

THE COMMEMORATION OF ALL THE FAITHFUL DEPARTED

I WILL

NOT REJECT
ANYONE WHO COMES.

— JOHN 6:37 —

©LPI

St. Elizabeth of Hungary/St. Mark

5700 Bear Creek Boulevard, Bear Creek, Pennsylvania 18602

THE COMMEMORATION OF ALL THE FAITHFULLY DEPARTED | NOVEMBER 2, 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



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

Oct 26, 2025

Weekly \$2181.00

Online \$683.00

\$2864.00

Diocesan -\$5.00

TOTAL: \$2859.00

Thank you for your continued generosity.

The Parish Budget is set at \$5000.

Eucharistic Celebration

Saturday, Nov 1, 2025 — Sunday, Nov 9, 2025

Sat, NOV 1

4:00pm (M) Katherine & Patricia A. Kearns
Joan & Lee Potter

6:00pm (E) All Souls Day Intentions

Sun, NOV 2

8:30am (M) All Souls Day Intentions

10:30am (E) Edward Shiner
Dr. Diane Polachek & Family

12:00pm (E) **MASS OF REMEMBRANCE**
For All Deceased Parishioners & Friends

Mon, NOV 3

9:00am (E) Joseph Kearns
Joan & Lee Potter

Tues, NOV 4

9:00am (E) Joe Belmore
Tom & Michaelyn Burns

Wed, NOV 5

9:00am (E) Anthony Donato
Butch & Jeannie Bidwell

Thurs, NOV 6

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

Fri, NOV 7

9:00am (E) **FIRST FRIDAY**
Suzie Chuff
Marie & Joe Burns

Adoration after Mass until 12 Noon

Sat, NOV 8

4:00pm (M) Luis Velasco Soria
Barbara & Will Daskal

6:00pm (E) Vincent DeBeneardinis
Dr. Gary & Benedetta Lawrence

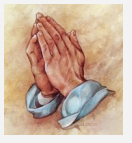
Sun, NOV 9

8:30am (M) Marie Griswold
David & Linda Hamill

10:30am (E) Rose Kindred
Steve & Mer Rish



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



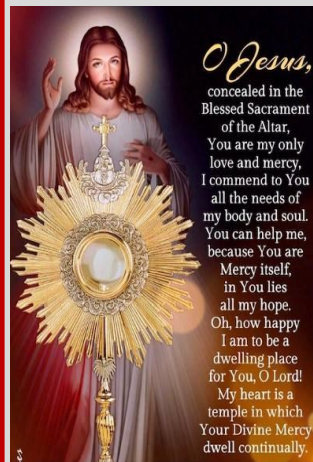
*Noreen Catani Amico, Laurie Ayre,
Lea Furlong, Kevin Gardner,
Bernard Hendrzak, Erin Himes, Jake Johnson,
Joseph Kachurak, Patrick Kildea,
Michael Lilienthal, Mollie Litchman,
Carolyn Palencar, Mary Soos, Byran Stanton,
Verna Stavish, John Tucker,
Rev. Anthony Urban, Gary Walker,
Hank Walker, Loretta Washick*

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



All Saints Day on Nov. 1 is typically observed as a Holy Day of Obligation, requiring the faithful to attend Mass. However, because Nov. 1 falls on a Saturday in 2025, the obligation to attend Mass is abrogated for the faithful in the United States this year. Nevertheless, although not required this year, participation in Mass is encouraged on this great feast honoring all the saints in heaven.

YOU ARE CALLED TO SIT WITH THE LORD



ADORATION of the BLESSED SACRAMENT

**First Friday,
November 7, 2025
immediately
following the
9AM Mass**

All are welcome

"Of all the devotions, that of adoring Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament is the greatest after the sacraments, the dearest to God and the one most helpful to us."

All Souls' Day

Every year on **November 2**, Catholics around the world pause to remember those who have passed away. Known as **All Souls' Day**, this special day isn't just about sadness for our losses—it's a chance to reflect, pray, and celebrate the lives of our loved ones.

A Bit of History

The tradition of praying for the dead goes back to the early Church. From the very beginning, Christians believed in the **communion of saints**, the spiritual bond between the living and the departed. By the 10th–11th century, **St. Odilo of Cluny**, a French abbot, officially established November 2 as a day to pray for all the faithful departed.

All Souls' Day follows **All Saints' Day (November 1)**. While All Saints' Day honors those already in Heaven, All Souls' Day focuses on those still on their journey toward God—those in **Purgatory**. Over time, different countries have added local customs: in Mexico, it blends with the festive, **Día de los Muertos**, while in Europe, people light candles on graves and offer prayers.

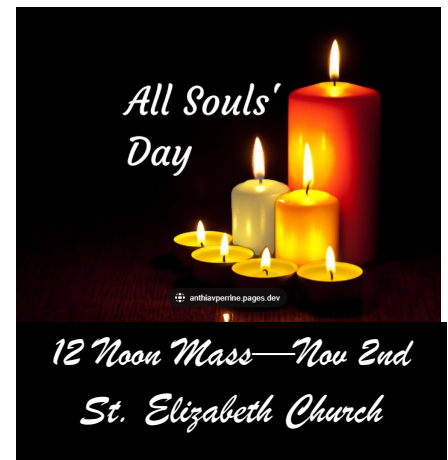
Why It Matters

Catholics believe in the power of **prayer, charity, and Mass** to help souls on their journey to eternal life. All Souls' Day reminds us that death doesn't break the bonds of love—we can still care for those who have gone before us.

How Catholics Celebrate

- **Attending Mass:** Offering the Eucharist for the souls of the departed.
- **Visiting Cemeteries:** Praying, leaving flowers, or lighting candles.
- **Prayers at Home:** Some families create a small altar or light candles for their loved ones.
- **Acts of Charity:** Performing good deeds or offering prayers for the benefit of the deceased.

All Souls' Day is ultimately about **connection, prayer, and remembrance**. It's a day to pause, honor the lives that shaped ours, and trust in God's mercy for those who have passed.



Lighting candles is a symbolic act representing the light of Christ and the hope of resurrection. Please light a candle today in memory of your loved ones.

The following parishioners & friends of our parish who have passed from Nov 1, 2024—October 31, 2025 will be prayed for by name at the Remembrance Mass.

Louis Catina

Mary Grouke

Tyrone Gayeski

Robert Hoban


Edmund Pachucki

Ronald Petro

Luis Velasco

*May the souls of our departed loved ones
find peace and rest in the arms of God.*





The parish of St Elizabeth/St Mark will be hosting a Family Style **Thanksgiving** Dinner (free of charge / good will offering appreciated) on **Thursday Nov27** at 3 PM in the Father Urban Parish Center. All are invited. To prepare adequate amounts of food, we will need to know how many will be attending. We ask that you please call 570-851-0213 or e-mail to indicate your intention and the number in your party. Please include your name, phone number and the number of people that will be attending.

Worship & Meditation

Readings for the week of November 2, 2025

Sunday:

Wis 3:1-9/Ps 23:1-3a, 3b-4, 5, 6/
Rom 5:5-11 or Rom 6:3-9/Jn 6:37-40

Monday:

Rom 11:29-36/Ps 69:30-31, 33-34, 36/
Lk 14:12-14

Tuesday:

Rom 12:5-16b/Ps 131:1bcde, 2, 3/
Lk 14:15-24

Wednesday:

Rom 13:8-10/Ps 112:1b-2, 4-5, 9/
Lk 14:25-33

Thursday:

Rom 14:7-12/Ps 27:1bcde, 4, 13-14/
Lk 15:1-10

Friday:

Rom 15:14-21/Ps 98:1, 2-3ab, 3cd-4/
Lk 16:1-8

Saturday:

Rom 16:3-9, 16, 22-27/Ps 145:2-3, 4-5,
10-11/Lk 16:9-15

Next Sunday:

Ez 47:1-2, 8-9, 12/Ps 46:2-3, 5-6, 8-9/
1 Cor 3:9c-11, 16-17/Jn 2:13-22



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Gospel Meditation

Encourage Deeper Understanding of Scripture

I lost my wallet this year. It was such an annoyance to replace everything in it. A friend, moved by sympathy, gave me a beautiful new one. One month later I lost that one, too, with all my newly replaced cards. No matter what I did, I couldn't find what I had lost. I resigned myself to never seeing either of my wallets again.

Fortunately, the Lord Jesus is not like me in this regard. In today's Gospel (John 6:37-40), he says, **"This is the will of the one who sent me, that I should not lose anything of what he gave me."** Jesus, unlike me, is ever vigilant with what the Father has given him. He searches for every lost soul — as the shepherd leaves the ninety-nine to pursue the one lost sheep, or the woman rejoices upon recovering a lost coin — and even descends to the depths of loss on the cross and into the realm of the dead to recover that which seems forever lost.

On All Souls' Day, as we remember our faithful departed, these words kindle a hope beyond hope in our hearts. Even the dead are not lost to Jesus, though they may seem so to us. Nothing entrusted to him by the Father is ever truly lost. So, we may hope that every soul, no matter how wandering or forgotten in life, is secure in his loving care and destined to be raised on the last day. Of what the Father gives him, he loses nothing.

— *Father John Muir*

Weekly Prayer

Sunday's Readings

First Reading:

Those who trust in him shall understand truth,
and the faithful shall abide with him in love. (Wis 3:9)

Psalm:

The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want. (Ps 23)
OR
Though I walk in the valley of darkness, I fear no evil, for you
are with me.

Second Reading:

But God proves his love for us
in that while we were still sinners Christ died for us. (Rom 5:8)

Gospel:

"For this is the will of my Father,
that everyone who sees the Son and believes in him
may have eternal life,
and I shall raise him on the last day." (Jn 6:40)

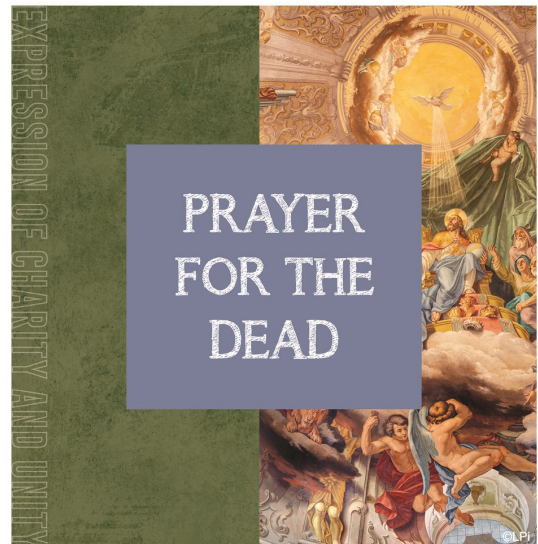
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Live The Liturgy Inspiration of the Week

To live with Christ, we must die with him.
But what does this mean? What does this
look like in the ordinary life of a Christian?
We must ask God for the wisdom to see
our own crosses, so that we may carry
them into the newness of life.

Observances for the week of November 2, 2025

- Sunday:** The Commemoration of All the Faithful Departed (All Souls' Day);
Daylight Savings Time Ends
- Monday:** St. Martin de Porres, Religious
- Tuesday:** St. Charles Borromeo, Bishop; Election Day
- Next Sunday:** The Dedication of the Lateran Basilica



Devotions, *Explained!*

God is not subject to the constrictions of time as we understand them. Our prayers for the dead are, like our prayers for the living, an expression of charity and the unity which exists between all members of the Body of Christ.

Prayer during Loss

O God,
In the midst of my grief, be with me.
Cover this season with Your
comfort and consolation,
help me to know Your presence
and Your grace.
Bring comfort to my affliction,
and hope to my heart.
Amen.

(PRACTICING) CATHOLIC

Mini Reflection: I imagine the hand of God writing me into existence — *she lived, she died* — using for ink the very dirt that fills my grave. The dust from which I was created.

The Semicolon

My grave is in the corner of a cemetery in rural southeastern Wisconsin. For at least a mile in every direction, all you can see is farmland — cows, barns and quiet country roads. It's beautiful, serene. I imagine the hand of God writing me into existence — *she lived, she died* — using for ink the very dirt that fills this grave. The dust from which I was created.

Surrounding my grave are the burial plots of other family members — Rachel, Georgiana, Julian, Josephine. I visit the cemetery to pray for them, knowing they are there, but also not there. And when I visit their graves, I stand on my own. I look out at the tree-lined horizon and the farmland. I think of how, in a thousand years, none of this will be here. But I will be here, God's hand paused against the page, preparing to write the rest of the story not in dirt but in his own blood. For Christ does not lose anything of what the Father has given him.

Not a soul. Not a bone. Not a lock of hair.

She lived, she died; she lived again. No longer is there a period after the words *she died* but instead a semicolon. And the semicolon is the grave, that mystical place where the Blood mixes with the dust of the earth, where life meets death, and then meets life again. And the story continues.

— Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman

Why do we do that?

Catholic Life Explained

Question:

What do Catholics believe about the resurrection of the dead?

Answer:

Every Sunday, we proclaim in the Creed that we believe “in the resurrection of the body.” Does that mean Christ's resurrection or our own? Both! Jesus' resurrection is part of the work of salvation, but it's also a sign of what's to come. While death separates our bodies and our souls, this was not the intention of God when He first created us. It's an effect of original sin. At the end of time, our bodies and our souls will be reunited.

Scientifically, we may have questions about this, since bodies decompose over the course of centuries. Or what about the saints, whose relics are spread around the earth? How the resurrection will happen is a mystery. But we know that our resurrected body will be our body. If we are in heaven, our body will be in a glorified state. Some theologians speculate what this glorification will be like based on Jesus' resurrected body. Will we be able to walk through walls? Will we eat, since Jesus broke bread with his disciples? We don't really know the answers to these questions. We do know, however, that we will be free from the effects of the fall (such as sickness and pain) and physical defects that occurred in life. Christ redeems us as whole persons, body and soul!

"And this is the will of the one who sent me, that I should not lose anything of what he gave me, but that I should raise it on the last day. For this is the will of my Father, that everyone who sees the Son and believes in him may have eternal life, and I shall raise him up on the last day." - Jn 6:39-40

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

Questions of the Week

Invite Parishioners to Reflect and Respond to Scripture

First Reading:

Our wisdom writer speaks of just souls resting peacefully in God's loving hands. Can you think of a more peaceful image of death?

Second Reading:

Paul teaches the Romans that with Jesus' resurrection, "death no longer has any power over him," or us, as believers. Does this belief help you through times of grieving from the loss of a loved one?

Gospel:

Jesus taught the crowds that anyone who believes in him will have eternal life and be raised from the dead on the last day. How do others know you believe in Jesus?

