

St. Elizabeth of Hungary/St. Mark

5700 Bear Creek Boulevard, Bear Creek, Pennsylvania 18602



• 20TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME •

**GREAT IS
YOUR FAITH!**

©LPI

TWENTIETH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME | August 16, 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.

STEWARDSHIP

August 9, 2026

Weekly	\$2964.00
Online	<u>\$518.00</u>
	\$3482.00
Diocesan	- <u>\$10.00</u>
TOTAL	\$3472.00

Thank you for your continued generosity.

Eucharistic Celebration

SATURDAY, AUG 15

4:00pm (M) George & Irene Cooney *Req. by Kathy & Steve Rector*
6:00pm (E) Dr. Virginia "Ginny" Corcoran *Req. by Steve & Mer Rish*

SUNDAY, AUG 16

8:30am (M) For the Parishioners
10:30am (E) John Stavish *Req. by Verna Stavish*

MONDAY, AUG 17

9:00am (E) Elizabeth A. Fritchey *Req. by The Ripley Family*

TUESDAY, AUG 18

9:00am (E) Zoe Ann Kanavy *Req. by Tom & Marilou Sadowski*

WEDNESDAY, AUG 19

9:00am (E) Richard Dikant

THURSDAY, AUG 20

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

FRIDAY, AUG 21

9:00am (E) Kristen Von Ahnen *Req. by Magnus Emory*

SATURDAY, AUG 22

4:00pm (M) Joseph Howley *Req. by Helen Howley*
6:00pm (E) Joseph Petcavage *Req. by Mary Ellen Petcavage*

SUNDAY, AUG 23

8:30am (M) For the Parishioners
10:30am (E) For the Souls in Purgatory



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



Noreen Catani Amico, Patricia Cronauer, Bobby Everett, Terry Franklin, Kelly Fry, Lea Furlong, James Geremia, Bernard Hendrzak, Erin Himes, Jake Johnson, Patrick Kildea, Michael Lilienthal, Mollie Litchman, James McClure, Amber Moyer, Carolyn Palencar, Donald Scharf, Mary Soos, Byran Stanton, Verna Stavish, Milo Grunza, John Tucker, Rev. Anthony Urban, Hank Walker, Loretta Washick
Please notify the office at 570-472-3061 when names should be removed.



Notice Regarding Sexual Abuse of a Minor

It is the policy of the Diocese of Scranton to report any allegation of sexual abuse of a minor to law enforcement. If you are a victim of sexual abuse committed by a priest, deacon, religious or lay employee or volunteer of the Diocese of Scranton, you are encouraged to immediately report the matter to law enforcement. If any priest, deacon, religious, lay employee or volunteer of the Diocese of Scranton has cause or reason to suspect that a minor has been subjected to any form of abuse, including child sexual abuse, the matter will be reported to law enforcement.

It is also the policy of the Diocese to adhere to all civil and state regulations. In accordance with the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania's Child Protective Services Laws, reports of suspected child abuse should also be made immediately by phone to the 24-Hour Child Abuse hotline (ChildLine) at 1-800-932-0313 or electronically at www.compass.state.pa.us/cwis. To this end, the Diocese is equally committed to adhering to the norms of the Code of Canon Law and to upholding the tenets of the USCCB Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People, which includes supporting victims of sexual abuse in their pursuit of emotional and spiritual well-being. As such, information regarding an allegation of sexual abuse of a minor should also be reported to the Victim Assistance Coordinator Mary Beth Pacuska at 570-862-7551.

Welcome! to our family **Emily Grace Jadus**

Congratulations to Travus, Caitlin and Emily Grace Jadus! Emily Grace's baptism will take place after the 10:30am Mass this Sunday at St. Elizabeth's Church.

Heavenly Father, cover and protect little Emily Grace. Guide her from all harm. Help Emily Grace as she learns and grows. May Your blessings pour upon her life today, and may she always trust in You, keeping her eyes on Jesus Christ and living in His grace. Amen

If you have not completed the new updated Parish Registration form as of yet, please do so. Our data base needs to be updated. If it was misplaced, there are extra copies in vestibule or you can contact the Parish Office at 570-472-3061.

THANK YOU to those who have already done so!

FOOD PANTRY



Father Urban Center—St. Elizabeth Church
No Charge - All in need are welcomed!
Open every 2nd and 4th **Saturday** of the month
1:00 - 3:00 PM Linda - 848-207-6109

Fr. Ravel's
Corner



GOD'S MERCY IS FOR ALL PEOPLE

In the first reading, we hear a beautiful vision, foreigners, outsiders, and those once excluded are now welcomed into God's house. God says,

"My house shall be called a house of prayer for all people."

In the letter to the Romans, St. Paul reminds us that God's gifts and calling are irrevocable. Even if people fail, God does not withdraw his mercy.

In the Gospel, we see a disturbing encounter between Jesus and a Canaanite woman, an outsider. Jesus' words seem harsh, even shocking.

A suffering mother comes to Him, crying for help, and yet Jesus remains silent. Jesus says He has been sent only to Israel. He compares her to a dog. Why does Jesus act this way? We must first see the deeper reality. This woman represents all those who are excluded and pushed to the edges of society.

She is not part of the chosen people, a foreigner, someone looked down on, almost like the least, last and lost of the society, or like many women who have been silenced and ignored. She comes to Jesus with deep suffering. It is a cry of the mother who can't see the pain of her child. Even though she faces silence, rejection, humiliation and is tested by Jesus, she keeps persisting. Jesus admires her faith and perseverance. And Jesus grants her request and her daughter is instantly healed.

May the Lord, give us the faith of that woman, a faith that does not give up but breaks barriers and brings healing not only to our lives, but to our all society.

HAVE A BLESSED [SUNDAY!!!](#)



Enthronement of the Sacred Heart

On [Tuesday, August 25th](#) an Enthronement Mass will be held at Divine Mercy Parish in the Minooka section of Scranton at 7 p.m. Reverend Daniel Toomey, Spiritual Moderator of the Enthronement Guild, will be the principal celebrant for the Mass and Reverend Paul McDonnell, OSJ, Pastor of Divine Mercy, will concelebrate. If you are interested in an Enthronement for yourself or your family please contact Maria Pappa, Guild Coordinator, at 570-241-8172 to register for an Enthronement Packet at Mass. You may also renew your Enthronement if you have previously received one. All are welcome to participate at this Mass in honor of the Sacred Heart and the Immaculate Heart.

BE A CATHOLIC MAN'S CONFERENCE

Registration is underway for the 2026 'Be A Catholic Man' Conference which will take place on [Saturday](#), Oct. 10, 2026, at Holy Redeemer High School in Wilkes-Barre. The conference will run from 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

This will be the eleventh year for the 'Be A Catholic Man' Conference and this year's speakers will include the Most Rev. Joseph Coffey, Auxiliary Bishop, Archdiocese for the Military Services, USA; author and full-time evangelist John Martignoni; and writer and speaker Brian Holdsworth. The Most Rev. Joseph C. Bambera, Bishop of Scranton, will also celebrate Mass before the conference concludes.

The registration fee is \$40 (but there is an early bird discount currently underway of only \$30); students are \$15; priests and deacons are free. Please see bulletin insert.

HelpOurMarriage.org

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- are bored, angry, or frustrated in your marriage;
- are in a state of hopelessness;
- are separated or divorced

WE CAN HELP!



Upcoming
Eastern PA
Weekend
September 11-13



For more information
Scan QR code
717.356.2185



Worship & Meditation

Readings for the week of August 16, 2026

Sunday:

Is 56:1, 6-7/Ps 67:2-3, 5, 6 and 8/
Rom 11:13-15, 29-32/Mt 15:21-28

Monday:

Ez 24:15-23/Dt 32:18-19, 20, 21/
Mt 19:16-22

Tuesday:

Ez 28:1-10/Dt 32:26-27ab, 27cd-28, 30,
35cd-36ab/Mt 19:23-30

Wednesday:

Ez 34:1-11/Ps 23:1-3a, 3b-4, 5, 6/
Mt 20:1-16

Thursday:

Ez 36:23-28/Ps 51:12-13, 14-15, 18-19/
Mt 22:1-14

Friday:

Ez 37:1-14/Ps 107:2-3, 4-5, 6-7, 8-9/
Mt 22:34-40

Saturday:

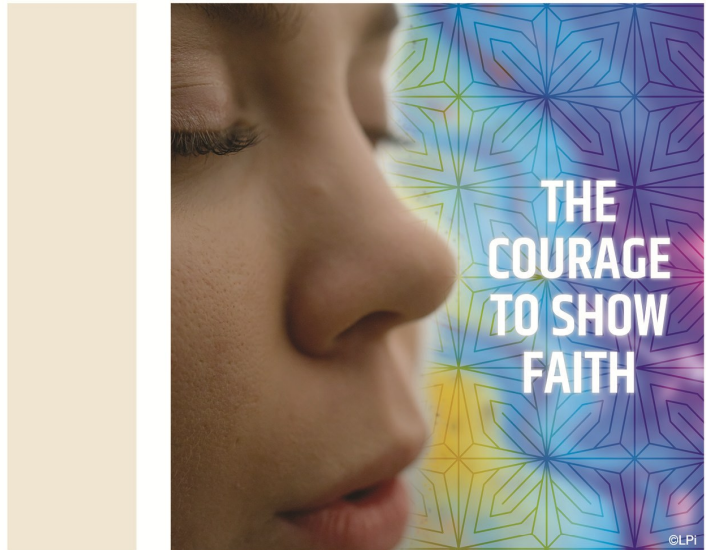
Ez 43:1-7ab/Ps 85:9ab and 10, 11-12, 13-
14/Mt 23:1-12

Next Sunday:

Is 22:19-23/Ps 138:1-2a, 2b-3, 6 and 8/
Rom 11:33-36/Mt 16:13-20



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The English translation of Psalm Responses from Lectionary for
Mass © 1969, 1981, 1997, International Commission on English in
the Liturgy Corporation. All rights reserved.



Gospel Meditation

Encourage Deeper Understanding of Scripture

Does God ignore or act a bit rough with you? Jesus crosses the border into the pagan region of Tyre and Sidon, the territory long outside the covenant. There, a Canaanite woman calls out, **“Have pity on me, Lord, Son of David.”** At first, he is silent. Then he rebuffs her. **“It is not right to take the food of the children and throw it to the dogs.”** But the Church Fathers saw this not as an insult but as an initiation. Christ draws out of her heart a deeper faith.

She presses on. **“Please, Lord, even the dogs eat the scraps that fall from the table of their masters.”** Jesus’ silence and response solidify her humility and trust. She thus becomes a model for prayer for centuries of Christians. St. Augustine said she shows how sinners come to grace by moving from silence to humility to perseverance.

This woman is the Church. She is you and me. She is every soul who dares to cry out from the margins, who endures divine silence until it turns to compassion. When Jesus says, **“O woman, great is your faith,”** it is the joyful cry of God discovering faith where the world least expects it. Even the smallest crumb of Your mercy, Lord, is enough to heal the soul. Do we have the courage to show faith like that?

— *Father John Muir*

Weekly Prayer

Sunday's Readings

First Reading:

Thus says the LORD:

Observe what is right, do what is just;
for my salvation is about to come,
my justice, about to be revealed. (Is 56:1)

Psalm:

O God, let all the nations praise you! (Ps 67)

Second Reading:

For God delivered all to disobedience,
that he might have mercy upon all. (Rom 11:32)

Gospel:

Then Jesus said to her in reply,
"O woman, great is your faith!
Let it be done for you as you wish." (Mt 15:28)

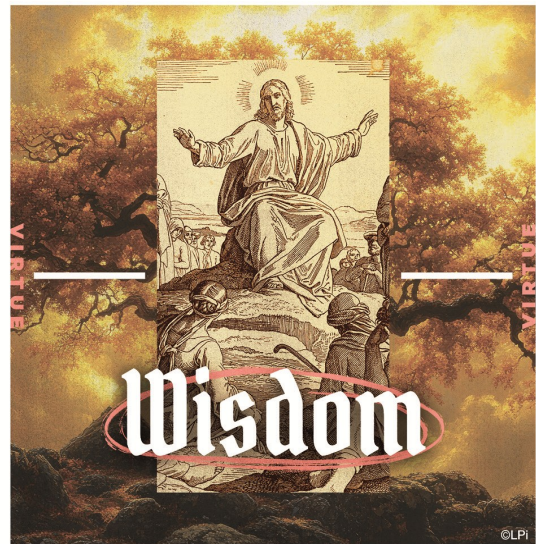
Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD.
The English translation of Psalm Responses from Lectionary for Mass © 1969, 1981, 1997,
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Live The Liturgy Inspiration of the Week

The Canaanite woman did not take Jesus' initial refusal as rejection, but as an invitation to engage with God, to show him the depth of her faith. When our prayers are not answered as we wish, will we have the courage to do the same?

Observances for the week of August 16, 2026

Sunday:	20th Sunday in Ordinary Time
Wednesday:	St. John Eudes, Priest
Thursday:	St. Bernard, Abbot and Doctor of the Church
Friday:	St. Pius X, Pope
Saturday:	The Queenship of the Blessed Virgin Mary
Next Sunday:	21st Sunday in Ordinary Time



Virtues, Explained!

They say that wisdom comes with experience, and it does — but only if you accept it. Wisdom originates in both our will and in our intellect, meaning we must ask the Holy Spirit for the gift of wisdom — and remember to be ready when it comes.

Prayer for Conversion in Our Communities

Dear God,
Move in our community:
Bring Your light to the darkness,
Your justice to the oppressed,
Your hope to those in despair,
Your healing to those in pain.
Work in us, Lord, and change our hearts,
making us more loving, more merciful, and more compassionate.
Amen.

(PRACTICING) CATHOLIC

Chess, Not Checkers

There's a saying that good leaders have to play chess, not checkers.

It will surprise no one who knows me well that I am terrible at chess. It's not so much a lack of skill (although that's part of it) as a lack of effort. I find chess exhausting. To succeed at this complex game of strategy, you have to see not just the board in front of you, but the person in front of you — and more than that, you have to consider not just what is, but what could be.

I prefer checkers.

When I read a Gospel passage like today's, I think of what Jesus would be like as a chess player. It's so easy to see this account of the Canaanite woman and her tenacity and take it at face value, as a reminder to pray without ceasing, to never stop asking God for what we need. And certainly, it is that.

But it's not only that.

We see a woman begging God for help, and we see God refuse — at first. We see her persist, and we see him capitulate. At least, that's what it looks like to us.

What does it look like to Jesus?

Jesus sees this woman's face and hears her words, just as his disciples do — but he also sees her heart. He sees her whole life. He sees every moment that leads up to this one. He sees her belief, but he also sees her unbelief. He sees her wounds. He sees her daughter.

He sees the game board not just for what it is, but for what it could be.

— Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman

Why do we do that?

Catholic Life Explained

Question:

Our prayer group is discussing ways we can change and strengthen our faith. What one thing could we change that would have the greatest impact on our faith?

Answer:

A famous coach once said that when the team is in trouble and things aren't going well, go back to the basics; when the team is winning and things are going well, go back to the basics! Any renewal program, faith development, or spiritual growth effort has to start with the basic core of what it means to believe. If the foundation is not strong, the house will not stand.

So if you work on one thing, begin with the idea that God is love, who loves us and calls us to love one another. If we really take that belief to heart, it changes how we see God, ourselves, and one another. It would change how we pray, how we treat others, and how we understand and live our own lives. Our sense of mission and purpose will be more focused on God's plan and our role in it. Love is the core of faith, the goal of life, and the hope of heaven. Whatever we do to strengthen and deepen our faith will begin and end with love.

And behold, a Canaanite woman of that district came and called out, "Have pity on me, Lord, Son of David! My daughter is tormented by a demon." He said in reply, "I was sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel." But the woman came and did Jesus homage, saying, "Lord, help me."
- Mt 15:22, 24-25

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 Lord reveals to Isaiah that He desires a house of prayer for all peoples. Do you see your faith community being open to outsiders?

Second Reading:

Paul sees how God used Israel's unbelief in Jesus as an opportunity to extend His mercy to the Gentiles. Have you ever shown mercy to someone in an unexpected way?

Gospel:

The Canaanite woman is persistent with Jesus to heal her demon-possessed daughter, and so he does. When have you felt heard by Jesus?



"That one's for the lotto, that one's for the Euro millions, that one's for the Irish lottery, that one's for hot picks..."



The Queenship of Mary

This feast day recognizes Mary as the "Queen of Heaven and Earth" and celebrates her special role in salvation.

JUST BE CATHOLIC



Stand fast with the Church founded by Jesus Christ, Who "is the same yesterday, today and forever" (Hebrews 13:8).

Through the One, Holy, Catholic and Apostolic Church, God has called men, not to be lukewarm, but to become strong in order to contend with a hostile world.

Christus Vincit!

11TH ANNUAL DIOCESE OF SCRANTON

BE A CATHOLIC MAN CONFERENCE



Saturday, OCT. 10, 2026

8 AM - 3:00 PM Holy Redeemer High School
159 South Penna. Ave., Wilkes-Barre, PA 18701



Bishop Joseph Bambera



Bishop Joseph Coffey is the auxiliary bishop for the Archdiocese for the Military Services, USA. He has dedicated his life to ministry, focusing on spiritual guidance and pastoral care, especially for military personnel and their families. His compassionate leadership and commitment to strengthening faith communities have earned him widespread respect.



John Martignoni, author of Blue Collar Apologetics, is a full time evangelist. He hosts the "EWTN Open Line" radio show. He is the founder/president of Queen of Heaven Catholic Radio; 1480 AM in Birmingham, Alabama. He's founder/president of Bible Christian Society and director of the Office of the New Evangelization in the Diocese of Birmingham. He is married and has four children.



Brian Holdsworth, a convert to the Catholic Church, is a writer, speaker, commentator, and evangelist producing content in the service of the mission of the Church. He has a substantial online and social media presence including Youtube videos. He lives in Edmonton, Alberta with his wife and 7 children.

Information & Online Registration: **BeACatholicMan.com**

Contact: Mike Kilmer 570-721-0872 • mkilmer@thekilmergroup.com

\$40 (Early Bird \$30 until 9/15/26), Student \$15, Priest/Deacon FREE. Morning coffee & box lunch included
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