



• 22ND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME •

COME AFTER ME

St. Elizabeth of Hungary/St. Mark

5700 Bear Creek Boulevard, Bear Creek, Pennsylvania 18602

TWENTY-SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME | August 30, 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

August 23, 2026

Weekly	\$2357.00
Online	<u>\$838.00</u>
	\$3195.00
Diocesan	- <u>\$20.00</u>
TOTAL	\$3175.00

Thank you for your continued generosity.

Eucharistic Celebration

SATURDAY, AUGUST 29—SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 6, 2026

SATURDAY, AUG 29

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*

MONDAY, AUG 31

9:00am (E) John Salasi *Req. by K of C #6050*

TUESDAY, SEPT 1

9:00am (E) David M. Soda *Req. by Theodore & Diane Haas*

WEDNESDAY, SEPT 2

9:00am (E) Robert Pomento *Req. by Judy Pomento*

THURSDAY, SEPT 3

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

FRIDAY, SEPT 4 FIRST FRIDAY

9:00am (E) Robert Stefanik *Req. by Joan Hannon*

Adoration immediately after Mass until 12 Noon

SATURDAY, SEPT 5

4:00pm (M) Reparation of Blasphemies Against Mary's Immaculate Conception

6:00pm (E) Ronald Heisler *Req. by wife Susan & sons*

SUNDAY, SEPT 6 23RD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

8:30am (M) For the Parishioners

10:30am (E) Joseph Kachurak *Req. by Dr. Gary & Benedetta Lawrence*



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,

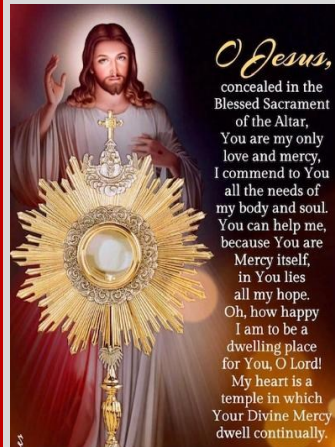
Hank Walker, Loretta Washick

Please notify the office at 570-472-3061

when names should be removed.

YOU ARE CALLED TO SIT WITH THE LORD

ADORATION of the BLESSED SACRAMENT



**First Friday,
September 4, 2026
immediately
following the
9AM Mass
until 12 Noon.**

All are welcome

"Of all the devotions, that of adoring Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament is the greatest after the sacraments, the dearest to God and the one most helpful to us."



Welcome! to our family

Matthew Miekina

Congratulations to Konrad, Candy & Matthew Miekina. Matthew's baptism was Saturday morning, 8/29, at St. Elizabeth's Church.



Heavenly Father, cover and protect little Matthew and Bennett. Guide them from all harm. Help Matthew and Bennett as they learn and grow. May Your blessings pour upon their lives today, and may they always trust in You, keeping their eyes on Jesus Christ and living in His grace. Amen

Welcome! to our family

Bennett Shaffer

Congratulations to Jeffrey, Coleen & Bennett Shaffer. Bennett's baptism is this Sunday, 8/30, after 10:30am Mass at St. Elizabeth's Church.

**Fr. Ravel's
Corner**



THE COST OF DISCIPLESHIP

Today's readings remind us of an important truth of Christian life: following Christ comes with a cost.

In the first reading, the prophet Jeremiah shares his inner struggle. Proclaiming God's word has brought him suffering and rejection, and he feels overwhelmed. Yet he cannot remain silent because God's word burns like fire within him. True discipleship may not always be comfortable, but it is compelling.

In the Gospel, Jesus Christ reveals His path of suffering and death. Peter the Apostle struggles to accept this and rebukes Jesus. But Jesus responds firmly: "Whoever wishes to come after me must deny himself, take up his cross, and follow me." Discipleship is not about comfort or success but about aligning our lives with God's will, even when it involves sacrifice.

In the second reading, Paul the Apostle shows us how to live this call: "Offer your bodies as a living sacrifice... don't confirm yourselves to this age but be transformed by the renewal of your mind." Christian life is about transformation - allowing God to shape our thoughts and actions so that we can discern and live His will.

Together these readings show that discipleship involves a tension between comfort and sacrifice, between worldly thinking and God's wisdom. Like Jeremiah and Peter, we may struggle, yet Jesus invites us to trust Him and follow faithfully.

Dear Brothers and Sisters, let us pray for the courage to follow Christ wholeheartedly, even when the path is difficult. May we learn to embrace our crosses with faith and follow God to transform our minds and hearts.

HAVE A WONDERFUL WEEKEND!!!!



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

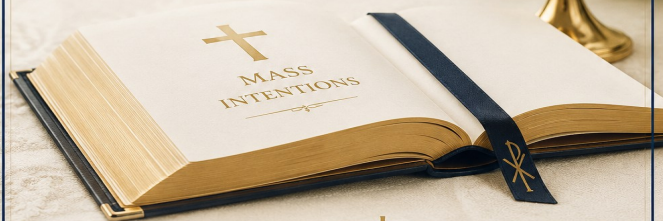
Classes for children in grades K-8 will be held on Sundays at 9:30 a.m., beginning Sunday, September 20.

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.

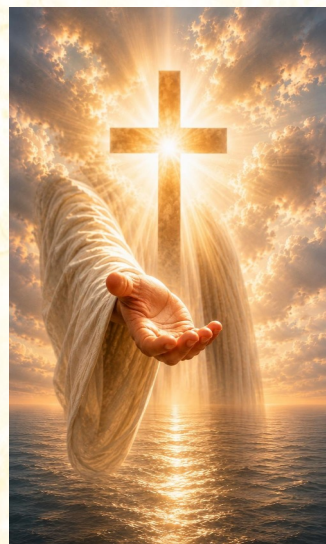
If you are unable to register in person, online registration is available by emailing Emily Bell and Renee Sipple at saintelizabethCCD@gmail.com

The
2027
MASS BOOK
will open

on
TUESDAY
SEPTEMBER 1, 2026



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



Please remember in your prayers Glenn Cronauer and his family. Glenn's mom, Patricia Cronauer, passed away Wednesday morning. Her funeral was Saturday morning at St. Elizabeth's Church.

"Eternal rest grant unto her, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon her. May the souls of the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen."

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 cooperation will make our accounting easier. Thank You!!!



Prayer for Students

Heavenly Father, as we begin this new school year, we ask for Your guidance and protection. Grant students confidence rooted in Your love, courage to face challenges, and perseverance in learning. Help them to see education as a gift, to grow in wisdom and knowledge, and to develop friendships that encourage their best selves. May they use their talents to serve You and others, and may Your Spirit guide them in all their studies and relationships. Amen

Prayer for Teachers

Lord Jesus, You were the greatest teacher, showing patience, encouragement, and wisdom. Bless teachers this school year with strength, creativity, and compassion. Help them to guide their students with understanding, to inspire curiosity, and to nurture both minds and hearts. May they be attentive to each student's needs and walk alongside them in learning and growth. Amen

Worship & Meditation

Readings for the week of August 30, 2026

Sunday:

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

Monday:

1 Cor 2:1-5/Ps 119:97, 98, 99, 100, 101,
102/Lk 4:16-30

Tuesday:

1 Cor 2:10b-16/Ps 145:8-9, 10-11, 12-13ab,
13cd-14/Lk 4:31-37

Wednesday:

1 Cor 3:1-9/Ps 33:12-13, 14-15, 20-21/
Lk 4:38-44

Thursday:

1 Cor 3:18-23/ Ps 24:1bc-2, 3-4ab, 5-6/
Lk 5:1-11

Friday:

1 Cor 4:1-5/Ps 37:3-4, 5-6, 27-28, 39-40/
Lk 5:33-39

Saturday:

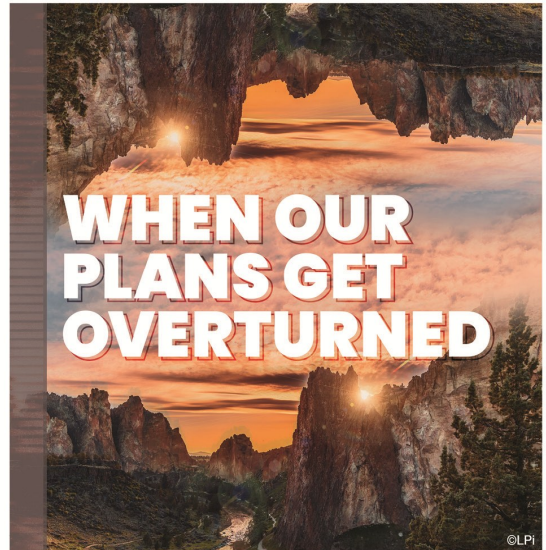
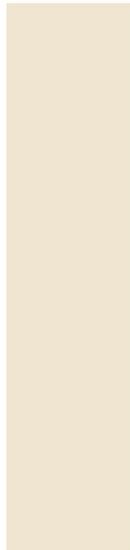
1 Cor 4:6b-15/Ps 145:17-18, 19-20, 21/
Lk 6:1-5

Next Sunday:

Ez 33:7-9/Ps 95:1-2, 6-7b, 7c-9/
Rom 13:8-10/Mt 18:15-20



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Gospel Meditation

Encourage Deeper Understanding of Scripture

Do you know what it is like to be thrilled by the power of Christian faith one moment and then utterly fail in it the next? I do. That is Peter in today's Gospel. After last week's bold confession, he now hears Jesus speak of suffering and death, and something in him recoils. He takes Jesus aside and tries to correct him. Jesus responds with the shocking rebuke, **"Get behind me, Satan."**

Peter is the mirror of every disciple. We love Jesus until he contradicts the script we have written for our lives. Peter does not reject Jesus. He rejects a *suffering* Jesus. So do we, whenever we avoid a hard responsibility, resist a demanding relationship, or cling to comfort instead of choosing love. We want a Lord who supports our plans, not one who overturns them.

Yet Jesus does not discard Peter. He redirects him. **"Whoever wishes to come after me must deny himself, take up his cross, and follow me."** In effect, Jesus says, stop trying to lead me. Let me lead you. Discipleship does not begin with heroism or clarity but with surrender. It means trusting that God's path to life often passes through places we would never choose.

Peter is all of us. We move from insight to confusion, from confidence to correction. That is why we should have hope. Jesus patiently teaches us again and again. Trust me. Get behind me. Follow me. When we stop fighting the crosses that come and start carrying them with him, we discover a freedom deeper than comfort and a love stronger than fear.

— *Father John Muir*

Weekly Prayer

Sunday's Readings

First Reading:

I say to myself, I will not mention him,
I will speak in his name no more.
But then it becomes like fire burning in my heart,
imprisoned in my bones. (Jer 20:9)

Psalm:

My soul is thirsting for you, O Lord my God. (Ps 63)

Second Reading:

I urge you, brothers and sisters, by the mercies of God,
to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice,
holy and pleasing to God, your spiritual worship. (Rom 12:1)

Gospel:

"For whoever wishes to save his life will lose it,
but whoever loses his life for my sake will find it." (Mt 16:25)

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Live The Liturgy Inspiration of the Week

Plenty of people are drawn to Jesus. Curious about him. Inspired by him. But can they carry the cross? Today, Jesus tells us that we cannot have one without the other — it is Christ and the cross, or nothing at all. Which will we choose?

Observances for the week of August 30, 2026

Sunday: 22nd Sunday in Ordinary Time

Thursday: St. Gregory the Great, Pope and Doctor of the Church

Next Sunday: 23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time



Virtues, Explained!

Virtuous zeal refers to an all-consuming love, which has for its object the Lord Himself. Closeness with God is impeded by anything contrary to the teachings of Jesus Christ, so no person can be "zealous" for God if they are violent or hateful.

Prayer for Vocations

Dear God,
Give us the courage and strength to answer when You call! Give us clarity and trust to hear Your soft invitations. Give us the love to respond, and the bravery to take the steps that will bring us ever closer to You.
Amen.

(PRACTICING) CATHOLIC

To Carry the Cross

Carry the cross? Absolutely. I'm happy to! Hand it over. Here's the thing: I just might...set it down for a second, from time to time. That's okay, right?

How else am I supposed to have both hands free to gesture in anger? I can't do that if I'm carrying the cross. Well, fine, then let me just shift its weight, so I can catch my breath and say what I think about this person who's got it all wrong — I'll just lean it against the wall here. No? Okay, fine, I won't put it down! I'll keep holding it. That's better, actually. Then I can use it as a weapon.

What? Am I doing this "Christian" thing wrong?

"Whoever wishes to save his life will lose it," Jesus tells us in today's Gospel. "But whoever loses his life for my sake will find it."

This is not an affirmation of the paradox that if you no longer care about something, you can finally have it once and for all. It's not a judgment about the worthlessness of life in this fallen world or the futility of trying to preserve that life.

It's merely a statement about priorities.

When Peter says, "God forbid!" at the thought of suffering, God is not his priority. His own safety is.

When I say, "God forbid!" at anything that comes from the mouth of God, it's a reminder to look at my hands — because they've probably put down the cross.

How merciful is our Lord — he never takes my cross from me, even when I walk far away from it. He always lets me pick it back up. In his dear and sweet goodness, he even helps me lift its weight. And he gestures, in case I've forgotten: "This way. Follow me."

— Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman

Why do we do that?

Catholic Life Explained

Question:

Why do priests wear vestments?
Do they have a special meaning?

Answer:

Vestments are clothes worn for a specific purpose. Priests will joke that they cover a thousand flaws. But our own manner of dress often corresponds to what we do. We dress up for special occasions and for special guests. We wear certain clothes for golf, for outdoor activities, and years ago, we even had our "Sunday best" clothes we wore just for Church. Vestments are much the same, and each one has a meaning. The alb is a reminder of the baptismal garment. The stole is a symbol of ordained ministry and authority within the Church. The chasuble reminds us that we are on a pilgrimage of faith, passing through this life towards heaven.

Priests wear vestments for two basic reasons. First, they draw attention to the importance and solemnity of the act of worship. The color of the vestments indicates the season of the year or the feast being celebrated. Secondly, vestments draw attention to what the priest does, rather than who he is. In the celebration of the Mass, the focus is on what we do together, on our common unity, and on the mystery and person of Christ.

“What profit would there be for one to gain the whole world and forfeit his life? Or what can one give in exchange for his life? For the Son of Man will come with his angels in his Father’s glory, and then he will repay all according to his conduct.” - Mt 16:26-27

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Questions of the Week

Invite Parishioners to Reflect and Respond to Scripture

First Reading:

Jeremiah wrestles with an inner struggle to proclaim the word of the Lord that comes to him. Who helps you work through distress or anxiety?

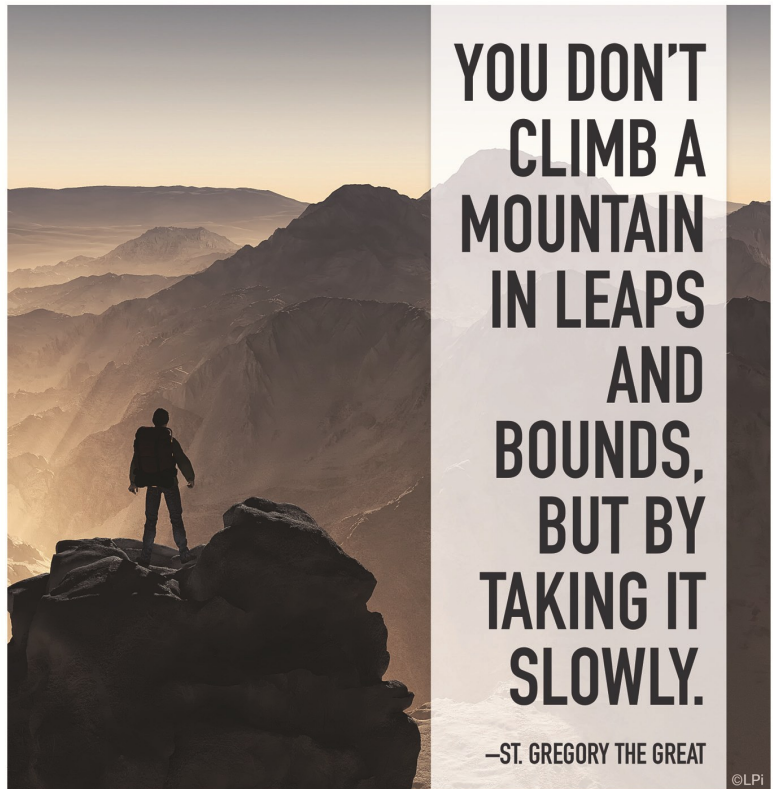
Second Reading:

Paul challenges believers not to conform to the present age but be transformed by the renewal of their minds. What in our “present age” needs to be avoided?

Gospel:

Peter does not want to accept Jesus’ destiny as the Messiah who suffers greatly and dies. How do you process difficult news or information?

22ND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME



Nazareth Group

with the Capuchin Sisters of Nazareth



Come make wholesome friendships, pray in the chapel, and learn more about the faith through talks with the sisters!



Upcoming Meetings

Saturdays 11:00 - 4:30

- September 26th, 2026
- November 21st, 2026
- January 30th, 2027
- April 17th, 2027
- June 5th, 2027



For high school young women grades 9 - 12

www.capuchinsisters.com

Two locations available, please call to RSVP!

Mother of God Convent

215 Wellwood Dr

Tunkhannock PA 18657

Sister Angela: 570 - 836 - 2737

Mother of the Eucharist Convent

6100 Jacks Hollow Rd

Williamsport PA 17702

Sister Clare: 570 - 745 - 3334