

TWENTY-SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

GO AND TAKE THE LOWEST PLACE.

— LUKE 14:10 —



St. Elizabeth of Hungary/St. Mark

5700 Bear Creek Boulevard, Bear Creek, Pennsylvania 18602

TWENTY-SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME | AUGUST 31, 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

Aug 24, 2025

Weekly \$1561.00

Online +\$743.00

\$2304.00

Diocesan -\$15.00

TOTAL: \$2289.00

Thank you for your continued generosity.

Parish weekly budget set at \$5000

Eucharistic Celebration

Saturday, Aug 30, 2025 — Sunday, Sept 7, 2025

Sat, AUG 30

4:00pm (M) Tom & Carol Silvi
Liz & John Strasberger & Family

6:00pm (E) Joseph Tucker
John & Ann Tucker

Sun, AUG 31

8:30am (M) Annette Marie Barbini
Charlie & Elaine Morehead

10:30am (E) Mrs. Anna Cox
Theodore & Diane Haas

Mon, SEPT 1

LABOR DAY

9:00am (E) Irene Smith
Grace Duffy

Tues, SEPT 2

9:00am (E) Robert Pomento
Judy Pomento

Wed, SEPT 3

9:00am (E) Carolyn Maurer
Altar & Rosary Society

Thurs, SEPT 4

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

Fri, SEPT 5

FIRST FRIDAY

9:00am (E) Health & Blessings for Rev. Anthony Urban
Jeanne Mulcahy

Eucharistic Adoration after Mass—12Noon

Sat, SEPT 6

4:00pm (M) Robert Kistler
Steve & Kathy Rector

6:00pm (E) Edmund Pachucki
Stan & Jean Swaintek

Sun, SEPT 7

8:30am (M) For the Parishioners

10:30am (E) Helen Boris
Joseph & Marcia Boris



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



Noreen Catani Amico,

Lea Furlong, Tyrone Gayeski,

Bernard Hendrzak, Jake Johnson,

Joseph Kachurak, Patrick Kildea,

Michael Lilienthal, Mollie Litchman,

Carolyn Palencar, Richard Sawicki, Mary Soos,

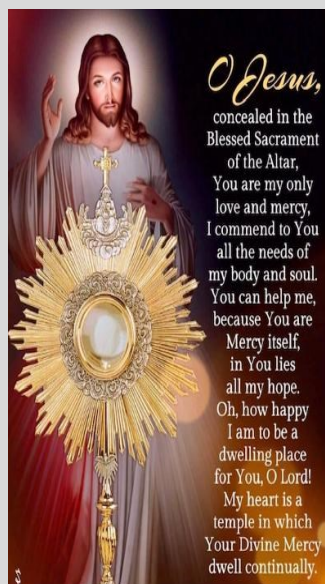
Byran Stanton, John Tucker,

Rev. Anthony Urban, Gary Walker,

Hank Walker, Loretta Washick

**Please notify office when names should be
removed. 570-472-3061**

YOU ARE CALLED TO SIT WITH THE LORD



**ADORATION of
the BLESSED
SACRAMENT**

**First Friday,
September 5, 2025
immediately
following the
9AM Mass**

**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."**

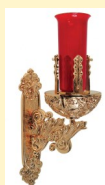
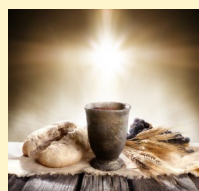
-St. Alphonsus Liguori

**Pray
THE ROSARY**



**The Bread and Wine is offered
this Sunday in memory of**

**Robert Pomento
by wife Judy Pomento.**



**The Sanctuary Candle is burning this week in
memory of Robert Pomento
by wife Judy Pomento.**

Father Rawel's
Corner



THE GRACE OF THE LOWER PLACE

At the crowded wedding in a village, a poor farmer once sat at the front. As the wealthy guests arrived, he was quietly asked to move back. That sting of shame lingered longer than the feast.

Today, Jesus tells a similar story - not to shame us, but to invite us into a new kind of banquet: the Reign of God.

In Sirach, we hear, "The greater you are, the more you must humble yourself."

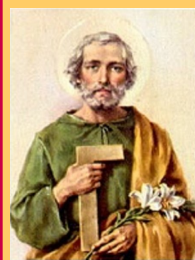
In the entire world, where caste, status, and power still shape dignity, this message unsettles the hierarchy. The Gospel reverses the ladder. Jesus says: do not wait to be humbled, choose the lowest place, not as false modesty, but as radical humility. Hebrews reminds us we are not approaching a fearsome God on a fiery mountain, but at a festal gathering - welcomed not by merit, but by mercy. The poor, the differently abled, the poor, the migrant - how often do they find no seat at our tables? We invite those who repay us. But Jesus challenges us to host those who cannot - because in doing so, we become like God, who gives freely. Imagine our churches, schools, even weddings, shaped not by status, but by inclusion. Today, Jesus is not teaching etiquette. He is offering a glimpse into heaven's banquet. Will we take the lower place so that all may have a place?

May the Lord Jesus Christ, teach us to take the lower place that we may make a room for those the world forgets.

HAVE A WONDERFUL WEEKEND!



ST. JOSEPH THE WORKER



A special Mass honoring St. Joseph the Worker will be celebrated tomorrow (Monday), Labor Day morning, Sept. 1, at 11:00 a.m. at the Oblates of St. Joseph Chapel, Route 315, Laffin. Intentions of the Mass are for all workers, the unemployed and blessings upon the new school year. Bread will be blessed & distributed to all in attendance as a symbol of the fruit of our labor.

MARCH for LIFE

His Excellency, the Most Reverend Joseph C. Bambera, D.D., J.C.L., Bishop of Scranton, and the Office for Parish Life wish to invite you to the Pennsylvania March for Life in Harrisburg, PA on September 22nd, 2025. The diocese is coordinating a bus trip to the March with stops in Scranton and Wilkes-Barre. The registration fee is \$20 and includes the bus trip, snacks, and a t-shirt. To register, please visit dioceseofscranton.org or scan the QR code. Space is limited on the bus, register today! If you have any questions, please call Bridget Guarnieri at (570) 207-2213 ext 1133 or email familylife@dioceseofscranton.org.

CALLING ALL CATHOLICS *for Life!*

JOIN US AT THE
Pennsylvania
March *for Life*
HARRISBURG, PA

Space is limited!



\$20

SEPTEMBER 22, 2025

Register or learn more at
DioceseofScranton.org



Includes bus
transportation,
snack and t-shirt



DIocese of
SCRANTON

MARCH for LIFE



Pope Leo XIV has expressed deep concern for the ongoing humanitarian crisis in Gaza, calling on the global Catholic community to respond with mercy and solidarity. Parishes in the Diocese of Scranton are holding a special collection to support Catholic Relief Services (CRS) and the Catholic Near East Welfare Association (CNEWA), which are providing vital emergency aid, medical care, and relief to those suffering in the region. Our parish will take up this special collection on the weekend of Sept 6th-7th. Despite staggering challenges, Catholic Relief Services and its partners have reached 1.7 million people in Gaza since 2023 with food, shelter, water, sanitation, and hygiene support. Please be generous!



The Parish Council is sponsoring a Fundraiser to help cover our Parish operating expenses. On **Sunday Sept 28, 2025 from 1PM - 4PM** a **Takeout Dinner** (Ham, scalloped potato, corn, roll with butter and cake) will be available for **\$15.00 per meal**. Reserve dinners by calling **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.

Worship & Meditation

Readings for the week of August 31, 2025

Sunday:

Sir 3:17-18, 20, 28-29/Ps 15:2-3, 3-4, 4-5 (1a)/Heb 12:18-19, 22-24a/Lk 14:1, 7-14

Monday:

1 Thes 4:13-18/Ps 96:1 and 3, 4-5, 11-12, 13/Lk 4:16-30

Tuesday:

1 Thes 5:1-6, 9-11/Ps 27:1, 4, 13-14/Lk 4:31-37

Wednesday:

Col 1:1-8/Ps 52:10, 11/Lk 4:38-44

Thursday:

Col 1:9-14/Ps 98:2-3ab, 3cd-4, 5-6/Lk 5:1-11

Friday:

Col 1:15-20/Ps 100:1b-2, 3, 4, 5/Lk 5:33-39

Saturday:

Col 1:21-23/Ps 54:3-4, 6 and 8/Lk 6:1-5

Next Sunday:

Wis 9:13-18b/Ps 90:3-4, 5-6, 12-13, 14-17 (1)/Phlm 9-10, 12-17/Lk 14:25-33



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Gospel Meditation

Encourage Deeper Understanding of Scripture

Once I was invited to a group meeting with Pope Francis. Entering the room, I paused, eyeing the seats next to the Pope's fancy chair. Someone saw my paralysis and invited me to sit in the seat farthest from what I wanted. Hiding my disappointment, I sat. We waited. To our surprise, an aid pointed out that those seats were still empty and invited me and another to have them. We calmly but gleefully strode across the room and sat. Pope Francis entered, and we enjoyed two hours of amazingly uplifting conversation.

Jesus says this week to us: **“When you are invited, go and take the lowest place so that when the host comes to you he may say, ‘My friend, move up to a higher position.’ Then you will enjoy the esteem of your companions at the table” (Luke 14:10).** This is not about how to score free seat upgrades. Rather, it is a wise pattern for the whole of life. It is how to live free from the anxiety of constantly grasping for status and recognition.

Jesus perfectly embodies his seat-taking advice. He eschews his glorious throne for the lowest: death on a cross, that lonely chair we all deserve. In his resurrection, he calls us up higher to his marvelous banquet seats. This week, perhaps we should look for opportunities to choose the lowest seat. We'll be pleasantly surprised when we do.

— Father John Muir

Weekly Prayer

Sunday's Readings

First Reading:

Humble yourself the more, the greater you are,
and you will find favor with God. (Sir 3:18)

Psalm:

God, in your goodness, you have made a home for the poor.
(Ps 68)

Second Reading:

You have not approached that which could be touched
and a blazing fire and gloomy darkness. (Heb 12:18)

Gospel:

"For every one who exalts himself will be humbled,
but the one who humbles himself will be exalted." (Lk 14:11)

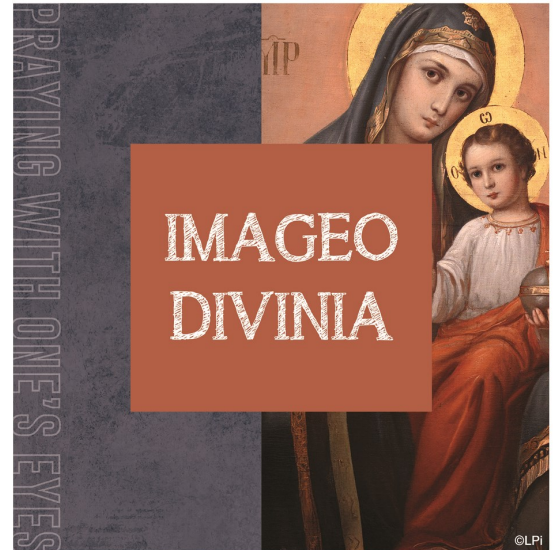
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Live The Liturgy Inspiration of the Week

"When you hold a banquet, invite the poor,"
Jesus instructs. "Blessed indeed will you be
because of their inability to repay you." Each
of us has our own banquet to offer, our own
gifts to share. Who will we invite?

Observances for the week of August 31, 2025

- Sunday:** 22nd Sunday in Ordinary Time
Monday: Labor Day
Wednesday: St. Gregory the Great, Pope and
Doctor of the Church
Next Sunday: 23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time;
Grandparents' Day



Devotions, Explained!

Imago divina (Latin for "divine image") is an extension of the ancient practice of *lectio divina* (literally, "divine lesson"). *Imago divina* is, in a sense, praying with one's eyes, using the medium of artwork to assist in lifting the mind to God.

Prayer for Humility

Dear God,
Mold my heart after Yours.
Help me to see myself as You
see me: surrounded by Your
love. Help me to see others as
You see them as well. Give me
knowledge of your ways, today
and always.
Amen.

(PRACTICING) CATHOLIC

Mini Reflection: I think, if we're being really honest, we all expect "payment" for being a good person. We want God to give us what we ask. We want people to treat us a certain way. But what if we expected absolutely nothing?

What Did You Expect?

Moms have a lot of jobs, and it's usually the case that none of them pay very well.

My work as a chef? Zero compensation, and my clientele are very rarely pleased with my efforts. My role as a teacher, a maid, a chauffeur, a therapist — same deal. Ironically, these jobs consume so much of my time that I am constricted in my work as a writer — the only sphere where I do actually garner any earnings.

It is so easy to grumble about all of this, and I do it all the time. Because despite the fact that I know better, I expect repayment for my good deeds. Deep in my soul, I expect it.

That's a huge problem.

In my defense, I don't think this is a very uncommon thing. I think, if we're being really honest, we all expect "payment" for being a good person. We want God to give us what we ask. We want people to treat us a certain way. We want our day to go smoothly. We expect these things as a matter of course; we feel entitled to them, and we become grumpy when we are denied them. *I worked so hard. I gave so much. What was it all even for?*

But what if we expected absolutely nothing?

When you hold a banquet, Jesus said, invite those who cannot return the favor. Give not just without the expectation of repayment, but without the possibility of it.

Think about that for a minute. What does that even *look* like — no possibility of payment?

I know what that looks like in my own life. It's giving more to the literal poor, yes, but it's also giving more — and more happily, more lovingly — when I cook and clean and drive and write and console. It's not lamenting that no one appreciates me — it's actually hoping no one does.

It's learning to love the lowest place at the table. Because in the lowest place, we are closest to God.

— Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman

Why do we do that?

Catholic Life Explained

Question:

Does chewing gum break the fast before Communion?

Answer:

If you look in Canon Law or in the Catechism, there is no mention of chewing gum. I guess it does not rate the attention of the universal church! The Church requires us to fast for one hour before we receive the Eucharist. Basically, we are to refrain from food and drink, not including water or medicine. There are also exceptions for people who are ill. Overall, the fast is intended for us to prepare ourselves to receive the Eucharist and in some small way to literally as well as spiritually hunger for what we are about to receive. Chewing gum, while not really food, does at least break the spirit of the fast. Besides that, it is a distraction and rude. What do you do with the gum when it is time to receive Communion? People have actually come to the altar chewing away, oblivious to what they were doing or Who they were receiving. At best, it is distracting and irreverent. At worst, it adds a barrier to giving our best to receiving God's best.

“Rather, when you hold a banquet, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, the blind; blessed indeed will you be because of their inability to repay you. For you will be repaid at the resurrection of the righteous.” - Lk 14:13-14

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Questions of the Week

Invite Parishioners to Reflect and Respond to Scripture

First Reading:

Sirach speaks of the virtue of humility and the wisdom of knowing one's limits. Can you think of a time when you needed to depend on others?

Second Reading:

The author of Hebrews speaks of our direct access to God through the new covenant established by Jesus. How might we take advantage of such a gift?

Gospel:

With the parable of the wedding banquet, Jesus teaches the Pharisees to be open and even inviting to the poor and marginalized. How might you exercise this virtue in the coming week?

A Prayer for Labor Day

Lord on this Labor Day,
we thank You for the blessing of work.
We ask for strength to complete each day.
We ask for rest when we are weary.
We ask Your guidance
for everyone seeking employment,
and we ask that
You be with those whose faces
we might never see
but who work tirelessly each day
for the good of us all.
Amen.



*Inviting All High School Young
Women to the next meeting of*
Nazareth Group



With the Capuchin Sisters of Nazareth
capuchinsisters.com



Join us at Nazareth to go deeper into the faith and grow in relationship with Jesus Christ. Make wholesome friendships, hear inspiring talks, and spend quality time in prayer.

Two Locations Available.
Please call to RSVP.

Mother of God Convent
215 Wellwood DR,
Tunkhannock, PA 18657
Sr. Angela: 570-836-2737

Mother of the Eucharist Con-
vent 6100 Jacks Hollow RD,
Williamsport, PA 17702
Sr. Clare: 570-745-3334

Upcoming Saturday Meetings

11 AM—4:30 PM
September 27, 2025
November 8, 2025
January 17, 2026
March 21, 2026
June 6, 2026

