

TWENTY-FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

MOVED

WITH COMPASSION.

— MATTHEW 18:27 —



St. Elizabeth of Hungary/St. Mark

5700 Bear Creek Boulevard, Bear Creek, Pennsylvania 18602

©LPI

TWENTY-FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME | September 13, 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

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

September 6, 2026

Weekly	\$1974.00
Online	<u>\$763.00</u>
	\$2737.00
Diocesan	- \$60.00
TOTAL	\$2677.00

Thank you for your continued generosity.

Eucharistic Celebration

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 12—SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 20, 2026

SATURDAY, SEPT 12

4:00pm (M) Annette Marie Barbini *Req. Charlie & Elaine Morehead*

6:00pm (E) Mildred Kratz McGroarty *Req. by Joan Hannon*

SUNDAY, SEPT 13 **24th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**

8:30am (M) For the Parishioners

10:30am (E) David M. Soda *Req. by Theodore & Diane Haas*

MONDAY, SEPT 14

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

TUESDAY, SEPT 15

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

WEDNESDAY, SEPT 16

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

THURSDAY, SEPT 17

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

FRIDAY, SEPT 18

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

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*



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.**

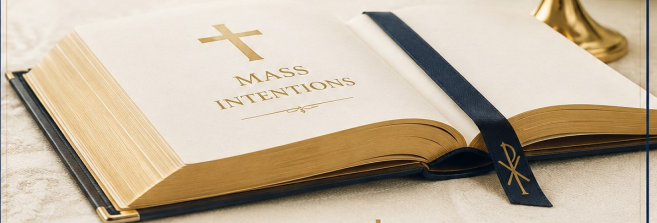
**Reminder: Please keep the above
PRAYER REQUEST updated and current. If
any names need to be added or
deleted, please contact office at
570-472-3061. Thank you!**



**Sept. 22nd
and
Sept. 23rd**

The 2027 MASS BOOK

is now open



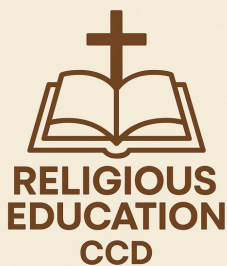
Our parish office hours are
Tuesday - Wednesday
9:00am—3:00pm.

Our Lady of Victory Church Harveys Lake, PA 18618



Fatima Devotions will be held every 13th of the month from May through October. Services start at 7 pm and include: Fatima prayers, the Rosary, and Marian hymns. Light refreshments will be served again this year after the devotions. The public is welcome to attend and celebrate our Blessed Mother.

**Sunday
September 13, 2026
7:00PM**



CCD begins September 20th

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.

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

ANNUAL FESTIVAL

FREE PARKING!

Church of

2 DAYS!

OUR LADY
of the
ABINGTONS
(Dalton, PA - Seminary Road)

2 DAYS!

SAT. SEP 19

5 - 10 PM
PORK BBQ
(*till sold out)

~ **MUSIC** ~
Megaband Duo

SUN. SEP 20

Noon - 6 PM
Chicken BBQ

~ **MUSIC** ~
Quietmen

HANDICAP PARKING AVAILABLE

RAFFLES, LOTS OF BASKETS!
PLENTY OF FOOD...FUN FOR ALL!

Church of Our Lady of the Abingtons under Pastor, Rev. Arbogaste Satoun, holds their Annual Fall Festival on Saturday, September 19 (5PM - 10PM) and Sunday, September 20 (Noon - 6PM) on the beautiful church grounds at 207 Seminary Road in Dalton, PA



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 as well for \$20.00.



PRAYER FOR Grandparents

Lord God Almighty,
bless our grandparents with long life, happiness, and health. May they remain constant in your love and be living signs of your presence to their children and grandchildren. We ask this through Christ our Lord.
Amen.



PLEASE NOTE

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!**

Worship & Observances

A Blessing for Grandparents

Dear God,
Bless the grandparents in our community.
Stir in them a sense of caring,
thoughtfulness, and kindness toward their
preceding generations. Like St. Anne and St.
Joachim, inspire them to live lives of brave
faith and virtue. Give them and their families
warm memories, happy times, and bright
hope.
Amen.

Readings for the Week of September 13, 2026

Sunday

Sir 27:30-28:7/Ps 103:1-2, 3-4, 9-10, 11-12/Rom 14:7-9/
Mt 18:21-35

Monday

Nm 21:4b-9/Ps 78:1bc-2, 34-35, 36-37, 38/Phil 2:6-11/
Jn 3:13-17

Tuesday

1 Cor 12:12-14, 27-31a/Ps 100:1b-2, 3, 4, 5/Jn 19:25-27 or
Lk 2:33-35

Wednesday

1 Cor 12:31-13:13/Ps 33:2-3, 4-5, 12 and 22/Lk 7:31-35

Thursday

1 Cor 15:1-11/Ps 118:1b-2, 16ab-17, 28/Lk 7:36-50

Friday

1 Cor 15:12-20/Ps 17:1bcd, 6-7, 8b and 15/Lk 8:1-3

Saturday

1 Cor 15:35-37, 42-49/Ps 56:10c-12, 13-14/Lk 8:4-15

Next Sunday

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



Observances for the Week of September 13, 2026

Sunday

24th Sunday in Ordinary Time; *Grandparent's Day*

Monday

The Exaltation of the Holy Cross

Tuesday

Our Lady of Sorrows

Wednesday

Sts. Cornelius, Pope, and Cyprian, Bishop, Martyrs

Thursday

St. Robert Bellarmine, Bishop and Doctor of
the Church; St. Hildegard of Bingen, Virgin
and Doctor of the Church

Saturday

St. Janarius, Bishop and Martyr

Next Sunday

25th Sunday in Ordinary Time; Catechetical Sunday

Weekly Scripture



Virtues, Explained!

The modern world we all must share seems, in some ways, to be shrinking.

For good or ill, thanks to the internet, the widespread use of social media, and the omnipresence of smartphones, we are finding ourselves interacting frequently with people who live, act, and think differently than we do.

It may well be that the virtue of friendliness, known officially as affability, is more important than ever.

In fact, being attached as it is to the virtue of justice, friendliness is a debt we owe our fellow human beings, writes St. Thomas Aquinas (*Sum.*, II:II, 114, Art. 2). The fact is, we cannot evangelize without kindness. We can see this in the instructions Christ gives his disciples in the Gospel of Matthew: "As you enter a house, wish it peace. If the house is worthy, let your peace come upon it; if not, let your peace return to you." (Matthew 10:13)

Sunday's Readings

First Reading

Forgive your neighbor's injustice;
then when you pray, your own sins will be forgiven. (Sir 28:2)

Psalm

The Lord is kind and merciful, slow to anger, and rich in compassion. (Ps 103)

Second Reading

None of us lives for oneself, and no one dies for oneself.
For if we live, we live for the Lord,
and if we die, we die for the Lord. (Rom 14:8)

Gospel

Peter approached Jesus and asked him,
"Lord, if my brother sins against me,
how often must I forgive?"

As many as seven times?"

Jesus answered, "I say to you, not seven times but seventy-seven times." (Mt 18:21-22)

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

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Live The Liturgy

Inspiration of the Week

We have all been the wicked servant. We have denied others the same forgiveness and grace shown to us. This week, let us find new ways to make the love and mercy of God manifest in the lives of those we meet.



GOSPEL MEDITATION - ENCOURAGE DEEPER UNDERSTANDING OF SCRIPTURE

In my parish, there was once a new employee who frequently told me she was sorry for various imperfections in her work. It could be a little tiring. I finally told her, “You know, you don’t have to say ‘sorry’ so often.” She looked me right in the eyes and said, “Father, you’re right. I’m sor-

ry.” Her ear-to-ear grin betrayed that she enjoyed the irony — and that she would keep asking for forgiveness as often as she needed it.

The Gospel reading this week proclaims to us that God, in Jesus, delights in numerous requests for, and the granting of, forgiveness. To Peter’s question, “**Lord, if my brother sins against me, how often must I forgive? As many as seven times?**” Jesus responds, “**I say to you, not seven times but seventy-seven times.**” In other words, Peter, stop counting.

Christian life should be marked by a commitment to frequent forgiveness. God never tires of forgiving us. His limitless love has overcome the power of vengeance, hatred, and division. We tap into that each and every time we ask for forgiveness or extend it to another.

How beautiful our hearts become when they become accustomed to frequent forgiveness! How joyful and attractive become our marriages, families, and parish communities! How light our souls feel when unburdened by the habit of keeping score.

Challenge: Name one thing, small or large, for which you could ask forgiveness from someone in your life. Then do it.
— Father John Muir ©LPi

RECOGNIZE GOD IN YOUR ORDINARY MOMENTS—by Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman

Mercy You Can Feel

“You qualify for forgiveness,” I heard the woman on the other end of the phone tell me, and I surprised myself by starting to weep.

I had called the hospital system’s financial services department to set up a payment plan on a balance I owed after having some unexpected scans and tests. I was hoping to minimize the dent our family’s savings took — transform one devastating wallop into a series of more easily absorbed blows, so to speak.

Imagine my surprise when I realized the hospital was pulling its punch. If you have ever had a financial debt forgiven, you know the relief that came over me in that moment.

It wasn’t until a little later that the guilt set in. I know so many people who have medical debt. Why was I able to get out of paying, and they were not?

But the cold, hard truth is that I didn’t “get out” of anything. My insurance, for which I pay, had given the hospital enough money to cover the true cost of the procedures. That balance would merely have increased the hospital’s profit.

Make no mistake: capitalism does not forgive.

If you describe the Sacrament of Reconciliation to someone unfamiliar with theology, chances are they’ll think God is a chump. “You get to go in, say you’re sorry, and leave — and everything’s just fine?” someone once asked me in disbelief.

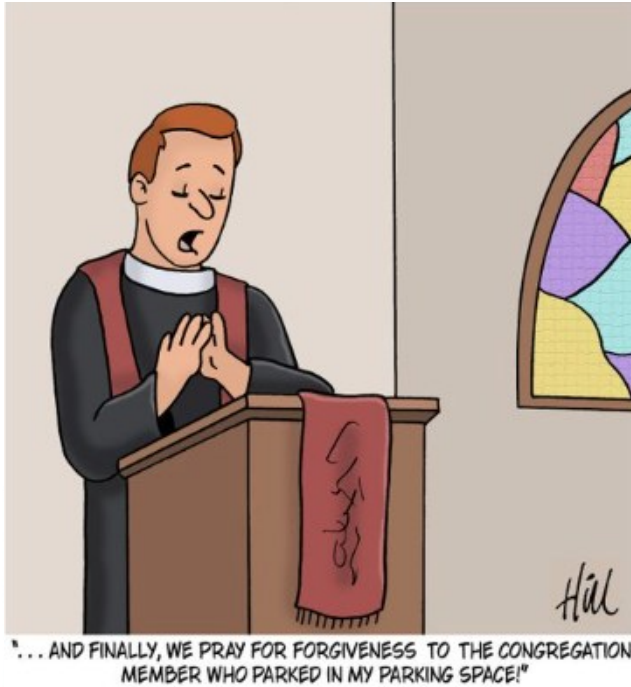
Well, yeah. That’s forgiveness.

Real mercy cannot be budgeted. It must be given recklessly, extravagantly, against all reason. It must cost the giver. It must scandalize any accountant worth his salt. And no one “qualifies.”

If I can’t wrap my head around the idea, it might mean I’m stuck in a for-profit paradigm of justice. It might just mean that I need to engage more in real mercy. Mercy I can feel.



Liturgical Life



Why Do We Do That?

Catholic Life Explained

Question

Why can't everyone who wants to receive Communion, receive Communion at Mass?

Answer

Outside of the Church, many organizations have all sorts of requirements for membership: dues, achievements, professional standings, etc. The requirements bring the group together in common purposes and goals. Within the Church, there are also basic "requirements" for receiving the sacraments. As Catholics, we believe that the Eucharist is the true "Bread of Life." It is the Body, Blood, Soul, and Divinity of Jesus Christ. When we receive the Eucharist, we are receiving Jesus. Out of reverence for Christ, only those in union with this teaching and in a state of grace should receive communion. As Catholics, we should abstain from communion if we are in mortal sin.

While we share many articles of faith with our Protestant brothers and sisters, their understanding of this teaching is fundamentally different. For most non-Catholic churches, they do not believe that Christ becomes truly present in the Eucharist. As such, they should not receive communion in a Catholic Church. These differences are greater for people of non-Christian faiths, and even more apparent for those who do not believe in God. Receiving communion is not a right, but a gift to be accepted in humble, trusting faith.

Catholic Trivia

TRUE or FALSE:
A pope's pontificate begins at their coronation.

Answer: False. It begins when they accept the election results.

Peter approached Jesus and asked him, "Lord, if my brother sins against me, how often must I forgive? As many as seven times?" Jesus answered, "I say to you, not seven times but seventy-seven times." - Mt 18:21-22

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