

St. Elizabeth of Hungary/St. Mark

5700 Bear Creek Boulevard, Bear Creek, Pennsylvania 18602



• 12TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME •

**DO NOT BE
AFRAID.**

©LPI

TWELFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME | June 21, 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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Office Secretary
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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

June 14, 2026

Weekly	\$2118.00
Online	<u>\$828.00</u>
	\$2946.00
Diocesan	<u>\$.00</u>
TOTAL	\$2946.00

Thank you for your continued generosity.

Eucharistic Celebration

SATURDAY, JUNE 20

4:00pm (M) For All Fathers

6:00pm (E) For All Fathers

SUNDAY, JUNE 21 **FATHER'S DAY**

8:30am (M) For All Fathers

10:30am (E) For All Fathers

MONDAY, JUNE 22

9:00am (E) Angelo Talarico Jr. *Req. by Carlson Family*

TUESDAY, JUNE 23

9:00am (E) Ann Pehanik *Req. by Eleanor Morrison*

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 24

9:00am (E) Robert R. Bates *Req. by Paul Lukasiewicz*

THURSDAY, JUNE 25

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

FRIDAY, JUNE 26

9:00am (E) Father's Day Intentions

SATURDAY, JUNE 27

4:00pm (M) Dolores Revit *Req. by Kathy & Steve Rector*

6:00pm (E) Sylvia Esjornson *Req. by Dr. Gary & Benedetta Lawrence*

SUNDAY, JUNE 28

8:30am (M) Joseph Bruckner *Req. by Rita Thomas*

10:30am (E) Richard Emmert *Req. by Dr. Gary & Benedetta Lawrence*



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



Noreen Catani Amico, Patricia Cronauer, Bobby Everett, Kelly Fry, Lea Furlong, James Geremia, Bernard Hendrzak, Erin Himes, Jake Johnson, Patrick Kildea, Michael Lilienthal, Mollie Litchman, Amber Moyer, Carolyn Palencar, Donald Scharf, Mary Soos, Byran Stanton, Verna Stavish, Milo Grunza, Rick Thomas, John Tucker, Rev. Anthony Urban, Hank Walker, Loretta Washick

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

Prayer for Father's Day

Dear Lord, we thank You for the gift of Fathers and their loving presence in our lives. Bless them with Your grace and wisdom as they lead their families with integrity and love. Strengthen them in their daily challenges and fill their hearts with joy. For fathers who are struggling, provide them with hope and encouragement. We also remember those who have lost their fathers; may Your peace comfort them. Respond with Amen and share this prayer with more.



The Sanctuary Candles at both Churches are burning in honor and memory of all fathers, living and deceased.

St. Elizabeth/St. Mark Community Parish



July 11, 2026 Noon-7PM



Festival baskets will be at St Elizabeth's from June 20 till July 11. Basket donations will be accepted up until July 6.



**Father Rawel's
Corner**



**"COURAGE MAKES US THE
TRUE DISCIPLES OF JESUS"**

Today's readings calls us to be people of courage and faithfulness. Jesus urges His disciples to proclaim what they have been thought to the people.

The words "do not be afraid" come three times in the Gospel. When disciples preached the Gospel to the people, they were persecuted and killed. It is in this context Jesus teaches them not to be afraid of people who can only kill the body. The reason behind the teaching is that body is not permanent and it is perishable.

Jesus further adds that we should only be afraid of God, who alone has authority and power over our body and soul. Sin entered the world through Adam's sin. As a result, humans were cut off from the love and grace of God. But through Jesus, the only son of God, we were redeemed from our sins and again became the children of God.

Hence, Jesus delivered us from evil by laying down His life for us and gave us the mandate to continue the mission which Jesus has begun. Therefore, as disciples of Jesus, we are obliged to preach the Gospel values to the whole world.

When we work for the reign of God, we will be surely threatened by the people who are against the kingdom values. But we should keep in mind that we have eternal life in Christ Jesus. Therefore, let us not be afraid of laying down our lives for the reign of God.

May the Lord give us the courage to withstand the challenges and sufferings to toil for an egalitarian society. AMEN!!!

HAVE A GREAT AND CHEERFUL SUNDAY!!!!



**2026 ST. LEO the
GREAT
PARISH SUMMER
FESTIVAL**
33 Manhattan St.
Ashley

Friday, June 26 (6 - 11 p.m.) &
Saturday, June 27 (5 - 10 p.m.)

**Live Bands, Homemade Food, Games
and Air Conditioned Bingo.**



**Divine Mercy
PARISH
PICNIC 2026**

FRIDAY, SATURDAY, SUNDAY
★ JUNE 19 - 20 - 21 ★
5:00PM to 10:00PM

DELICIOUS FOOD **CHILDREN'S GAMES** **BAKE SALE** **THEME BASKETS** **BAR** **BIG 6 WHEEL** **BINGO**

★ DON'T MISS OUR DELICIOUS POTATO PANCAKES! ★

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT ★ <i>Friday</i> ★ BY BROADWAY ON THE BOULEVARD — AND — FLAXY MORGAN	LIVE ENTERTAINMENT ★ <i>Saturday</i> ★ BY VELEZ STUDIO OF DANCE — AND — THE IMPASTAS	LIVE ENTERTAINMENT ★ <i>Sunday</i> ★ BY STRANGERS
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📍 312 Davis St., Scranton PA 18505 ☎ 570-344-1724

OUTDOOR MASS *will be held*
SUNDAY, JUNE 21 at 4:00PM

**CONCERT FOR 250TH
ANNIVERSARY OF THE UNITED
STATES OF AMERICA**

On Monday, June 29 at 7:00 PM, St. John the Evangelist Church, 35 William Street in Pittston, will host an Independence Day Concert in celebration of the 250th Anniversary of the founding of the United States of America. A combined choir with friends from the surrounding area will lead us in song. We will also welcome the choir of Holy Rosary School in Duryea, who will perform during the program. Guest instrumentalists for this year's concert will include a brass quartet (Dale Chase, Dan Coyle, Chuck Smith, and Geoff Speicher), flutist Cindy Thomas, and percussionist Monica Spishock. The program will also feature other instrumental selections. A free-will offering will be accepted.

Worship & Meditation

Readings for the week of June 21, 2026

Sunday:

Jer 20:10-13/Ps 69:8-10, 14 and 17, 33-35/
Rom 5:12-15/Mt 10:26-33

Monday:

2 Kgs 17:5-8, 13-15a, 18/Ps 60:3, 4-5, 12-13/Mt 7:1-5

Tuesday:

2 Kgs 19:9b-11, 14-21, 31-35a, 36/
Ps 48:2-3ab, 3cd-4, 10-11/Mt 7:6, 12-14

Wednesday:

Vigil: Jer 1:4-10/Ps 71:1-2, 3-4a, 5-6ab,
15ab and 17/1 Pt 1:8-12/Lk 1:5-17

Day: Is 49:1-6/Ps 139:1b-3, 13-14ab,
14c-15/Acts 13:22-26/Lk 1:57-66, 80

Thursday:

2 Kgs 24:8-17/ Ps 79:1b-2, 3-5, 8, 9/
Mt 7:21-29

Friday:

2 Kgs 25:1-12/ Ps 137:1-2, 3, 4-5, 6/
Mt 8:1-4

Saturday:

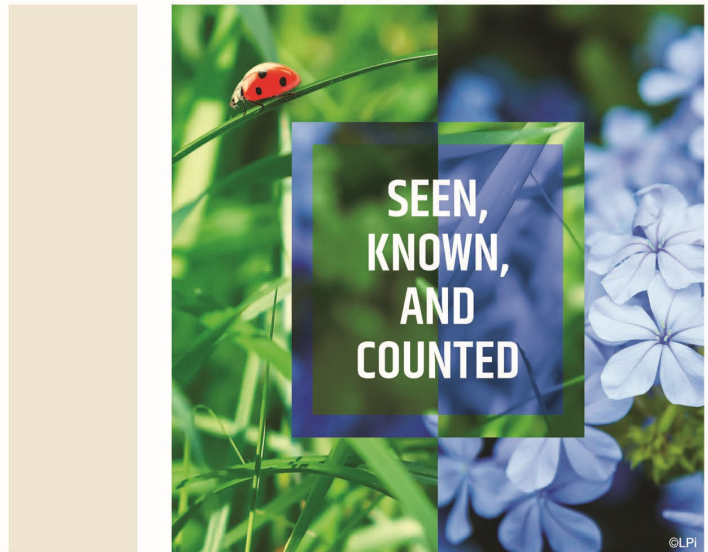
Lam 2:2, 10-14, 18-19/ Ps 74:1b-2, 3-5, 6-7,
20-21/Mt 8:5-17

Next Sunday:

2 Kgs 4:8-11, 14-16a/Ps 89:2-3, 16-17, 18-19/Rom 6:3-4, 8-11/Mt 10:37-42)



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Gospel Meditation

Encourage Deeper Understanding of Scripture

Jean Améry, a Holocaust survivor tortured by the Nazis, later wrote about the abyss of human evil. He described his reaction as an “indignant despair.” Haven’t we all, to some degree, felt that abyss opened beneath us? A sudden loss, a violent headline, a moment of loneliness or panic, when the world feels fragile and meaning seems to collapse?

It is to this fear that Jesus speaks in today’s Gospel: “**Do not be afraid of those who can kill the body.**” (Matthew 10:28) He does not deny evil or pretend we will never suffer. Instead, He reframes the abyss: do not fear those who can kill the body but cannot kill the soul. Your life is seen, known, and counted by the Father. Even the hairs of your head, even the sparrow’s fall.

This is no superficial comfort. Jesus himself has entered the abyss: suffering, death, even our sense of forsakenness, and he has come through it. That is why his words, “Do not be afraid,” hold such weight. They do not erase the abyss but build a bridge across it.

Faith is not pretending everything is fine. It is staring into the abyss and still choosing trust. And in that trust, we discover we are never alone. Christ stands with us, and the Father’s care surrounds us. That is the only comfort deep enough for our (often fearful) hearts.

— *Father John Muir*

Weekly Prayer

Sunday's Readings

First Reading:

"Sing to the LORD,
praise the LORD,
for he has rescued the life of the poor
from the power of the wicked!" (Jer 20:13)

Psalm:

Lord, in your great love, answer me. (Ps 69)

Second Reading:

But the gift is not like the transgression.
For if by the transgression of the one the many died,
how much more did the grace of God
and the gracious gift of the one man Jesus Christ
overflow for the many. (Rom 5:15)

Gospel:

"What I say to you in the darkness, speak in the light;
what you hear whispered, proclaim on the housetops."
(Mt 10:27)

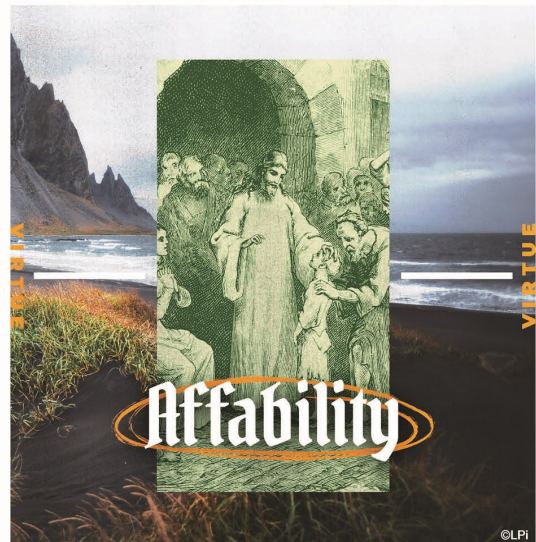
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Live The Liturgy Inspiration of the Week

"What I say to you in the darkness, speak in the light." We all hear God's voice whispering in our hearts. Discipleship means speaking those words out loud. We all feel the Spirit sing into our souls. Discipleship means that we dance to the tune.

Observances for the week of June 21, 2026

- Sunday:** 12th Sunday in Ordinary Time; *Father's Day*
Monday: St. Paulinus of Nola, Bishop; Sts. John Fisher, Bishop, and Thomas More, Martyrs
Wednesday: The Nativity of St. John the Baptist
Saturday: St. Cyril of Alexandria, Bishop and Doctor of the Church
Next Sunday: 13th Sunday in Ordinary Time



Virtues, Explained!

In being affable, we make ourselves friendly, approachable, and agreeable to those around us, regardless of how they make us feel. "How good and how pleasant it is when brothers dwell together as one," writes King David in Psalm 133.

Blessing for Juneteenth

Dear Lord,
Pour Your goodness and grace
upon our brothers and sisters.
Even as we celebrate our
triumphs, be with us in today's
work that strives to bring justice
to the oppressed and liberty to
captives. Write Your message of
freedom in our hearts, so that we
might live more deeply healed.
Amen.

(PRACTICING) CATHOLIC

Mini Reflection: I make my living writing for Catholic publications. My readers are bound to agree with me — they're usually reading my words in a church. But in my personal life, I am far less bold. I do not fear those who can kill my body, but I do fear those who can kill my reputation.

Fear No One

In the 1883 painting "Mass in a Connemara Cabin," a small congregation of shabbily dressed faithful is huddled together in a sparsely appointed room. A priest extends his hand over them in blessing. One woman presses her forehead to the ground in prayer.

This painting, created in 1883 by Aloysius O'Kelley, depicts a "station Mass," offered for the community in a private home. Though this practice originated in the period of the Penal Laws, when Catholic worship was illegal in Ireland, it persisted even after the "emancipation" of Catholics in the 19th century.

I have used quotation marks around the word "emancipation" because we must never forget that just because something is made legal does not mean it is made popular. And it certainly is not made safe.

In the moments that pass immediately after this scene concludes, the altar candles will be extinguished and the faithful will disperse, carrying the Body and Blood of Christ into a world suspicious of him, suspicious of them.

And yet here they are, kneeling. Foreheads pressed to the floor.

This painting sits on my family's prayer table as a call to reflection. I make my living writing Catholic things for Catholic publications. The people who read what I write are bound to agree with me — they're usually reading my words in a church. I must confess that in my personal life, I am far less bold. I fear controversy. I dread giving offense. I buckle beneath the weight of discipleship.

It doesn't matter that most Americans identify as "Christians" — the world we face when we leave Mass is every bit as resentful of true Catholic teaching as the world that lies beyond O'Kelley's Connemara cottage. And while I do not fear those who can kill my body, I do fear those who can kill my reputation.

"Mass in a Connemara Cabin" illustrates how my ancestors worshiped: in secret, in shadow.

I worship in the daylight.

Which of us acknowledges Christ more fully? More courageously?

— Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman

Why do we do that?

Catholic Life Explained

Question:

Why are only men allowed to be priests or deacons in the Church?

Answer:

One of the most debated and — in some circles — contentious teachings of the Church is that only men can be ordained as priests and deacons. Critics see it as a way of strengthening a patriarchal system in which women have little or no voice. Those who support this teaching look to New Testament teaching (where we read of Jesus choosing only men to be apostles) and the long-standing practice of the Church. This was certainly the perspective of St. John Paul II who, in his 1994 apostolic letter, *Ordinatio Sacerdotalis*, closed the discussion on the possibility of ordaining women as priests.

In the letter, he reflected on the dignity of women and their call to share in the life and mission of the Church, but he concluded by solemnly declaring that "the Church has no authority whatsoever to confer priestly ordination on women and that this judgement is to be definitely held by all the Church's faithful" (no. 4).

This position has been upheld by Pope Francis in interviews, most notably as he returned from his 2016 visit to Sweden.

The ordination of women to the diaconate is another question and one which is being studied. In 2016, Pope Francis created a 12-member commission to study the question from several perspectives (theological, liturgical, historical, etc.). The commission issued an initial report for Pope Francis who later said that the commission had not yet produced a "definite response" to the question because of a lack of agreement on the role of female deacons in the Early Church.

For now, however, regardless of what changes might come from ongoing study and debate, the Church continues to reserve ordination to the diaconate to men only, recognizing a vital link between the diaconate and the priesthood and the lack of certainty about the presence and function of female deacons throughout history.

“So do not be afraid;
you are worth more
than many sparrows.
Everyone who
acknowledges me before
others I will acknowledge
before my heavenly
Father. But whoever
denies me before others,
I will deny before my
heavenly Father.”
- Mt 10:31-33

Excerpts from the Lectionary for
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Questions of the Week

Invite Parishioners to Reflect and Respond to Scripture

First Reading:

Jeremiah trusts in the Lord despite his fear of being attacked and persecuted. Can you think of a time when you had to totally trust in God?

Second Reading:

Paul compares and contrasts the impact of Adam and Christ on our lives. Who would you say has made the biggest impact on your life so far?

Gospel:

Jesus warns his disciples against spiritual forces that seek to destroy both the body and the soul. Where do you see malevolent spiritual forces at work in our world?

