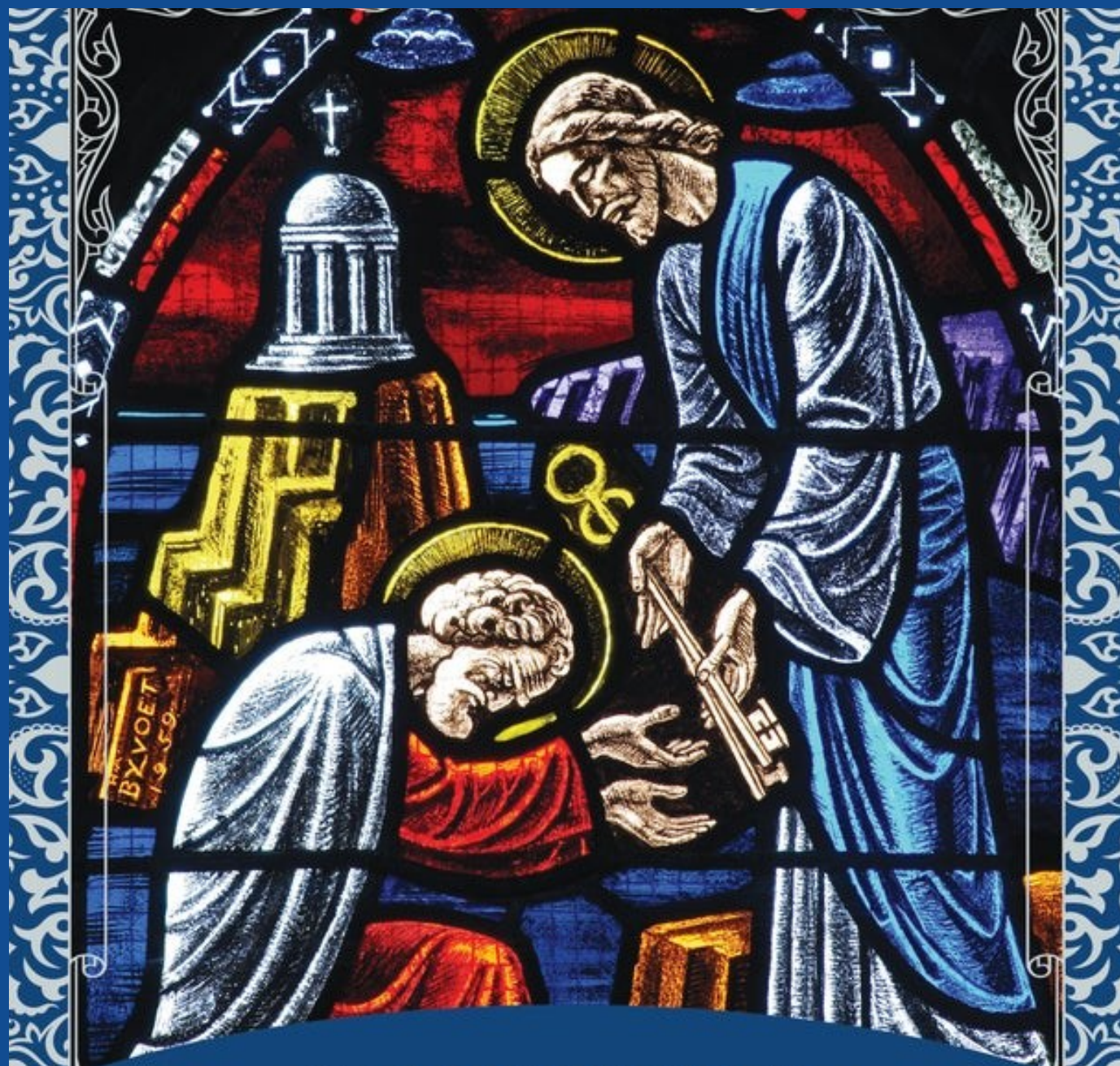


St. Elizabeth of Hungary / St. Mark

5700 Bear Creek Boulevard, Bear Creek, Pennsylvania 18602



• 21ST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME •

**"YOU ARE
THE MESSIAH."**

©LPI

TWENTY-FIRST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME / August 23, 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



*Hospitality and God's
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@
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 16, 2026

Weekly	\$1900.00
Online	<u>\$798.00</u>
	\$2698.00
Diocesan	- <u>\$0.00</u>
TOTAL	\$2698.00

Thank you for your continued generosity.

Eucharistic Celebration

SATURDAY, AUGUST 22—SUNDAY, AUGUST 30, 2026

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 21ST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

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

MONDAY, AUG 24

9:00am (E) John Peterson *Req. by Chris & Michael Lynch*

TUESDAY, AUG 25

9:00am (E) Zoe Ann Kanavy *Req. by Bob & Marie Burke*

WEDNESDAY, AUG 26 FEAST OF CZESTOCHOWA

9:00am (E) Health & Blessings for Mary Dec *Req. by Steve & Mer Rish*

THURSDAY, AUG 27

9:00am (E) NO MASS

FRIDAY, AUG 28

9:00am (E) John Hrywnar *Req. by Dan McCauley & Family*

SATURDAY, AUG 29 QUEENSHIP OF THE BVM

4:00pm (M) Tom & Carol Silvi *Req. by Liz & John Strasberger*
6:00pm (E) Robert Pomento *Req. by Judy Pomento*

SUNDAY, AUG 30 22ND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

8:30am (M) Francis Michael *Req. by Kevin & Chrissy Nordmark*
10:30am (E) Joseph Kachurak *Req. by St. Vincent Alumni Association*



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, Milo Grunza,
Bernard Hendrzak, Erin Himes, Jake Johnson,
Patrick Kildea, Michael Lilienthal, Mollie Litchman,
James McClure, Amber Moyer, 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!**

Please use designated

**MY OFFERING envelopes when making your
offertory donations. If writing a check, make
out one check and**

**INCLUDE ALL ENVELOPES with amount you
wish to give for each specific fund. Your coop-
eration will make our accounting easier.**



We look forward to welcoming back
all returning students and welcoming
new students to our parish's CCD
program this year!

Classes for children in grades K-8
will be held on Sundays at 9:30 a.m.,
beginning Sunday, September 20.

Registration will take place after the 10:30 a.m. Mass in St.
Elizabeth's Parish Hall on Sunday, September 13. Calendars
will be distributed at that time.

If you are unable to register in person, online registration is
available by emailing Emily Bell and Renee Sipple at
saintelizabethCCD@gmail.com

**If you have not completed the new updated Parish Regis-
tration 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!

HelpOurMarriage.org

RETRouvaille®

FOR A STRONGER MARRIAGE



NO MARRIAGE IS BEYOND HOPE

Since 1977 Retrouvaille has helped heal
and renew the marriages of over
200,000 couples in over 26 countries.

Whether you:

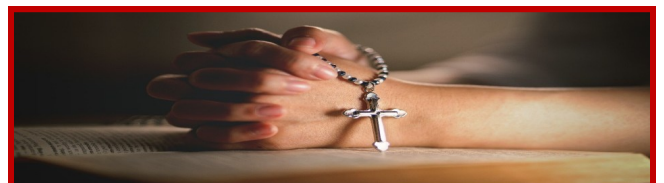
- have been married for many
years or a short time;
- are not communicating well;
- are bored, angry, or frustrated
in your marriage;
- are in a state of hopelessness;
- are separated or divorced

WE CAN HELP!

Upcoming
Eastern PA
Weekend
September 11-13



For more information
Scan QR code
717.356.2185



Fr. Rawel's
Corner



DIVINE APPOINTMENT

The world teaches us that life is a ladder. To get ahead, you must climb, complete, and sometimes push others aside. We are told that we are the architects of our own success. This leaves us exhausted and anxious, constantly wondering if someone is about to take our place. But the readings of today turn this logic upside down, showing that God is the one who appoints.

In Isaiah, Shebna was a high official who was full of pride. God simply says, "I will pull you down." In his place, God chose Eliakim, a humble servant and placed the key to authority on his shoulder.

Similarly, in the Gospel, Jesus does not give the keys of the kingdom to the most "qualified" leader. He gave them to Peter, a failing fisherman, not because he was perfect but because he recognized the truth: "You are the Christ."

St. Therese of Lisieux understood this well. She said, "The only way to advance is by the elevator of love." She trusted God to lift her up. For us today, this is total freedom. We do not have to claw our way to the top or be perfect to be useful to God. When you stay close to Christ, He manages the doors. If God opens the door for you, no person, office, or global crisis can shut it. Trust His timing; He knows exactly what you need.

Almighty God, I do not know the future, but I know the one who holds the future. Hence, I will hand the keys of my future to you. Give me the humility of the saints to trust your promotion over my own struggle.

HAVE A WONDERFUL WEEKEND!!!!



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.

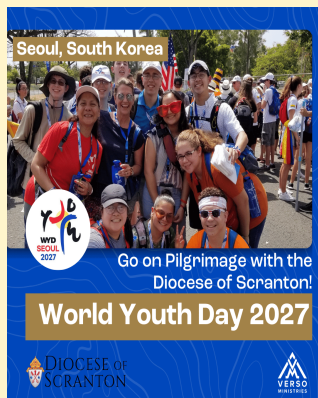
The registration fee is \$40 (but there is an early bird discount currently underway of only \$30); students are \$15; priests and deacons are free.

*If you do what you can,
God will do what you can't.*

World Youth Day 2027 in Seoul to be a 'Celebration of Hope'!

Preparations are in full swing for World Youth Day 2027 in Seoul, South Korea, where Pope Leo XIV is expected to join young Catholics from around the world for the second World Youth Day ever held in Asia.

The Aug. 3-8, 2027, gathering comes more than three decades after the first World Youth Day in Asia, which drew 4 million to 5 million people to Manila with St. John Paul II in 1995, setting a Guinness World Record for largest attendance at a papal event at the time.



NOTHING
is far from
GOD
-St. MonicaTM

Worship & Meditation

Readings for the week of August 23, 2026

Sunday:

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

Monday:

Rv 21:9b-14/Ps 145:10-11, 12-13, 17-18/
Jn 1:45-51

Tuesday:

2 Thes 2:1-3a, 14-17/Ps 96:10, 11-12, 13/
Mt 23:23-26

Wednesday:

2 Thes 3:6-10, 16-18/Ps 128:1-2, 4-5/
Mt 23:27-32

Thursday:

1 Cor 1:1-9/Ps 145:2-3, 4-5, 6-7/
Mt 24:42-51

Friday:

1 Cor 1:17-25/Ps 33:1-2, 4-5, 10-11/
Mt 25:1-13

Saturday:

1 Cor 1:26-31/Ps 33:12-13, 18-19, 20-21/
Mk 6:17-29

Next Sunday:

Jer 20:7-9/Ps 63:2, 3-4, 5-6, 8-9/
Rom 12:1-2/Mt 16:21-27



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

The first time I stood inside St. Peter's Basilica in Rome, its majesty overwhelmed me. The sheer beauty of Michelangelo's dome seemed to lift my soul right out of my body. Later, I joined the Scavi tour that winds below the basilica, down into the ancient pagan cemetery where Peter was buried. There, in the dim light and narrow passageways, I found myself looking at the bones of a murdered Jewish fisherman, his feet cut off so his crucified body could be taken down more easily.

What a paradox. Above me, the most glorious church ever built. Beneath me, the remains of a backwater fisherman. But this man dared to answer Jesus' question, **"Who do you say that I am?"** And crowning that immense dome above his tomb are the words from today's Gospel, **"You are Peter, and upon this rock I will build my Church."**

Within you and me is the drama of the lowest and the highest. Every time we confess Christ, humbly, imperfectly, maybe even trembling, we enter that same mystery. The dust of our humanity, touched by the splendor of heaven. God's presence and our dry bones together. Humility and glory. May our lives embrace both the lowest and the highest, like that great basilica, as we profess Jesus.

— *Father John Muir*

Weekly Prayer

Sunday's Readings

First Reading:

I will place the key of the House of David on Eliakim's shoulder;
when he opens, no one shall shut,
when he shuts, no one shall open. (Is 22:22)

Psalm:

Lord, your love is eternal; do not forsake the work of your hands. (Ps 138)

Second Reading:

For from him and through him and for him are all things.
To him be glory forever. Amen. (Rom 11:36)

Gospel:

"I will give you the keys to the kingdom of heaven.
Whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven;
and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven." (Mt 16:19)

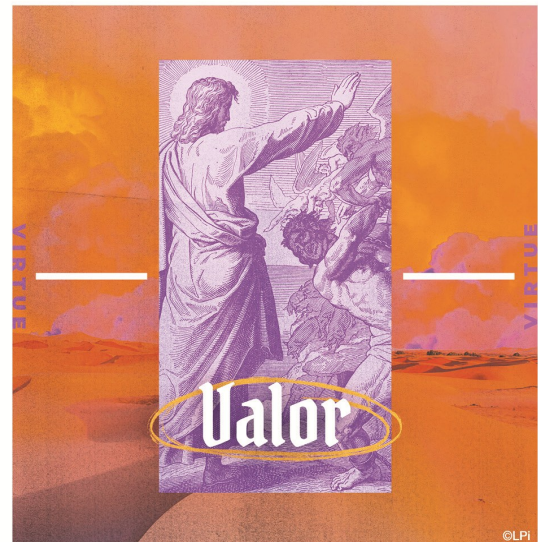
Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD.
The English translation of Psalm Responses from Lectionary for Mass © 1969, 1981, 1997,
International Commission on English in the Liturgy Corporation. All rights reserved.

Live The Liturgy Inspiration of the Week

"Who do you say that I am?" Jesus asks his apostles. Peter is the first to answer. He knows who Jesus is. Do we? In everything we do and everything we are, let us say together with Peter: "You are the Christ, the Son of the Living God."

Observances for the week of August 23, 2026

Sunday:	21st Sunday in Ordinary Time
Monday:	St. Bartholomew, Apostle
Tuesday:	St. Louis; St. Joseph Calasanz, Priest
Thursday:	St. Monica
Friday:	St. Augustine, Bishop and Doctor of the Church
Saturday:	The Passion of St. John the Baptist
Next Sunday:	22nd Sunday in Ordinary Time



Virtues, Explained!

Though valor itself is not a cardinal or theological virtue, as a Latin-based word that means "strength," we associate it with the gift of fortitude. It conjures an image of fortitude on the battlefield — of fidelity to the good fight, regardless of the coming attack.

Prayer for the Pope

Dear God,
Be with Our Holy Father in his ministry. Bless, anoint, and protect him in his comings and goings. Inspire his words, direct his interactions, guide his prayer. Amen.

(PRACTICING) CATHOLIC

Only Peter Has the Answer

“What do you think of the Pope?”

After the election of Pope Leo XIV in 2025, all my non-Catholic friends texted me this question. The result of the papal conclave was dominating the news cycle, and everyone was curious about this man who would now be so prominent on the world stage, making me temporarily popular with people who apparently need more (and better) Catholics in their lives.

In today’s Gospel, we see Jesus entrust Peter and his heirs with the stewardship of the kingdom here on earth, creating an unbroken line of authority which stretches through the millennia all the way to our current Pope — whoever he is at the time you are reading this.

I don’t know if you like the Pope. The same goes for your local bishop and your pastor. If a friend texted you, “What do you think of him?” I have no idea how you would respond.

All I know is this: it doesn’t really matter. What really matters is what we would say if a friend texted us the same question about Jesus Christ: “What do you think of him, and why?”

In today’s Gospel, Jesus doesn’t ask his disciples to take an IQ test. He doesn’t try to find out which one is the nicest, the hardest worker, the most humble, or even the holiest.

He asks a very simple question: “Who do you say that I am?”

Peter has the answer.

I am not Catholic because I like the Pope. I am not Catholic because the human representatives of the Church have anything to offer me (they often do, but this is beside the point).

I am Catholic because only Peter has the answer.

— Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman

Why do we do that?

Catholic Life Explained

Question:

In Sunday school, the students are studying the Ten Commandments. I know that kids are important in the eyes of God, so I’m just wondering why there isn’t a commandment about honoring children.

Answer:

Commandments provide EOO=Equal Opportunity for Observance! They are meant for everyone, children as well as adults. There are several assumptions that would make such a commandment a bit redundant. One, children are entrusted to the care of their parents. So, respect, love, and care — as well as teaching them — are assumed to be part of the responsibility of parents. They are the first teachers in the ways of faith and, as such, participate in God’s work of loving and creating. The child has the obligation and responsibility towards their parents. Only when they are adults will they make decisions on their own.

In Biblical times, and in many societies today, children are responsible for caring for elderly parents, providing for their needs. In our culture today, too often kids have more rights than responsibilities, and oftentimes long before they are able to handle them. If we follow the Commandment of Jesus to love others and treat them as we would want to be treated, everyone is included, children too.

He said to them, "But who do you say that I am?" Simon Peter said in reply, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God." Jesus said to him in reply, "Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah. For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my heavenly Father."
- Mt 16:15-17

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

Questions of the Week

Invite Parishioners to Reflect and Respond to Scripture

First Reading:

For disobeying the Lord, Shebna, the master of King Hezekiah's palace, is stripped of his authority and honor, and it is given to Eliakim. Are there people in your life or family that you honor and revere?

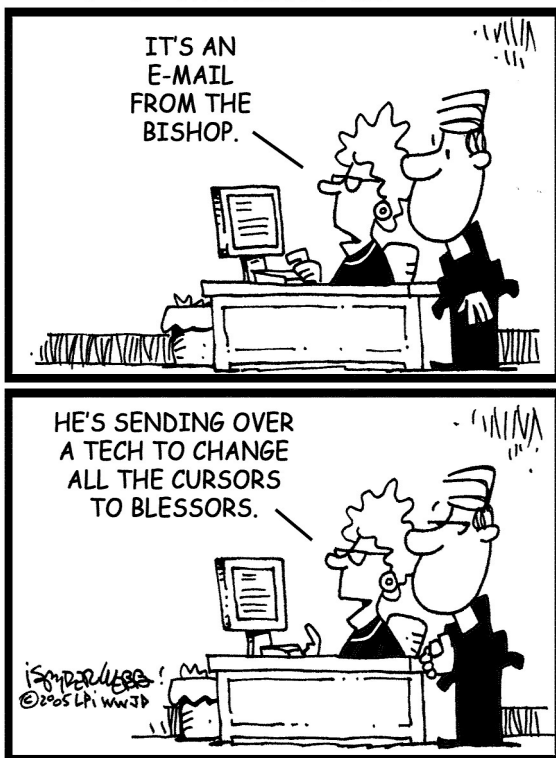
Second Reading:

Reflecting on the unimaginable depth of God's wisdom and knowledge, Paul asks, "Who has known the mind of the Lord or who has been his counselor?" What question do you have for the Lord?

Gospel:

Jesus establishes Peter as the rock upon whom he will build his church. In what ways do you help build your church community?

21ST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME



Our Lady of Czestochowa Feast Day—August 26th

Saint Luke the Evangelist, according to tradition, is believed to be the original artist of this painting in which Mary is depicted holding the Christ Child. This sacred picture, enshrined and venerated at the renowned Marian Shrine in Poland, was first brought from Jerusalem through Constantinople and was bestowed to the Princess of Ruthenia. It was brought to Poland in 1382 through the efforts of Ladislaus of Opole who had discovered it in a castle at Belz. To ensure its protection, he invited the Monks of Saint Paul the First Hermit from Hungary to be its guardians.

From this time onward, the historic records of the painting are documented and authenticated by the miracles associated with the painting. In 1430, a devastating attack on the Polish Shrine resulted in tragic losses and the damaging of the holy picture. To this very day, despite the attempts to repair the damage, the slashes on the face of the Virgin Mary are still visible.



The foundation of the Monastery and Shrine in Czestochowa began with a small wooden church. Subsequent development (1632-48) led to the construction of the present day basilica and defense wall which surrounds the sacred buildings. Under the heroic leadership of the Prior of the Monastery, Father Augustine Kordecki, the Shrine withstood the attacks of the Swedish Invasion of 1655. This great victory proved to be a tremendous boost to the morale of the entire Polish nation.

As a result, King Jan Casimir, in 1656, made a solemn vow proclaiming the Mother of God to be the "Queen of the Polish Crown" and the Shrine of Jasna Gora to be the "Mount of Victory" and a spiritual capital for Poland.

During the years of Poland's partition (1772-1918) the Shrine of Jasna Gora became a vibrant link for the Polish people with their homeland. The holy painting enshrined at Czestochowa beamed as a lighthouse of hope during the painful years of national hardships and defeats.

Following the restoration of national independence in 1918, pilgrimages to the Polish Shrine grew in number and size. As World War II ended, a nation devastated by the scourges of war drew new strength and courage from the Shrine to rebuild and recover from the war. Today the Shrine of Czestochowa in Poland attracts millions of worshipers and tourists who come to honor the miraculous image of Our Lady of Czestochowa.

In 1966, in celebration of the 1000th Anniversary of Poland's Christianity, a National Shrine to Our Lady of Czestochowa was dedicated in Doylestown, Pennsylvania, and is under the direction of the Pauline Fathers and Brothers who also administer the Shrine in Poland.



Monastery of Jasna Góra— Czestochowa, Poland

The Monastery of Jasna Góra is now one of the most popular Catholic pilgrimage sites in the world. As you can see, the Basilica itself is beautiful, but of course the miraculous icon is the main attraction here. The miraculous icon is in the chapel of the Basilica.

Masses are celebrated daily in Polish, English and many other languages.

There is a Church-operated hotel right behind the Basilica.



National Shrine of Our Lady of Czestochowa—Doylestown, PA

Under the auspices of the Pauline Fathers, this shrine is focused on ministering to the Polish-American community in the United States in honor of Our Lady of Czestochowa in Poland.

From humble beginnings in a barn in 1955, it has grown to include over 170 acres of land offering a retreat house, the main church, chapel, outdoor Stations of the Cross, Cafeteria and more.

Masses and other devotions celebrated daily in both English and Polish.