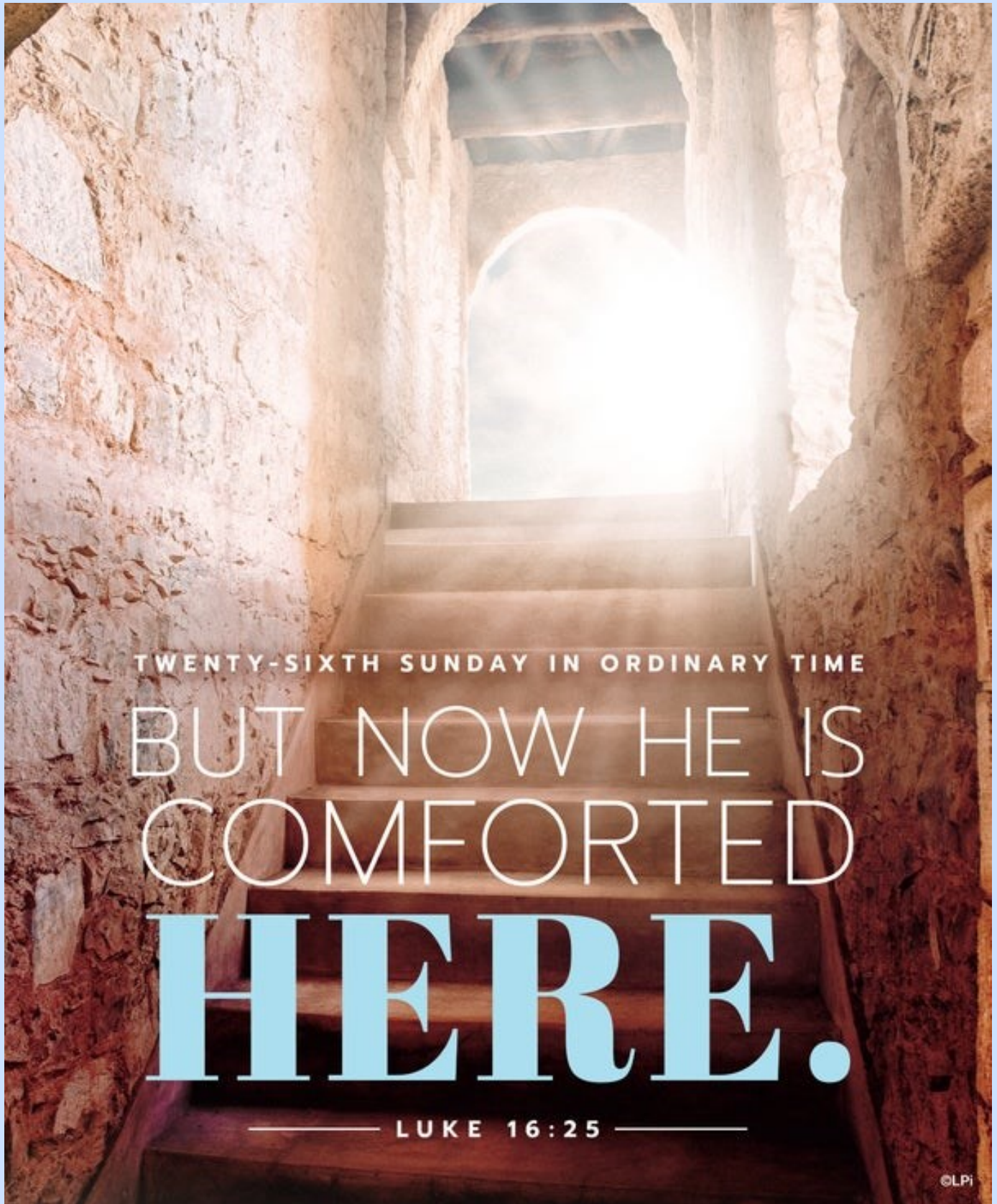


St. Elizabeth of Hungary/St. Mark

5700 Bear Creek Boulevard, Bear Creek, Pennsylvania 18602



TWENTY-SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

BUT NOW HE IS
COMFORTED

HERE.

— LUKE 16:25 —

TWENTY-SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME | SEPTEMBER 28, 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

Sept 21, 2025

Weekly	\$2217.00
Online	<u>\$798.00</u>
	\$3015.00
Diocesan	<u>-\$10.00</u>
TOTAL:	\$3005.00

Thank you for your continued generosity.

The Parish Budget is set at \$5000.

Eucharistic Celebration

Saturday, Sept 27, 2025 — Sunday, Oct 5, 2025

Sat, SEPT 27

4:00pm (M) Helen Orloski
Friends & Family from AJ Auto Center

6:00pm (E) Mary Grouke
Joseph & Marcia Boris

Sun, SEPT 28

8:30am (M) For the Parishioners

10:30am (E) David Kresge
Mario & Ellen Sindaco

Mon, SEPT 29

9:00am (E) Special Intentions for Helen Marx

Tues, SEPT 30

9:00am (E) Ralph Riviello
Larry, Patty & Family

Wed, Oct 1

9:00am (E) Eugene Korjeski
Jim O'Hara Sr.

Thurs, Oct 2

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

Fri, Oct 3

First Friday

9:00am (E) Charles Hannon Jr.
Joan Hannon

Adoration after Mass — 12 Noon

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 Lawrence



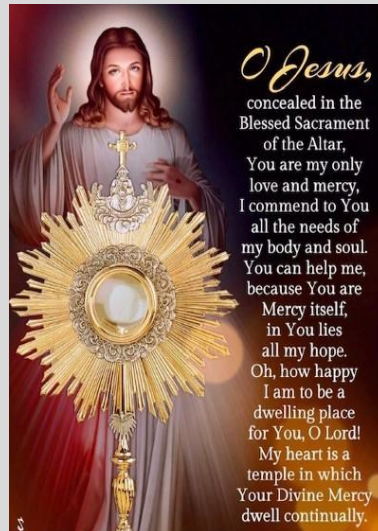
This week we pray for our sick,
elderly and homebound
parishioners and friends,
especially...



*Noreen Catani Amico, Laurie Ayre,
Lea Furlong, Tyrone Gayeski,
Bernard Hendrzak, Jake Johnson,
Joseph Kachurak, Patrick Kildea,
Michael Lilienthal, Mollie Litchman,
Carolyn Palencar, Richard Sawicki, 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**

YOU ARE CALLED TO SIT WITH THE LORD



ADORATION of the BLESSED SACRAMENT

**First Friday,
October 3,
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."**

**Mass Intentions (\$10.00) are now available for the 2026
year. Please book early to reserve your special dates.**

**Also, the Sanctuary Candle (\$10.00) and the
Bread and Wine (\$20.00) are available at both
Churches for your loved one's intentions.**



Welcome
**BACK TO
CCD**

**Classes resume this weekend,
September 28th,
for grades K-8 at 9:30AM.**

Father Rawel's
Corner



LIVE JUSTLY, LOVE ETERNALLY

Today's readings invites us to reflect on the dangers of comfort without compassion, faith without action, and wealth without responsibility.

In the first reading, Amos warns those living in luxury while ignoring the suffering around them. Being wealthy is not sinful, but indifference is. When we close our hearts to the poor, we risk God's judgment.

St. Paul, in the second reading, urges Timothy to flee material desires and pursue righteousness, faith, love, and endurance. Unlike the selfish rich man in the Gospel, Timothy is called to anchor his life in God, not fleeting wealth.

The Gospel parable of the rich man and Lazarus shows dramatic reversal after death. The rich man, once comfortable, now suffers, while Lazarus is comforted.

This is a sobering reminder: our present choices, especially in how we treat others, have eternal consequences. These readings challenge us to notice the "Lazarus" at our gate - those in need in our streets, parishes, or house. Jesus calls us to live now with justice and mercy, so we may share His joy forever.

May the Lord, open our eyes to the needs of others. Help us to live with compassion, justice, and faith every day. Reach out to someone in need this week - with time, a kind word, or help. Let us live faith through love.

HAVE A BLESSED WEEKEND!



The Beginning Experience® Ministry is a peer led ministry that serves those grieving the end of a spousal relationship due to death, divorce, or separation. Men and women of all ages and faiths are welcome to attend.

Healing Weekend- an in-person overnight weekend retreat at Linwood Spiritual Center Rhinebeck, NY from October 24 to 26, 2025. [For information or to register please](#) call Phyllis at 914 261 5812 or Gloria at 646 281 4790

In the Beginning...Coping with Life Alone- one day remote via Zoom program held on Saturday, November 1, 2025 from 9AM to 4PM EDT or 8AM to 3PM CDT. For information or to register, please call Jim at 845 220 7883 or Denise at 845 325 3147.

ANNUAL

BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS

OCTOBER 4 SATURDAY

FEAST DAY OF ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI

St. Elizabeth's Parking Lot -10:30AM

St. Francis loved all creatures,
and so do we!
For the blessing, please
ensure your pets are on a
leash or safely in a carrier.

RAIN OR SHINE EVENT



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.**

29th Anniversary



**Celebration of the Wyoming
Valley Knights of Columbus
"Tomb of Unborn"**

Sunday, October 5th 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.



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 570-851-0213 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 September 28, 2025

Sunday:

Am 6:1a, 4-7/Ps 146:7, 8-9, 9-10 (1b)/
1 Tm 6:11-16/Lk 16:19-31

Monday:

Dn 7:9-10, 13-14 or Rv 12:7-12ab/
Ps 138:1-2ab, 2cde-3, 4-5/Jn 1:47-51

Tuesday:

Zec 8:20-23/Ps 87:1b-3, 4-5, 6-7/
Lk 9:51-56

Wednesday:

Neh 2:1-8/Ps 137:1-2, 3, 4-5, 6/Lk 9:57-62

Thursday:

Neh 8:1-4a, 5-6, 7b-12 (458)/
Ps 19:8, 9, 10, 11/Mt 18:1-5, 10

Friday:

Bar 1:15-22/Ps 79:1b-2, 3-5, 8, 9/
Lk 10:13-16

Saturday:

Bar 4:5-12, 27-29/Ps 69:33-35, 36-37/
Lk 10:17-24

Next 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



Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD.
The English translation of Psalm Responses from Lectionary for
Mass © 1969, 1981, 1997, International Commission on English in
the Liturgy Corporation. All rights reserved.



Gospel Meditation

Encourage Deeper Understanding of Scripture

I am embarrassed to admit that I frequently find myself dining and socializing with people who have millions and sometimes billions of dollars. I've eaten more caviar, lobster and wagyu steak than most people on the planet. I justify it by saying it's part of my job. But I have seven pairs of nice jeans and expensive shoes.

So it is rather uncomfortable to hear Our Lord say: **“My child, remember that you received what was good in your lifetime, while Lazarus likewise received what was bad; but now he is comforted here, whereas you are tormented” (Luke 16:25).**

Fellow rich people (and if you're American, you're rich), do we not vehemently though quietly object to this parable's karma-esque reward system? Why bless the rich man just to curse him later? And curse Lazarus just to bless him later? So Americans go to hell, while Burundians and Afghans go to heaven? What is going on?

One clue is that the condemned rich man doesn't complain of injustice. Rather, he simply begs to help his brothers to repent. Of what? We don't know exactly. Perhaps another clue is that the rich man now seems more like the downtrodden Lazarus. He knows what it is to be hungry and thirsty, to be wounded in the gutter; that he deserved that, not fancy meals and clothes. Maybe the rich man finally understands how to receive true blessings, but it is too late for him. But not for me. Not for us.

— *Father John Muir*

Weekly Prayer

Sunday's Readings

First Reading:

Therefore, now they shall be the first to go into exile,
and their wanton revelry shall be done away with. (Am 6:7)

Psalm:

Praise the Lord, my soul! (Ps 146)
Or: Alleluia.

Second Reading:

But you, man of God, pursue righteousness,
devotion, faith, love, patience, and gentleness. (1 Tm 6:11)

Gospel:

Then Abraham said, 'If they will not listen to Moses
and the prophets,
neither will they be persuaded if someone should rise from
the dead.' (Lk 16:31)

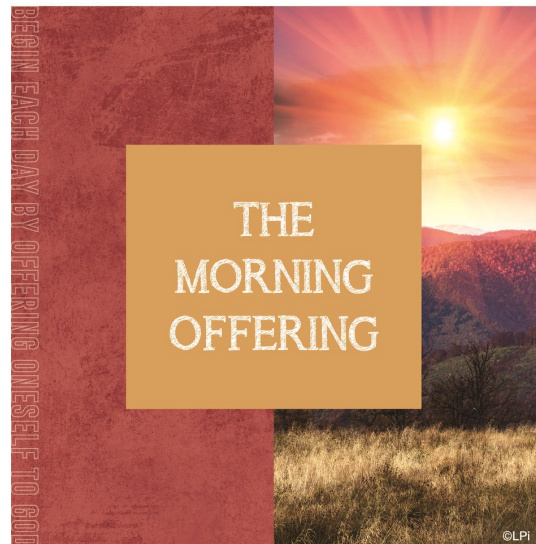
Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD.
The English translation of Psalm Responses from Lectionary for Mass © 1969, 1981, 1997,
International Commission on English in the Liturgy Corporation. All rights reserved.

Live The Liturgy Inspiration of the Week

The rich man had a chance, every day
of his life, to choose righteousness. But
righteousness wasn't convenient for him. He
discovered too late that the only time we
have to follow God is now. Here. This moment.
Will we take our chance?

Observances for the week of September 28, 2025

Sunday:	26th Sunday in Ordinary Time; Priesthood Sunday
Monday:	Sts. Michael, Gabriel and Raphael, Archangels
Tuesday:	St. Jerome, Priest and Doctor of the Church
Wednesday:	St. Thérèse of the Child Jesus, Virgin and Doctor of the Church
Thursday:	The Holy Guardian Angels
Saturday:	St. Francis of Assisi
Next Sunday:	27th Sunday in Ordinary Time; Respect Life Sunday



Devotions, *Explained!*

There are many variations of
the Morning Offering, but all
share the same purpose: to
begin each day by offering
oneself to God, along with
all the experiences, struggles
and blessings that the day will
bring.

Prayer for the Sick

For those in pain and in sorrow,
God be their comfort.
For caretakers and medical
staff, God give them grace.
Surround those afflicted with
Your love, care, and mercy, You
who are our healing and hope.
Amen.

(PRACTICING) CATHOLIC

Mini Reflection: The parable of the rich man and Lazarus highlights a reality that we often wish to ignore: at some point, we will run out of chances, and it's not because God tires of giving them to us.

Snow Days and Second Chances

Yesterday morning, my kids were playing outside in the snow, and I decided to take advantage of the quiet house to make a few important phone calls.

Fool. I forgot Murphy's Law of Parenting, which dictates that as soon as you dial a phone number, a bomb of irritation and neediness explodes within the heart of your loudest child. Sure enough, as soon as the person on the other end of the line picked up, my son was at the back door, whimpering loudly. Horror of horrors, he had snow in his boot.

I gestured to the phone. He whimpered more loudly. I mouthed and mimed threats. He threw his boot at me. I gave him The Look. He started to scream.

Well, needless to say, the phone call didn't go well, and my son's snow day was cut short. He begged for a second chance, but I explained to him that life doesn't always give you second chances. The phone call was over. Ruined. I couldn't get it back.

But that's when I remembered that moms have a superpower: creating second chances where none had existed before. So I told him that if he could be quiet while I made the rest of my calls, he could go back outside.

My son is young right now. I give him lots of second chances because second chances help him learn. Second chances are the training wheels of life.

I dread the day when the training wheels come off, and I can't save him from his bad decisions. I think every parent does.

The parable of the rich man and Lazarus highlights a reality that we often wish to ignore: at some point, we will run out of chances, and it's not because God tires of giving them to us. It's because a truly endless supply of chances would strip us of our free will. It would deny us the right of being taken at our word — and God respects us too much to do that.

My son saved his snow day. It's a good reminder: take the second (and third and fourth) chance. Don't wait for the next one.

— Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman

Why do we do that? Catholic Life Explained

Question:

Can a divorced Catholic receive holy Communion?

Answer:

Unfortunately, too many people today — Catholics and non-Catholics alike — mistakenly believe that divorce separates one from the Communion of the Church and that divorced persons may not receive Communion. However, as the Church has communicated in a number of places, the issue at hand is not the reality of divorce, but is more often the reality of re-marriage outside of the Church (such as in the case of a Catholic who was previously married within the Church, divorced, and remarried without receiving an annulment).

Divorced persons are called to live chastely as single people and to observe the same call to avoid sin as anyone else who desires to receive the Eucharist. Beyond this, however, Pope Francis has reminded us that the healing power of the Eucharist can be especially significant for those who have "endured separation, divorce, or abandonment ... divorced people who have not remarried, and often bear witness to marital fidelity, ought to be encouraged to find in the Eucharist the nourishment they need to sustain them in their present state of life." (*Amoris Laetitia*, no. 242) Moreover, he continues, "The local community and pastors should accompany these people with solicitude, particularly when children are involved or when they are in serious financial difficulty." (*AL*, no 242)

As Pope Francis has also reminded us, the Eucharist is "not a prize for the perfect," but "a powerful medicine and nourishment" (*Evangelii Gaudium*, no. 47). Because we all stand in need of healing and wholeness, the Church invites all who seek to live their faith in integrity and devotion to come and receive the grace offered in the Eucharist.



Feast of St. Michael, Gabriel and Raphael, Archangels

September 29th



St. Michael

Saint Michael is the "Prince of the Heavenly Host," the leader of all the angels. His name is Hebrew for "Who is like God?" and was the battle cry of the good angels against Lucifer and his followers when they rebelled against God. He is mentioned four times in the Bible, in Daniel 10 and 12, in the letter of Jude, and in Revelation.

Michael, whose forces cast down Lucifer and the evil spirits into Hell, is invoked for protection against Satan and all evil. Pope Leo XIII, in 1899, having had a prophetic vision of the evil that would be inflicted upon the Church and the world in the 20th century, instituted a prayer asking for Saint Michael's protection to be said at the end of every Mass.

Christian tradition recognizes four offices of Saint Michael: (i) to fight against Satan (ii) to rescue the souls of the faithful from the power of the enemy, especially at the hour of death. (iii) to be the champion of God's people, (iv) to call away from earth and bring men's souls to judgment.

St. Michael's Prayer for Protection

Saint Michael the Archangel, defend us in the battle, be our protection against the malice and snares of the Devil. May God restrain him, we humbly pray: and do thou, O prince of the heavenly host, by the power of God, thrust into Hell Satan and all the evil spirits who prowl about the world for the ruin of souls. Amen.

*V. Most Sacred Heart of Jesus,
V. Most Sacred Heart of Jesus,
V. Most Sacred Heart of Jesus,*

*R. Have mercy on us.
R. Have mercy on us.
R. Have mercy on us.*



St. Gabriel

"I am Gabriel, who stand before God." (Luke 1, 19)

Saint Gabriel, whose name means "God's strength," is mentioned four times in the Bible. Most significant are Gabriel's two mentions in the New Testament: to announce the birth of John the Baptist to his father Zacharias, and the at Incarnation of the Word in the womb of Mary.

Christian tradition suggests that it is he who appeared to St. Joseph and to the shepherds, and also that it was he who "strengthened" Jesus during his agony in the garden of Gethsemane.



St. Raphael

"I am the angel Raphael, one of the seven, who stand before the Lord" (Tob 12:15)

Saint Raphael, whose name means "God has healed" because of his healing of Tobias' blindness in the Book of Tobit. Tobit is the only book in which

he is mentioned. His office is generally accepted by tradition to be that of healing and acts of mercy.

Raphael is also identified with the angel in John 5:1-4 who descended upon the pond and bestowed healing powers upon it so that the first to enter it after it moved would be healed of whatever infirmity he was suffering.