

STS. PETER AND PAUL, APOSTLES

AND UPON THIS  
ROCK I WILL BUILD  
**MY CHURCH.**

— MATTHEW 16:18 —

*St. Elizabeth of Hungary/St. Mark*

5700 Bear Creek Boulevard, Bear Creek, Pennsylvania 18602



## STS. PETER AND PAUL, APOSTLES | JUNE 29, 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

#### 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

June 22, 2025

Weekly	\$2562.00
Online	+\$778.00
	\$3340.00
Diocesan	-\$10.00
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>\$3330.00</b>

*Thank you for your continued generosity.*

Parish Weekly Budget set at \$5000

# Eucharistic Celebration

Saturday, June 28, 2025 — Sunday, July 6, 2025

## Sat, JUNE 28

- 4:00pm (M) George & Irene Cooney  
Steve & Kathy Rector
- 6:00pm (E) Health & Blessings for John Corcoran  
A Friend

## Sun, JUNE 29

- 8:30am (M) Marie & Joe Griswold  
David & Linda Hamill
- 10:30am (E) Jane Crognale  
Mario & Ellen Sindaco

## Mon, JUNE 30

- 9:00am (E) Martha Lock

## Tues, JULY 1

- 9:00am (E) Anthony Donato  
Martha Andreychik

## Wed, JULY 2

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

## Thurs, JULY 3

- 9:00am (E) NO MASS

## Fri, JULY 4

**FOURTH of JULY**

**First Friday Adoration after Mass—12 Noon**

- 9:00am (E) David M. Soda  
Theodore & Diane Haas

## Sat, JULY 5

- 4:00pm (M) Brian Rector  
Steve & Kathy Rector
- 6:00pm (E) Joseph J. Boris  
Joseph & Marcia Boris

## Sun, JULY 6

- 8:30am (M) Marilyn Barbini Lucchino  
Charlie & Elaine Morehead
- 10:30am (E) Stella Sawicki  
Ed Kalinowski



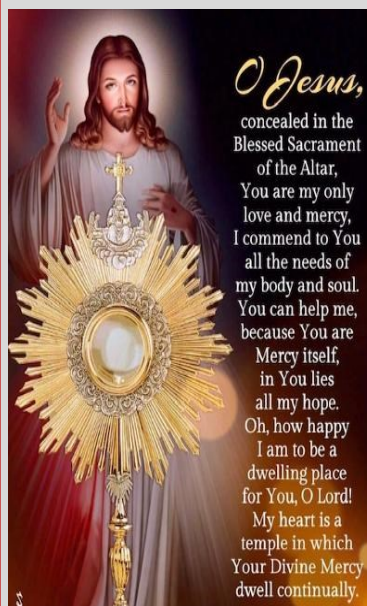
This week we pray for our sick,  
elderly and homebound  
parishioners and friends,  
especially...



Noreen Catani Amico,  
Andrew Chismar, Lea Furlong,  
Bernard Hendrzak, Jake Johnson,  
Joseph Kachurak, 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**

## YOU ARE CALLED TO SIT WITH THE LORD



**ADORATION  
of the BLESSED  
SACRAMENT**

**First Friday,  
July 4, 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."**

**-St. Alphonsus Liguori**

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

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



*Pray  
the  
Rosary*





## Father Rawel's Corner



In today's readings, we witness the transformative power of God's call

in the lives of Peter and Paul. Peter, once afraid, now heals a beggar in the name of Jesus. Paul, once a persecutor, becomes the apostle of the Gentiles. Their journey reminds us that God does not call the perfect, but perfects those He calls.

In the world today, where divisions of caste, class, and religion still shape our social fabric, Peter and Paul challenge us to transcend barriers. Peter's encounter with a lame man shows us that true healing is not just physical but also a restoration of dignity - how often do we, like Peter, offer not silver or gold, but faith and justice to those on the margins? Paul's radical conversion reminds us that transformation is possible, even in a society resistant to change. Jesus' question to Peter - "Do you love me?" - is addressed to each of us. Love is not mere sentiment but a commitment to service. Are we willing to follow Christ, even when it costs us? As we celebrate these apostles, may their courage inspire us to be fearless witnesses of faith, builders of justice, and instruments of healings in our wounded and broken world.

May the Lord transform our hearts like Peter and Paul, that we may boldly witness their love and justice. Help us to reach out to the wounded with your healing touch.

HAVE A WONDERFUL WEEKEND!



## 17th Diocese of Scranton Pilgrimage of Faith

On Wednesday, October 1, 2025, the Most Reverend Joseph C. Bambera, D.D., J.C.L., Bishop of Scranton, will lead the Jubilee Year of Hope Pilgrimage to the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception, Washington, DC. The day will include opportunities for public as well as private prayer, confession, touring the National Shrine as well as the Campus of The Catholic University of America concluding with Mass. There are two ways to register either on the Diocese of Scranton Webpage or by contacting the Parish office. Bus fare: \$80.00 per person made payable to (*enter name of parish*) with buses leaving from either our parish or our deanery. To ensure bus transportation it is requested by the bus company to hold strictly to a deadline of AUGUST 18, 2025, for reservations.



**Donut Sunday**  
**JULY 6th**

**After 8:30AM Mass— St. Mark's**  
**After 10:30AM Mass—St. Elizabeth's**

## Thank You for Our Freedom

*Thank you, Lord, for the privilege of living in this great country where we have freedom to openly worship you. May we never take that privilege for granted, but always guard it and treasure it. May we not live in apathy to you, but live in awe of your love and forgiveness freely poured out for us. Allow our light to shine brightly as our hearts turn to you. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.*  
*(by Dena Johnson)*



**As per Nicki Pachucki**  
**(Co-Chair of Summerfest)**

**If anyone would like to**  
**volunteer,**  
**donate a basket,**  
**or be a sponsor**  
**feel free to contact me at**  
**570-881-4312**

# Worship & Meditation

## Readings for the week of June 29, 2025

### Sunday:

*Vigil:* Acts 3:1-10/Ps 19:2-3, 4-5/Gal 1:11-20/Jn 21:15-19 *Day:* Acts 12:1-11/Ps 34:2-3, 4-5, 6-7, 8-9/2 Tm 4:6-8, 17-18/Mt 16:13-19

### Monday:

Gn 18:16-33/Ps 103:1b-2, 3-4, 8-9, 10-11/Mt 8:18-22

### Tuesday:

Gn 19:15-29/Ps 26:2-3, 9-10, 11-12/Mt 8:23-27

### Wednesday:

Gn 21:5, 8-20a/Ps 34:7-8, 10-11, 12-13/Mt 8:28-34

### Thursday:

Eph 2:19-22/Ps 117:1bc, 2/Jn 20:24-29

### Friday:

Gn 23:1-4, 19; 24:1-8, 62-67/Ps 106:1b-2, 3-4a, 4b-5/Mt 9:9-13

### Saturday:

Gn 27:1-5, 15-29/Ps 135:1b-2, 3-4, 5-6/Mt 9:14-17

### Next Sunday:

Is 66:10-14c/Ps 66:1-3, 4-5, 6-7, 16, 20 (1)/Gal 6:14-18/Lk 10:1-12, 17-20 or 10:1-9



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## Gospel Meditation

### Encourage Deeper Understanding of Scripture

What do you call brothers who are born on the same day? Twins, of course. That is what we celebrate today in the inestimable saints, Peter and Paul. Wait: twins? Yes. The early Church believed that Peter and Paul were martyred in Rome on the same day. Since the day of martyrdom is celebrated as a saints' birth into eternal life, the result is striking: Peter and Paul are twins in God's family, the Church.

Who should care about this? Well, anyone who longs to live in a world marked by love and peace. Remember, the Romans believed that twins, Romulus and Remus, founded their city through an act of fratricide, the former murdering the latter. Sadly, the structures of this fallen world emerge through violence between those who should love each other. But in the Church, a new city has been founded upon this new set of twins, embodying the non-violent power of Jesus' cross and resurrection.

That's why traditional icons represent Peter and Paul in a fraternal and warm embrace. Contrasted with the violence of Rome's founders, it challenges us with a bold claim: do we believe that structures of merciful love are more powerful and lasting than those based on power, violence, and domination? Am I willing to see others in my life as my "twin," with whom I am called to give my life for Christ, or as my rival? Am I committed to living what is embodied in Romulus and Remus, or in Peter and Paul?

— Father John Muir



# Weekly Prayer

## Sunday's Readings

### First Reading:

"Now I know for certain that the Lord sent his angel  
and rescued me from the hand of Herod  
and from all that the Jewish people had been expecting."  
(Acts 12:11)

### Psalm:

The angel of the Lord will rescue those who fear him. (Ps 34)

### Second Reading:

The Lord will rescue me from every evil threat  
and will bring me safe to his heavenly Kingdom. (2 Tm 4:18)

### Gospel:

I will give you the keys to the Kingdom of heaven.  
Whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven;  
and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed  
in heaven." (Mt 16:19)

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## Live The Liturgy Inspiration of the Week

Peter testified to a dangerous and unpopular truth — that Christ was the Messiah. That courage, that trust in God, is the cornerstone of all we believe. Like Peter, we must always bear witness to the truth.

## Observances for the week of June 29, 2025

**Sunday:** Sts Peter and Paul, Apostles

**Monday:** The First Martyrs of the  
Holy Roman Church

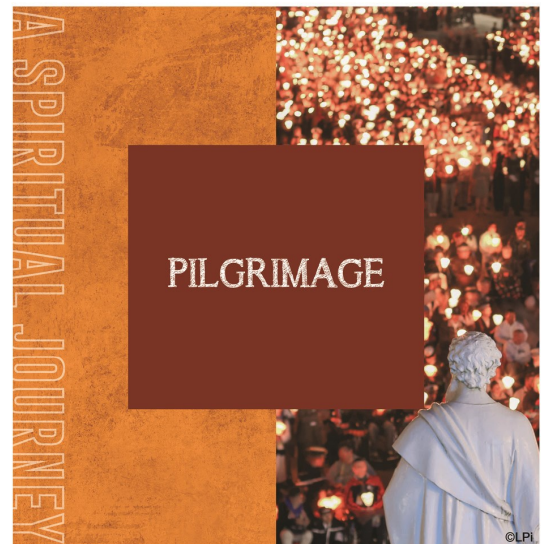
**Tuesday:** St. Junípero Serra, Priest

**Thursday:** St. Thomas, Apostle

**Friday:** Independence Day (USA)

**Saturday:** St. Anthony Zaccaria, Priest;  
St. Elizabeth of Portugal

**Next Sunday:** 14th Sunday in Ordinary Time



## Devotions, *Explained!*

A pilgrimage is a journey to a place of spiritual significance undertaken by one who is seeking closeness to Heaven while still on Earth.

## Prayer of Pastoral Care

O God,  
Bless the souls You have  
entrusted to our care. As You hear  
every one of their prayers, help us  
to hear them, too. Answer their  
prayer intentions and personal  
needs through us and our  
ministry, as we all seek to do Your  
will.  
Amen.

## (PRACTICING) CATHOLIC

**Mini Reflection:** People have a lot of opinions about God. But when the world asks, “Who do you say that Jesus is?” We know the answer. Will we speak up?

### **Some Say**

At first, the Apostles try to dodge the question.

When Jesus confronts them — and make no mistake, it is a confrontation — with the question “Who do you say that I am?” they act like a man whose wife has just asked him if she looks fat in these jeans.

The evasiveness of their answer puts politicians to shame: “Some say John the Baptist, others Elijah, still others Jeremiah or one of the prophets.”

*Some say.*

But Jesus doesn’t let them off easy. He repeats himself. He wants an answer. “Who do you say that I am?”

They all know the answer. They all believe the answer. And they all know the answer could get them thrown in prison or killed. Only Peter is brave enough to say it: “You are the Christ, the Son of the Living God.”

People have a lot of opinions about God. They always have. They have a lot of opinions about Jesus and the Bible, about the Catholic Church and the Pope. Some of these opinions are well-founded, well-researched. Some of them are based in ignorance. Many are born of painful misunderstandings. But they are all just that: opinions.

*Some say.*

We know who Jesus is. We know who the Eucharist is. We know what the truth is. Amid the chaos and the violence and the excruciating loudness of this fallen world and all the words it shouts into the void about God and Jesus and right and wrong, we know.

But will we answer?

— Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman

## Why do we do that?

### **Catholic Life Explained**

#### **Question:**

January 25 is the feast of the Conversion of St. Paul and the end of the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity. What does one have to do with the other?

#### **Answer:**

The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity consists of eight days beginning January 18 (at that time the feast of the Chair of Peter), and ending on January 25, the feast of the Conversion of St. Paul. The Franciscan Friars of the Atonement, founded in the early twentieth century in Graymoor, NY, sought to promote unity among Anglicans and Roman Catholics. Paul James Wattson, a former Episcopalian priest, founded the community, which was formally accepted into the Catholic communion.

The idea for Christian unity soon began to catch on, and by the 1930s, more and more Christians welcomed such a focus. Suggestions for prayer and education are distributed each year, emphasizing a jointly chosen theme. The 1964 Vatican II document on ecumenism, *Unitatis Redintegratio*, gave a great boost to the octave, so that today many Christians worldwide promote and participate in the octave time of prayer.

The emphasis on both Peter and Paul aptly fits into the rationale of the octave. Peter is seen as the source of unity within the Christian tradition. Paul is highlighted due to his vision of bringing all to Christ. The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity is an ideal opportunity to pray for and promote respect, understanding, and, hopefully, eventual unity among Christians. To learn more, visit [geii.org](http://geii.org).



“You are Peter, and upon this rock I will build my Church, and the gates of the netherworld shall not prevail against it. I will give you the keys to the Kingdom of heaven. Whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven; and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven.”  
- Mt 16:18-19

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## Questions of the Week

Invite Parishioners to Reflect and Respond to Scripture

### First Reading:

In his miraculous escape from prison, Peter was convinced of God's saving work in his life. Where do you see God at work in your life?

### Second Reading:

As Paul was nearing the end of his life, he realized that God had rescued him from many dangers and threats. As you reflect on your life, can you see times when God's saving hand was present for you?

### Gospel:

Jesus commissioned Peter to be the foundation (“rock”) of his Church. Are there any roles or responsibilities you feel called to do in your parish?

