TWENTIETH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

ALREADY BLAZING!

____LUKE 12:49



St. Elizabeth of Hungary/St. Mark

5700 Bear Creek Boulevard, Bear Creek, Pennsylvania 18602

TWENTIETH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME | AUGUST 17, 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

Velcome to Our Church gracious love to all

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@

Mer Rish

outlook.com

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

Aug 10, 2025

Weekly \$2551.00 Online +\$778.00 \$3329.00

Diocesan __-\$.00 TOTAL: \$3329.00

Thank you for your continued generosity.

Parish Weekly Budget set at \$5000

Eucharistic Celebration

Saturday, August 16, 2025 — Sunday, August 24, 2025

Sat, AUG 16

4:00pm (M) Joseph Howley

Helen Howley

6:00pm (E) Charles A. Katcavage Debbie Mitchell

Sun, AUG 17

8:30am (M) For the Parishioners

10:30am (E) Health & Blessings for Gary Walker A Friend

Mon, AUG 18

9:00am (E) Colleen Brown

The Courtney Family

Tues, AUG 19

9:00am (E) June Rannochia

Alfio, Diane & Donald Rannochia

Wed, AUG 20

9:00am (E) Anthony Cardoso (Brother)

Thurs, AUG 21

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

<u>Fri, AUG 22</u>

9:00am (E) Special Intentions for Eleanor Morrison

Jeannie Bidwell

Sat, AUG 236

4:00pm (M) Memorial Mass for Ron Petro

Family

6:00pm (E) Larry Youngblood Jr.

Debbie & Rich Mitchell

Sun, AUG 24

8:30am (M) Francis Michael

Chrissy & Kevin Nordmark

10:30am (E) David M. Soda

Ted & Diane Haas

Mass Intentions
for 2026 are now available.

Reserve Now



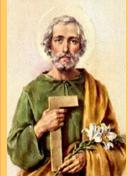
This week we pray for our sick, elderly and homebound parishioners and friends, especially...



Noreen Catani Amico,

Andrew Chismar, Lea Furlong, Tyrone Gayeski,
Bernard Hendrzak, Jake Johnson,
Joseph Kachurak, Patrick Kildea,
Michael Lilienthal, Mollie Litchman,
Carolyn Palencar, Richard Sawicki, Mary Soos,
Byran Stanton, John Tucker,
Rev. Anthony Urban, Gary Walker,
Hank Walker. Loretta Washick

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



TRIDUUM MASS HONORING ST. JOSEPH THE WORKER

The Oblates of St. Joseph will host their annual Labor Day Triduum of Masses honoring St. Joseph the Worker in their chapel lo-

cated at Route 315, Laflin. Masses will be offered each day at 12 Noon only. Confessions will precede all Masses and devotions to St. Joseph the Worker will follow. On Labor Day morning (Sept. 1), a special Mass will be celebrated at 11:00 a.m. for all area workers and the unemployed. Bread will be blessed & distributed to all as a symbol of the fruit of our labor.



The 2024 ANNUAL APPEAL has closed with the following statistics:

GOAL: \$17,694 CASH RAISED: \$11,947.81

GOAL REACHED: 68.09% NO. of DONORS: 55

% of PARISHIONERS: 10.87% 2025 GOAL is \$18,133

Father Rawel's Corner

FIRE OF TRUTH, COST OF PEACE

Jeremiah was thrown into a cistern - sinking into mud - because

he dared to speak God's truth to a people who preferred comfort over change.

In the Gospel, Jesus, too, comes as disruptor, proclaiming a fire that will divide. It's a hard message. But both prophets and Jesus show us that truth isn't always peaceful.

In our world today, whether it's climate change, economic inequality, or the fight to human rights, those who speak out often face resistance. Like Jeremiah, their words fall on ears unwilling to hear the cost of justice. Yet, as Hebrews reminds us, we are surrounded by a great cloud of witnesses - those who have endured the struggle. Jesus too endured the cross, despite its shame. He didn't come to bring superficial peace, but the peace that comes through transformation, even if it burns. The fire of truth doesn't always bring instant harmony - it challenges systems, uproots complacency, and invites us into discomfort.

In this fire, we are called to higher purpose, a deeper commitment to justice. Whether in small acts of kindness or in grand movements of resistance, we are called to bear witness to the truth. Are we ready to let that fire burn within us? To speak out when silence seems easier, to stand firm when the crowd pushes is aside.

May the Lord kindle in us the fire of truth and give us the courage to endure the cost of peace.

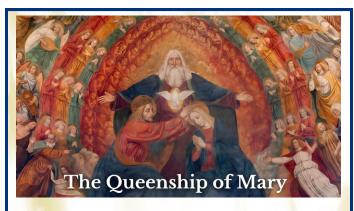
HAVE A BLESSED WEEKEND!

The "Prayer for the Feast of the Queenship of Mary" is a prayer to Mary, the mother of Jesus, prayed especially on the feast day celebrating her queenship. It acknowledges Mary's elevated status as Queen of Heaven and Earth, chosen by God to be the mother of Jesus Christ. The prayer expresses love, gratitude, and allegiance to Mary while seeking her intercession and guidance. It also emphasizes Mary's role as a model of faith, humility, and obedience for believers, and asks for her help in the spiritual journey of the faithful.

Queenship of Mary Prayer

O Mary, Queen of Heaven and Earth, on this feast day of your Queenship, we come before you with hearts full of love and devotion. You who were chosen by God to be the Mother of His Son, and who now reign at His side in glory, look upon us, your children, with compassion and grace. You are the Queen of all creation, the Mother of the Church, and our intercessor before the throne of the Lamb. On this day, we acknowledge your exalted position and offer you our love, gratitude, and allegiance.

Help us, dear Mother, to follow your example of humility, obedience, and love. Guide us in our journey of faith and intercede for us in our times of need. May your Queenship remind us of the dignity and honor of being children of God, called to share in His kingdom. O Mary, Queen of Heaven and Earth, pray for us now and at the hour of our death. Amen.



On August 22nd, Catholics worldwide celebrate an extraordinary coronation – not of an earthly monarch, but of a humble girl from Nazareth who became the Queen of Heaven and Earth.

The Feast of the Queenship of the Blessed Virgin Mary is a relatively recent addition to the Catholic calendar, established in 1954 by Pope Pius XII. But why would the Church crown the mother of Jesus as a queen?

This feast, closely linked to the Assumption (August 15th), paints a transcendent picture of Mary's journey. Tradition holds that at the end of her earthly life, Mary was taken body and soul into heaven – a prelude to her coronation as Queen of all creation.

Mary's royal title isn't mere flattery. It's rooted in ancient Hebrew tradition where the mother of the king held a position of unique honor and influence, as exemplified in 1 Kings 2:19 when King Solomon honors his mother Bathsheba by placing her on a throne at his right hand.

As the Mother of Jesus – whom Christians hail as the King of Kings – Mary's queenship reflects her unparalleled role in salvation history.

But Mary's crown isn't just about honor — it's about her God-given power. We believe that as Queen of Heaven, Mary wields extraordinary intercessory power, advocating for humanity before the throne of her Son. This belief has inspired centuries of devotion, with Mary depicted as a crowned queen in countless works of art across cultures.

Pope Pius XII's 1954 decree didn't invent Mary's queenship; rather, it formally recognized a devotion that had been growing for centuries. Today, this feast invites believers to reflect on a profound paradox: how the lowly handmaid of Nazareth became the most exalted among all created beings, occupying a unique place of honor in God's plan of salvation.

As we celebrate Mary's heavenly coronation, we're reminded that in God's kingdom, the humble are exalted – and that through Mary, we too are invited to share in the royal dignity of Christ.

Worship & Meditation

Readings for the week of August 17, 2025

Sunday:

Jer 38:4-6, 8-10/Ps 40:2, 3, 4, 18 (14b)/ Heb 12:1-4/Lk 12:49-53

Monday:

Jgs 2:11-19/Ps 106:34-35, 36-37, 39-40, 43ab and 44/Mt 19:16-22

Tuesday:

Jgs 6:11-24a/Ps 85:9, 11-12, 13-14/ Mt 19:23-30

Wednesday:

Jgs 9:6-15/Ps 21:2-3, 4-5, 6-7/Mt 20:1-16

Thursday:

Jgs 11:29-39a/Ps 40:5, 7-8a, 8b-9, 10/ Mt 22:1-14

Friday:

Ru 1:1, 3-6, 14b-16, 22/Ps 146:5-6ab, 6c-7, 8-9a, 9bc-10/Mt 22:34-40

Saturday:

Ru 2:1-3, 8-11; 4:13-17/Ps 128:1b-2, 3, 4, 5/ Mt 23:1-12

Next Sunday:

Is 66:18-21/Ps 117:1, 2 (Mk 16:15)/ Heb 12:5-7, 11-13/Lk 13:22-30



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

During my baseball career, my best coach often said, "You shouldn't be worried if I yell at you. Be worried if I don't. If I stop pushing you, it means I don't think you have any more potential." He demanded a lot, and I knew it meant he saw that I could be something special on the baseball field.

Jesus says some demanding words to us this week. "Do you think I have come to establish peace on the earth?" he asks, "No, tell you, but rather division" (Luke 12:51). He wants you and me-in fact, all the earth-to participate in the luminous glory of God. That's why he speaks of himself as a divine arsonist. Divine fire is like a good coach: it demands the removal of all that obstructs the achievement of the lofty goal.

How is your life demanding right now? That inconvenient family situation, the unfair boss at work, the kids who reject their parents' wishes, the nagging health issue? Maybe things would be more peaceful devoid of these seemingly arbitrary difficulties. But for us who believe in the one who comes to set the earth of fire, we should be much more worried if he stops demanding so much from us. In fact, let's thank him for it. He sees how glorious we can become.

— Father John Muir

Weekly Prayer

Sunday's Readings

First Reading:

Then the king ordered Ebed-melech the Cushite to take three men along with him, and draw the prophet Jeremiah out of the cistern before he should die. (Jer 38:10)

Psalm:

Lord, come to my aid! (Ps 40)

Second Reading:

Since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us rid ourselves of every burden and sin that clings to us and persevere in running the race that lies before us. (Heb 12:1)

Gospel:

Jesus said to his disciples:

"I have come to set the earth on fire, and how I wish it were already blazing!" (Lk 12:49)

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD. The English translation of Psalm Responses from Lectionary for Mass © 1969, 1981, 1997, International Commission on English in the Liturgy Corporation. All rights reserved.

Live The Liturgy Inspiration of the Week

Jesus tells us that he has come to set fire to the earth. What can we give him as kindling? Let us look into our souls and see where the fire of Christ can be ignited, and pray that our souls may be consumed by its life-giving flames.

Observances for the week of August 17, 2025

Sunday: 20th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Tuesday: St. John Eudes, Priest

Wednesday: St. Bernard, Abbot and Doctor of the

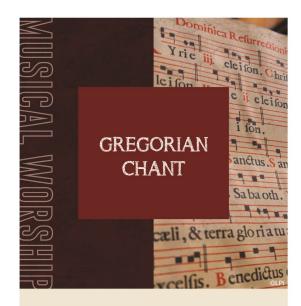
Church

Thursday: St. Pius X, Pope

Friday: The Queenship of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Saturday: St. Rose of Lima, Virgin

Next Sunday: 21st Sunday in Ordinary Time



Devotions, Explained!

Defined by a monophonic (meaning a single melody without harmony or chords), unaccompanied song, Gregorian chant is a form of sacred music used in liturgical settings and prayer. It has been synonymous with Catholic musical worship since the first millennium.

Prayer for Bravery

Dear God,

In the moments when my faith is met with others' disdain or ridicule, give me the grace to be grounded in You. Remind me that Your mission matters, and that You alone bring comfort, healing, and salvation.

Amen.

Liturgical Life

CATHOLIC

Mini Reflection: If we let Christ set fire to our lives, what would that fire burn away? What dead and festering undergrowth in our souls would be consumed by the flames? What promise of future holiness would sprout from beneath the ashes?

The Fire

This past week I have been reading a biography of St. Francis of Assisi. I admit I didn't know much about Francis going into the book, but I always had this image of him as a hippie — an easygoing nature-lover who sang about peace and let animals climb on him.

I'm not sure where that caricature of Francis came from, but since I've been reading this book I've come to see that it's not true at all. He was a lover of nature, yes. A poet who sang of God's peace, yes. And I'm sure he let a few animals climb on him from time to time (he did live in a hut in the woods).

But St. Francis of Assisi wasn't the lost fourth member of Peter, Paul and Mary. He was a man on fire. He was a man burning.

Francis walked around barefoot and slept on the ground. He abandoned a life of wealth to embrace the material poverty that Christ experienced. He embarrassed his family and they disowned him. When his father would encounter Francis in the streets of Assisi, he would curse him.

Sometimes we get this idea that Christianity is a comfortable, cozy thing. We give our lives to Christ, and we expect to feel instantly satisfied, happy, safe and warm. But the saints knew better.

The saints knew that Christ had not come to wrap us in a warm blanket. Christ has come to set us on fire. And though fire is often seen as a sign of death and destruction, it is also the precursor of new life.

Think of a field of native plants and how it benefits so richly from a controlled burn — an action that clears away detritus and releases nutrients back into the soil.

If we let Christ set fire to our lives, what would that fire burn away? What dead and festering undergrowth in our souls would be consumed by the flames? What promise of future holiness would sprout from beneath the ashes?

- Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman

Why do we do that? Catholic Life Explained

Question:

Why do we have a feast for the Queenship of Mary?

Answer:

For many of us, the language of kings and queens may seem like they belong to history or a medieval movie. Royalty have absolute authority over a kingdom and their subjects, a concept that is foreign to many of us today. While Jesus doesn't rule a political kingdom, we honor and recognize him as the King of Kings, Lord of Heaven and Earth. To God alone belongs absolute authority over all of existence.

We may think of queens as the spouse of the king, but there is another key relationship: the king's mother. In Biblical history, we see instances where the mother of the king is given due as a queen herself, complete with a throne! Mary's guiding influence over her Son is seen most notably in the Wedding Feast at Cana. Mary is not Queen on her own merit. She is "full of grace" and "blessed" in "all ages" because of the reign of her Son.

Jesus said to his disciples: "I have come to set the earth on fire, and how I wish it were already blazing! ... Do you think that I have come to establish peace on the earth? No, I tell you, but rather division." - Lk 12:49, 51

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

Questions of the Week

Invite Parishioners to Reflect and Respond to Scripture

First Reading:

One of the court officials, Ebed-Melech, pleaded for Jeremiah to be rescued from a muddy cistern. How might you help a friend or colleague this week?

Second Reading:

The author of Hebrews encourages his community to focus on Jesus as a way to stay strong and hopeful. Can you think of a time when your faith in Jesus helped you through a challenging circumstance?

Gospel:

Jesus forewarns his disciples that even families will be divided over his words. Growing up, how did your family deal with tension and conflict?

