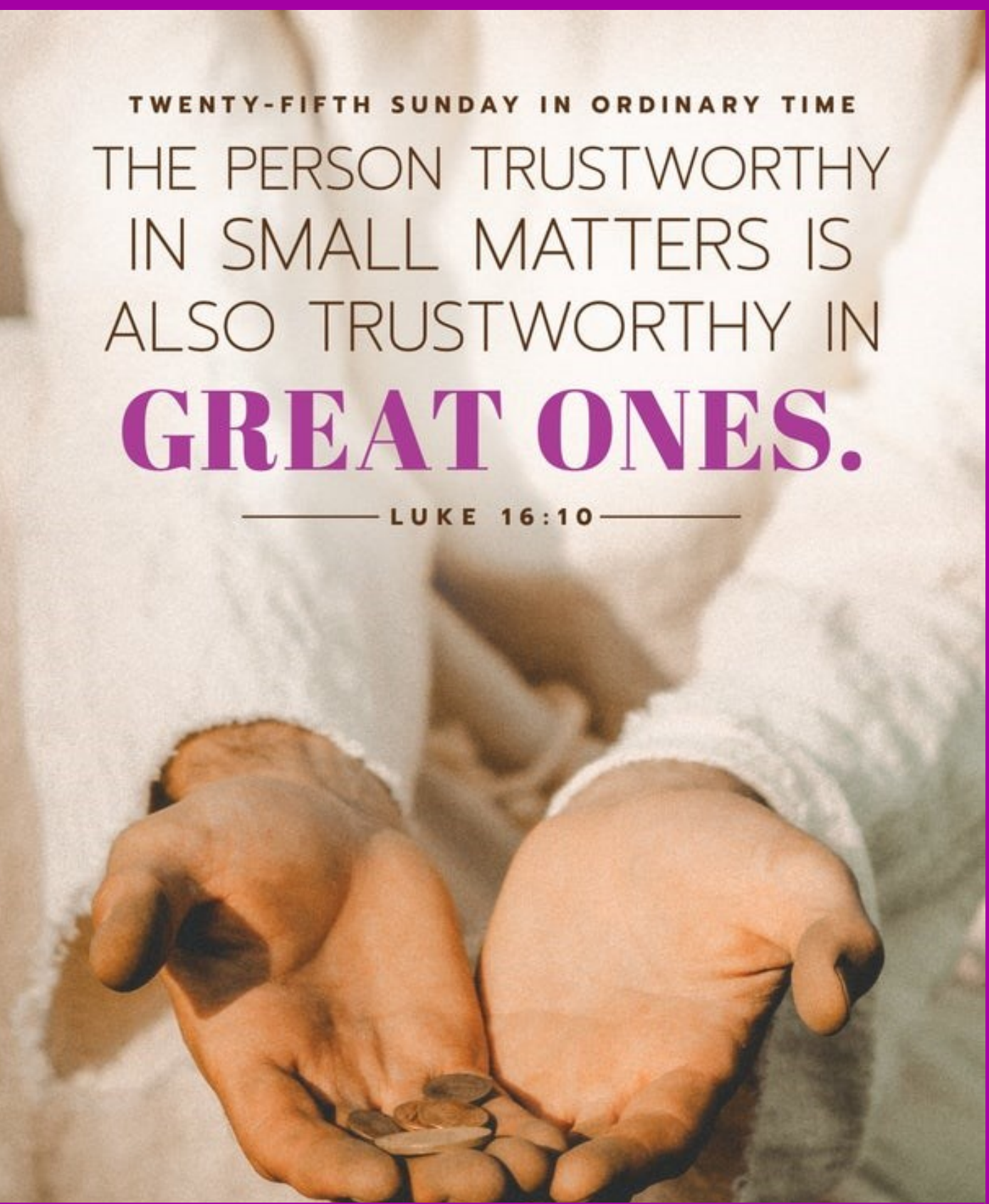


TWENTY-FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
THE PERSON TRUSTWORTHY
IN SMALL MATTERS IS
ALSO TRUSTWORTHY IN
GREAT ONES.

— LUKE 16:10 —



St. Elizabeth of Hungary/St. Mark

5700 Bear Creek Boulevard, Bear Creek, Pennsylvania 18602

TWENTY-FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME | SEPTEMBER 21, 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
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

Sept 14, 2025

Weekly \$2068.00

Online \$1041.00

\$3109.00

Diocesan -\$10.00

TOTAL: \$3099.00

Thank you for your continued generosity.

The Parish Budget is set at \$5000.

Eucharistic Celebration

Saturday, Sept 20, 2025 — Sunday, Sept 28, 2025

Sat, SEPT 20

4:00pm (M) Chester Bielski
Nancy Bielski

6:00pm (E) Joseph Duseau
Joseph & Marcia Boris

Sun, SEPT 21

8:30am (M) Ralph Nordmark
Chrissy & Kevin Nordmark

10:30am (E) Mary Grouke
Steve & Mer Rish

Mon, SEPT 22

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

Tues, SEPT 23

9:00am (E) Sabina Vojtek

Wed, SEPT 24

9:00am (E) Harry "Skip" Whitmas
Kate Tierney

Thurs, SEPT 25

9:00am (E) NO MASS

Fri, SEPT 26

9:00am (E) William "Bill" Ferri
Kate Tierney

Sat, SEPT 27

4:00pm (M) Helen Orloski
Friends & Family from AJ Auto Center

6:00pm (E) Mary Grouke
Joseph & Marcia Boris

Sun, SEPT 28

8:30am (M) For the Parishioners

10:30am (E) David Kresge
Mario & Ellen Sindaco



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



Noreen Catani Amico, Laurie Ayre,
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**



We look forward to
welcoming back all
returning and new
students to our
Parish's CCD pro-
gram this year.

Classes for children in grades K-8 will be held on
Sundays at 9:30 a.m.,
beginning next Sunday, September 28.



The Parish Council is sponsoring a Fund-
raiser to help cover our Parish operating ex-
penses. On **Sunday Sept 28, 2025 from**
1PM - 4PM a Takeout Dinner (Ham, scal-
loped potato, corn, roll with butter and cake) will be
available for **\$15.00 per meal**. Reserve dinners by call-
ing **570-841-0213** and leave a message including your
Name, Phone Number and the number of meals desired
or e-mail the same to stelizabethbells@outlook.com.
Someone will call you back to confirm your request,
doing so will allow us to know the amount to prepare.

**Mass Intentions (\$10.00) are now available for the 2026
year. Please book early to reserve your special dates.**

**Also, the Sanctuary Candle (\$10.00) and the
Bread and Wine (\$20.00) are available at
both Churches for your loved one's intentions.**





PEACE THROUGH PRAYER AND ACTION

Today's readings invite us to reflect on justice, prayer, and faithful stewardship - values deeply connected to the International Day of Peace.

True peace cannot exist without justice.

In the first reading, prophet Amos condemns the Israelites who exploit the poor and manipulate economic systems for personal gain. He reminds us that God does not forget injustice. When the powerful exploit the weak, society becomes divided, and violence takes root. We are not only called to act justly in our business dealings or with dealing with those who work for us, but also to raise our voices against injustice as faithful stewardship. To do this we need to be rooted in prayer. St. Paul exhorts us to pray for all people, especially for leaders, so that we may live in peace and dignity.

In the Gospel, Jesus presents the dishonest steward who acts wisely because he understands the urgency of preparing for the future. Likewise, we are called to use our gifts wisely in building God's kingdom whose foundation is justice and peace.

If we prioritize material gain over human dignity, we become obstacles to God's kingdom. As followers of Christ, let us commit to justice, prayer, and responsible stewardship. May our lives be a witness to true peace - peace that comes from living in God's truth and love.

As we observe the International Day of Peace, let us pray for an end of conflicts, discrimination, and economic injustice, and actively working toward reconciliation.

HAVE A WONDERFUL WEEKEND!



Divine Mercy Parish

ANNUAL ROSARY NOVENA will be held at Divine Mercy Parish, 312 Davis St., Scranton, from October 4 - 12, with services every evening beginning at 6:30 p.m. A spiritual reflection will be offered each night by an invited priest or deacon of the diocese. The Novena includes the praying of the rosary, Divine Mercy Chaplet, crowning of the Blessed Mother and Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament. For more information, call the parish office at (570) 344-1724.



29th Anniversary

Celebration of the Wyoming Valley Knights of Columbus "Tomb of Unborn"

Sunday, October 5th 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 International Day of Peace, also officially known as World Peace Day, is a United Nations-sanctioned holiday observed annually on 21 September. It is dedicated to world peace, and specifically the absence of war and violence, such as might be occasioned by a temporary ceasefire in a combat zone for humanitarian aid access. The day was first established in 1981 and first observed in September 1982 and is kept by many nations, political groups, military groups, and people.

21 SEP INTERNATIONAL
DAY OF PEACE



Worship & Meditation

Readings for the week of September 21, 2025

Sunday:

Am 8:4-7/Ps 113:1-2, 4-6, 7-8 (see 1a, 7b)/
1 Tm 2:1-8/Lk 16:1-13 or 16:10-13

Monday:

Ezr 1:1-6/Ps 126:1b-2ab, 2cd-3, 4-5, 6/
Lk 8:16-18

Tuesday:

Ezr 6:7-8, 12b, 14-20/Ps 122:1-2, 3-4ab,
4cd-5/Lk 8:19-21

Wednesday:

Ezr 9:5-9/Tb 13:2, 3-4a, 4befghn, 7-8/
Lk 9:1-6

Thursday:

Hg 1:1-8/Ps 149:1b-2, 3-4, 5-6a and 9b/
Lk 9:7-9

Friday:

Hg 2:1-9/Ps 43:1, 2, 3, 4/Lk 9:18-22

Saturday:

Zec 2:5-9, 14-15a/Jer 31:10, 11-12ab, 13/
Lk 9:43b-45

Next Sunday:

Am 6:1a, 4-7/Ps 146:7, 8-9, 9-10 (1b)/
1 Tm 6:11-16/Lk 16:19-31



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Gospel Meditation

Encourage Deeper Understanding of Scripture

Before I was a priest, I was a lazy worker for a retail Apple store. Hearing a rumor that my boss was going to fire me, I secretly sold iPhones for half-price, gave away dozens of free iPads, and donated several brand-new laptops to managers in other stores in the mall. After a week, my boss called me into his office. He knew what I was up to. He said I had cost the store thousands of dollars. “Really great work, John,” he said. “I am going to recommend you to be my assistant manager and double your pay.” I was amazed.

And so are you. Which is understandable because it never happened. How could it? My tall tale is a retelling of Jesus’ brow-furrowing parable we hear this week. A lazy, dishonest steward defrauds his boss and then the **“master commended the dishonest servant for acting prudently” (Luke 16:8).** What is the Lord saying to us?

Most of us treat our spiritual lives like a lazy teenager at an Apple store. We really don’t care. We go through the motions. Then, if we are lucky, something happens that shakes us to spiritual action; to employ whatever time, money, and resources we have to build around us a strong network of love. Every saint did that. Our Lord is so good he *wants* us to use his stuff to forgive debts and to bless others. He wants us to ensure our future. So do it!

— *Father John Muir*

Weekly Prayer

Sunday's Readings

First Reading:

The LORD has sworn by the pride of Jacob:
Never will I forget a thing they have done! (Am 8:7)

Psalm:

Praise the Lord who lifts up the poor. (Ps 113)

Second Reading:

There is also one mediator between God and men,
the man Christ Jesus,
who gave himself as ransom for all. (1 Tm 2:5-6)

Gospel:

"No servant can serve two masters.
He will either hate one and love the other,
or be devoted to one and despise the other.
You cannot serve both God and mammon." (Lk 16:13)

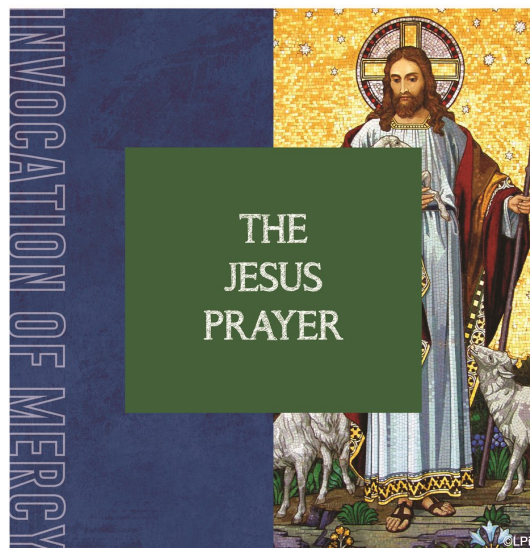
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Live The Liturgy Inspiration of the Week

No servant can serve two masters, and in his goodness, God gives us the ability to choose. Will we serve mammon, the riches of this world? Or will we seek true wealth, the kind that cannot be hoarded or wasted, but only given freely away?

Observances for the week of September 21, 2025

Sunday:	25th Sunday in Ordinary Time; Catechetical Sunday
Monday:	National Migration Week
Tuesday:	St. Pius of Pietrelcina, Priest
Friday:	Sts. Cosmas and Damian, Martyrs
Saturday:	St. Vincent de Paul, Priest
Next Sunday:	26th Sunday in Ordinary Time; Priesthood Sunday



Devotions, *Explained!*

The Jesus Prayer is a short invocation of mercy in the name of Jesus: "Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God, have mercy on me, a sinner." Often attributed to the tradition of Eastern Christianity, its short form makes it ideal for meditative prayer.

Prayer for Trust

Jesus,
With your gentle mercy, build
my trust. Help me to believe you
when you say you want good
for me. In every season, give
me grace. In every need, be my
answer.
Amen.

(PRACTICING) CATHOLIC

Mini Reflection: Jesus' parable of the untrustworthy steward sums up all our anxieties surrounding material wealth and the delicate balance we have to strike of caring for our physical needs while prioritizing our spiritual ones.

God and Mammon

Dealing with money is unpleasant.

You might be good at dealing with money (I am not). You might even do it for a living (I do not). You might be careful to use as much of your money as you can for good purposes (I try to, but man, these skyrocketing grocery prices are killing me).

But ultimately, money does not bring out the best in us. We waste it. We manipulate it. We hoard it. We become obsessed by it. We let pursuit of it define our decisions. Money is something akin to — it corrupts by touch, it seems. But unlike witchcraft, you can't avoid money altogether. It's necessary. These dollars and cents keep us alive in this world, for a time. We need them for food, for warmth, for health.

Jesus' parable of the untrustworthy steward sums up all our anxieties surrounding material wealth and the delicate balance we have to strike of caring for our physical needs while prioritizing our spiritual ones. But the parable reminds us that we can't escape money, just like we can't escape the world and all the barriers forged by this world between man and the happiness his Creator intends for him. We could retreat to the highest, remotest mountaintop, but the human condition would follow us there.

We would still feel doubt. We would still feel pain. We would still feel fear. We would still sin.

And we would still be hungry and cold. We would still need money.

Money will never be something that is easy to handle virtuously. But guess what? Nothing in this world is. And it's probably best that we remember that.

— Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman

Why do we do that?

Catholic Life Explained

Question:

Why do Catholics eat fish on Friday?

Answer:

For centuries, meatless Fridays were the norm for Catholics throughout the world. Friday was chosen because that was the day on which Jesus died, and Christians wanted to find a way to honor that day with special prayers and acts of penance and self-denial. The practice of abstaining from meat on Fridays — under pain of sin — grew out of that desire, and it became an official part of Church teaching until the time of the Second Vatican Council.

In the 1960s, there was a shift in the Church's thinking, in large part because there was a recognition that differences in cultures and economic realities meant that eating or not eating meat had different meanings for different peoples. For example, in cultures that were largely dependent on seafood or a vegetarian diet, abstaining from meat was no sacrifice at all. While in other places, eating fish and other kinds of seafood was actually something rare and special and not a sacrifice. This was all part of a basic reflection on "why we do what we do" among the Church's pastors.

Today, Catholics throughout the world are still instructed to abstain from meat on the Fridays of Lent. The bishops of some countries, such as in England and Wales, ask Catholics to abstain from meat every Friday, continuing the older tradition. The Bishops of the United States have taken a slightly different approach, encouraging Catholics to honor Friday as a special day by abstaining from meat every Friday or by taking on some other work of penance or charity for the sake of others.

Regardless of what we choose to do, the real value in all of this is to see a reflection of Good Friday in each Friday, to remember the self-giving love of Jesus, and to honor that love through some sort of sacrifice or act of mercy.

“The person who is trustworthy in very small matters is also trustworthy in great ones; and the person who is dishonest in very small matters is also dishonest in great ones. If, therefore, you are not trustworthy with dishonest wealth, who will trust you with true wealth?” - Lk 16:10-11

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Questions of the Week

Invite Parishioners to Reflect and Respond to Scripture

First Reading:

Amos forewarns those who exploit the poor and disadvantaged that God will remember their greed and corruption. How might you lend a helping hand this week to others in need?

Second Reading:

Paul instructs Timothy on the necessity of openness and generosity in prayer. What do you think makes for a strong prayer life?

Gospel:

In the parable of the dishonest steward, the disciples learn the importance of honesty and prudence in daily living. What other virtues would you add for the life of a Christian today?

