



• 23RD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME •

**WHATEVER YOU
LOOSE ON EARTH.**

St. Elizabeth of Hungary/St. Mark

5700 Bear Creek Boulevard, Bear Creek, Pennsylvania 18602

TWENTY-THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME | September 6, 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@
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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 30, 2026

Weekly	\$2094.00
Online	<u>\$678.00</u>
	\$2772.00
Diocesan	<u>\$.00</u>
TOTAL	\$2772.00

Thank you for your continued generosity.

Eucharistic Celebration

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 5—SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 13, 2026

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*

MONDAY, SEPT 7

9:00am (E) NO MASS

TUESDAY, SEPT 8

9:00am (E) NO MASS

WEDNESDAY, SEPT 9

9:00am (E) NO MASS

THURSDAY, SEPT 10

9:00am (E) NO MASS

FRIDAY, SEPT 11

9:00am (E) NO MASS

SATURDAY, SEPT 12

4:00pm (M) Annette Marie Barbini *Req. Charlie & Elaine Morehead*

6:00pm (E) Mildred Kratz McGroarty *Req. by Joan Hannon*

SUNDAY, SEPT 13 **24TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**

8:30am (M) For the Parishioners

10:30am (E) David M. Soda *Req. by Theodore & Diane Haas*



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,

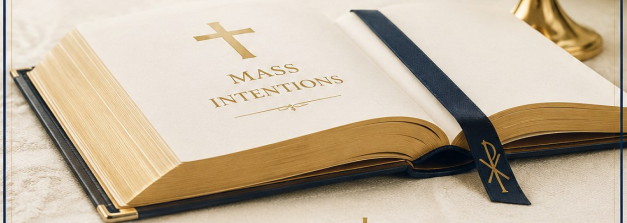
Rev. Anthony Urban,

Hank Walker, Loretta Washick

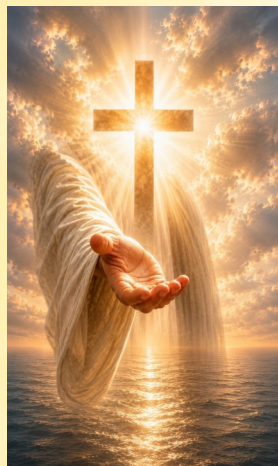
**Please notify the office at 570-472-3061
when names should be removed.**

The 2027 MASS BOOK

is now open



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



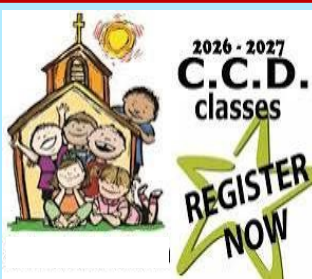
Please keep in your prayers Fr Rawel and his family. His mother, Fulmani, passed away Tuesday, August 25th in India. Father will be gone away to India for the next few weeks. Prayers needed for a safe trip and return back to the United States.

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



THANK YOU FOR YOUR HARD WORK

A day to honor the dedication, resilience, and contributions of every worker who keeps our nation moving.



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

Oblates of St. Joseph Labor Day Mass

A special Mass honoring St. Joseph the Worker will be celebrated **Monday, Labor Day morning, Sept. 7**, at 11:00 a.m. at the Oblates of St. Joseph Chapel, Route 315, Laflin. 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.



ANNUAL FESTIVAL

FREE PARKING! Church of **OUR LADY** of the **ABINGTONS** FREE PARKING!
2 DAYS! (Dalton, PA - Seminary Road)

SAT. SEP 19

5 - 10 PM

PORK BBQ
(*till sold out)

~ **MUSIC** ~

Megaband Duo

SUN. SEP 20

Noon - 6 PM

Chicken BBQ

~ **MUSIC** ~

Quietmen

HANDICAP PARKING AVAILABLE

**RAFFLES, LOTS OF BASKETS!
PLENTY OF FOOD...FUN FOR ALL!**

Church of Our Lady of the Abingtons under Pastor, Rev. Arbogaste Satoun, holds their Annual Fall Festival on Saturday, September 19 (5PM - 10PM) and Sunday, September 20 (Noon - 6PM) on the beautiful church grounds at 207 Seminary Road in Dalton, PA



**Father Urban Center—
St. Elizabeth Church
No Charge -**

All in need are welcomed!
Open every 2nd and 4th Saturday of the month
1:00 - 3:00 PM Linda - 848-207-6109

St. Elizabeth/St. Mark Parish Fund Raiser

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

**NEVER
FORGET
SEPTEMBER 11TH**

Worship & Observances

Back-to-School Blessing

Dear God,
We ask that You bless the students in our congregation, giving them inspirational teachers, studious habits, solid friendships, and Your grace in every moment of this school year. Bless the teachers and school staff in our congregation, too. Fill them with Your love and care so that, as they teach and minister to our young people, Your wisdom and light may be known, encountered, and shared.
Amen.

Readings for the Week of September 6, 2026

Sunday

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

Monday

1 Cor 5:1-8/Ps 5:5-6, 7, 12/Lk 6:6-11

Tuesday

Mi 5:1-4a or Rom 8:28-30/Ps 13:6ab, 6c/Mt 1:1-16, 18-23
or 1:18-23

Wednesday

1 Cor 7:25-31/Ps 45:11-12, 14-15, 16-17/ Lk 6:20-26

Thursday

1 Cor 8:1b-7, 11-13/Ps 139:1b-3, 13-14ab, 23-24/Lk 6:27-38

Friday

1 Cor 9:16-19, 22b-27/Ps 84:3, 4, 5-6, 12/Lk 6:39-42

Saturday

1 Cor 10:14-22/Ps 116:12-13, 17-18/Lk 6:43-49

Next Sunday

Sir 27:30-28:7/Ps 103:1-2, 3-4, 9-10, 11-12/Rom 14:7-9/
Mt 18:21-35



Observances for the Week of September 6, 2026

Sunday

23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time

Monday

Labor Day

Tuesday

The Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Wednesday

St. Peter Claver, Priest

Friday

Patriot Day

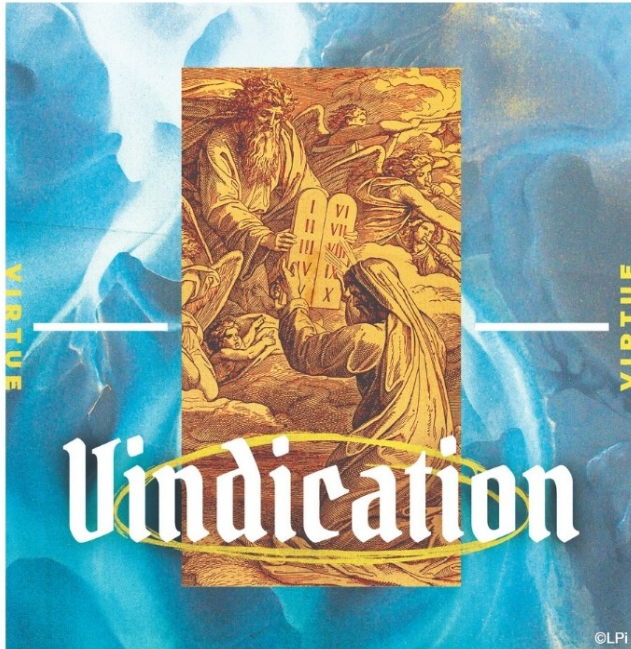
Saturday

The Most Holy Name of Mary

Next Sunday

24th Sunday in Ordinary Time;
Grandparent's Day

Weekly Scripture



Virtues, Explained!

Most commonly, we understand the term “vindication” in a very legal, argumentative context. We say someone is “vindicated” when they are proven innocent, or when their good name is defended from an accusation.

This isn’t so far from what vindication means in the sense of virtue, either. Vindication is related to the virtue of justice, which demands we honor our duty to God and to one another. Justice seeks to ensure the fairness of human interaction. It seeks to safeguard truth against those who would co-opt it for their own purposes.

If we truly put our trust in God and seek to do His will, we may not always have popularity, but we will have truth: “Commit your way to the Lord, trust in him and he will act, and make your righteousness shine like the dawn, your justice like noonday.” (Psalm 37:5-6)

Sunday’s Readings

First Reading

But if you warn the wicked,
trying to turn him from his way,
and he refuses to turn from his way,
he shall die for his guilt,
but you shall save yourself. (Ez 33:9)

Psalm

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

Second Reading

Owe nothing to anyone, except to love one another;
for the one who loves another has fulfilled the
law. (Rom 13:8)

Gospel

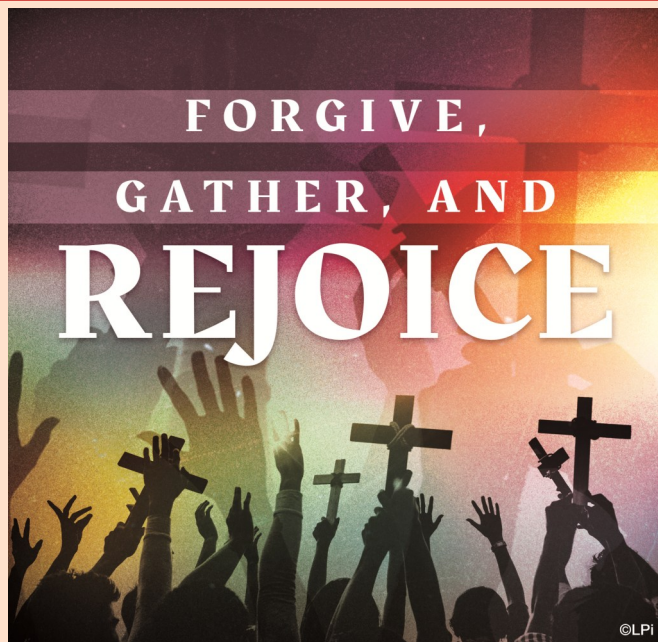
Amen, I say to you,
whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in
heaven,
and whatever you loose on earth shall be
loosed in heaven. (Mt 18:18)

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
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Live The Liturgy

Inspiration of the Week

Christ tells us that “where two or three are
gathered in my name, there am I in the
midst of them.” Our faith compels us to be in
community with one another. No one should
be a Christian alone. How can you draw
closer to others who love Christ?



GOSPEL MEDITATION - ENCOURAGE DEEPER UNDERSTANDING OF SCRIPTURE

A few summers ago, my family had a big reunion. It included my parents, my four siblings, and all their many children. One of my favorite moments was simply watching my parents' contented faces as they took in all of us together, laughing, sharing food, singing, telling stories. They loved seeing their children happily *together* with each other.

That is something like the heart of God we see in today's Gospel message about Christian reconciliation. These verses come right after Jesus' parable of the lost sheep. He is not giving the disciples a cold formula for dealing with conflict. He is revealing the Father's longing for children who love and reconcile with each other. His heart aches when his children are divided and isolated.

So when Jesus says, **"Go and tell your brother his fault,"** He is not deputizing us as morality police. He is inviting us into his mission of reconciliation. When he adds, **"If he listens to you, you have won over your brother,"** we glimpse the real goal. Not winning arguments, but reuniting a divided family.

These days, we often think religion is just between God and me. But the Father's dream is about a lively family, one in which His children forgive, gather, and rejoice together.

Lord Jesus, give me the courage to seek reconciliation where it is needed. Make my heart resemble the Father's heart, longing and working for unity among His children. Amen.

—Father John Muir

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RECOGNIZE GOD IN YOUR ORDINARY MOMENTS—by Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman

Treat Him Like a Gentile

In today's Gospel, Jesus gives instructions for ministering to those persisting in error. Here's the CliffsNotes version: If all else fails, "treat him as you would a Gentile or a tax collector."

In other words? Don't give up. Tell him the truth. Wash, rinse and repeat.

Technically speaking, I'm a Gentile. I've done those mail-in DNA tests, and none of my ancestors were Jewish. So whoever told my family about the God of Abraham, it wasn't Moses, and it probably wasn't Jesus himself, unless he spent some time in northwestern Europe that the Gospels fail to mention.

Nope, my ancestors were big old Gentiles living in a big old Gentile world. Lucky for me, someone evangelized them. At first, my ancestors probably didn't listen. But the evangelist, whoever he or she was, didn't give up.

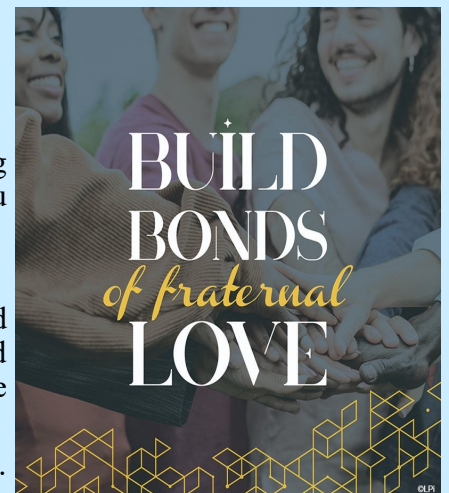
I say "lucky for me" because this all means that I was born and raised Catholic. It makes it easier, I think — but it doesn't make it easy. I'm not an automaton, and I still have to accept the truth of the faith I choose to live. So do you. So do we all.

Inevitably, we falter. What then?

Who are the tax collectors? Zaccheus was one. Matthew was another. Maybe you recognize his name — he's the guy who wrote this Gospel. And who are the Gentiles? Me. You, maybe. Everyone the disciples decided not to give up on. Everyone the Church is called not to forget about, not to dismiss, and not to take for granted.

So treat them all like Gentiles, and remember that God sees the future, not just the past.

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- ♦ Mary's birth is celebrated because of her unique role in salvation history as the Mother of Jesus.
- ♦ Along with Jesus and John the Baptist, Mary is one of the few whose **birth** is liturgically celebrated, reflecting her holiness from the beginning of her life.
- ♦ The feast emphasizes joy, hope, and the dawning of redemption, as expressed in early Christian writings and liturgical texts.

WHY DO WE DO THAT?

Catholic Life Explained

Question:

What is the "Miraculous Medal" and why is it called that?

Answer:

The medal of the Immaculate Conception that has come to be called simply the "Miraculous Medal" dates back to an apparition of Mary to Saint Catherine Laboure, who was then a novice sister with the Daughters of Charity. On November 27, 1830, Our Lady appeared to her standing on a globe, with shafts of light streaming from her hands and the words, "O Mary, conceived without sin, pray for us who have recourse to thee," surrounding the image. In the same vision, Catherine saw a capital "M" with a cross above it and below two hearts. Catherine seemed to hear a voice telling her to have what she saw struck as a medal and a promise that those who wore the medal would have the protection and intercession of the Mother of God. The first 1,500 of medals were distributed in 1832. Many miraculous favors were attributed to the use of the medal.

Saint Catherine's "Miraculous Medal" is among the recognizable and popular symbols of modern Catholicism. Reflecting on its widespread use, the 2001 Vatican document, "Directory on Popular Piety and Liturgy," observes that the medal "recalls the mystery of Redemption, the love of the Sacred Heart of Jesus and of the Sorrowful Heart of Mary. It signifies the mediatory role of the Blessed Virgin Mary, the mystery of the Church, the relationship between Heaven and earth, this life and eternal life."

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Prayer for Remembrance and Honor

Heavenly Father, on this 25th anniversary of September 11th, we come before You with hearts full of remembrance. We honor the brave souls who ran into danger and the innocent lives taken too soon. Grant us grace to remember their courage and sacrifice, and to live lives worthy of their memory. Fill us with Your peace as we reflect on that day, and guide us to build a future rooted in love and compassion. Amen (Psalm 112:6)

