

**FOURTH SUNDAY IN
ORDINARY TIME
JANUARY 31, 2021**



**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

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

website: www.stmichaelscanton.com

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. (2020/21 - virtual classes)

(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, January 30 Weekday

Vigil - 4TH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME

4:00 pm, Canton † Mimi Fosnocht (Tom & Nan Gergel)

Sunday, January 31 4TH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME

8:00 am, Ralston † Ginny Jones (Dan & Betsy Clark)

9:30 am, Canton † Judy Callahan (Gerald & Joy Brann)

11:15 am, Troy † Pro Populo

Monday, February 1 Weekday

7:00 am, Rectory † Betty Cristy (John & Pat Rushin)

Tuesday, February 2 THE PRESENTATION OF THE LORD

5:30 pm, Troy † Alice Kaier

Wednesday, February 3 Weekday

5:30 pm, Canton † Virginia Doddato Jones

(Saint Michael Altar & Rosary Society)

Thursday, February 4 Weekday

No Mass

Fri, Feb 5 (First Friday) Saint Agatha, Virgin, Martyr

7:00 am, Canton † Holy Souls in Purgatory

(Susan Schiess)

Sat, Feb 6 Saint Paul Miki and Companions, Martyrs

Vigil - 5TH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME

4:00 pm, Canton † Pro Populo

Sunday, February 7 5TH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME

8:00 am, Ralston † Judy Callahan (Dan & Betsy Clark)

9:30 am, Canton † Claude Brown

(Alden & Rosemary Fitzwater)

11:15 am, Troy † Mimi Fosnocht (Terri Kelley)



The sanctuary lamps in all three churches burn this week for everyone afraid to welcome life: May the Lord fill their hearts with confidence in His loving care and provide for every need.

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

2020 CONTRIBUTION STATEMENTS

To request a statement to use for your tax returns.

- 1) Write "Statement" on the front of your offertory envelope and put it in the collection bag.
- 2) Call the parish office at: 570-673-5253.
- 3) Email the parish at: stmichaelparish@frontiernet.net
Please let Cathy know if she can send your statement by e-mail. **Thank you for your generosity.**

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 and are extremely grateful for your continuing generous support. Donations of nonperishable food items, paper products, personal hygiene items, or gift cards to local stores are greatly appreciated.



FROM FATHER JOE'S DESK

INTERESTED IN BECOMING CATHOLIC, OR REFRESHING YOUR MEMORY?

We are now in the catechumenate phase, the period of formal preparation for entrance into full membership in the Catholic Church. The catechumenate period is a time of focused learning on topics related to Catholic belief and practice, training you in the Christian life. It is a time of "more intense preparation for the sacraments of initiation". The next session will be on Monday, February 1st at 7 pm in the rectory.



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

FEBRUARY 1 - 7, 2021 READINGS

Mon - Heb 11:32-40 Ps 31:20-24 Mk 5:1-20

Tues - Mal 3:1-4 Ps 24:7-10 Heb 2:14-18 Lk 2:22-40

Wed - Heb 12:4-7, 11-15 Ps 103:1-2, 13-14, 17-18a
Mk 6:1-6

Thurs - Heb 12:18-19, 21-24 Ps 48:2-4, 9-11
Mk 6:7-13

Fri - Heb 13:1-8 Ps 27:1, 3, 5, 8b-9c Mk 6:14-29

Sat - Heb 13:15-17, 20-21 Ps 23:1-6 Mk 6:30-34

Sun - Jb 7:1-4, 6-7 Ps 147:1-6 1 Cor 9:16-19, 20-23
Mk 1:29-39

SAINT MICHAEL'S PARISH OFFERINGS

JANUARY 18 - 24, 2021

Weekly Offerings: 1,883.00

Electronic Offerings: 495.00

Hardy Estate Interest: 1,215.81

Other Parish Income: 83.50



Total Parish Income: \$3,677.31

Average weekly expenses: 3,762.36

Difference: (85.05)

Thank you for your continued support.

VALENTINE'S BREAKFAST

While we are unable to host our traditional Valentine Breakfast in Saint Michael's Church hall this year, we would like to thank you all for your generosity to the ongoing food drive. FREE Breakfast sandwiches will be available to pick up after the 9:30 am Mass in St. Michael's Church on Sunday, February 14th.



Growing in FAITH™

Discovering **hope** and **joy** in the Catholic faith.

February 2021

St. Michael Parish

One Minute Meditations

Struggle and prayer

During hard times, we can bring our true emotions, concerns, and fears into prayer. Lay it all at the feet of Jesus. Let His wisdom and love provide confidence and hope, even when our own emotions are in disarray.

Struggling is normal and helpful to growing in faith. Standing before God in truth is a sign that we are in a right relationship with Him.

The human person

Human beings are the clearest reflection of God among us. That makes human life sacred. The Catholic Church proclaims that the dignity of human life is the foundation of a moral vision for society.

Catholics are called to work to uphold the dignity and rights of all people. Catholics work for the good of everyone, especially working to support marriage and family.

"In all created things discern the providence and wisdom of God, and in all things give Him thanks"

(St. Teresa of Avila).



Grow in love during Lent

The point of the season of Lent is to transform our hearts – to become new, ready to greet our new life at Easter. "A

new heart I will give you, and a new spirit I will put within you; and I will take out of your flesh the heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh" (Ezekiel 36:26). We

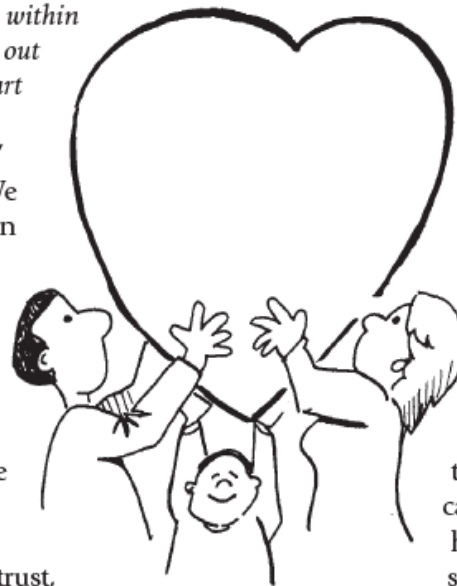
can use this time in the desert to live lives of love for God and for one another.

Affirmation: Recognizing and acknowledging the valuable qualities of a beloved builds feelings of trust, safety, and wellbeing. Offer God praise from your heart. Don't keep

it to yourself, speak it out loud. Tell others how awesome He is and what He can do for them.

Attention: Spending time with God, one on one, is vital to getting through the day in His friendship. Give Him your attention each day, tell Him everything, and listen to what He says back to you. Being a good listener will benefit all your relationships, too.

Gifts: There is no point trying to impress God. He needs nothing that we have. However, we can give Him a gift from the heart. We can tithe, offer service, attend Mass, repent, change our lives to live His law. We can act as His hands and feet on Earth.



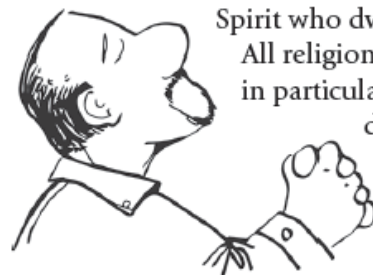
Why Do Catholics Do That?

Prayer is the raising of one's mind and heart to God, asking for good things in harmony with His will. Christian prayer is the lifeblood of an intimate relationship of the children of God with their Father, with

Why do Catholics pray?

his Son Jesus Christ, and with the Holy Spirit who dwells in their hearts.

All religions, and salvation history in particular, testifies to the human desire for God. And God continues to draw every person to the mysterious encounter known as prayer.



Simple ways to live a better life

One consequence of a protracted pandemic is that we are almost forced to rethink the way we go about our daily lives. It's a good time to think about simplifying the way we live:

Live in the moment. We can't change the past and dwelling on the future is unproductive. The choices we make right now are all that count.

Avoid drama. There will always be someone whose situation is worse than our own. If you find yourself seeking attention and sympathy from other people – or get drawn in by

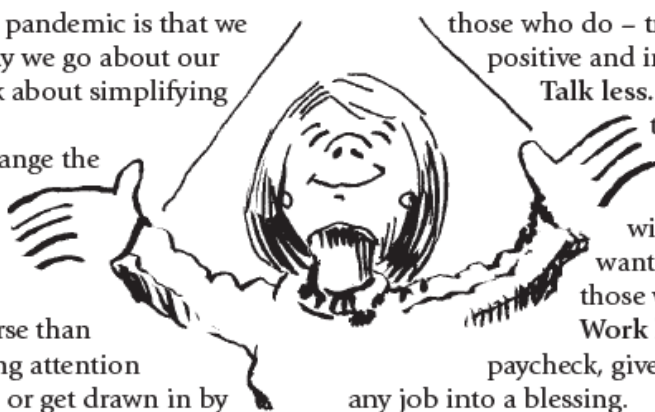
those who do – try substituting activities you find positive and interesting instead. Prayer helps.

Talk less. Weigh your words before you say them. Spend more time listening.

Spend time with happy people.

Connect in safe and healthy ways with people who are positive and want to improve their lives. Let go of those who drain your energy.

Work happy. No matter how you earn a paycheck, give it your very best effort. That turns any job into a blessing.



from Scripture

Luke 9:23-36, Linger on the mountaintop

While the Transfiguration was a fantastic encounter, it was not particularly joyful. Moses and Elijah spoke with Jesus about *"his exodus that he was going to accomplish in Jerusalem"* (9:31). They referred to Jesus' death, as the shadow of the Cross loomed. Like Moses' exodus from slavery in Egypt however, Jesus' exodus would deliver His people from the slavery of sin.

When he offered to build shelters for the three men, Peter clearly wanted to remain on the mountaintop in this holy moment. Sometimes we have an

inspiring experience and want to stay there avoiding the realities of daily life. Yet, like Jesus, we cannot linger on the mountaintop but must come down to take our place in the Kingdom.

Finally, God used the Transfiguration to speak a message – the same one He spoke at Jesus' baptism. He confirmed Jesus as His son, the Messiah, and added, "Listen to

Him." The son of God has God's power and authority. If we believe that Jesus is the son of God, then surely we will want to do what He says.



Feasts & Celebrations

February 11 – Our Lady of Lourdes (1858). A heavenly lady who called herself, "The Immaculate Conception," appeared to St. Bernadette Soubirous, a poor girl from a village in France. After the first vision of the Blessed Virgin Mary, a spring with miraculous healing waters emerged from a nearby cave.

February 17 – Ash Wednesday. Marking the first day of Lent, ashes from the palms of the previous Passion Sunday are blessed and placed on the forehead as a sign of penance. One form of Lenten observance is to pray before the Stations of the Cross,

meditating on Jesus' walk to Calvary.

February 22 – St. Peter's Chair (1st century). We celebrate St. Peter's establishment of the Holy See and pray for the preservation of God's Church.

February 23 – St. Polycarp (156). As Bishop of Smyrna, Polycarp faithfully cared for his flock despite being surrounded by pagans and a government opposed to his religion.

Before being martyred, he thanked God for making him worthy of a martyr's death.



Q & A Is it possible for real people to be holy?

On its simplest level, being holy means living a life centered on God. This is done by talking with Him continuously, imitating His behavior, and respecting His creations. It also means being part of the Church He established on Earth to help us be holy. Try this:



Talk to God. Spending time together is the best way to get to know God better.

Practice sharing. God wants us to take care of each other. Look for ways to share your money, time, and talents with someone who needs them.

Celebrate the Sacraments. Make Sunday Mass the highlight of your week. Attend if you can do it safely, stream it if you can't. Just don't miss it.

Be a voice in the wilderness. When you notice an injustice, speak out and take action. Treat all people with the dignity they deserve as children of God.

Share your faith. Talk about God with anyone who will listen. We can't keep His love to ourselves. We have to pass it on.

Our Mission

To provide practical ideas that promote faithful Catholic living.

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(Unless noted Bible quotes and references are from the Revised Standard Version and the New American Bible - Revised)



POPE QUOTE: "In each act of service, in every work of mercy we perform, God manifests Himself; God sets His gaze upon the world.

POPE FRANCIS'S PRAYER INTENTION:

FEBRUARY: VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN : We pray for women who are victims of violence, that they may be protected by society and have their sufferings considered and heeded.

DIOCESAN ANNUAL APPEAL

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

As of 01/25/2021 we have reached

104% of our goal, \$12,440.00!

Thank you to everyone who has contributed thus far.

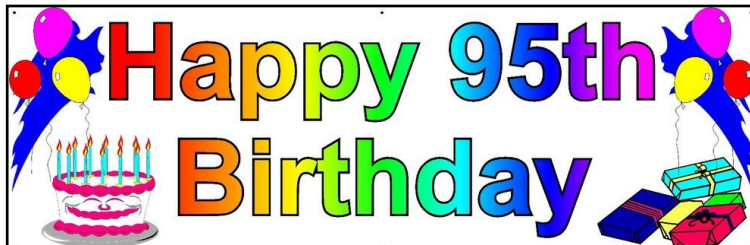
You may have wondered why some women are wearing Chapel Veils at Mass. Below is an excerpted explanation of this practice from www.catholiccompany.com

THE TRADITION BEHIND MANTILLAS/CHAPEL VEILS

Since the early days of Christianity, wearing chapel veils has been a common practice among faithful women. Chapel veils, also commonly called mantillas, which comes from the word manta, meaning cape, are typically circular or triangular shaped pieces of black or white lace that are draped over a woman's head when attending Mass, or in the presence of the Blessed Sacrament.

Throughout the centuries, the use of the mantilla by women has had many purposes. The wearing of the Mantilla is an act of veiling a woman's physical beauty, so that the beauty of God may be glorified instead. It is also a way of emulating, Mary, our mother, who is the archetype of purity and humility. Moreover, the mantilla, or chapel veil, signifies the role of women as a life-bearing vessel.

Before the Second Vatican Council, the wearing of chapel veils was required for a woman when attending Mass, as a symbol of her modesty and humility before God. Although ... no longer required, it is still very much supported and encouraged by the Church as a sign of reverence and piety while in the presence of God.



Happy 95th Birthday Beatrice Jones!

She celebrated her birthday on January 28th, but when you reach 95, you get at least a week to party!

When you see her, be sure to wish her a

Happy Birthday!

DIOCESAN NEWS

A Mass will be celebrated by Bishop Bambera for the twenty-ninth World Day of the Sick on Wednesday, February 10, 2021 at 12:10

World Day of the Sick



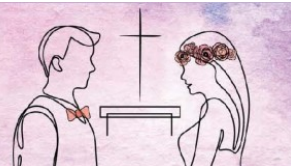
pm at the Cathedral of Saint Peter. Parishes around the diocese are encouraged to offer a Mass for the Sick either on February 11 or another convenient day near it, but because of the current health crisis, the sacrament of Anointing of the Sick is not to be offered communally. Resources for World Day of the Sick can be found on the diocesan website or on the National Association of Catholic Chaplains website.



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to have, to hold, to honor

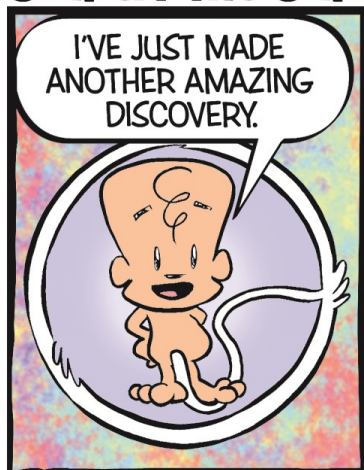
For more information and resources, visit foryourmarriage.org



National Marriage Week will be celebrated between February 7 through February 14th, 2021. This event is promoted through an international organization working to promote marriages and the many societal goods that flow from strong marriages. National Marriage Week is also supported by the USCCB.

Umbert the Unborn

by Gary Cangemi





Knights of Columbus Council #5517

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See Dates to Remember for
next meeting date,
time & location.



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SAINT MICHAEL'S ALTAR & ROSARY SOCIETY

St. Michael's
Altar & Rosary

Society is open to
all women of

the parish. We meet on the
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in Saint Michael's church hall
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come new members.

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