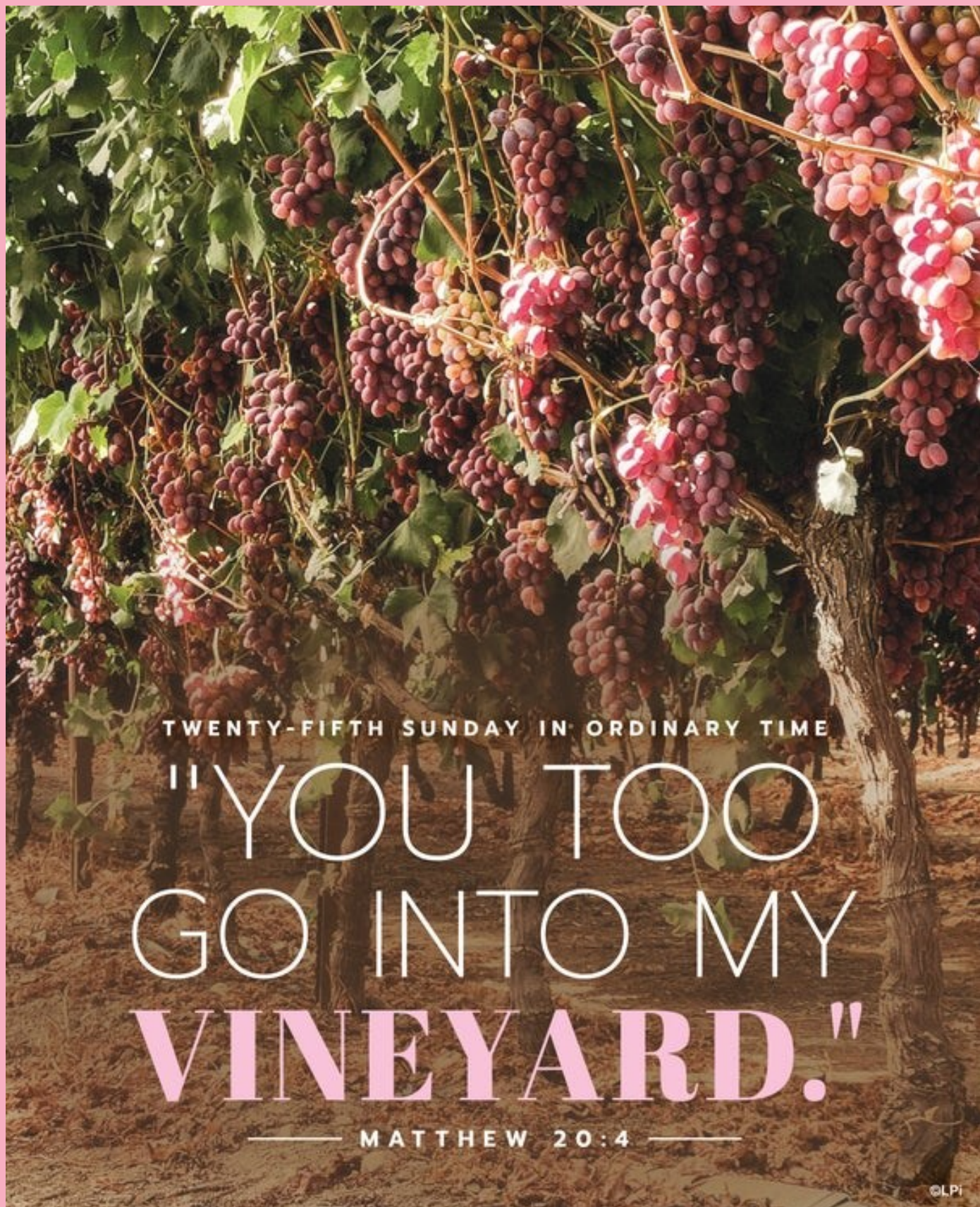


St. Elizabeth of Hungary/St. Mark

5700 Bear Creek Boulevard, Bear Creek, Pennsylvania 18602



TWENTY-FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

"YOU TOO
GO INTO MY
VINEYARD."

— MATTHEW 20:4 —

TWENTY-FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME | September 20, 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

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

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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

September 13, 2026

Weekly	\$2606.00
Online	<u>\$1036.00</u>
	\$3642.00
Diocesan	- <u>\$15.00</u>
TOTAL	\$3627.00

Thank you for your continued generosity.

Eucharistic Celebration

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 19—SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 27, 2026

SATURDAY, SEPT 19

4:00pm (M) Eugene & George Cooney *Req. Kathy & Steve Rector*

6:00pm (E) Paul Dec *Req. by Joan Hannon*

SUNDAY, SEPT 20 25th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

8:30am (M) Ralph Nordmark *Req. by Kevin & Chrissy Nordmark*

10:30am (E) Joseph Kachurak *Req. by Tom & Sue Kozerski*

MONDAY, SEPT 21

9:00am (E) Ethel "Pidge" Rebar *Req. by Moscow Women's Club*

TUESDAY, SEPT 22

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

WEDNESDAY, SEPT 23

9:00am (E) Marie Bolcavage *Req. by Theresa Kosek*

THURSDAY, SEPT 24

9:00am (E) NO MASS

FRIDAY, SEPT 25

9:00am (E) For the Parishioners

SATURDAY, SEPT 26

4:00pm (M) John Hrywnak *Req. Dan McCauley & Family*

6:00pm (E) Virginia "Ginny" Corcoran *Req. by Judy Pomento*

SUNDAY, SEPT 27 26th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

8:30am (M) John Salasi *Req. by K of C #6050*

10:30am (E) Joseph James Kachurak *Req. by Theodore & Diane Haas*



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



Noreen Catani Amico,

Bobby Everett, Terry Franklin,

Kelly Fry, Lea Furlong, James Geremia, Milo Grunza,

Bernard Hendrzak, Erin Himes, Jake Johnson,

Michael Lilienthal, Mollie Litchman, James McClure,

Amber Moyer, Sherry O'Malia, Carolyn Palencar,

Dolores Santangelo, Donald Scharf, Mary Soos,

Byran Stanton, Verna Stavish, John Tucker,

Rev. Anthony Urban,

Hank Walker, Loretta Washick

Please notify the office at 570-472-3061

when names should be removed.

Reminder: Please keep the above PRAYER REQUEST updated and current. If any names need to be added or deleted, please contact office at 570-472-3061. Thank you!

**Parish Offices
Closed**

Sept.22nd and Sept.23rd



Prayer to Welcome Fall

*O God of Creation,
you have blessed us
with the changing of
the seasons. As we
welcome autumn, we
give thanks for the*

beauty of this time — the golden leaves, the crisp air, the harvest's bounty. May the earlier setting of the sun remind us to rest and reflect. May the colors of the leaves remind us of the wonder of your creation. May the harvest from the fields remind us of the abundance we have been given, and the promise to share it with others. May the dying of summer's spirit remind us of your great promise that death is temporary and life is eternal. We praise you for your goodness forever and ever. Amen

**HEALING
MASS**

September 27, 2026

**Oblates of St. Joseph
1880 Rt 315 Pittston**

A Celebration of Healing Mass to be Held on September 27th at the Oblates Seminary Chapel

A Celebration of Healing Mass sponsored by the Enthronement Guild of the Sacred Hearts of Jesus and Mary will take place at the Oblates Seminary Chapel on Sunday, September 27th at 2 PM. The Mass will include a healing anointing for participants. Rev. Joseph Sibilano, OSJ, will be the celebrant. Music will be provided by Ernie Pappa with a prelude of contemporary selections beginning at 1:45 PM. All are welcome to attend this special liturgy.

St. Elizabeth/St. Mark Parish Fund Raiser

Homemade Pierogi Sale: \$10/dozen



- Use the **order forms** provided at the back of the church
- You are encouraged to share with friends, family, co-workers, etc.
- All **orders are due on/before Sunday, October 18th**
- Please place the order forms & payment into an **envelope** marked "Pierogi Sale" and drop it in the collection basket at mass
- **Drive-Up Pickup** at the St. Elizabeth Church rectory (garage side) on **Sunday, November 1st @ 11:45-1:30**
- Have questions? Call/text-- Annie Rood 570-574-8664
Chrissy Nordmark 570-899-4277



30th Anniversary Celebration of the Wyoming Valley Knights of Columbus "Tomb of Unborn" —Respect Life Sunday October 4th at 2:00pm. Prayerful commemoration at the Knights' Tomb of the Unborn, located at the top of Mount Olivet Cemetery in Carverton. Fr. Thomas Petro, chaplain of Greater Pittston Knights

of Columbus Assembly 948 will celebrate the Order for Visiting a Cemetery, followed by the recitation of the Glorious Mysteries of the Rosary. All Knights of Columbus of the Wyoming Valley and area faithful are invited to attend.



The red Sanctuary Lamp located near the Tabernacle burns to remind us of the sacramental presence of Jesus Christ..

It is a mark of honor to remind the faithful of the presence of Christ, and is a profession of their love and affection. If you wish to have the Sanctuary Lamp burning in memory of a loved one, to honor a special occasion, or a special intention make arrangements with the Parish Office. The cost of the candle is \$10.00. It will burn for one week. The memorial will be published in the Bulletin.



The Bread and Wine is also available for \$20.00.

MASS INTENTIONS FOR 2027 ARE NOW AVAILABLE FOR SCHEDULING



When contributing to the Catholic Ministries Appeal (Diocesan Annual Appeal), please mail contribution directly to the diocese in envelope provided. DO NOT DROP IN COLLECTION BASKET and please DO NOT SEND CASH!

— — — — —
ST. ELIZABETH/ST. MARK
PARISH

Welcome BACK to CCD

We're so happy to see you again! ♥

Another wonderful school year of Religious Education!

May this year be filled with faith, friendship, and many blessings as we grow together in Christ!

♥

"Let the little children come to me..."
MATTHEW 19:14

CATHEDRAL OF SAINT PETER

CASH BINGO

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 27 Diocese of Scranton Pastoral Center

www.stpeterscathedral.org | 570.344.7231

SCAN to purchase

The Cathedral of Saint Peter Parish will sponsor its 5th Cathedral Cash Bingo on Sunday, September 27, at the Diocesan Pastoral Center, 330 Wyoming Avenue, Scranton. Doors open at 1 p.m. and the first game will be played at 2 p.m. (20 games, 4 specials, \$100 prize per regular game; \$500 first three specials and \$1,000 final special!) Free parking is available on-street and the parking lot at the corner of Linden Street and Wyoming Avenue. Handicap parking available will be available in the lot next to the Pastoral Center on Wyoming Avenue. Purchase your tickets today for \$25 by calling the Parish Office at 570.344.7231 or online at www.stpeterscathedral.org. The event will also feature food, a variety basket raffle, and a 50/50 raffle. Join us for an afternoon of food, fun, and fellowship!

Worship & Observances

Prayer for an OCIA Class

Dear God,
You never cease calling
each of us to You.
Be with our OCIA class as we
journey to know You better.
Inspire our conversations,
guide our lessons,
and direct our hearts as
each of us seeks Your will.
Amen.

Readings for the Week of September 20, 2026

Sunday

Is 55:6-9/Ps 145:2-3, 8-9, 17-18/Phil 1:20c-24, 27a/
Mt 20:1-16a

Monday

Eph 4:1-7, 11-13/Ps 19:2-3, 4-5/Mt 9:9-13

Tuesday

Prv 21:1-6, 10-13/Ps 119:1, 27, 30, 34, 35, 44/Lk 8:19-21

Wednesday

Prv 30:5-9/Ps 119:29, 72, 89, 101, 104, 163/Lk 9:1-6

Thursday

Eccl 1:2-11/Ps 90:3-4, 5-6, 12-13, 14 and 17bc/Lk 9:7-9

Friday

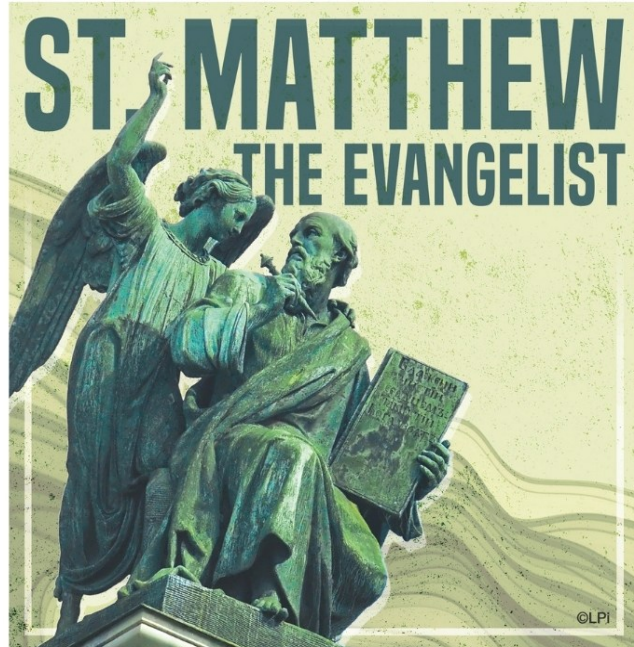
Eccl 3:1-11/Ps 144:1b and 2abc, 3-4/Lk 9:18-22

Saturday

Eccl 11:9-12:8/Ps 90:3-4, 5-6, 12-13, 14 and 17/
Lk 9:43b-45

Next Sunday

Ez 18:25-28/Ps 25:4-5, 6-7, 8-9/Phil 2:1-11 or 2:1-5/
Mt 21:28-32



Observances for the Week of September 20, 2026

Sunday

25th Sunday in Ordinary Time;
Catechetical Sunday

Monday

St. Matthew, Apostle and Evangelist;
National Migration Week

Wednesday

St. Pius of Pietrelcina, Priest

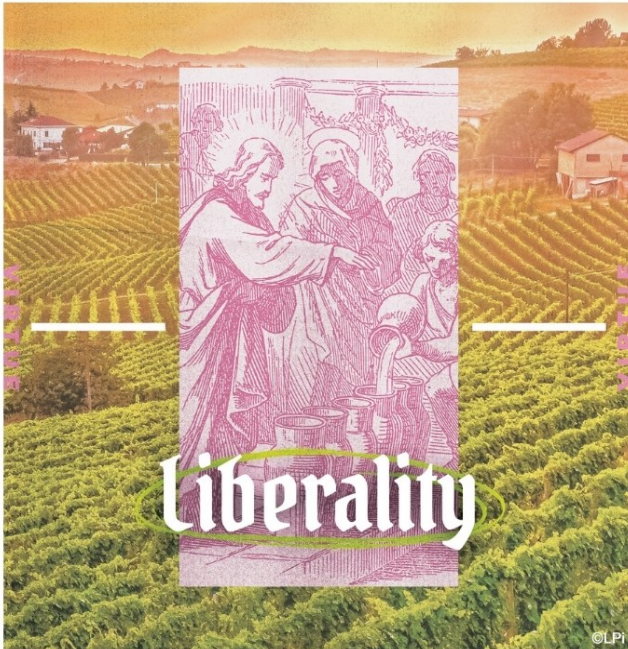
Saturday

Sts. Cosmas and Damian, Martyrs

Next Sunday

26th Sunday in Ordinary Time;
Priesthood Sunday

Weekly Scripture



Virtues, Explained!

Jesus told the rich young man that in order to be saved, he must sell all he owned and give the proceeds to the poor. This is the virtue of liberality — giving of one's resources freely and in abundance.

However, the virtue of liberality should be practiced by each person according to his state in life. The rich young man could afford to lose everything — and indeed, was too attached to his wealth. We are all called to give selflessly of what we have, but “we have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us,” writes St. Paul (Romans 12:6).

Some of us have too much time and have grown idle. Some of us have too much talent and use it only to benefit ourselves. Some of us have too much wealth, and hoard it jealously. Whatever we have too much of will keep us from God. So let's practice liberality, and be generous.

Sunday's Readings

First Reading

Seek the Lord while he may be found,
call him while he is near. (Is 55:6)

Psalm

The Lord is near to all who call upon him. (Ps 145)

Second Reading

I am caught between the two.
I long to depart this life and be with Christ,
for that is far better. (Phil 1:23)

Gospel

“What if I wish to give this last one the same as you?
Or am I not free to do as I wish with my own money?
Are you envious because I am generous?”
(Mt 20:14-15)

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Mass © 1969, 1981, 1997, International Commission on English in the
Liturgy Corporation. All rights reserved.

Live The Liturgy

Inspiration of the Week

The master rewards the latecomers with the same wage as those who labored all day, upsetting the construct of who deserves what — and why. May we never seek to be the judge of what others deserve. May we labor in our vineyard with joy and gratitude.

GOSPEL MEDITATION - ENCOURAGE DEEPER UNDERSTANDING OF SCRIPTURE

Every December, the priests of my diocese gather for a Christmas dinner with our bishop. Nearly 200 of us in one room: newly ordained and long retired, pastors of large parishes and quiet confessors, men full of energy and others moving more slowly. Some carry visible success; others bear hidden wounds. It is a tapestry of vocations and lives. When the bishop thanks us, I am always moved. For a moment, none of our differences matter. What matters is that we belong to one another. I usually leave that evening with a deep sense of peace, but also with a sober realization. Nothing drains joy from the vineyard of the Lord faster than comparison. The quiet habit of measuring, ranking, and resenting can creep in even among those who sincerely serve God.

That is what Jesus exposes in today's parable of the workers in the vineyard. The early laborers are not upset because they were treated unjustly; they are angry because others were treated generously. Their resentment blinds them to the gift already in their hands. When the landowner asks, "Are you envious because I am generous?" he names the real wound.

This tension echoes throughout salvation history: the elder brother resenting the prodigal, the faithful servant scorning the latecomer. Jesus does not deny the labor of those who have borne the heat of the day, but he refuses to let God's mercy become a zero-sum game. In the end, the vineyard's reward is not about fairness but belonging. The joy offered is communion with a generous Father, who delights in gathering early and late, strong and weak, into one household of grace.

— *Father John Muir*



RECOGNIZE GOD IN YOUR ORDINARY MOMENTS—by Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman

The Why

Sometimes, the Gospel takes everything you think you know about Jesus, throws it in a box, shakes it violently, dumps it on the floor, looks you in the eye and says: "Clean it up."

And there you are, picking up the pieces, wondering how, after 2,000 years, someone can still keep you guessing.

Today is one of those Gospels. We know Jesus as a champion of the poor. We envision him as a social justice warrior. And now he's advocating for time theft in the workplace? Make it make sense.

Well, at its heart, today's Gospel is a story about who gets what. A story about comparison, which we are told is the thief of joy — but without com-

parison, nothing would ever get done. In this world, wages are set, court cases are settled, international borders are drawn, all by comparing one entity to another and evaluating that comparison to make a judgment.

What this Gospel doesn't tell us is the "why." The workers who labored longest in the vineyard feel cheated because those who showed up later earn the same wage. This would be egregious — unless we consider that the only criteria used in the comparison is the length of the work day's duration. Quality and efficiency of work is never even mentioned. For all we know, those all-day workers could have been standing around fanning themselves, and should feel lucky to get what they did.

"Why" is a question we ask a lot in this life. Why did my dad die? Why did I get cancer? Why did my husband lose his job? As we pick up the pieces of today's Gospel, we should ask ourselves this: when we know what we know about Who decides who gets what, do we have to know the "why?"

©LPI

Liturgical Life

St. Pius of Pietrelcina Pray for us!

Born Francesco Forgione in 1887 in Pietrelcina, Italy, St. Pius of Pietrelcina (May 25, 1887 – September 23, 1968) — better known as Padre Pio — joined the Capuchin Franciscans at 15 and was ordained in 1910. He endured lifelong illness and bore the stigmata, the wounds of Christ, for the last 50 years of his life. After serving briefly in the Italian Medical Corps during World War I, he was assigned to San Giovanni Rotondo, where he became renowned for celebrating Mass, hearing confessions throughout the day, and his ardent desire to serve the sick and poor. His compassion inspired the founding of Casa Sollievo della Sofferenza, a hospital that opened in 1956.

St. Pius of Pietrelcina died on September 23, 1968, and he was beatified in 1999. Canonized in 2002 by Pope St. John Paul II, he is the patron saint of adolescents, civil defense volunteers, and Pietrelcina.



“Autumn is coming, autumn is coming...”



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GROUP NIGHT WITH THE PENS

Diocese of Scranton Group Night

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 23
PENGUINS VS BELLEVILLE SENATORS
7PM

Enjoy Faith and Family Night with a discounted ticket!
Food Vouchers are available for purchase for \$4.50.

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GREEN ZONE \$23

BLUE ZONE \$20



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