

THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

HAVE SEEN A GREAT LIGHT.

— MATTHEW 4:16 —

St. Elizabeth of Hungary/St. Mark
5700 Bear Creek Boulevard, Bear Creek, Pennsylvania 18602

THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME | JANUARY 25, 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.

STEWARSHIP

Jan 18, 2026

Weekly	\$1259.00
Online	<u>\$903.00</u>
	\$2162.00
Diocesan	<u>-\$10.00</u>
TOTAL	\$2152.00

Thank you for your continued generosity.

The Parish Budget is set at \$5000.

Eucharistic Celebration

Saturday, January 24, 2026 —Sunday, February 1, 2026

Sat, JAN 24

4:00pm (M) Elizabeth "Betty" Antol
Ann Marie & Harry Ives

6:00pm (E) Glenn Cronauer Sr.
Cronauer Family

Sun, JAN 25

8:30am (M) For the Parishioners
10:30am (E) Carol Pitcavage
Steve & Mer Rish

Mon, JAN 26

9:00am (E) Paul Demuth
Eleanor Morrison

Tues, JAN 27

9:00am (E) John "Jack" Kelly
Eleanor Morrison

Wed, JAN 28

9:00am (E) Elizabeth "Betty" Antol
Cathy Kolodziejksi

Thurs, JAN 29

9:00am (E) NO MASS

Fri, JAN 30

9:00am (E) Elizabeth "Betty" Antol
Pidge Rebar

Sat, JAN 31

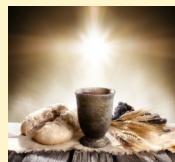
4:00pm (M) Elizabeth "Betty" Antol
Joan Steidle & Family
6:00pm (E) Tyrone Gayeski
Judy Pomento

Sun, FEB 1

8:30am (M) Rose BaizRossi
Charlie & Elaine Moreheard
10:30am (E) Barbara Jasulevicz
Dr. Gary & Benedetta Lawrence

Mass Intentions (\$10.00) are now available for the 2026 year. Please book early to reserve your special dates.

Also, the Sanctuary Candle (\$10.00) and the Bread and Wine (\$20.00) are available at both Churches for your loved one's intentions.



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



Noreen Catani Amico,

Laurie Ayre, Ginny Corcoran, Richard Emmert, Lea Furlong, Kevin Gardner, Bernard Hendrzak, Erin Himes, Jake Johnson, Joseph Kachurak, Patrick Kildea, Michael Lilienthal, Mollie Litchman, 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

FEAST OF THE HOLY SPOUSES

The Congregation of the Oblates of St. Joseph will host their annual Feast of the Holy Spouses on Sunday, January 25th, at 3:00 p.m. in the Chapel of St. Joseph, Route 315, Laflin. Principal celebrant & homilist will be Rev. Timothy Kennedy, Pastor of Holy Ghost Byzantine Catholic Church, Jessup. The Mass fulfills the Sunday obligation. Father Kennedy, married to Angie Kennedy, celebrates Liturgy in both the Byzantine & Latin Rites. A social will immediately follow the Mass. This annual feast, approved by the Vatican in 1989 for the Oblate Congregation to celebrate publicly, honors the spousal roles of the Blessed Virgin Mary & St. Joseph, parents of the Child Jesus. All are welcome to participate.



Father Rawel's Corner 

THE LIGHT THAT UNITES AND SENDS

Today's readings reveal God's saving plan that brings light, unity, and mission of His people. Isaiah announces a dawn for those who live in darkness - God Himself breaks through despair and offers freedom from oppression. This prophecy finds fulfillment in Jesus, the true Light who comes to restore joy and hope to a broken world.

St. Paul calls the divided Corinthians community to unity in Christ. Their quarrels - "I belong to Paul," "I belong to Apollos" - show how human pride can obscure the Gospel. Paul reminds them that faith is not about following personalities but about following Christ crucified. The cross unites all believers; it is the source of our salvation and the heart of Christian communion.

In the Gospel, Jesus begins his ministry in Galilee, proclaiming, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand." He calls ordinary fishers - Simon, Andrew, James, and John - to leave their nets and follow Him. Their prompt response shows that discipleship requires trust and courage. They leave behind their security to become "fishers of men," sharing in Christ mission to bring light and healing to others.

The readings invite us to open our hearts to Christ's light, to overcome division in our families and communities, and follow Jesus more closely in daily life. True disciple means allowing His presence to transform our darkness into light and our fears into faith.

May the Lord Jesus, enlighten our hearts and fill the world with Your light, unite us in Your love, and make us faithful disciples who bring Your light to others.

HAVE A WONDERFUL WEEKEND!



Our sincere thanks to all those that helped, contributed and supported the Pork Dinner on Jan 18, 2026. In total we raised \$1,130 to help with the Parish Finances. Special thanks to our volunteers: Stan & Jean Swaintek, Bene & Gary Lawrence, John & Linda Cognale, Ted Haas, Tom & Sue Kozerski.



Anyone who wishes to have their Year-End- 2025 Tax Statements mailed to them can call the office at 570-472-3061.

Statements will be sent out at the end of January.



Knights of Columbus

Applications for the 2026 Joe Zabala 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.



ST. AL'S COLD CASH BINGO

Corner of Barney & Division Sts.

Wilkes-Barre

Sunday Feb. 1, 2026

\$25.00 in Advance \$30.00 at door

Doors open: 12 Noon

Bingo begins: 1pm

ONLY 250 Tickets will be sold!!!

NATIONAL MARRIAGE WEEK

Swing Dance

Feb
7th

Featuring

LIVE!
SWING FEVER DANCE BAND

Full Big Band
17-Piece & Vocalists

With
DANCE INSTRUCTION FROM PHILIP SPINKA & JILL WETZEL



*MUST BE 18+ TO ATTEND

Saturday, Feb 7th, 2026 * Diocesan Pastoral Center

\$20 in Advance

\$25 at the Door

330 Wyoming Ave, Scranton

To Purchase your Tickets:

Visit dioceseofscranton.org

or call

(570) 207-2213 ext 1133

\$10 - ADVANCE TABLE RESERVATION OPTION
8 Seats/Table

4:00PM - 8:00PM

SWING DANCE INSTRUCTION 4-5PM

OPEN DANCE FROM 5-8PM

BRING YOUR OWN FOOD & DRINK!

DIOCESE OF SCRANTON

OUR CALL TO SERVE
CATHOLIC MINISTRIES APPEAL

Free program at King's College:

The Organ and Catholic Liturgy:

King's College will host a free public lecture on "The Organ and Catholic Liturgy" at the George & Giovita Maffei Family Commons, 29 West North Street, Wilkes-Barre on Monday, February 9, 2026 at 7:00 p.m. The program is sponsored by the Pennsylvania Northeast Chapter of the American Guild of Organists; presenter will be Fr. Michael B. Wurtz, C.S.C., S.L.D., Assistant Professor of Theology at King's College and Secretary of the Society for Catholic Liturgy. A light reception will follow. Come and learn why the Second Vatican Council stated that the pipe organ "is to be held in high esteem." For more information, please contact John Vaida, Dean, at 570-650-6459 or email Raphael Micca, Secretary at: rdmicca@agopane.org



Worship & Meditation

Readings for the week of January 25, 2026

Sunday:

Is 8:23-9:3/Ps 27:1, 4, 13-14/1 Cor 1:10-13, 17/Mt 4:12-23 or 4:12-17

Monday:

2 Tm 1:1-8 or Ti 1:1-5/Ps 96:1-2a, 2b-3, 7-8a, 10, 21-22, 25-26/Mk 3:22-30

Tuesday:

2 Sm 6:12b-15, 17-19/Ps 24:7, 8, 9, 10/ Mk 3:31-35

Wednesday:

2 Sm 7:4-17/Ps 89:4-5, 27-28, 29-30/ Mk 4:1-20

Thursday:

2 Sm 7:18-19, 24-29/Ps 132:1-2, 3-5, 11, 12, 13-14/Mk 4:21-25

Friday:

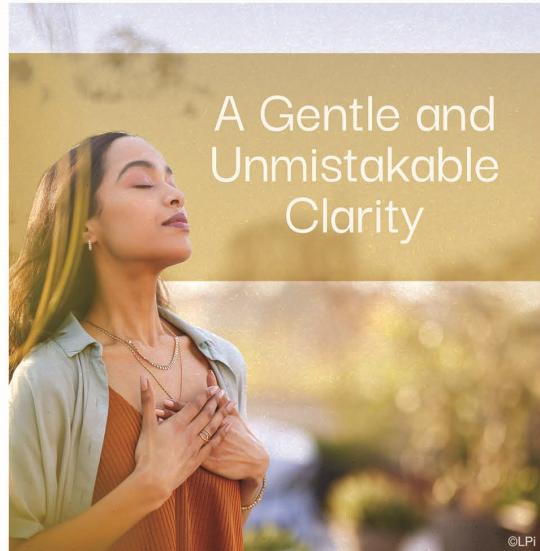
2 Sm 11:1-4a, 5-10a, 13-17/Ps 51:3-4, 5-6a, 6bcd-7, 10-11/Mk 4:26-34

Saturday:

2 Sm 12:1-7a, 10-17/Ps 51:12-13, 14-15, 16-17/Mk 4:35-41

Next Sunday:

Zep 2:3; 3:12-13/Ps 146:6c-7, 8-9a, 9b-10/1 Cor 1:26-31/Mt 5:1-12a



©LPI

Gospel Meditation Encourage Deeper Understanding of Scripture

I was 22 years old, lying in bed one night while on a pilgrimage, when I suddenly sensed an idea in my mind: "Go to the seminary." There was no voice, no vision, but a gentle and unmistakable clarity. I simply prayed, "Lord, if that's from you, let me find great joy in it." Three days later, my heart was bursting with joy. I dropped everything and entered the seminary. The older I get, the stranger my rather careless and hasty departure seems to me. I followed not because it made sense, or because I was especially brave. I went because the Lord called me.

Something like this happens in today's Gospel. Jesus walks by Simon, Andrew, James, and John and says, "**Come after me**" (**Matthew 4:19**). And *immediately* they leave their nets and follow. There's no explanation, no hesitation ... just movement. Why? As St. John says, "**In this is love: not that we have loved God, but that he loved us**" (**1 John 4:10**). They do not leave their nets because his call made perfect, calculable sense. They left them because they were called. And Jesus' call is powerful.

Take a moment this week to remember when Christ first called you. However small or quiet it was, recall it, and give thanks. The more we marvel that Christ has called us personally, the more passionately and freely we will follow him.

— Father John Muir

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Weekly Prayer

Sunday's Readings

First Reading:

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; (Is 9:1)

Psalm:

The Lord is my light and my salvation. (Ps 27)

Second Reading:

I urge you, brothers and sisters, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you agree in what you say, and that you be united in the same mind and in the same purpose. (1 Cor 1:10)

Gospel:

He left Nazareth and went to live in Capernaum by the sea, in the region of Zebulun and Naphtali, that what had been said through Isaiah the prophet might be fulfilled. (Mt 4:13-14)

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Live The Liturgy Inspiration of the Week

Peter and Andrew, James and John — they were not expecting God that day. But there he was, right in front of them, beckoning. God stands before us today, and like the Apostles, we often don't see him coming. But still, he beckons. Will we follow?

Observances for the week of January 25, 2026

Sunday: 3rd Sunday in Ordinary Time;
Celebrate Catholic Schools Week

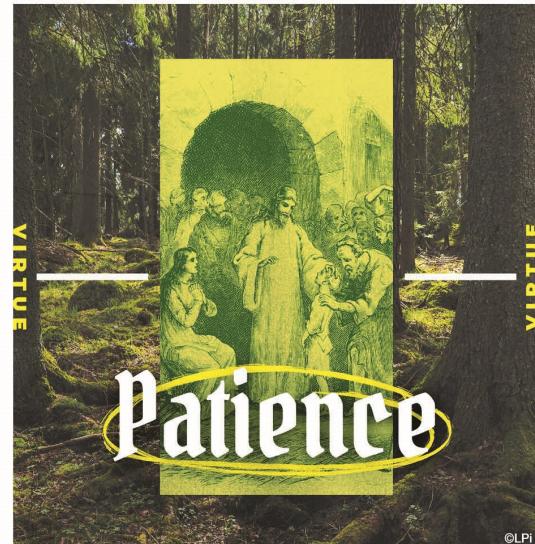
Monday: Sts. Timothy and Titus, Bishops

Tuesday: St. Angela Merici, Virgin

Wednesday: St. Thomas Aquinas, Priest and Doctor of the Church

Saturday: St. John Bosco, Priest

Next Sunday: 4th Sunday in Ordinary Time



Virtues, Explained!

In practicing patience, we bear any kind of suffering for a greater good, safeguard our reason against sorrow, and “look at (other people) with God’s gaze knowing how to distinguish their faces from their faults.”.

Blessing of Light

Where you have known darkness, may the light stretch and shine. Where you have dwelt in shadows, may the sun reach its gentle rays. Where you have hidden in shame, may you know light-filled redemption, healing, belonging, and rest in Jesus. Amen.

(PRACTICING) CATHOLIC

Mini Reflection: Young or old, believer or non-believer, rich or poor: it doesn't matter who we are. It doesn't matter what our life looks like. If we are a human being, if we have a soul, we stand on the shore of a great and powerful sea, a net in our hands and a hunger in our soul.

Sea of Galilee Moments

Young or old, believer or non-believer, rich or poor, healthy or sick: it doesn't matter who we are. It doesn't matter what our life looks like. If we are a human being, if we have a soul, we stand on the shore of a great and powerful sea, a net in our hands and a hunger in our soul.

So what's in the sea? I don't know about yours, but mine is filled with feelings of inadequacy. It's filled with fear and resentment and confusion. It's filled with misplaced pride. It's deep. It's dark. It's well-stocked.

I cast my net, over and over again. What else is there to do? If I draw back a harvest, it can sustain me for days, weeks, maybe even years. The nourishment of the sea can keep away the hunger pangs — for a time. You can survive on fear and resentment and pride if it's all you have. You'll never feel full, and you'll never be strong, but you'll survive on what the world can offer you — so long as you keep coming back to the shore.

This is where Jesus finds us.

If I close my eyes, I can picture the moments exactly, all of them: my Sea of Galilee moments. I could describe them to you — the day, the year, what was happening in my life, what I wanted and what I needed and what gnawing hunger had brought me, once again, limping, crawling back to the shore.

But you wouldn't understand my Sea of Galilee moments, just like I wouldn't understand yours. There is only one who understands, and his is the voice we heard, clear and strong: "Put down the net, and come with me."

— Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman

Why do we do that?

Catholic Life Explained

Question:

If one's gift or talent is making money, and one uses that money for honorable purposes, is it considered a spiritual gift? What does our faith teach us about wealth and stewardship?

Answer:

Jesus said it best: to whom much is given, much is expected. All gifts come from God, and our abilities are given to us to be used for the benefit of ourselves and of others and at the service of the Gospel. In an article entitled "The Many Faces of Stewardship," Catherine Doherty wrote about stewardship in the "nitty-gritty everydayness of my life," and about the currency or "money" of spiritual stewardship: love, understanding, and unselfishness.

For a gift to have a spiritual benefit, our intention and involvement would be part of the consideration. If I give money to a charity, but do so in order to gain a tax advantage, it could hardly be a virtuous thing on my part. But if I give because I want to help and, in fact, am even willing to get involved, I have committed myself in a deeper, more meaningful way. Regardless of our money-making talents, in the end, true stewardship comes down to how well we practice the virtues of faith, hope, and love within our life and with those in our community and church. Ultimately, the most important element in stewardship is not intangible — it's you!

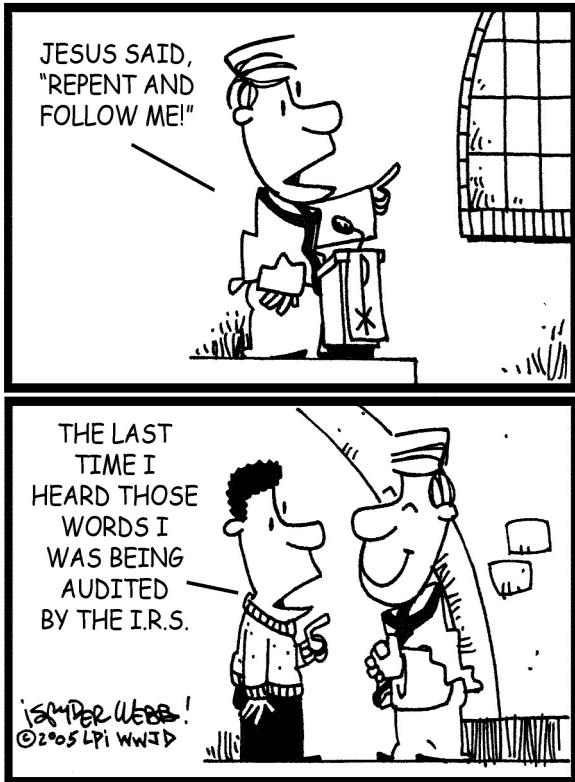
Liturgical Life

On those dwelling in a land overshadowed by death light has arisen. From that time on, Jesus began to preach and say, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand."

- Mt 4:16b-17

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

3rd SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME



Questions of the Week

Invite Parishioners to Reflect and Respond to Scripture

First Reading:

Isaiah prophesies a future reversal of fortune for the people living in the land of Zebulun and Naphtali. Have you ever received an unexpected gift or blessing?

Second Reading:

Paul urges the Corinthians to be united in mind and purpose, and to avoid rivalries. How do you react to conflicts at home or at work?

Gospel:

Matthew tells us that Jesus began his public ministry by calling disciples, healing the sick and preaching the Good News of the Kingdom of Heaven. Have you ever felt a "call to action" to live out your faith?

