

Fourth Sunday of Advent



December 20, 2020

ST. MICHAEL

CATHOLIC PARISH

(covering worship sites in Ralston, Canton & Troy)

Reverend Joseph P. Kutch, MA, Pastor

106 N. Washington Street, Canton, PA 17724 - Office phone: (570) 673-5253

e-mail: stmichaelparish@frontiernet.net

website: www.stmichaelscanton.com

Office Hours: Mondays & Wednesdays 8 am - 3:30 pm, Thursdays 8 am - 1 pm

Anointing of the Sick

Through this sacrament the believer is strengthened by Christ's grace through the anointing of Holy Oils. All who are seriously ill, hospitalized, or having surgery can receive this sacrament. Please contact the parish office if you wish to receive this sacrament.

Baptism

The sacrament of Baptism is celebrated by appointment. All parents must attend a baptismal preparation meeting prior to the Baptism. Please call the office to schedule dates.

Matrimony

A meeting with the parish priest should precede all other wedding plans. Couples contemplating matrimony should contact the parish office six months to a year before the celebration of the sacrament.

Confessions

Sat: 3:15 - 3:45 pm St. Michael

Wed: 6:15 - 6:50 pm St. Michael
(also available by appointment)

Eucharistic Adoration

Wed: 6:00 pm, St. Michael's Church
following 5:30 pm Mass
Benediction at 7:00 pm

First Friday: Adoration after
7 am Mass until 7 pm,
St. Michael's Church

First Fridays

To all elderly and homebound, if you would like a visit from Father Joe on First Friday, please contact the Parish Office and let us know the month before.

C.C.D.

(Religious education classes
held during the school year)

Sun: 8:15 am St. Michael hall
10:00 am St. John Nepomucene hall



*Pastoral Council: David Brann, Beth Cole, Leslie Debach,
Will Hawrylo, Jean Herman, Ralph Lepper, Sherry Vargson,
Donna Wolf, Anna Bradford-youth representative*

ST. MICHAEL'S PARISH MISSION STATEMENT

"As members of the parish community of Saint Michael, Saint John and Saint Aloysius, we are rooted in a relationship with Jesus Christ passed on to our Holy Father and in communion with our Bishop. We joyfully proclaim the gospel of Jesus Christ and his real presence in the Eucharist. We serve the Lord through acts of faith, hope and charity by the graces given through the Sacraments. It is our intention to carry out this mission so that we may be the face of Jesus Christ in the world."

LITURGY SCHEDULE

Saturday, December 19	Advent Weekday
Vigil - 4TH SUNDAY OF ADVENT	
4:00 pm, Canton † Richard Ross (Family)	
Sunday, December 20	4th SUNDAY OF ADVENT
8:00 am, Ralston † Jack Rushin (Family)	
9:30 am, Canton † Lefty Shanley (John & Pat Kirkowski)	
11:15 am, Troy † Pro Populo	
Monday, December 21	Advent Weekday
7:00 am, Rectory † Joann Moor (The Fleury Family)	
Tuesday, December 22	Advent Weekday
5:30 pm, Troy † Jack Rushin (Family)	
Wednesday, December 23	Advent Weekday
No Mass	
Thursday, December 24	Advent Weekday
VIGIL: THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD	
4:00 pm, Canton † Christmas Mass Envelope Intentions	
6:00 pm, Ralston † Christmas Mass Envelope Intentions	
9:00 pm, Troy † Christmas Mass Envelope Intentions	
Friday, December 25	THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD
9:30 am, Canton † Christmas Mass Envelope Intentions	
Saturday, Dec 26	SAINT STEPHEN, THE FIRST MARTYR
Vigil - THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY AND JOSEPH	
4:00 pm, Canton † Michael J Acresti	
(Alden & Rosemary Fitzwater)	
Sunday, December 27	THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY AND JOSEPH
8:00 am, Ralston † Pro Populo	
9:30 am, Canton † Lefty Shanley (John & Pat Kirkowski)	
11:15 am, Troy † Pro Populo	



The sanctuary lamps in all three churches burn this week for a private intention by Mary Blaszc.

Sanctuary lamp intentions may be requested by contacting the parish office.

RETIREMENT FUND FOR RELIGIOUS

Thanks for giving! "We are conscious of the great generosity of the many benefactors who support the Retirement Fund for Religious each year," says a Catholic sister. "Support from the fund has been a tremendous blessing to our retired sisters." Thank you for donating to last week's second collection.

SAINT MICHAEL'S PARISH OFFERINGS DECEMBER 7 - 13, 2020

Weekly Offerings:	3,167.00
Electronic Offerings:	495.00
Other Parish Income:	417.50
Total Parish Income:	\$4,079.50
Average weekly expenses:	3,762.36
Difference:	317.14



Religious Retirement Fund:	168.00
Care & Education of Priests:	75.00

Thank you for your continued support.

FROM FATHER JOE'S DESK

INTERESTED IN BECOMING CATHOLIC, OR REFRESHING YOUR MEMORY?



The Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA) has begun. We are currently in the inquiry phase. It's culmination is the inquirer's decision to enter the catechumenate, the period of formal preparation for entrance into full membership in the Catholic Church. This phase may last a few weeks. The next session will be on Monday, January 4th at 7 pm in the rectory.

Due to current restrictions, we are unable to have our communal *Advent Penance Service*. Father Joe will be available for Confessions this Sunday, the 4th Sunday of Advent, from 2-4 pm in St. Michael's Church. In addition, his regular weekly availability is on the bulletin cover.

Christmas Mass Schedule

Christmas Eve, December 24, 2020

- 4:00 pm, Saint Michael's Church, Canton (Full)
- 6:00 pm, Saint Aloysius Church, Ralston
- 9:00 pm, Saint John Nepomucene Church, Troy

Christmas Day, December 25, 2020

- 9:30 am, Saint Michael's Church, Canton
- In obedience to Bishop Bambera, we are limited to 25% of capacity of each site and will continue to follow social distancing and mask guidelines. Due to the popularity of these Masses, reservations are needed. You may make your request:

- by phone at 570-673-5253
- by email at stmichaelparish@frontiernet.net.
- online at stmichaelscanton.com

OPLATKI WAFERS NOW AVAILABLE!

Oplatki wafers are available at the entrance of all three churches. All we ask is a \$2.00 donation per packet to defray the cost.

Each packet contains 6 wafers of different colors, all of which are edible. I hope you enjoy this custom!



SAINT MICHAEL PARISH PRAYER LIST

Barby, John Adams, Allura Booker, Betty Brown, Carol Davis, Carlene Eck, Dorland Eck, Becky Evans, Douglas Greene, Melissa Gowan, Robert Dale Hostetter, Karleigh Jones, Wanda Jones, Ben Kopetan, Sherry Lambert, Creighton MacGill, Patti Madigan-Pessoni, Darlene McCurdy, Bunny Meuse, Marie Miele, Cathy Ostaszewski, Debbie Pawlak, Pauline Pazzaglia, Ronald Rudnicki, Jody Schefsky, Mike Slocum, Andrea Smith, Sadie Smith, Bonnie Spencer, Rich Stankiewicz, Cassie Twist, Wanda Wennerholt, Steven Wilber, Anthony Wolf, Donna Wolf, Nicholas Wolf, Barb Yanak



POPE QUOTE: “Advent is the time we are given to welcome the Lord who comes to encounter us, and also to verify our longing for God, to look forward and prepare ourselves for Christ’s return.”

POPE FRANCIS’S PRAYER INTENTION:

DECEMBER: FOR A LIFE OF PRAYER: We pray that our personal relationship with Jesus Christ be nourished by the Word of God and a life of prayer.

DECEMBER 21 - 27 READINGS

Mon - Sg 2:8-14 or Zep 3:14-18a

Ps 33:2-3, 11-12, 20-21 Lk 1:39-45

Tues - 1 Sm 1:24-28 (Ps) 1 Sm 2:1, 4-7, 8abcd

Lk 1:46-56

Wed - Mal 3:1-4, 23-24 Ps 25:4bc-5ab, 8-10, 14

Lk 1:57-66

Thurs - 2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16 Ps 89:2-5, 27, 29

Lk 1:67-79

VIGIL: THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD

Is 62:1-5 Ps 89:4-5, 16-17, 27, 29

Acts 13:16-17, 22-25 Mt 1:1-25

FRIDAY: THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD

Night: Is 9:1-6 Ps 96:1-6, 11-12 Ti 2:11-14 Lk 2:1-14

Dawn: Is 62:11-12 Ps 97:1, 6, 11-12 Ti 3:4-7

Lk 2:15-20

Day Is 52:7-10 Ps 98:1-6 Heb 1:1-6 Jn 1:1-18

Sat - Acts 6:8-10; 7:54-59 Ps 31:3cd-4, 6-8b, 16bc, 17

Mt 10:17-22

Sun - Sir 3:2-6, 12-14 Ps 128:1-5 Col 3:12-21

Lk 2:22-40

NEWS FROM THE KNIGHTS

FOOD PANTRY COLLECTIONS are continuing in all three churches until further notice. Local pantries are in great need due to the pandemic.



Your donations of nonperishable food items are greatly appreciated.



CLERGY Support



“One of the best things we have here at Villa St. Joseph is the fraternity of the priesthood, brothers living in a community of love. This cohesion brings us together... I can’t thank you enough. We truly need your help. We’re so grateful.”

MSGR. JOHN A. ESSEFF, RETIRED

It is a magnificent life I have had,” said Msgr. Esseff, ordained in 1953. His 68 years of priestly service include 14 years at St. Matthew Parish, East Stroudsburg, 14 years as teacher at St. Pius X Seminary, and five years among the poor in Peru when he learned Spanish. He is known as “John the Baptizer” for his work among Scranton’s poor children and prison inmates. While Director of the Propagation of the Faith, he visited every parish in the Diocese but was also sent to Beirut where he began a lifelong association with (St.) Mother Teresa.

Retired priests continue to be a vital part of our Diocese. Before the COVID pandemic they assisted by offering Mass and administering the sacraments. From the most senior to the newly ordained, our priests selflessly serve us. We now ask you to support them through the Diocesan Annual Appeal.

Diocese of Scranton
2020 **DIOCESAN**
ANNUAL APPEAL

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To make a gift visit AnnualAppeal.org

Our Parish Goal for the
2020 Diocesan Annual Appeal is \$12,000.00.

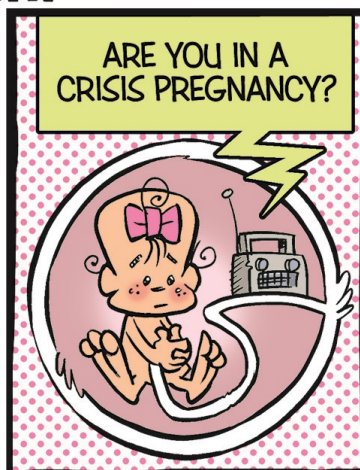
As of 12/14/2020 we have reached

83% of our goal, \$9,977.82.

Thank you to everyone who has contributed thus far.

Umbert the Unborn

by Gary Cangemi




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
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*In loving
memory of
Carol Ann Gergel*


Saint Jude, Pray for us.



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