

THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT
MARCH 7, 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.

Confessions

Sat: 3:15 - 3:45 pm St. Michael
(also available by appointment)

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.

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, March 6 Lenten Weekday
Vigil - THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT
4:00 pm, Canton † Judy Callahan
(Walburga Koval & Children)

Sunday, March 7 THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT
8:00 am, Ralston † Pro Populo
9:30 am, Canton † Judy Callahan (Roberta Arnold)
11:15 am, Troy † Barbara & Lefty Shanley
(Shirley Grantier)

Monday, March 8 Lenten Weekday
7:00 am, Rectory † Monty Spencer (Bonnie & Beth)

Tuesday, March 9 Lenten Weekday
5:30 pm, Troy † Fredrick Pazzaglia (St. Michael's A&R)
6:00 pm Stations of the Cross

Wednesday, March 10 Lenten Weekday
5:30 pm, Canton † Jack & Judy Callahan (Shirley Grantier)
6:00 pm Stations of the Cross

Thursday, March 11 Lenten Weekday
No Mass

Friday, March 12 Lenten Weekday
7:00 am Rectory † Mimi Fosnocht (Tom & Nan Gergel)

Saturday, March 13 Lenten Weekday
Vigil - FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT
4:00 pm, Canton † Judy Callahan (Roberta Arnold)

Sunday, March 14 FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT
8:00 am, Ralston † Pro Populo
9:30 am, Canton † Eugene & Mary McMahon
(Mike & Jean Herman)
11:15 am, Troy † Fran Welch (Terri Kelley)



The sanctuary lamps in all three churches burn this week for the repose of the soul of Thomas Blaszczyk and for consolation for his family and friends.

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 have entered into the period of purification and enlightenment which leads to the celebration of the Easter Sacraments. Please continue to pray for Greg Giess as he continues preparations to receive First Holy Communion and Confirmation during the Easter Vigil. The next session will be on Monday, March 8th at 7 pm in the rectory.



THE LIGHT IS ON FOR YOU.

There will not be any Deanery Penance Services during Lent this year. Father Joe will be available for Confessions in Saint Michael's Church on Mondays in Lent from February 22nd through March 22nd, 5:30 - 7:00 pm.



SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

Father hears Confessions in St. Michael's Church on Saturdays from 3:15 - 3:45 and by appointment in any of our three beautiful churches or in the Rectory chapel.

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

Contact the parish office to add a name to the prayer list. Names remain on the list for 3 months per request.

DIOCESAN ANNUAL APPEAL

As of 02/22/2021 we have reached

108% of our 12,000.00 goal, \$12,985.00!

Remember, 75% of everything above our goal is returned to the parish. Thank you to everyone who has contributed thus far.

SAINT MICHAEL'S PARISH OFFERINGS FEBRUARY 22 - MARCH 1, 2021

Weekly Offerings:	1,882.00
Electronic Offerings:	1,375.00
In Memory of Don Wilber:	100.00
Other Parish Income:	90.00



Total Parish Income: \$3,447.00
Average weekly expenses: 3,762.36
Difference: (315.36)

Care & Education of Priests: 35.00

Thank you for your continued support.

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March 2021

St. Michael Parish

One Minute Meditations

The Eucharist is now

During the celebration of the Eucharist, the past action of

Jesus becomes present. It is a liturgical representation of His sacrifice. Not merely a commemoration, Mass makes the sacrifice truly present. When we participate in the Eucharist, the past becomes present to us and we are present at the saving event.



Live generously

In a world that judges people based on their accumulated wealth, it is easy to notice what we don't have and to wish for it. Lent, however, invites us to live in gratitude for what we do have. Gratitude then gives rise to generosity – sharing God's love and gifts with others. Generous people are encouraging, positive, and appreciative. During Lent, notice and appreciate God's gifts and share them with others.

Always ready

"God never tires of forgiving us; we are the ones who tire of seeking his mercy" (Pope Francis).



Refocus in the desert

Lent may be a time of penance and sacrifice but it doesn't have to be a time of sadness. In fact, the season brings an opportunity to become the people God created us to be.

This time in our spiritual desert can be a chance to simplify, focus, and concentrate.

Simplify. Look for areas in your life where there are excesses. When we have too much of something, it can take extra time to sort, store, and maintain the supply beyond what we need.

For example, is your clothes closet packed too tightly? Is your pantry overstocked? Can you clean out and give some gently used items to the poor? You'll spend less mental and physical energy

if you keep only what you need.

Focus. During Lent, we are called to spend more intentional time with God. To help, consider fasting from

distractions. Limiting social media exposure,

controlling time spent working, or turning off the cell phone for periods of time can help you find space to add more prayer and Scripture reading to your day.

Concentrate.

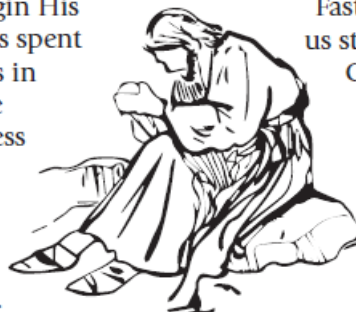
Avoid influences that pull you away from God.

"... But worldly anxiety, the lure of riches, and the craving for other things intrude and choke the Word, and it bears no fruit" (Mark 4:19). Resolve to live a life that pleases God.



Why Do Catholics Do That?

In preparing to begin His public ministry, Jesus spent forty days and nights in the wilderness of the desert. In the starkness of the desert, He strengthened His connection to his Father. God's love was all Jesus needed.



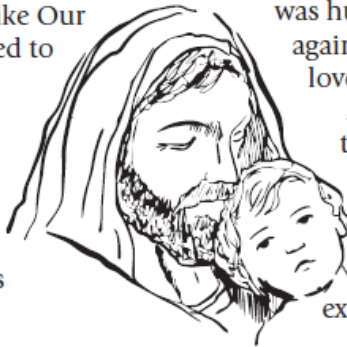
Why do Catholics fast and abstain?

Fasting and abstinence also help us strengthen our connection to God. They are ways of expressing sorrow for the ways we stray from God's friendship. By denying ourselves material comforts, we increase our dependence on God and our appreciation for His gifts.

St. Joseph – ordinary or extraordinary?

Why did Jesus choose Joseph to be His father on Earth? St. Joseph wasn't rich, powerful, or even sinless like Our Lady. Born ordinary, virtue and grace combined to make Joseph remarkable. In fact, by choosing him, Jesus gave us a model we can follow.

A man of faith. In spite of persecution and societal pressure, Joseph answered the call to live the two greatest commandments. He put God first and did all that He asked, no matter how incredible. And, Joseph put his family's needs before his own.



A husband. He respected that his primary vocation was husband to Mary. In fact, public opinion was against him when he took pregnant Mary as his wife. He loved her anyway.

A father. As a devout Jew, he knew the psalms and the law of Moses. He didn't just teach his son a trade, Jesus was taught to be a faithful Son of God.

Like us, St. Joseph began ordinary but cooperated with God's grace to become extraordinary. That is possible for us, too.

from Scripture

Mark 14:1-15, 47, Make Jesus' Passion our own.

It's even more important to share in his suffering and great love during his Passion. St. Paul said, *"We hold this treasure in earthen vessels ... always carrying about in the body the dying of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may also be manifested in our body"* (2 Corinthians 4:7-10).

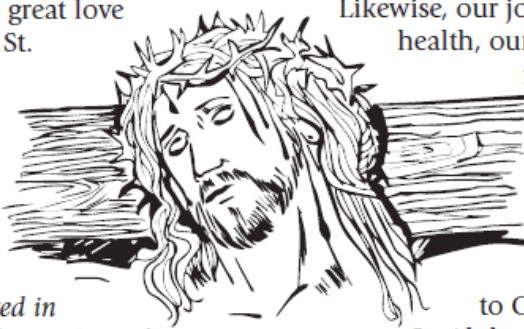
He means that everything that happens in our lives – the good and the bad – can be part of our bond with Jesus.

Every day our frustrations, our fears, our loneliness and temptations can become ways in which we share in the

suffering and death of Christ.

Likewise, our joys, our good health, our family and friends are all important ways to share in the joy of his Resurrection. The point is to offer everything to Christ.

St. Alphonsus wrote, "We should consider not so much the sorrows Jesus suffered as the love with which he bore them." Disciples of Jesus can have the same attitude toward suffering as he did and can share in his joy of Resurrection.



Feasts & Celebrations

March 1 – St. David of Wales (c. 600). St. David is the patron saint of Wales. He was born into Welsh nobility, but instead chose to become a priest. He was later consecrated a bishop. He is best known for founding an ascetic monastery and ridding the area of the Pelagian heresy.

March 17 – St. Patrick of Ireland (c.461). Born in Scotland, St. Patrick was kidnapped and brought to Ireland as a slave. He escaped but later returned to become the bishop of Ireland and is credited for having

established the Church there.

March 19 – St. Joseph, Husband of Mary (1st Century). Jesus' earthly father and husband to the Blessed Mother, St. Joseph is a model of fatherhood and a protector of families.

March 28 – Palm Sunday of the Lord's Passion (1st Century). On Palm Sunday of the Lord's Passion, we recall Jesus' triumphant entry into Jerusalem, when he was greeted by crowds waving palms and cheering. This Sunday marks the beginning of Holy Week.



Q & A What is Eucharistic Adoration?

Wouldn't it be amazing to be face to face with Jesus? Imagine sitting with Him, talking together, thanking Him for His gifts, asking for favors. In many churches throughout the world,

Catholics are able to do just that in Perpetual Adoration.

Adoration is a Eucharistic devotion that offers the opportunity to be in the presence of Jesus, under the appearance of the

Eucharistic Host – the Blessed Sacrament.

Placed in a monstrance for display, all can see and pray in the presence of Our Lord. Parishes with Perpetual Adoration chapels are able to host adoration twenty-four hours a day. Other parishes offer periods of time adorers can worship in person.

"Adoration is the first attitude of man acknowledging that he is a creature before his Creator. It exalts the greatness of the Lord who made us and the almighty power of the Savior who sets us free from evil" (CCC, #2628). There are many ways to adore God, but in Adoration, we are truly in Jesus' presence adoring him in person.



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)



POPE QUOTE: "Fasting, prayer and almsgiving, as preached by Jesus (cf. Mt 6:1-18), enable and express our conversion."

POPE FRANCIS'S PRAYER INTENTION:

MARCH: CATHOLICS IN CHINA: We pray that the Church in China may persevere in its faithfulness to the Gospel and grow in unity.

MARCH 8 - 14, 2021 READINGS

Mon - 2 Kgs 5:1-15b Ps 42:2-3; 43:3-4 Lk 4:24-30

Tues - Dn 3:25, 34-43 Ps 25:4-5b, 6, 7bc, 8-9

Mt 18:21-35

Wed - Dt 4:1, 5-9 Ps 147:12-13, 15-16, 19-20

Mt 5:17-19

Thurs - Jer 7:23-28 Ps 95:1-2, 6-9 Lk 11:14-23

Fri - Hos 14:2-10 Ps 81:6c-11b, 14, 17 Mk 12:28-34

Sat - Hos 6:1-6 Ps 51:3-4, 18-21b Lk 18:9-14

Sun - 2 Chr 36:14-16, 19-23 Ps 137:1-6 Eph 2:4-10

Jn 3:14-21



PALM SUNDAY OF THE LORD'S PASSION, MARCH 28TH

Regular Sunday Schedule

HOLY THURSDAY, APRIL 1ST

7:00 pm, Mass of the Lord's Supper, Canton

GOOD FRIDAY, APRIL 2ND

12:00 Noon, Celebration of the Lord's Passion, Canton

7:00 pm, Stations of the Cross, Canton

HOLY SATURDAY, APRIL 3RD

12:00 Noon, Blessing of Easter Baskets, Troy

1:00 pm, Blessing of Easter Baskets, Canton

8:00 pm, Easter Vigil in the Holy Night, Canton

EASTER SUNDAY, APRIL 4TH

Regular Sunday Schedule

Attention Lectors!: If you are able to read at any of these liturgies, please contact the parish office.

LENTEN REGULATIONS 2021

WEEKDAYS OF LENT: There is no obligation to fast.

Voluntary acts of self-denial are recommended.

ASH WEDNESDAY AND GOOD FRIDAY: These are days of Fast and Abstinence from meat. There is a limit of one full meal and two smaller meals that do not equal the main meal on these days for all between the ages of 18 and 59 inclusive.

DAYS OF ABSTINENCE: (All Fridays in Lent) All who have reached their 14th year are bound to abstain totally from meat.

EASTER DUTY OBLIGATION: After they have received their First Holy Communion, Catholics are bound by the obligation of receiving Holy Communion at least once a year. This precept should be fulfilled during the Easter Season. Catholics are also bound to confess serious (mortal) sins at least once a year, but this is not limited to the Lenten/Easter Season.

The obligation to attend Mass on Sundays and Holy Days of Obligation remains suspended.



STATIONS OF THE CROSS IN SAINT ALOYSIUS CHURCH!

Stations of the Cross will be prayed in Saint Aloysius Church in Ralston on Friday, March 26th at 6:00 pm. We will be using the Saint Alphonsus Liguori stations. Booklets will be available, but if you have your own copy, feel free to bring it with you.

SAINT MICHAEL'S ALTAR & ROSARY SOCIETY

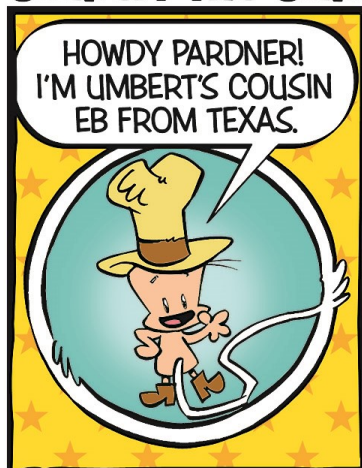
ANNUAL PIEROGIE SALE

Orders will be taken through March 8th. Order forms are in all three churches and on the parish website! Pickup dates and times are on the website and the order form. To volunteer for this project, call Diane Jones at (570) 364-5614 or Sharon Mulno at (570) 673-5857. To donate money toward the ingredients and other supplies, contact Dot Hopkins at (570) 673-4013.



Umbert the Unborn

by Gary Cangemi





Knights of Columbus Council #5517

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

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all women of
the parish. We meet on the
2nd Wednesday of each month
in Saint Michael's church hall
at 12:30 pm. We always wel-
come new members.

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*In loving
memory of
Carol Ann Gergel*

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