

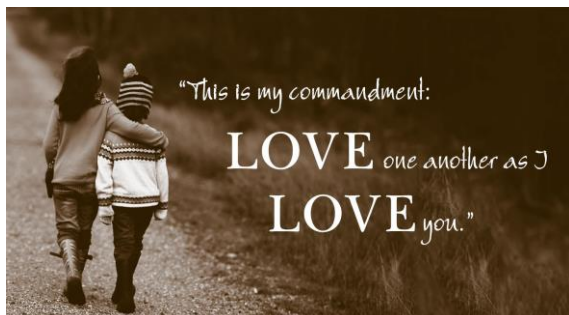
# St. Thomas the Apostle Parish

111 First Street, Elkland, Pa 16920

## Mission Church: St. Catherine of Siena

146 Lincoln Street, Westfield, Pa 16950

Serving the Northern Catholic Communities of: *Academy Corners, Cowanesque, Elkland, Harrison Valley, Knoxville, Lawrenceville, Little Marsh, Millerton, Nelson, Osceola, Sabinsville and Westfield.*



*Remain in my love.* This Easter season, as the paschal mystery continues to unfold before us, Jesus focuses our attention on love being at the heart of discipleship. Jesus' words and actions were always rooted in his profound love for us. As disciples, we grow closer to Jesus and his mission by sharing God's love with others. In God's love, he is revealed.



### Saturday, May 4

(7:00PM)SC **MICHAEL CADY & MICHAEL ZINCK**  
by Michele & Evan Zinck

### Sunday, May 5

(11:30AM)ST **EVELYN REIMANN**  
by Dick & Craig Reimann

### Saturday, May 11

(7:00PM)SC **DECEASED MEMBERS OF THE BOLLOCK FAMILY**

### Sunday, May 12

(11:30AM)ST **MIKE SCHWARZ**  
by Sarah, Joe & Kathy Carbone

### PASTOR: Rev. Jacek J. Bialkowski

**SECRETARY:** Louise J. Wheaton

Office Hours: **Weekdays - 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.**

**TELEPHONE:**

Rectory: 814-258-5121

Rectory Fax: 814-258-5122

If after hours, please call St. Peters number:

570-724-3371 opt. 2 and leave a message.

E-MAIL: [stthomascatherine@stny.rr.com](mailto:stthomascatherine@stny.rr.com)

ST. PETERS E-MAIL: [stpch@ptd.net](mailto:stpch@ptd.net)

**WEEKEND MASS Schedule:**

Saturday: 7 p.m. at St. Catherine

Sunday: 10:30 a.m. at St. Thomas

Holy Day Masses: Saint Thomas 6pm (Day)

(THE SANCTUARY LIGHT AT ST. THOMAS CHURCH IS LIT IN MEMORY OF JOHN KOHUT.)

(THE SANCTUARY LIGHT AT ST. CATHERINE CHURCH IS LIT FOR HEALING OF CINDY SERENO.)



### LECTOR & ALTAR SERVER SCHEDULE

#### Saturday, May 4

Walter Bialkowski 7:00PM Mark Jr & Gabriel  
Extraordinary Minister: Michael Zinck

#### Sunday, May 5

Cheryl Sottolano 1 1:30PM  
Extraordinary Minister: Lillian Becker

#### Saturday, May 11

Jean Sereno 7:00PM Michael & Daniel  
Extraordinary Minister: Michael Zinck

#### Sunday, May 12

Stark Squier 1 1:30PM  
Extraordinary Minister: Valerie Smith



## Sacraments in our Parish

*Please pray for our children as they prepare to receive the following sacraments in the next few weeks:*

### First Penance and First Communion

Jonathan Clements  
Andrew Knickerbocker

### Confirmation

Filomena Clements  
Evan Zinck  
Liam Kennedy



## Confirmation Card Shower

There will be a box in the back of the church for cards if parishioners would like to participate. Letting the kids know they are thought of and prayed for.

The names of the students are:

**Filomena, Evan & Liam**

The box will be in the back of the church on weekends from April 27 - May 12.



We have planned the following activities during May to assist mothers and children in need.

- 1) **Baskets will be available at the back of each church during May to collect baby items** for our annual drive to support the pregnancy resource center in Mansfield, Heart of Tioga. All you need to do is pick up a package of diapers (any size), wipes, baby clothes (newborn – 2T) or anything else that a new baby might need while you are out shopping. Then just drop it in the basket at church and we will deliver the items to the center in early June. *It's really that easy!!*
- 2) **Carnations will be available to purchase before Mass on Mother's Day weekend** in honor of your mother, grandmother, godmother or any women who has been a mother figure in your life. Feel free to take the carnations home or you can put them in a vase in front of the altar. All proceeds will benefit the Shepherd Maternity House. Suggested donation is \$3/stem or \$5/2 stems.

**"The beautiful thing about the pro-life movement is that it's ordinary people doing extra-ordinary things for God."**

~St. Teresa of Calcutta

## What is Shepherd's Maternity House?

Started in 2008, Shepherd's Maternity House is a home that is operated by the Social Services of the Diocese of Scranton. Located in East Stroudsburg, it provides shelter, care, counseling, job training and education to expectant mothers. Up to 8 mothers and their infants can stay in the home for as long as 18 months. After the birth of her baby, a mother will also receive help in securing housing, employment, or continuing her education, as well as any other support she may need. You can find more information at [dioceseofscranton.org](http://dioceseofscranton.org) or contact Shepherd's Maternity House at 570-476-1428.





**Weekend Collection for  
April 28, 2024**

- 1) Offering Envelopes **\$1,075.00**
  - 2) Loose Checks & Currency **\$625.75**
  - 3) 2<sup>nd</sup> Collection CCF **\$120.00**
  - Home Mission **\$ 49.60**
  - 4) E-Giving **\$ 80.00**
- TOTAL: \$ 1,950.35**
- Weekly Goal to Meet Expenses:  
\$ 2,212.00**
- Difference: - \$261.65**

**PARISH STATISTICS**

*\*Weekend of April 21, 2024\**

**Weekend Mass Number Attending**  
7:00pm – 35    11:30am – 38

Number of registered parishioners - 210

**This weekend the  
2<sup>nd</sup> collection will be  
for the...**



**Next weekend the  
2<sup>nd</sup> collection will  
be for the...**

**Knights of Columbus  
will meet Tuesday,  
May 14 at 6:00 p.m.  
at St. Thomas Hall.**



**PRAY**

**For those who need special prayers:**

*For those serving our country:  
Lord, hold our troops in your  
loving hands. Protect them as  
they protect us. Bless them and  
in our time of need. We ask this in the name of Jesus  
our Lord and Savior. Amen*



*their families*

Willow Abbey, Jacob Abbinanti, Barbara "Minso" Albro, Mike Arthurs, Mike Asiello, Maureen Bartoo, Janet Beach, Stephanie Rose Calicchia, Josephine Calvario, Don Blovhic, Lucas Charles & family, Daisy Casbeer, Rachel Davis, Missy Doan, Steve Dymeck, Susan Elliott, Jenny Fisher, Mary Gilmour, Barbara Gillian, Veronica Hanes, Chris Heckler, Linda Kitline, Alice Kohut, Ann Laster, Billie Jo Lias, Taylor MacKenzie, Judy Mainus, Velma Minso, Tim Paternostro, Christy Reed, Kelly Roberts, **Cindy Sereno**, Penny Succowich, Mary Ann Thomas, Roberta Volante, Kathlyn Whitcomb.

**For those in Nursing Homes:** Gail Kaschalk, Renee Kennedy, **Denis Landry**, Richard McClaren, Marie Pautz, Donna Platz, Lorretta Schoonover.

**Please call the office to add names of those who are in need of prayer due to sudden illness, upcoming surgery, hospital stay or those who are experiencing a hardship.**

PLEASE let me know if someone needs to be taken off the list. 814-258-5121.



**Mass Schedule**

**St. Thomas Church,  
Elkland**

**Sunday ~ 11:30 AM**  
(Church open at 10:30 AM)

**St. Catherine, Westfield**

**Saturday ~ 7:00 PM**  
(Church open at 6

:00 PM)

**St. Thomas Church  
Open Weekdays ~ 8 am – 2 pm**



  
**Catholic Women's Conference**  
**Saturday, June 8, 2024**  
 Marywood University, Scranton, PA

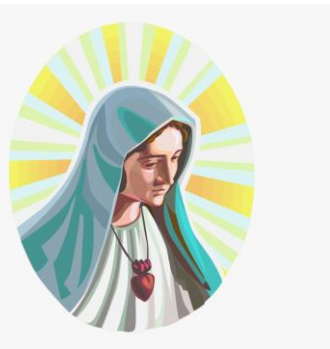
Register at [cwcnepa.com](http://cwcnepa.com)



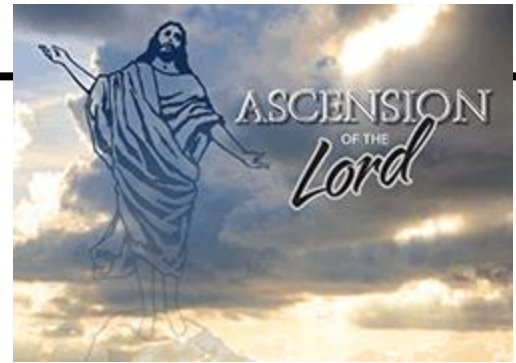



*Jackie Angel*  
 Mother of 5  
 Homeschooler

Women from around the Diocese of Scranton gather on Saturday, June 8, 2024 at Marywood University for the Annual **Refresh Your Faith Catholic Women's Conference**. The day includes Mass with Bishop Bambera, continental breakfast, Catholic Marketplace, 3 Keynote speakers, rosary, Eucharistic adoration, music and lunch. Register for only \$55, students \$20. You'll be inspired by this year's speakers. *Father Justin Cinnante, O.Carm.* brings in the truth of the real presence in the Holy Eucharist and the miracles he has seen!! *Jackie Francois Angel* loves being part of the Body of Christ. She fell in love with God at a youth retreat, and now is a full-time traveling speaker, singer/songwriter, and worship leader. *Father Giuseppe Maria Siniscalchi, CFR* gave up a career in law to follow his vocation. He will shine great light on the importance of the Eucharist for our times, the link between the Eucharist and the Gifts of the Holy Spirit, and the healing journey into God's Merciful Love. *Just added:* Special programming Friday night, June 7 – with accommodations at Marywood University. Register at [cwcnepa.com](http://cwcnepa.com).



The Month of May is dedicated to our Mother, Mary. Spend time with her in prayer.



**The Ascension of the Lord  
Mass Times**

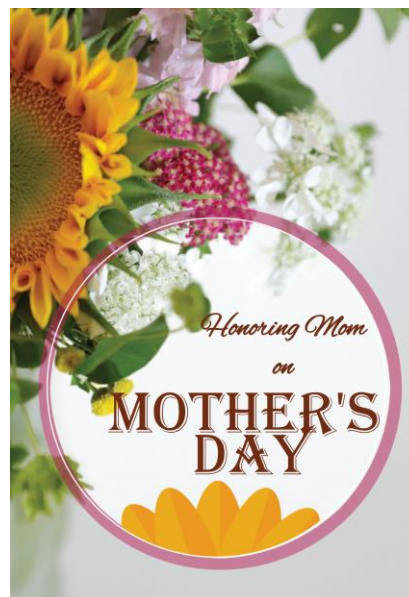
**Wednesday, May 9<sup>th</sup> - Vigil Mass**  
6:00pm at St. Peters

**Thursday, May 9<sup>th</sup>**  
12:10 at St. Peter's  
6:00pm at St. Thomas

**OUR LOCAL FOOD  
PANTRY IS IN NEED  
OF NON-  
PARISHABLE FOOD  
ITEMS**



You can leave your donations in back of the church or at our church halls or rectory.



Included in your monthly envelope packet is a Mother's Day Intention envelope to remember our living and deceased mothers and grandmothers. The envelopes will be placed on the altar for Mother's Day.



**MOTHER'S DAY ADOPTION MASS**

Sunday, May 12, 2024  
10:00 a.m.  
Cathedral of Saint Peter, Scranton

*At this special Mass, Bishop Joseph C. Bambera will recognize all mothers, with a special emphasis on adoptive and foster mothers.*

*CTV: Catholic Television will broadcast the Mass live and provide a livestream on the Diocese of Scranton website.*

Diocese of Scranton 

Will be held at:  
**St. Catherine on Saturday, May 4 @ 7 pm**  
**St. Thomas on Sunday, May 5 @ 11:30am**



*“Let us not abandon the simple prayers we learned in our families as children that we preserve in our memories and hearts. They are sure ways to access the Father’s heart.” “Even death trembles when a Christian prays, because it knows that everyone who prays has an ally who is stronger than it: the Risen Lord.” Pope Francis*



Next week our special collection supports the **Catholic Communication Campaign**. This campaign connects Catholics with Christ in the United States and developing countries using the internet, television, radio, and print media. Half of the money collected remains here in the **DIOCESE OF SCRANTON** to fund local communications efforts. Your support helps spread the gospel message! Learn more at [www.usccb.org/cc](http://www.usccb.org/cc).



Is scheduled for **Saturday, September 7<sup>th</sup>**

**More information will be coming soon!**

A Fundraisibng meeting will be held soon!! Please come and help us to plan a bigger and better Fall Fest this year!! Your input would greatly be appreciated!!



**Emergency Food Supply Located in Elkland at Wesley Academy**

Items needed: Campbell Soups; Name Brand Cereals; Kraft Macaroni and Cheese; Chef Boyardee Products; Pasta; Name Brand Spaghetti Sauces; Name Brand Tuna Fish

Thanks to all our sponsors who make our bulletin possible. Please thank them by patronizing their businesses & services. We would like to thank:

**Buchanan Brothers Pharmacy**

For advertising in our bulletin.



**Greetings, fellow parishioners!**

My name is Mark Clements Jr. (many of you are probably familiar with me as one of the altar servers at St. Catherine’s). This summer, I will have the privilege of serving at the Apostolate for Family Consecration’s “Catholic Familyland” as a Service Corps missionary. At Catholic Familyland, over 5,500 people will attend the Holy Family Fests to receive spiritual encouragement and transformation through a weeklong spiritual retreat, and I am excited to be representing our diocese and our parish there. In preparation for my time as a missionary, I humbly ask that you support me with prayer and sacrifices in the days and weeks ahead to help ensure that my summer mission time be as spiritually fruitful as possible. If you would like to find out more about the Apostolate visit [afc.org](http://afc.org). Thank you for partnering with me spiritually during this time and be assured that I will be praying for each of you this summer at the Apostolate.



**ST. THOMAS  
WILL NOT  
BE CHANGING  
SUNDAY  
MASS TIME  
IT WILL STAY AT  
11:30 A.M.**

**Schedule  
St. Peter’s  
Parish Center**



**Donation Drop-Off Dates:**

Saturday, May 11th – Donations accepted after the 5:00pm Mass  
 Sunday, May 12th – Donations accepted from 9:30am until 12:30pm  
 Monday, May 13th – Donations accepted from 9:00am – 5:00pm

**Sale Dates:**

Tuesday, May 14th – 9:00am – 6:00pm Wednesday, May 15th – 9:00am – 5:00pm Thursday, May 16th – 9:00am – 2:00pm

***Living Rosary for May***



The Living Rosary is a powerful devotion that allows people to pray the Rosary together even when they can’t be in the same place.

Twenty participants each pray a different designated decade of the Rosary daily, so all together, the group prays an entire Rosary every day.

This devotion creates a sense of community even when people can’t be physically together.

Our collective intention for May is:

*“Peace in the world and  
peace in the hearts of all people.”*

To participate in the Living Rosary devotion, Call Laurie Coffee at (703) 470-2975 or (570) 549-2210.

**Deanery Mass**

**All are welcome!**

The annual Deanery Mass held at the DeGuzman residence will be celebrated on Thursday, June 20th at 6:00pm. Please bring a dish or snack to pass and a lawn chair. All are welcome!! Questions? Call 570-376-5427. Directions: 287 N to 249N to Keeneyville, turn right to Osceola. Travel 1 ½ miles to Box 818.



## Sixth Sunday of Easter

**First Reading** ~ *Acts of the Apostles 10:25-26,34-35,44-48*

The gift of the Holy Spirit comes to Cornelius and his household, and they are baptized.

**Responsorial Psalm** ~ *Psalm 98:1,2-3,3-4*

A song of praise for God's salvation

**Second Reading** ~ *1 John 4:7-10*

God is love.

**Gospel Reading** ~ *John 15:9-17*

Jesus commands his disciples to love one another.



### Background on the Gospel Reading

Today's Gospel follows immediately after the Gospel proclaimed last week, in which Jesus taught that he was the vine and that his disciples were the branches. In the example of the vine and the branches, we learned that our union with Jesus will lead to fruitful service. Today's reading extends this teaching to describe the kind of service that Christians are called upon to offer to others.

When John wrote this Gospel, his community was influenced by a set of religious beliefs called Gnosticism. It appears that one of John's intentions was to distinguish Christian belief from the beliefs held by the Gnostics. Evidence of this can be found in today's Gospel.

One of the tenets of Gnostic teaching was the importance of knowledge, or *gnosis*, as the determining aspect of faith. We read today's Gospel as a response to this teaching. In John's Gospel, we hear Jesus affirm that he is known by the Father and that his disciples will know the Father by knowing Jesus. In this passage, however, Jesus reminds his disciples that this knowledge is to be expressed in love. Those who know Jesus well—and Jesus says that his disciples do know him—will love one another. Knowledge leads to love, which leads to action. John reminds his community that Jesus taught that love is the sign of a true disciple and, thus, a true Christian. Even more, a true disciple shows a particular kind of love, sacrificial love.

In the Greek, there are two words for love that are used in this passage. The first is *agape*. The second is *philia*. The first word is most often used to describe love for other persons and for God. It is understood as the highest and most perfect kind of love. The second word is used to describe the affection of friendship. In this context, John appears to use these words as synonyms. The root of the Greek word for friend comes from this second term for love, *philia*. By using this word, Jesus transforms the terms of his relationship with his disciples and redefines for them their relationship with God. In the Hebrew Scriptures, faith in God made one a servant of God.

Here Jesus teaches that his relationship to his disciples is based on friendship, not servitude.

Another aspect of Gnostic belief taught that a believer was an elect person, chosen and set apart from the world. John reminds his community that Jesus also taught that a disciple is one who had been chosen—one who had been chosen by Jesus. To be chosen by Jesus, however, is not to be set apart from the world. Instead, to be chosen by Jesus is to be sent to serve the world as he did. The disciples of Jesus were chosen and were sent into the world to bear fruit by serving others, by sacrificing for others, in love.

This reading, like last week's, is part of Jesus' Last Supper discourse. In the context of John's Gospel, these words are spoken before Jesus' Crucifixion. We read his instruction to the disciples in light of his death and Resurrection. We know that Jesus himself gives us the greatest example of the kind of love and service that he teaches to his disciples. He has, in fact, laid down his life for his friends, for his disciples, and for us. Through his death and Resurrection, we have received the grace to love others as Jesus has commanded.

Sponsored by Marian Ministries



Angels Everywhere! Sandi Spencer, a talented local artist, guided 18 women from St. Peter's and Holy Child parishes as they painted unique renditions of guardian angels. All enjoyed a delicious finger food lunch, lots of laughter, and newfound friends! Our first Paint & Pray - in the books!

**“Walking With Mary”**

Women's Brunch  
Saturday, May 18th  
St. Peter's Church  
11am-1:30pm

**Guest Speaker:**  
Jessica Ryan



Catered Brunch  
Suggested Donation: \$15  
**To Register** contact Laurie Coffee  
@ (703) 470-2975 or (570) 549-2210 or  
use the Sign-Up Sheet at your Parish.

**Pilgrimage to the Basilica  
of the National Shrine of the Immaculate  
Conception**

Saturday, June 29th, 2024

Pickup locations:

- 5:00 AM St. Peter's Church Wellsboro, PA
- 5:10 AM CVS Plaza Mansfield PA 16933
- 5:20 AM Park & Ride - Blossburg PA 16912
- 6:00 AM Burger King 50 Maynard St  
Williamsport, PA

Cost \$50.00

Contact Terrie Thomas (570) 418-3881  
to reserve your seat.