

TWENTY-SEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

A LANDOWNER
PLANTED A
VINEYARD.

— MATTHEW 21:33 —



St. Elizabeth of Hungary/St. Mark

5700 Bear Creek Boulevard, Bear Creek, Pennsylvania 18602

TWENTY-SEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME | October 4, 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 27, 2026

Weekly \$1321.00

Online \$773.00

\$2094.00

Diocesan - \$.00

TOTAL \$2094.00

Week of September 20th — \$2968.00

Thank you for your continued generosity.

Eucharistic Celebration

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 3—SUNDAY, OCTOBER 11, 2026

SATURDAY, OCT 3

4:00pm (M) Reparation for Blasphemies of those who publicly seek to sow indifference, scorn or hatred in the hearts of children for our BVM
6:00pm (E) Reparation for Blasphemies of those who publicly seek to sow indifference, scorn or hatred in the hearts of children for our BVM

SUNDAY, OCT 4 27th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

8:30am (M) Florence Keshaw *Req. by Charlie & Elaine Morehead*
10:30am (E) Gary Walker *Req. by Edward Kalinowski*

MONDAY, OCT 5

9:00am (E) For the Souls in Purgatory

TUESDAY, OCT 6

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

WEDNESDAY, OCT 7

9:00am (E) Fulmani Toppo *Req. by Steve & Amanda Proch*

THURSDAY, OCT 8

9:00am (E) NO MASS

FRIDAY, OCT 9

9:00am (E) Fulmani Toppo *Req. by Friend Cathy*

SATURDAY, OCT 10

4:00pm (M) Brian Rector *Req. Kathy & Steve Rector*
6:00pm (E) Virginia "Ginny" Corcoran *Req. by Marianne Kocylowski*

SUNDAY, OCT 11 28th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

8:30am (M) For the Deceased from 9/11 Attacks
10:30am (E) Joseph Kachurak *Req. by Judy Pomento*



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



Noreen Catani Amico, Baby Lily,
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!



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!

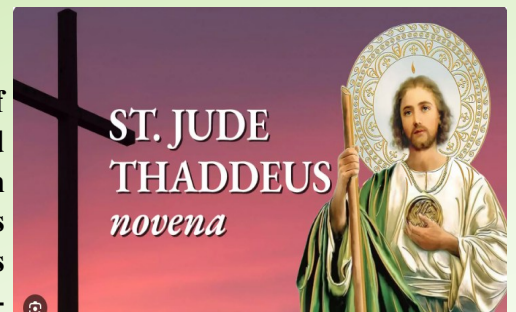


The Christin Women of our Lady of Hope Parish will be hosting a Cash/Gift Card Bingo October 18th from 1:00 to 4:00 pm in Ava Maria Hall, 40 Park Ave, Wilkes Barre PA. Doors open at noon. Admission is \$20.00 in advance - \$25.00 at the door. Come join the fun. Gift baskets, instant bingo and refreshments will be available.

Please contact Andrea Grella at (570) 606-7463 or contact Sue at the rectory at 570-852-5303 for tickets to attend or for more information.

COMMUNION OF SAINTS PARISH TO HOST 69TH ANNUAL NOVENA TO ST. JUDE

Communion of Saints Parish in Pittston will continue the tradition of the Annual Novena to St. Jude, Patron Saint of Hopeless Cases and Things Despaired Of, beginning Monday, October 19 and ending on the Feast of Sts. Simon and Jude, Wednesday, October 28. All Masses and services will be celebrated in St. Mary, Help of Christians Church, 535 North Main Street in Pittston. Daily Masses will be celebrated at 12 Noon (Monday-Saturday) and Sunday Mass will be celebrated at 8:00 AM. Sung Evening Prayer will be celebrated at 7:00 PM (Monday-Friday). There will be no Evening Prayer on Saturday or Sunday. Confessions will be heard Monday through Saturday beginning at 11:30 AM, and the Rosary will be prayed before each 12 Noon Mass. The blessing with the relic of St. Jude will take place after all Masses and services. For more information, please contact the Communion of Saints parish office at 570-654-0053.



Fr. Rawel's Corner



Why did Jesus' story about wicked tenants cause offense to the scribes and pharisees?

It contained both a prophetic message and warning. Isaiah had spoken of the house of Israel as "the vineyard of the Lord". Jesus' listeners would have understood this parable as referring to God's dealing with a stubborn and rebellious people.

This parable speaks to us today as well. It richly conveys some important truths about God and the way he deals with his people.

First, it tells us of God's generosity and trust. The vineyard is well equipped with everything the tenants need. The owner went away and left the vineyard in the hands of the tenants. God likewise trusts us enough to give us freedom to run life as we choose. This parable also tells us of God's patience and justice. Not once, but many times he forgives the tenants their debts. But while the tenants take advantage of the owner's patience, his judgment and justice prevail in the end.

We can expect trials and even persecution. But in the end, we will see triumph. Do you follow and serve the Lord Jesus with joyful hope and confidence in the victory he has won for you and the gift of abundant new life in the Holy Spirit?

HAVE A BLESSED SUNDAY!!!

St. Elizabeth/St. Mark Parish Fund

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



30th Anniversary Celebration of the Wyoming Valley Knights of Columbus "Tomb of Unborn" —Respect Life Sunday October 4th at 2:00pm. Prayerful commemoration at the Knights' Tomb of the Unborn, located at the top of Mount Olivet Cemetery in Carverton.

Fr. Thomas Petro, chaplain of Greater Pittston Knights of Columbus Assembly 948 will celebrate the Order for Visiting a Cemetery, followed by the recitation of the Glorious Mysteries of the Rosary. All Knights of Columbus of the Wyoming Valley and area faithful are invited to attend.

GROUP NIGHT WITH THE PENS

Diocese of Scranton Group Night

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 23
PENGUINS VS BELLEVILLE SENATORS
17PM

Enjoy Faith and Family Night with a discounted ticket! Food Vouchers are available for purchase for \$4.50.

PRICING

GREEN ZONE \$23
BLUE ZONE \$20



Please return orders to **TYLER ROTHMANN** at 40 Coal St in advance or via email at TROTHMANN@WBPENGUINS.COM or via call/text at 570-208-5407.

LARGE GROUPS ARE ENCOURAGED TO RESERVE IN ADVANCE, NO DEPOSIT REQUIRED!

NAME: _____ ADDRESS: _____
CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP: _____
PHONE: _____ EMAIL: _____
OF TIX: _____ ZONE: _____ TOTAL PAYMENT \$: _____
CREDIT CARD: _____ DELIVER METHOD: MAIL
CHECK NUMBER: _____ (PAYABLE TO WBS PENGUINS)

DIOCESE OF
SCRANTON

Youth Rally

JOHN 2:5

Do whatever He tells you

SAT, NOV 7
NOTRE DAME JR/SR HS

60 SPANGENBURG AVE, EAST
STROUDSBURG, PA 18301

Open to Youth in Grades 7-12
\$30 Registration (Covers Dinner & Shirt)

CONTACT US TO REGISTER BY OCT 16th
ALL REGISTRATIONS MUST COME THROUGH THE PARISH



Conall Hughes



Natalie Gorra



Maria Antonella



Bishop Dambora

¡Viva Cristo Rey!

Worship & Observances

Blessing for Life

What wonder You have gifted us, Lord, in the blessing of life! May Your name be praised with every movement, every heartbeat, every breath. Protect life in every stage, race, age, ability, creed, and capacity. Pour Your mercy upon us this day, helping us to live deeply and love well.
Amen.

Readings for the Week of October 4, 2026

Sunday

Is 5:1-7/Ps 80:9 and 12, 13-14, 15-16, 19-20/Phil 4:6-9/
Mt 21:33-43

Monday

Gal 1:6-12/Ps 111:1b-2, 7-8, 9 and 10c/Lk 10:25-37

Tuesday

Gal 1:13-24/Ps 139:1b-3, 13-14ab, 14c-15/Lk 10:38-42

Wednesday

Gal 2:1-2, 7-14/Ps 117:1bc, 2/Lk 11:1-4

Thursday

Gal 3:1-5/Lk 1:69-70, 71-72, 73-75/Lk 11:5-13

Friday

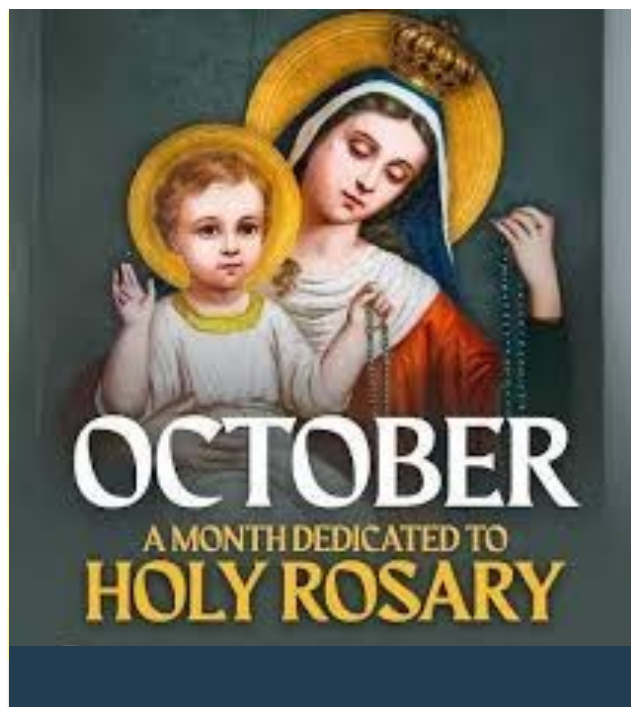
Gal 3:7-14/Ps 111:1b-2, 3-4, 5-6/Lk 11:15-26

Saturday

Gal 3:22-29/Ps 105:2-3, 4-5, 6-7/Lk 11:27-28

Next Sunday

Is 25:6-10a/Ps 23:1-3a, 3b-4, 5, 6/Phil 4:12-14, 19-20/
Mt 22:1-14 or 22:1-10



Observances for the Week of October 4, 2026

Sunday

27th Sunday in Ordinary Time;
Respect Life Sunday

Monday

Bl. Francis Xavier Seelos, Priest

Tuesday

St. Bruno, Priest; Bl. Marie Rose Durocher, Virgin

Wednesday

Our Lady of the Rosary

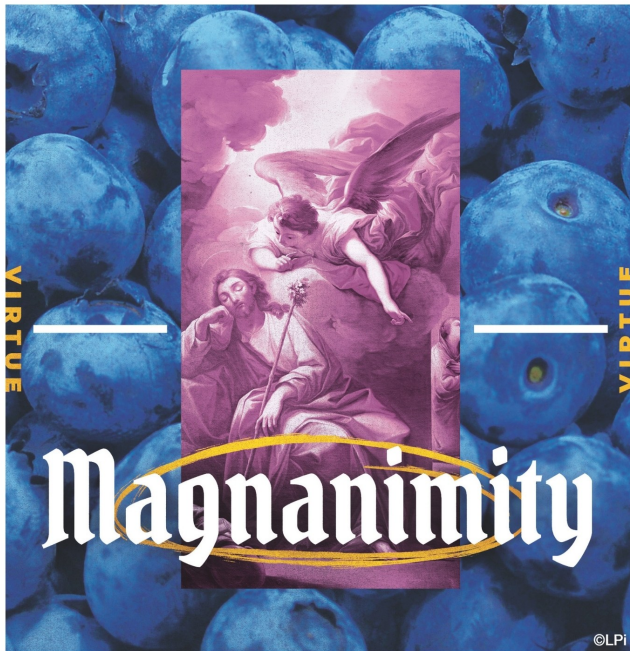
Friday

St. Denis, Bishop, and Companions, Martyrs;
St. John Leonardi, Priest

Next Sunday

28th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Weekly Scripture



Virtues, Explained!

Magnanimity, writes St. Thomas Aquinas, describes “the stretching forth of the mind to great things.” (Sum. II-II, 129, Art. 1) This virtue protects souls from the temptation to do honorable things for intentions that fall short of honorability.

Magnanimity shares much with the virtue of humility, but unlike humility, it specifically seeks what is great — but never the distinction of being called great. A magnanimous person’s focus is solely on accomplishing as much good as possible, as effectively as possible.

When Joseph learned that Mary, his betrothed, was with child through the Holy Spirit, he had a chance to distinguish himself as a virtuous man. In calling for Mary’s punishment, he could have condemned immorality loudly and publicly, while distancing himself from what appeared to be sin.

Instead, he did the opposite. He did what he knew to be right. He exhibited magnanimity, and the world was never the same.

Sunday’s Readings

First Reading

What more was there to do for my vineyard
that I had not done?
Why, when I looked for the crop of grapes,
did it bring forth wild grapes? (Is 5:4)

Psalm

The vineyard of the Lord is the house of Israel.
(Is 5:7a)

Second Reading

Keep on doing what you have learned and received
and heard and seen in me.
Then the God of peace will be with you. (Phil 4:9)

Gospel

“What will the owner of the vineyard do to those
tenants when he comes?”

They answered him,

“He will put those wretched men to a wretched
death
and lease his vineyard to other tenants.”

(Mt 21:41)

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

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GOSPEL MEDITATION - ENCOURAGE DEEPER UNDERSTANDING OF SCRIPTURE

Have you ever felt like your attempts at prayer are a waste of time? I have. Early in my priesthood, I noticed that my prayer life was weakening. Awe and eager expectancy of contact with God had given way to routine. I gradually spent less and less time praying. Nothing dramatic had happened, but my attitude toward God had changed, and I was losing the desire to pray.

Jesus' parable of the insane vineyard tenants speaks into this kind of experience. He says the landowner "leased it to tenants and went on a journey" (Matthew 21:33). The key to this message is that the vineyard does not belong to those who work it — they are entrusted with it. But little by little, they view it as their possession, and ungrateful entitlement follows. The servants sent by the owner are treated as intrusions. Even the owner's son becomes a means to their delusional self-will. The central tragedy is not violence but the forgetfulness that spawns it. They need reminding how lucky they are to be given so much.

Eventually, God sent friends to remind me that my relationship with Him and my prayer time are not my possessions, but rather God's tremendous gifts to me. Perhaps you are feeling discouraged for some reason or other these days in your walk with God. Ponder this parable and let it be a gentle reminder that you and I are fortunate stewards, and God is the generous giver. This allows us to rediscover the beauty of the vineyards in our lives and to remain energetic in cultivating his gifts.



RECOGNIZE GOD IN YOUR ORDINARY MOMENTS—by Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman

Hoarding the Harvest

I've always thought the Parable of the Tenants could be a storyline on one of those "world's dumbest criminals" shows.

Serial murder seems like an absolutely insane course of action simply to hoard the profits of a harvest you don't legally own. In what world did the tenants think they would get away with that? Furthermore, they must have had a contract with their landowner ensuring payment for their labor. Why, all of a sudden, is this payment not enough?

It's easy to dismiss the tenants as paranoid. Selfish. Greedy.

But then I think of my soul — my own little vineyard. Who owns it? Who bought it at great cost?

You see, the Parable of the Tenants isn't a story about greed. It's a story about trust. The tenants don't trust the landowner to give them their payment, to honor his promises. They're scared. They're resentful. They're angry.

And I get it.

Around my vineyard, there is a hedge, a protective barrier of grace shielding the fruit within from the toxic fumes of a fallen world. There is a wine press, so that the harvest of my vineyard can fulfill its ultimate purpose instead of withering, forgotten, on the branch. And there is a tower, tall and sturdy, built by capable hands. From its summit, I can see predators — animals, thieves — a long time before they reach me.

But I can see something else from the tower, too. I can see the landowner's Son, making his way to the gates of my vineyard. He is coming to claim the harvest. He is coming to give me what is promised.

Do I trust him? Do I let him in?

Saint of the Week



Lord God, Creator of all life, You entrusted the animals of this world to our care. Through the example of Saint Francis, teach us to love them with gentleness and respect. Protect them from harm, heal the sick, and comfort the lonely. Shape our hearts to reflect Your compassion, so that we may be good stewards of Your creation. Amen.

St. Francis of Assisi Feast Day—October 4th

St. Francis of Assisi (1181–1226) is celebrated as the **patron saint of animals and ecology** for his deep love, respect, and spiritual connection with all God’s creatures. His life is filled with stories that show him addressing animals as “brothers” and “sisters,” and treating them with compassion and dignity.

Famous Encounters with Animals

- **Preaching to the Birds** – While traveling through the Spoleto Valley near Bevagna, Francis encountered a large gathering of doves, crows, and other birds. He approached them, called them “my brother and sister birds,” and spoke of God’s gifts—feathers, wings, and the pure air they inhabit. The birds stayed, stretched their necks, and looked at him in awe. Francis blessed them, and they flew away. From that day, he made it a habit to invoke all animals in prayer.
- **Silencing the Swallows** – At Alviano, a flock of swallows was chirping loudly during his sermon. Francis turned to them, said, “My sister swallows... hear the word of God and stay quiet until the word of the Lord is completed.” They fell silent until he finished.
- **The Hare at Greccio** – A trapped hare came to Francis, who released it. The hare returned to his lap, and after repeated attempts, Francis had it carried far into the woods.

Prayers for Animals

Francis inspired prayers such as the **Franciscan Prayer for Animals**, which asks God to bless and protect all creatures, enabling them to live according to His plan. This reflects his enduring influence on how believers treat and honor animals.

In essence, St. Francis’s life and teachings show a profound respect for animals, encouraging people to see them as integral parts of God’s creation and to live in harmony with all living things.

**Blessing of all animals Sunday,
October 4th in St. Elizabeth’s Church
parking lot after 10:30am Mass.**