

TWENTY-SEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

FAITH

THE SIZE OF A MUSTARD SEED.

— LUKE 17:6 —

St. Elizabeth of Hungary/St. Mark

5700 Bear Creek Boulevard, Bear Creek, Pennsylvania 18602



©LPI

TWENTY-SEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME | OCTOBER 5, 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
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OFFICE HOURS / PHONE

Tuesday & Wednesday
9AM—3PM

Phone.....570-472-3061

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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 28, 2025

Weekly \$2829.00

Online \$733.00

\$3562.00

Diocesan -\$0.00

TOTAL: \$3562.00

Thank you for your continued generosity.

The Parish Budget is set at \$5000.

Eucharistic Celebration

Saturday, Oct 4, 2025 — Sunday, Oct 12, 2025

Sat, OCT 4

4:00pm (M) Eugene Korjeski
Jim O'Hara Jr.

6:00pm (E) Edmund Pachucki
Colleen MacDaniel

Sun, OCT 5

8:30am (M) Terry Kulakowski
David & Linda Hamill

10:30am (E) Mary Grouke
Dr. Gary & Benedetta Lawrenc

Mon, OCT 6

9:00am (E) Bertha Pytell

Tues, OCT 7

9:00am (E) Leslie Hannon Bailor
Joan Hannon

Wed, OCT 8

9:00am (E) June Rannochia
Alfie, Diane, & Donald Rannochia

Thurs, OCT 9

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

Fri, OCT 10

9:00am (E) Eugene Korjeski
Ann Frisbie

Sat, OCT 11

4:00pm (M) George & Irene Cooney
Steve & Kathy Rector

6:00pm (E) Stephen Rish Sr.
Steve & Mer Rish

Sun, OCT 12

8:30am (M) Charles Henry & Beatrice Morehead
Charlie & Elaine Morehead

10:30am (E) Mary Grouke
Former St. Elizabeth's Guild



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, Mary Soos, Byran Stanton,
Verna Stavish, John Tucker,
Rev. Anthony Urban, Gary Walker,
Hank Walker, Loretta Washick*

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



October is designated by the Catholic Church as the "Month of the Rosary" because in this month the Church celebrates the Marian advocacy of "Our Lady of the Rosary" on Oct. 7.

The feast of Our Lady of the Rosary, also celebrated as Our Lady of Victory or Victories, was established by Pope St. Pius V in 1571 to celebrate the miraculous victory of the Christian forces in the Battle of Lepanto on Oct. 7 of that year. Previous to the decisive battle, St. Pius V had requested all Western Christians to pray the rosary; thus he attributed the victory to the power of the Marian prayer rather than the power of ships and cannons.

Two years before establishing the feast, in 1569, Pope St. Pius V officially approved the rosary in its present form with the papal bull *Consueverunt Romani Pontifices* ("The Roman Pontiffs are accustomed," the first words of the document). In a development from earlier methods of praying the rosary, the new version included the second half of the Hail Mary, as well as the "Glory Be" prayer at the end of each mystery.

In *Consueverunt Romani Pontifices*, St. Pius V established the two essential elements of the rosary: vocal prayer and mental prayer. This fact has been highlighted by all Marian saints, especially Louis-Marie Grignion de Montfort (1673 – 1716), author of popular Marian books such as "**The Admirable secret of the Rosary**," "**True Devotion to the Blessed Virgin**," and "Methods for Saying the Rosary."

The dedication of the month of October to the Holy Rosary became common in the Church thanks to Pope Leo XIII, an enthusiastic promoter of the rosary. In the span of only five years, Pope Leo wrote eleven encyclicals on the rosary.

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St. John Paul II called the rosary his favorite prayer, "in which we meditate with Mary upon the mysteries which she as a Mother meditated on in her heart (Lk. 2:19.)."

Please keep in your prayers

**Tyrone Gayeski and his family. Tyrone
"Ski" entered eternal life September 21st.
Per his request, burial was private.**



*Eternal rest grant unto him, O Lord, and let perpetual
light shine upon him and all the faithful departed. Amen.*

Father Rawel's
Corner



FAITH OF GOD CHANGES EVERYTHING

A Christian is called to live by faith. Our parents taught us all ways to have deep faith in God.

In the Gospels, faith in God has counted hundred percent for Jesus to cure people's diseases. When there is socio-economic crisis, people easily lose faith in God and in their government. The recent crisis in different parts of the world and people's struggles are the best examples. Today's readings teach us to be firm in our faith despite struggles.

In the first reading, the prophet Habakkuk finds himself in a difficult time in the history of Judah. He witnesses discord, disorder, and violence. He is unique in articulating his sentiments and prayers to God. He is bold in expressing the frustrations of the people of God. Thus, he teaches us to have faith in God even during crises. Faith means steadfast loyalty.

In the second reading, St. Paul, the Apostle, admonishes Timothy to shun the spirit of timidity and be bold in spirit. Indeed, the good fight for faith requires the confidence and boldness that comes with faith.

In the Gospel, Jesus narrates a parable about faith in action to His listeners. According to this parable, authentic faith serves with joy and not necessarily for rewards, appreciation, attention, approval, or praise to be obtained. Thus, faith is fully expressed in personal trusting God and entrusting oneself totally to the service of others.

May the Lord God, grant us the grace to learn to trust in You and always have a positive attitude towards life, especially during crises.

HAVE A BLESSED 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.***

Organ Concert for All Hallows Eve



Please join us for a program of organ music,
both powerful and peaceful,
for the feasts of All Saints and All Souls -
with a little Halloween mischief, just for fun!

**Sunday, October 19, 2025
2:00 PM**

**Saint John the Evangelist R.C. Church
35 William Street, Pittston**

Presented by Michael Sowa
Organist and Director of Music
for Saint John the Evangelist Parish

A free-will offering will be accepted for the care and upkeep of Saint John's historic Kilgen pipe organ.



The University of Scranton, one of America's premier colleges, will host two Open House events for prospective students and their families on Sunday, Oct. 26, and Sunday, Nov. 9.

Inspired by its Catholic and Jesuit mission, Scranton provides a rigorous, in-depth education designed for personal and professional success. For more than 30 consecutive years, U.S. News & World Report has ranked Scranton among the 10 top Master's Universities in the North. The Princeton Review included Scranton in its list "Best Colleges" for more than 20 consecutive years and in its ranking of the nation's top 25 "Best Science Labs" for eight years, among other rankings.

At the Open House, participants can learn about Scranton's 70 majors and 47 minors and meet with faculty, students, admissions counselors and financial aid representatives. They can also learn about Scranton's five honors programs and pre-law, pre-medical and pre-health professions programs. Student-led tours of the campus, located in Northeast Pennsylvania, will be conducted throughout the day and will include residence halls, dining halls, computer labs, science labs and academic facilities.

In addition, representatives of student organizations and athletic teams will be available.

For additional information, contact Scranton's Admissions Office at 1-888-SCRANTON or visit Scranton's Open House webpage.



"St Elizabeth's Way is holding an eat-in Pasta Dinner fundraiser on Oct 19th from 3 - 5. Come and enjoy Pasta, homemade sauce, meatballs, sausage, salad and dessert with your friends and family. Cost is \$15 per person,

please call 570-851-0213 or email to reserve your meals."

Worship & Meditation

Readings for the week of October 5, 2025

Sunday:

Hb 1:2-3; 2:2-4/Ps 95:1-2, 6-7, 8-9 (8)/
2 Tm 1:6-8, 13-14/Lk 17:5-10

Monday:

Jon 1:1-2:2, 11/Jon 2:3, 4, 5, 8/Lk 10:25-37

Tuesday:

Jon 3:1-10/Ps 130:1b-2, 3-4ab, 7-8/
Lk 10:38-42

Wednesday:

Jon 4:1-11/Ps 86:3-4, 5-6, 9-10/Lk 11:1-4

Thursday:

Mal 3:13-20b/Ps 1:1-2, 3, 4 and 6/
Lk 11:5-13

Friday:

Jl 1:13-15; 2:1-2/Ps 9:2-3, 6 and 16, 8-9/
Lk 11:15-26

Saturday:

Jl 4:12-21/Ps 97:1-2, 5-6, 11-12/Lk 11:27-28

Next Sunday:

2 Kgs 5:14-17/Ps 98:1, 2-3, 3-4 (see 2b)/
2 Tm 2:8-13/Lk 17:11-19



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Gospel Meditation

Encourage Deeper Understanding of Scripture

A priest friend of mine received a call from a family whose elderly mother was dying. Within thirty minutes, he was at her bedside, offering the consolation of the sacraments, anointing her with the oil of the sick, and commending her soul to God. She passed not long after, and for months, her family spoke of their deep gratitude for his presence. When I phoned him to commend his faithful ministry, he simply said, “I was just doing my job.”

His words brought to mind Jesus’ teaching this week in Luke 17:10: **“So you also, when you have done everything you were told to do, should say, ‘We are unworthy servants; we have only done our duty.’”** In a world that often seeks recognition and applause, the Lord invites us into a different mindset — one of humble service. The priest did not see his response as extraordinary; he saw it as a grace to fulfill his vocation.

How tempting it is to seek affirmation for doing what I ought to do! Yet Jesus reminds us that true discipleship is not about grandstanding but about quiet faithfulness. It is enough to have served. It is enough to have loved. It is enough to be grateful that we were given the chance to do our duty in the first place. Whether in priesthood, parenthood, or any vocation, what peace-soaked freedom there is in simply doing what is asked of us. No more, no less. Jesus, that is how you quietly love us.

— Father John Muir

Weekly Prayer

Sunday's Readings

First Reading:

The rash one has no integrity;
but the just one, because of his faith, shall live. (Hb 2:4)

Psalm:

If today you hear his voice, harden not your hearts. (Ps 95)

Second Reading:

For God did not give us a spirit of cowardice
but rather of power and love and self-control. (2 Tm 1:7)

Gospel:

"If you have faith the size of a mustard seed,
you would say to this mulberry tree,
'Be uprooted and planted in the sea,'
and it would obey you." (Lk 17:6)

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Live The Liturgy Inspiration of the Week

The Apostles beg Jesus for increased faith, but they don't really want faith. They want a magical feeling of certainty that requires no effort. Real faith must grow and sprout roots in fertile soil. Real faith requires attention and work. Are we willing to work?

Observances for the week of October 5, 2025

- Sunday:** 27th Sunday in Ordinary Time;
Respect Life Sunday
- Monday:** St. Bruno, Priest; Bl. Marie Rose Durocher,
Virgin
- Tuesday:** Our Lady of the Rosary
- Thursday:** St. Denis, Bishop, and Companions, Martyrs;
St. John Leonardi, Priest
- Saturday:** St. John XXIII, Pope
- Next Sunday:** 28th Sunday in Ordinary Time



Devotions, *Explained!*

This popular phrase is an affirmation of God's faithfulness amidst the trials of life, a theme that is presented again and again in Scripture: come what may, God will be with us.

Prayer to Respect Life

Dear God,
Help us to hear Your voice,
especially when You speak on
behalf of the voiceless,
the overlooked, and the forgotten.
Keep our ears attuned, and work
through us in a way that loves,
blesses, assures, supports, and
strengthens LIFE.
Amen.

(PRACTICING) CATHOLIC

Mini Reflection: “Increase my faith.” I’ve said it to God plenty of times, imagining a prayer life that is effortless and a sacramental life that is uncomplicated. Easy faith — that’s what I’m asking for, and lots of it, please. But easy faith isn’t faith at all.

The Father Who Knows What You Want

It’s easy to give your kid what he’s asking for. It’s hard to give him what he wants.

If a kid asks to eat an ice cream cone, there’s nothing wrong with giving him one. But if he’s grumpily demanding an ice cream cone at 7:45 in the morning, what he wants — whether he realizes it or not — is some protein and whole grains and a little encouragement to get him going on his day.

So you give him eggs and toast, and you watch him struggle to accept it. Sometimes he does and sometimes he doesn’t, but either way, you’ll be here. You’ll forgive him for whatever names he calls you and you’ll put the healthy breakfast in the fridge, waiting for him when he’s ready to eat it.

“Increase my faith.” I’ve said it to God plenty of times, imagining a prayer life that is effortless and a sacramental life that is uncomplicated, an acceptance of truth that is unshakeable. Easy faith — that’s what I’m asking for, and lots of it, please.

But easy faith isn’t faith at all, and faith that you aren’t strong enough to hold will break your arms. And what God will never do is say, “Sure, kiddo, here you go,” and pass off a false gift as the real thing, just to make us both feel good. He won’t hand me something I’m not strong enough to hold.

That would be a classic lazy-father move. That would be an ice-cream-cone-at-7:45 a.m. move.

Instead, He watches carefully while I navigate the bumpy terrain of the spiritual life, ready to whisper directions in my ear. He holds his breath while the challenges of this world create deep grooves in my soul — and then He irrigates those grooves with the life-giving waters of grace, transforming them into valleys of consolation and respite.

Sometimes I call Him names. Sometimes I refuse what He’s offering. It’s not what I asked for, after all.

But it’s what I want. Luckily, He knows that better than me.

— Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman

Why do we do that?

Catholic Life Explained

Question:

Who invented the Stations of the Cross?

Answer:

The first Stations of the Cross were walked by Jesus himself on the way to Calvary. Known as the “Via Dolorosa” (“The Way of Suffering”) or the “Via Crucis” (“The Way of the Cross”), it was marked out from the earliest times and was a traditional walk for pilgrims who came to Jerusalem. The early Christians in Jerusalem would walk the same pathway that Jesus walked, pausing for reflection and prayer. Later, when Christians could not travel to the Holy Land, artistic depictions of “The Way of the Cross” were set up in churches, or outside and Christians would walk from station to station, reading the Gospel account of the Passion, or simply praying and reflecting on each event. While the content or place of each station had changed, the intention was to make a mini-pilgrimage and follow--literally--in the footsteps of Jesus.

This devotion became better known in the Middle Ages, and the Franciscans are credited with its spread. Lent is a time when many people make the Stations and some churches present Passion plays or Living Stations. But anyone can pray the Stations at any time. It is a simple and personal reflection on the passion of Jesus and what it means to us.

The apostles said to the Lord, "Increase our faith." The Lord replied, "If you have faith the size of a mustard seed, you would say to this mulberry tree, 'Be uprooted and planted in the sea,' and it would obey you."

- Lk 17:5-6

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

Questions of the Week

Invite Parishioners to Reflect and Respond to Scripture

First Reading:

The prophet Habakkuk is encouraged to be patient and trust in the Lord's timing. Is patience one of your virtues?

Second Reading:

Paul urges Timothy to live his life of faith with courage and self-control, especially in difficult situations. How might you support a family member or friend struggling this week?

Gospel:

Jesus taught the Apostles that one way to increase your faith is to have the attitude of a servant. How would you describe your attitude most days?



LIFE

Our Sign of Hope



There is perhaps no more beautiful celebration than when parents bring their newborn child to the waters of baptism. Parents, godparents, family, and friends share in this sacrament with incomparable joy. For in baptism, we share in Christ's death and resurrection, and through the outward signs of water and oil, are made *children of God* and given the hope of eternal life with Him.

"The death and resurrection of Jesus is the heart of our faith and the basis of our hope."¹ Through our Lord Jesus Christ, our sins are forgiven, death is overcome, and life is victorious. "Hope dwells as the desire and expectation of good things to come, despite not knowing what the future may bring."² Because of this Christian hope, we can face the unknown trials of life with faith rather than fear.

We are called to be signs of hope to all people, especially those whose goodness, value, and dignity are undermined. As members of the Body of Christ, we carry this hope with us as we continue Jesus' mission on earth. Pope Leo XIV encourages us, "How important it is that each and every baptized person feel himself or herself called by God to be a sign of hope in the world today."³

Sadly, there is a devastating absence of hope today. We see this most profoundly in a sweeping disregard for human life in its most vulnerable forms and stages. Abortion and assisted suicide are products of

"Hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out into our hearts through the holy Spirit that has been given to us." Romans 5:5

hopelessness and despair. Yet even amid the increasing attacks on human life, we know that the "storms that buffet us will never prevail, for we are firmly anchored in the hope born of grace, which enables us to live in Christ and to overcome sin, fear and death."⁴

We have been entrusted with a message of hope for the woman who finds herself unexpectedly pregnant or for the man diagnosed with a terminal illness. At these challenging moments, we must bring God's presence, witnessing to His love, and inspiring a renewal of hope in those whose hearts are burdened. For "hope is born of love and based on the love springing from the pierced heart of Jesus upon the cross."⁵

Having been "buried with Christ in Baptism, we receive in his resurrection the gift of a new life that breaks down the walls of death."⁶ Confident of God's presence within us, may we share the Gospel of Life with those most in need of hope, knowing that "the grace of God precedes and accompanies his people as they press forward firm in faith, active in charity and steadfast in hope."⁷

¹ Pope Francis, *Spes non confundit*, 20.

² *Ibid.*, 1.

³ Pope Leo XIV, Vatican News, May 26, 2025: <https://www.vaticannews.va/en/pope/news/2025-05/pope-leo-xiv-africa-day-pilgrimage-blessing-vatican-basilica.html>.

⁴ Pope Francis, *Spes non confundit*, 25.

⁵ *Ibid.*, 3.

⁶ *Ibid.*, 20.

⁷ *Ibid.*, 6.