting love that is free, total, faithful, and fruitful, the Church proposes Natural Family Planning (NFP) as a practical and morally permissible method for married couples to avoid or achieve pregnancy.

According to the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, practicing NFP allows spouses to be responsible parents and at the same time “respect God’s design for life and love.” NFP is based on the natural times of fertility and infertility experienced throughout the course of a woman’s menstrual cycle. In seasons where it may be imprudent for a couple to have a child due to psychological, financial, physical, or other serious reasons, the couple abstains from intercourse during the woman’s fertile time. At the same time, NFP can also be used to achieve pregnancy.

NFP is not contraception because it does nothing to alter or block the body’s natural rhythms of fertility. Instead, NFP relies on scientifically proven methods of tracking a woman’s menstrual cycle so that a couple can make an informed decision guided by faith and reason.

NFP depends on the couples’ free choice to abstain or engage in intercourse based on the good of the spouses and the good of the family as a whole.

When spouses engage their free will to communicate in this way, they are choosing to see each other and future children as gifts and saying yes to a love that is free, total, faithful, and fruitful—answering the call to be an image of lasting Trinitarian love.

Learn More

Visit the US Bishops’ NFP Program at www.usccb.org/nfp.

To learn more about Catholic teaching on marriage, married love and responsible parenthood, see www.usccb.org/topics/natural-family-planning/church-teaching.

Read the US bishop’s document *Married Love and the Gift of Life* at www.usccb.org/resources/Married%20Love%20Final%20Text%20Nov06%20for%20Website%20-%20Copy.pdf

To learn more about NFP see www.usccb.org/topics/naturalfamily-planning/what-natural-family-planning.

Want to learn a method of NFP? Visit www.usccb.org/topics/natural-family-planning/nfp-national-providers.

*Quote from Pope Francis’ homily during Mass on the occasion of the Feast day of St Ann, Patron Saint of Caserta (26 July 2014).

www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/homilies/2014/documents/papa-francesco_20140726_omelia-caserta.html.

Questions?

Write to nfp@usccb.org

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