

THIRTY-THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

YOUR PERSEVERANCE
WILL SECURE
YOU.

— LUKE 21:19 —



St. Elizabeth of Hungary/St. Mark

5700 Bear Creek Boulevard, Bear Creek, Pennsylvania 18602



©LPI

THIRTY-THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME | NOVEMBER 16, 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
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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

Nov 9, 2025

Weekly \$1988.00

Online \$783.00

\$2771.00

Diocesan -\$20.00

TOTAL \$2751.00

Thank you for your continued generosity.

The Parish Budget is set at \$5000.

Eucharistic Celebration

Saturday, Nov 15, 2025 — Sunday, Nov 23, 2025

Sat, NOV 15

4:00pm (M) Kevin Kakareka
Sandy Czczyk

6:00pm (E) George Hutchins
Dr. Gary & Benedetta Lawrence

Sun, NOV 16

8:30am (M) Florence Morehead Keshaw
Charlie & Elaine Morehead

10:30am (E) Davin M. Soda
Theodore & Diane Haas

Mon, NOV 17 **ST. ELIZABETH'S FEAST DAY**

9:00am (E) For the Parishioners

Tues, NOV 18

9:00am (E) John McAndrew
Eleanor Morrison

Wed, NOV 19

9:00am (E) Joan Auray
Linda Lindner

Thurs, NOV 20

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

Fri, NOV 21

9:00am (E) For the Souls in Purgatory

Sat, NOV 22

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

6:00pm (E) Robert E. Delescavage
Joseph & Marcia Boris

Sun, NOV 23

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

10:30am (E) Michael Stanley Barbeau Sr.
Theodore & Diane Haas

IMPORTANT CLARIFICATION

Because some questions and concerns have been raised regarding recent fund raisers, the following is noted.

TO BE CLEAR

1. St. Elizabeth's Way is an outreach organization within St. Elizabeth's Church, which helps needy families in and about our community. All monies raised from St. Elizabeth's Way, including the recent Pasta Dinner, stays with that organization to fund their operational needs.
2. There was a typographical error on the 2025 Festival Report. The net income was **\$11,148.11**. Of that money, **\$10,000** was given to our parish.

Hope the above information helps to clarify any confusion.

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

*Noreen Catani Amico, Laurie Ayre,
Richard Emmert, Lea Furlong, Kevin Gardner,
Bernard Hendrzak, Erin Himes, Jake Johnson,
Joseph Kachurak, Patrick Kildea,
Michael Lilienthal, Mollie Litchman,
Carolyn Palencar, Jessica Lawrence Rorke,
Donald Scharf, 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

Please be generous in this week's special collection for the Catholic Campaign for Human Development. In the United States, over 11% of the population lives in poverty. Through this collection, you will support programs that address the root and causes of poverty and provide a sustainable future for those struggling across the country. In addition, 25% of the funds we collect remain in our diocese to fund local antipoverty projects. Please prayerfully consider how you can support this collection and those working on the margins. More information about the Catholic Campaign for Human Development at **www.usccb.org/cchd**

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

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



Father Rawel's



JESUS, THE PROPHET

One of the most despised characters in the history of the church was Julian the Apostate. He became emperor of Rome in the year 360. Although baptized and trained a Christian, he turned completely against Christ and his followers: he sacrificed to pagan god's, turned many churches into pagan temples, restricted Christian teaching, and waged a war of words and cruelty against everything Christian.

He even tried to prove wrong the prophecy of Christ; we just read regarding the temple in Jerusalem: "the days will come when there shall not be left here one stone upon another that will not be thrown down." This happened in the year 70. Julian ordered the rebuilding of the sacred structure, but when they tried to lay a new foundation, according to the pagan historian, "fearful of fire balls burst forth from the earth close to the foundation, scorched the workmen, and made it impossible to get near the place."

These facts from history bring out a truth too much forgotten, namely, that Jesus made predictions which came true. We hear a lot about prophecies regarding Christ in the Old Testament but too little about the prophecies our Lord Himself made. Here are some of them:

Jesus predicted his sufferings, death, resurrection, ascension, and the coming of the Holy Spirit. His words were conducted to the smallest detail. He foretold the betrayal of Judas, the denial of Peter and desertion by His disciples.

Jesus predicted the historic events that no human mind could foresee, like the destruction of Jerusalem. This was more unusual since it was the regular practice of the Romans to preserve conquered cities intact. Jesus foretold that His church would grow and spread throughout the world, and that the persecution would never overthrow it. Two thousand years of history have proven His words true.

Since all the prophecies of Christ have come true, we can be sure that His prophecy in today's Gospel will also come true, namely, that this world will come and end. Elsewhere, He predicted that there would be a judgement and how it would be conducted.

"He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and His kingdom will have no end."

Right here and right now Christ will keep His most precious promise: "I will give you my flesh to eat and my blood to drink." As we receive Him in Holy Communion tell our Lord that you believe every word He ever spoke. God bless us.

HAVE A BLESSED WEEKEND!



The St. Elizabeth/ St. Mark's
Knights of Columbus will meet
on **Wednesday**, 11/19/2025 at
6:00 P.M. at the Father Urban

CCD Center. Any men interested in joining, and
all current members, are invited to attend.

Holy Redeemer High School Musical *Spongebob Square Pants the Musical*

Friday, Nov 21 and Saturday, Nov 22, 2025

7:00 p.m.

Adults: \$10 ~ Seniors \$9 ~ Students \$8

ALL ARE WELCOME!!



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 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.

**THE INCREDIBLE HOLINESS OF SAINT ELIZABETH
OF HUNGARY-**

**THE ROYAL PRINCESS WHO CHOSE THE POOR
OVER HER CROWN**

**SAINT ELIZABETH
OF HUNGARY**
Pray For Us

NOVEMBER 17



Worship & Meditation

Readings for the week of November 16, 2025

Sunday:

Mal 3:19-20a/Ps 98:5-6, 7-8, 9 (see 9)/
2 Thes 3:7-12/Lk 21:5-19

Monday:

1 Mc 1:10-15, 41-43, 54-57, 62-63/Ps
119:53, 61, 134, 150, 155, 158/Lk 18:35-43

Tuesday:

2 Mc 6:18-31/Ps 3:2-3, 4-5, 6-7/Lk 19:1-10

Wednesday:

2 Mc 7:1, 20-31/Ps 17:1bcd, 5-6, 8b and
15/Lk 19:11-28

Thursday:

1 Mc 2:15-29/Ps 50:1b-2, 5-6, 14-15/
Lk 19:41-44

Friday:

1 Mc 4:36-37, 52-59/1 Chr 29:10bcd,
11abc, 11d-12a, 12bcd/Lk 19:45-48

Saturday:

1 Mc 6:1-13/Ps 9:2-3, 4 and 6, 16 and 19/
Lk 20:27-40

Next Sunday:

2 Sm 5:1-3/Ps 122:1-2, 3-4, 4-5 (see 1)/
Col 1:12-20/Lk 23:35-43



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Gospel Meditation

Encourage Deeper Understanding of Scripture

When I was a kid growing up in New England, I'd occasionally go on a whale watch. Once we went out with calm waters and clear skies. But on the way back in, the sea got rough. I was just a kid, and I remember thinking we should turn left or right toward the shoreline I could see. But the pilot of the boat kept going straight — right into the waves — focused on a small, discouragingly distant lighthouse. Even when it flickered in and out of sight, he stayed the course. He knew where he was going.

That image comes to mind when I hear Jesus' words in today's Gospel regarding false messiahs: **"Do not follow them" (Luke 21:8)**. In times of chaos or uncertainty, there are always voices offering easier routes, promising false safety, claiming to speak for God. But Jesus isn't found in the loudest voice or the nearest shoreline. He is steady, like a lighthouse in the storm.

The tribulation of which Jesus speaks — it's real. It happened to the Temple, it happened to him, it happens in the Church, and it will come to each of us. But the command is not to panic. It's to endure. To keep steering toward him. Faith isn't about having all the answers or dodging every wave. It's about knowing where the lighthouse is — and trusting it enough to keep going, especially when false safety beckons us to stop.

— *Father John Muir*

Weekly Prayer

Sunday's Readings

First Reading:

But for you who fear my name, there will arise
the sun of justice with its healing rays. (Mal 3:20)

Psalm:

The Lord comes to rule the earth with justice. (Ps 98)

Second Reading:

Rather, we wanted to present ourselves as a model for you,
so that you might imitate us. (2 Thes 3:9)

Gospel:

"You will be hated by all because of my name,
but not a hair on your head will be destroyed.
By your perseverance you will secure your lives." (Lk 21:17-19)

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Live The Liturgy Inspiration of the Week

Jesus' words today are filled with fire
and brimstone, vivid with images of pain,
suffering, confusion — and, ultimately,
peace. Do we believe what he promises?
Do we have the endurance to stay with
him until the end?

Observances for the week of November 16, 2025

- Sunday:** 33rd Sunday in Ordinary Time
Monday: St. Elizabeth of Hungary, Religious
Tuesday: The Dedication of the Basilicas of Sts. Peter
and Paul, Apostles; St. Rose Philippine
Duchesne, Virgin
Friday: The Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary
Saturday: St. Cecilia, Virgin and Martyr
Next Sunday: Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe



Devotions, *Explained!*

An Advent Wreath consists of
a circle of evergreen and four
candles, one for each week of
Advent. Three of the candles are
purple; one is rose, representing
Gaudete Sunday, a time of
rejoicing at the closeness of
Christmas.

Prayer in Season of Trust

O Lord,
Be with me now, I feel so alone.
Bring Your blessings to me, like
the light of a candle in darkness.
Wrap me in Your mercy,
give me strength to face every
hardship.
Amen.

(PRACTICING) CATHOLIC

Mini Reflection: Love and hate. Hope and fear. Death and life. What lasts forever, and what is even now passing away before our eyes. To be human is to know that these feelings, these realities, can and often do occur at the same time. To be Christian is to know that it means something.

Two Things Can Be True At Once

As my husband and I drove our firstborn child home from the hospital, I sat alongside my daughter in the backseat. Terrified, exhausted, exhilarated, confused, hopeful — I was all of these things at the same time. I gazed at her, this magnificent little creature whose face was both familiar and strange to me, thinking: *She is exquisite. She is the future. She is life.*

And then I burst into uncontrollable sobs.

"What's wrong?" my husband cried, panicked, glancing in the rearview mirror.

"She's — going — to — die — someday," I blubbered, choking on my own tears.

"Ohhh, honey." I'll never forget the tone of his voice as he clearly debated turning this car around and taking me back to the hospital for an emergency psych evaluation. "I think you might be tired."

Ten years later, it's a memory we laugh about. I hadn't slept more than four hours in four days. Postpartum hormones had lain waste to my senses. Here, on the threshold of new life, all I could think of was death. It's funny. It's absurd.

But it also makes a lot of sense.

Love and hate. Hope and fear. Joy and sorrow. Death and life. What lasts forever, and what is even now passing away before our eyes. To be human is to know that these feelings, these realities, can and often do occur at the same time. To be Christian is to know that it means something — even if we cannot understand what. Not yet.

In every moment of his earthly life, Christ shows us that two things can be true at once. A virgin is a mother. An exile is a king. The temple will be destroyed, and it will last forever. The world is ending. The world is beginning. The cross is death. The cross is life.

— Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman

Why do we do that? Catholic Life Explained

Question:

Why do Catholics call priests Father?

Answer:

One of the common objections evangelical Christians have to Catholics is our practice of calling priests by the title Father. They will often cite a passage in Matthew's Gospel in which Jesus tells his followers: "Call no one on earth your father; you have but one Father in heaven" (23:19). It seems pretty straightforward, but when we put this verse in context, we see that Jesus is speaking out against religious leaders who had forgotten what their proper role was and who were bad examples through their own hypocrisy and elitist attitudes.

In other Gospels, we find Jesus himself using the title father for different characters, such as in the Parable of Lazarus and the Rich Man (Luke 16:19-31) and the Parable of the Prodigal Son (Luke 15:11-32). If we put the verse from Matthew into the full scope of Jesus' teachings, he isn't saying that we can't use words like "father," "rabbi," or "master." Rather, he is telling us that we should be mindful of the full meaning of those titles and not to misuse them.

To call a priest "Father" is more than a sign of respect for the office of the priesthood. It goes all the way back to the way St. Paul understood his own work as a missionary and evangelizer. Paul wrote, "I am writing you in this way not to shame you but to admonish you as my beloved children ... It was I who begot you in Christ Jesus through my preaching of the Gospel. I beg you, then, be imitators of me. This is why I have sent you Timothy, my beloved and faithful son in the Lord" (1 Corinthians 4:14-17).

Yes, we have God alone as our heavenly Father, but there are also those here with us who nurture and nourish our faith through their teaching and care. This is why the title of Father has been applied to the church's pastors in different ways since the earliest days of the Church, including monks and nuns using the title "abbot" and "abbess" (from abba) for their spiritual leaders and Christians around the world recognizing the "Holy Father" or "pope" (from papa) as the head of the family that is the Church. The title Father is a reminder that priests have a special responsibility to care for, protect, feed, listen to, and nourish those who have been entrusted to them, all after the example of our Father in heaven who never ceases to give us what we truly need.

“It will lead to your giving testimony. Remember, you are not to prepare your defense beforehand, for I myself shall give you a wisdom in speaking that all your adversaries will be powerless to resist or refute.” - Lk 21:13-15

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

Questions of the Week

Invite Parishioners to Reflect and Respond to Scripture

First Reading:

The prophet Malachi tells us that those who “fear” the Lord will be spared at God’s coming judgment. What does it mean to “fear the Lord”?

Second Reading:

Paul gave the Thessalonians some very practical advice: work quietly and eat your own food! Are you open to taking advice from a loved one?

Gospel:

Jesus forewarned his followers that they will be persecuted for their faith in him, even with relatives and friends. How do you support friends and co-workers who are fellow believers?

