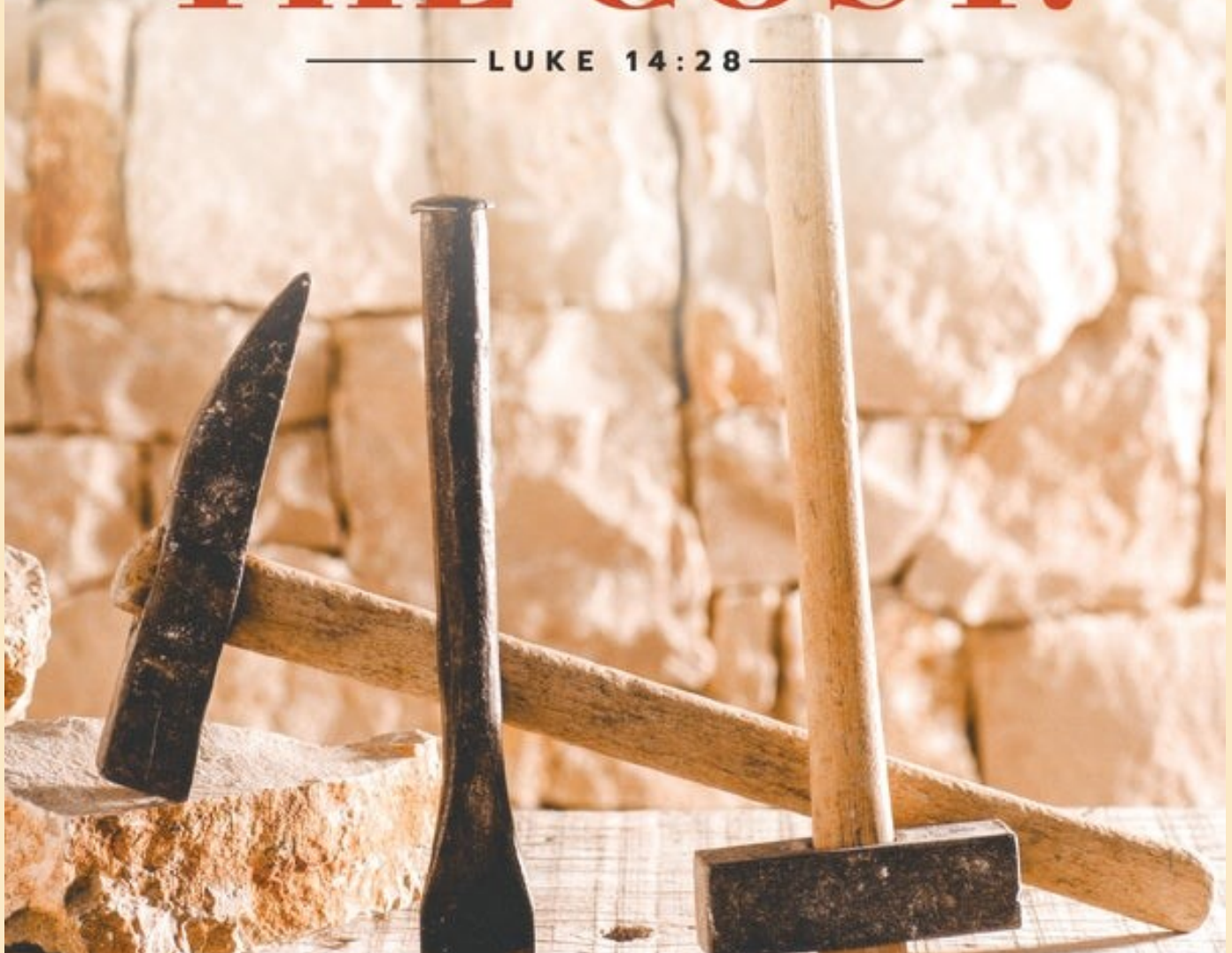


TWENTY-THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

SIT DOWN AND
CALCULATE
THE COST.

— LUKE 14:28 —



St. Elizabeth of Hungary/St. Mark

5700 Bear Creek Boulevard, Bear Creek, Pennsylvania 18602

TWENTY-THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME | SEPTEMBER 7, 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 31, 2025

Weekly \$2188.00

Online +\$753.00

\$2941.00

Diocesan -\$0.00

TOTAL: \$2941.00

Thank you for your continued generosity.

Parish weekly budget set at \$5000

Eucharistic Celebration

Saturday, Sept 6, 2025 — Sunday, Sept 14, 2025

Sat, SEPT 6

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

6:00pm (E) Helen Boris
Joseph & Marcia Boris

Sun, SEPT 7

8:30am (M) For the Parishioners

10:30am (E) Edmund Pachucki
Stan & Jean Swaintek

Mon, SEPT 8

9:00am (E) Frank J. Franceshelli
Tom & Grace Mielczarek

Tues, SEPT 9

9:00am (E) Special Intention for Eleanor Morrison
Butch & Jeannie Bidwell

Wed, SEPT 10

9:00am (E) Aidenn Gann
Ann & Roger Frisbie

Thurs, SEPT 11

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

Fri, SEPT 12

9:00am (E) Dale Griffith
Frank & Myrna Bianco

Sat, SEPT 13

4:00pm (M) Arlene Starr
Nancy Bielski

6:00pm (E) Ned McLarney
John & Ann Tucker

Sun, SEPT 14

8:30am (M) For the Parishioners

10:30am (E) Nicole Lane
Gail Gayeski



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**

**THE MOST BLESSED
SACRAMENT IS RESERVED IN OUR CHURCH**

**We respectfully ask that all observe a
reverent silence.**



2025 Fatima Devotions

**Our Lady of Victory Parish
16 Second Street
Harvey's Lake, PA**

Fatima Devotions every 13th of the month,
starting in May and continuing through
October.

**Devotions begin at 7pm and include
Fatima prayers, the Rosary, and Marian
hymns.**

Light refreshments will be served at the conclu-
sion. The public is welcome to attend and cele-
brate our Blessed Mother. The next

Fatima Devotion will be on

Saturday, September 13th at 7pm.



*The Sanctuary Candle is burning this week in
memory of Ethel and Francis Litchman
by Frank and Molly Litchman.*

Father Rawel's
Corner



**"NONE OF YOU CAN BE MY
DISCIPLE IF HE DOES NOT RE-
NOUNCE ALL HIS POSSESSIONS"**

The author of the book of wisdom writes that "the corruptible body burdens the soul, and earthen shelter weighs down the mind that has many concerns". Whether referring to home or body, the earthen shelter is a possession which weighs down our minds, and from which we struggle to be detached. Jesus says we are to renounce our possessions to be His disciple. That does not necessarily mean we sell our house, but we are to be detached from it to bear fruit as Jesus' disciples, we must be detached from our possessions.

This may, for some, mean selling some of our possessions. For others, it means using possessions for God's kingdom. Jesus declared that no one can serve both God and earthly things, that is mammon. If we focus on possessions, we will eventually not like God and even despise Him. In today's second reading, St. Paul asked Philemon to renounce his claim on his slave Onesimus, his "possessions".

Paul said that by releasing Onesimus, Philemon would actually "possess him forever" as more than a slave, as brother in the Lord.

Be a true disciple of Jesus. Renounce all your possessions so that Christ alone might be your wealth.

Jesus, more than anything I want to be Your disciple. With your all - consuming love, melt away anything in my life that is an obstacle to following You completely.
HAVE A BLESSED WEEKEND!

Life:
**WHY WE
MARCH**

The Diocese of Scranton invites you to attend the **Pennsylvania March for Life** on Monday, September 22nd in Harrisburg, PA!

The Office for Parish Life is coordinating a Bus Trip to the March that will pick-up and drop-off at a Scranton location (Divine Mercy Parish, Scranton) and a Wilkes-Barre location (St. Nicholas – St. Mary Parish, Wilkes-Barre). Space is limited on the Bus, so be sure to register soon!

The registration fee is \$20 and includes: the bus trip to and from the March, a t-shirt, bus snacks, and water. ***We will not provide meals on the trip, so please pack a lunch.***

PA March for Life – Monday, September 22, 2025

(tentative schedule, subject to change, official schedule will be emailed closer to the event.)

8:15AM–Pick-Up at Divine Mercy Parish

312 Davis St., Scranton, PA 18505

Cars are allowed to remain in Divine Mercy parking lot until return Bus departs at 8:30AM

9:00 AM – Pick-Up at St. Nicholas-St. Mary Parish

226 S. Washington St. Wilkes-Barre, PA 18701

Cars are allowed to remain in St. Nicholas-St. Mary parking lot until return Bus departs at 9:15AM

11:15AM – Bus Arrives at PA State Capitol Complex

11:00 AM – Rally Begins

12:00 PM – PA March for Life

1:30PM – Mass for Life

Saint Patrick's Cathedral 212 State St, Harrisburg, PA 17101

2:30PM – Return to Bus

2:45PM – Bus Pick-Up Bus departs at 3PM

5:00PM – Bus returns to St. Nicholas – St. Mary Parish

5:45PM – Bus returns to Divine Mercy Parish

To register, please visit dioceseofscranton.org. 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.

SAINT JOSEPH'S
CENTER

**Chicken
Dinner
Drive-Thru**

\$15/ Dinner

Limited quantity available- order early!

Tickets must be purchased in advance.

Visit our website www.stjosephscenter.org



SUNDAY
SEPTEMBER
21
NOON-4PM

**2010 Adams Ave
Scranton**

Dinners include:

Half Chicken

Baked Beans,

Cole Slaw,

Potato Salad,

Roll, Water and a

Cookie.



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!



We look forward to welcoming back all returning and 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 28.**

Registration will take place after the 10:30 a.m. Mass in St. Elizabeth's Parish Hall on **Sunday, September 14.** 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



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 September 7, 2025

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

Monday:

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

Tuesday:

Col 2:6-15/Ps 62:6-7, 9/Lk 6:12-19

Wednesday:

Col 3:1-11/Ps 145:2-3, 10-11, 12-13ab/
Lk 6:20-26

Thursday:

Col 3:12-17/Ps 150:1b-2, 3-4, 5-6/
Lk 6:27-38

Friday:

1 Tm 1:1-2, 12-14/Ps 16:1b-2a and 5, 7-8, 11/
Lk 6:39-42

Saturday:

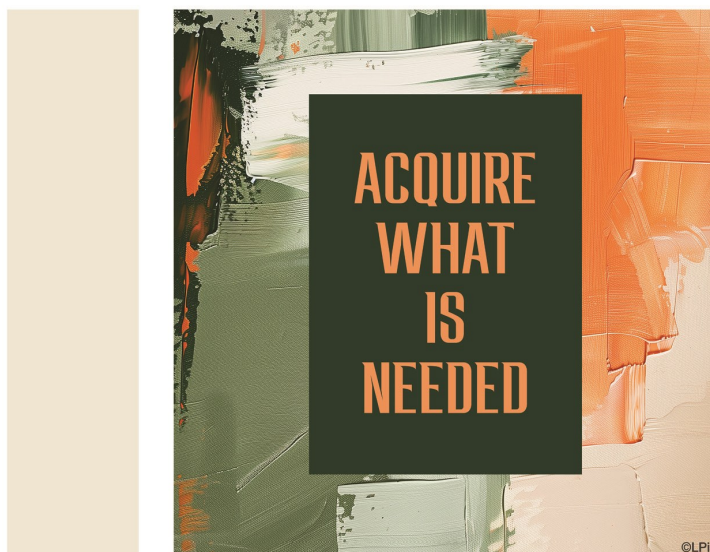
1 Tm 1:15-17/Ps 113:1b-2, 3-4, 5a and 6-7/
Lk 6:43-49

Next Sunday:

Nm 21:4b-9/Ps 78:1bc-2, 34-35, 36-37,
38/Phil 2:6-11/Jn 3:13-17



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Gospel Meditation

Encourage Deeper Understanding of Scripture

One hot Arizona summer afternoon my car ran out of gas. I phoned the parish office and begged for help. My secretary came and helped me fill the gas tank. She chided me, "If you can't manage getting your car from A to B, how can we expect you to guide the parish where it needs to go?" Point taken, Julie. I vowed to always make sure I have plenty of gas in my car.

The Lord Jesus chides us in this week's Gospel, too. He uses the two images of a man building a tower and a king marching soldiers into war to make this single point: acquire what is needed to follow him or look ridiculous. We rightly mock the builder who lacks money for his tower and the king with a short-handed army. But our mocking boomerangs back on us. How do we expect to follow Jesus to the end with insufficient detachment from our possessions and divided hearts?

The good news is, there is still time. Jesus is building a great tower to heaven—his own body. So we renounce all and give ourselves to him as his precious stones. Jesus is waging a battle against our enemy. So we forsake all and swear allegiance and march under his banner. In this way, we will finish what has begun in our discipleship. Or better put, our Lord will have the stones and soldiers required to see his great work through.

— *Father John Muir*

Weekly Prayer

Sunday's Readings

First Reading:

And thus were the paths of those on earth made straight. (Wis 9:18)

Psalm:

In every age, O Lord, you have been our refuge. (Ps 90)

Second Reading:

Perhaps this is why he was away from you for a while,
that you might have him back forever. (Phlm 1:15)

Gospel:

Whoever does not carry his own cross and come after me
cannot be my disciple. (Lk 14:27)

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The English translation of Psalm Responses from Lectionary for Mass © 1969, 1981, 1997,
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Live The Liturgy Inspiration of the Week

Today, Jesus tells us the cost of true discipleship — and it turns out, it's everything. We must reject the world in order to love God. What attachments are holding us back from the relationship we could have — we *should* have — with our Lord?

Observances for the week of September 7, 2025

Sunday:	23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time; Grandparents' Day
Monday:	The Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary
Tuesday:	St. Peter Claver, Priest
Thursday:	Patriot Day
Friday:	The Most Holy Name of Mary
Saturday:	St. John Chrysostom, Bishop and Doctor of the Church
Next Sunday:	The Exaltation of the Holy Cross



Devotions, *Explained!*

Lectio divina ("divine reading") is an ancient practice of praying through the reading of Scripture. It includes four steps: read (*lectio*), meditate (*meditatio*), pray (*oratio*) and contemplate (*contemplatio*).

Prayer of Simplicity

Dear God,
In my desire for You, take away anything that keeps me from knowing You, myself, or my mission here on earth. Help me to remember what is truly important, and to seek and treasure that.
Amen.

(PRACTICING) CATHOLIC

Mini Reflection: For someone who talks about love so much, it seems weird that in today's Gospel Jesus is calling us to hatred. It makes us question everything we think we understand about him, about God, about discipleship.

How to Hate the Christian Way

When I was a kid, we had the Dumb Stupid Hate Chair.

It was a chair in my parents' foyer where an offending child had to sit for five or ten minutes if they uttered the words "dumb," "stupid" or "hate." The rules in my house growing up were very clear. We don't call anyone stupid. We don't call anyone dumb. And we hate no one and nothing.

Well, today, Jesus has to sit in the Dumb Stupid Hate Chair.

For someone who talks about love so much — for whom love is a legacy and a commandment — it seems weird that in today's Gospel Jesus is calling us to hatred. It makes us question everything we think we understand about him, about God, about discipleship.

I'll let you guess which of the kids in my family spent the most time in the Dumb Stupid Hate Chair (Hi! It was me). But I didn't really think my sister was stupid, and I didn't really hate my brother. Those were just the words I used, even though they were strictly forbidden — maybe *because* they were strictly forbidden. They were the strongest words I knew, and you need strong words for strong feelings.

Jesus knew that hate is a really strong word. It's a word that gets people's attention. And I think what he wants to do today, more than anything, is get our attention. He wants to force us to consider the ways in which our attachments to this world — and even to other people — supersede our attachment to God. He wants us to radically evaluate what (and who) we love and how we love it and how much of our souls, our lives, ourselves we have let this love consume.

It's a tough assignment, and we don't like it. Maybe we kind of hate it. That's okay: hate has its place. So take a seat in the chair and give it a ponder.

— Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman

Why do we do that?

Catholic Life Explained

Question:

What happens if someone drops a consecrated host?

Answer:

Despite our best efforts, and this is as true in our liturgical celebrations as in all of life, accidents happen. Occasionally at Mass, a host may be dropped or some of the Precious Blood could even be spilled from the chalice, despite the best efforts of the priests, deacons, and extraordinary ministers of holy Communion assisting at the liturgy.

So, when a host is dropped or the Precious Blood is spilled, we can take guidance from the U.S. Bishops' statement *Norms for the Distribution for Holy Communion Under Both Kinds*:

All ministers of Holy Communion should show the greatest reverence for the Most Holy Eucharist by their demeanor, their attire, and the manner in which they handle the consecrated bread or wine. Should there be any mishap — as when, for example, the consecrated wine is spilled from the chalice — then the affected "area . . . should be washed with water, and this water should be then poured into the sacrarium."

According to no. 280 of the *General Instruction of the Roman Missal*, the general rule is that a dropped host is picked up by the minister distributing Communion and reverently consumed. The minister should be careful to make sure that no other particles from the host remain on the ground. As we see in the instruction from the bishops, the Precious Blood would be absorbed (customarily with a purificator) and the area attentively and reverently washed with water which would then be disposed of properly. w

“Which of you wishing to construct a tower does not first sit down and calculate the cost to see if there is enough for its completion? ... In the same way, anyone of you who does not renounce all his possessions cannot be my disciple.”
- Lk 14:28, 33

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 author of Wisdom teaches us that our limited understanding can be overcome by the gift of wisdom from God's Holy Spirit. Have you ever prayed for the gift of wisdom in discerning a difficult course of action?

Second Reading:

Paul is asking Philemon to welcome back his runaway slave, Onesimus, as a brother in Christ. Who do you consult when making difficult life decisions?

Gospel:

Jesus challenges the crowds to weigh carefully the high cost of discipleship. What have you given up following Jesus?

We Place in Your Loving Arms

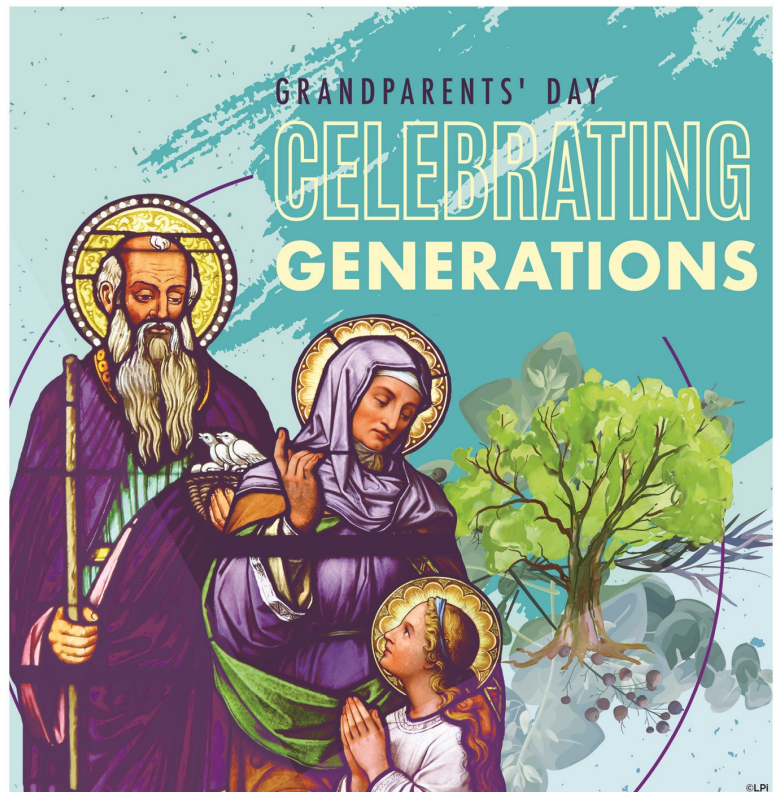
God of love we place in your loving arms the thousands of innocent lives that were lost on that unforgettable morning of September 11, 2001. We also remember the courage of the countless men and women who put their lives at risk in order to rescue, alleviate and bring solace to the afflicted. Help us to continue to work for a world free from every form of hatred, violence and ignorance. May terrorism -- in all its forms -- disappear from the face of the earth. Amen.

- Fr. Alberto Cutie

★ PATRIOT DAY ★

WE WILL NEVER FORGET

★★★★★ 9/11 ★★★★★



A letter from Bishop Bambera:

Reverend and dear Father,

Dear Parish Life Coordinator,

Dear Parish Staff,

Dear Catholic School Principals,

As you have likely seen in the news, a deadly mass shooting took place this morning at Annunciation Catholic School in Minneapolis shortly after the start of the school day during an all-school Mass at the adjacent Annunciation Catholic Church.

While the details continue to unfold, tragically, two children (ages 8 and 10) are dead and at least 17 others (including 14 children) are injured.

In response to this horrific situation, I have released the following statement on our Diocesan social media platforms.

"I was heartbroken and horrified to hear about the tragic shooting that took place Wednesday morning during Mass at Annunciation Church in Minneapolis. I ask all people of faith to pray for those who are suffering and for the healing of this deeply wounded community."

"The fact that such a violent act could happen in the middle of Mass is almost unimaginable. It is so profoundly distressing to know that such violence could erupt in a place meant for prayer and peace."

"As we pray for the victims, their families, the parish community, the first responders, and everyone now carrying the weight of sorrow and fear – we ask our Blessed Mother Mary – whose Annunciation gave hope to the world – to intercede for all of those whose lives have been impacted by this horrible tragedy."

I know the magnitude of this tragedy weighs heavily on all of us – not only as shepherds of our people and leaders of our school communities – but as those responsible for the safety of our worship spaces and school buildings.

I want to assure you that our Diocesan Administrative staff takes these types of situations extremely seriously. We are continually concerned about the security of our churches, schools, and other facilities, and we will continue to actively discuss steps we can take to protect our parishioners and children.

I urge each of you to remain vigilant, review your own local security practices as appropriate, and never hesitate to reach out if you have questions, concerns, or suggestions.

Please know that while my prayers are with the victims and faithful in Minneapolis – they are also with you – as you continue to serve your people with care and concern.

Faithfully yours in Christ,

† *Joseph C. Bambera*

Most Reverend Joseph C. Bambera, D.D., J.C.L.
Bishop of Scranton