

DECEMBER 5, 2021



SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT 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: office@stmichaelscanton.com

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. (2021/22)

(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 4 Advent Weekday
Vigil - SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT
4:00 pm, Canton † Andreina Mignano
(Chick & Leslie Debach)

Sunday, December 5 SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT
8:00 am, Ralston † Pro Populo
9:30 am, Canton - For the special intentions of
George & Theresa Kingsley (Dawn Manley)
11:15 am, Troy † Audrey & Stephen O'Kula
(Dr. Barbara Wywiorski)
2:00 pm, Canton, Advent Penance Service

Monday, December 6 Advent Weekday
7:00 am, Rectory † Mary Eleanor McMahon

Tues, Dec 7 Saint Ambrose, Bishop, Doctor of the Church
VIGIL: IMMACULATE CONCEPTION OF THE
BLESSED VIRGIN MARY
5:30 pm, Troy † Rose Gregori

Wednesday, Dec 8 IMMACULATE CONCEPTION OF
THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY
5:30 pm, Canton † Robert Fleury (The Fleury Family)
6:00 pm, Holy Hour

Thursday, December 9 Advent Weekday
No Mass

Friday, December 10 Advent Weekday
7:00 am, Rectory † Jefferey Wynne (His Estate)

Saturday, December 11 Advent Weekday
Vigil - THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT
4:00 pm, Canton † Mike Acresti (Jeff & Beth Cole)

Sunday, December 12 THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT
8:00 am, Ralston † Pro Populo
9:30 am, Canton † Jefferey Wynne (His Estate)
11:15 am, Troy † Larry Kieslor (Louise Wilber)

Fellowship is held in St. Michael's Church
hall following the 9:30 am Mass each Sunday.



The sanctuary lamps in all three churches burn this week in sincere gratitude for the intentions of everyone who has been praying for me during my illness by Cathy Asbury.

SAINT MICHAEL PARISH PRAYER LIST

Barby, John Adams, Peggy Adams, Jason Bellows,
Allura Booker, Tom Ambruch, Betty Brown,
Jeremy Colony, Carlene Eck, Dorland Eck,
Melissa Gowan, Susan Hagemayer,
Robert Dale Hostetter, Wanda Jones,
Chris Kopaczewski, Ben Kopetan, Ralph Lepper,
Lanny Lutz, Creighton MacGill, Richard Margeson,
Darlene McCurdy, Bunny Meuse, Bernadette Moore,
Cathy Ostaszewski, Pauline Pazzaglia, Mike Slocum,
Andrea Smith, Rich Stankiewicz, Frank Sullivan,
Cassie Twist, Elias Vroman, Wanda Wennerholt,
Steven Wilber, Anthony Wolf, Donna Wolf,
Johnathan Wolf, Nicholas Wolf, Barb Yanak

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Do you love Christmas traditions but don't know where they come from? Tune in for Dr. Michael Patrick Barber's Advent reflections called "The True Meaning of Christmas" and learn the meaning behind your favorite Christmas pastimes. To go deeper, be sure to get his accompanying book, *The True Meaning of Christmas*, available on CatholicMarket.

Featured on FORMED every day of Advent

FORMED

An offering from the AUGUSTINE INSTITUTE and ignatius press

As of November 29th, we have reached \$11,735 in pledges and donations, which is 98% of our Diocesan Annual Appeal Goal of \$12,000.



POPE QUOTE: “Let us #PrayTogether for catechists, called to announce the Word of God: that they may be courageous and creative witnesses through the power of the Holy Spirit

POPE FRANCIS’S PRAYER INTENTION:

DECEMBER - CATECHISTS : Let us pray for the catechists, summoned to announce the Word of God: may they be its witnesses, with courage and creativity and in the power of the Holy Spirit.

SAINT MICHAEL’S PARISH OFFERINGS

November 8-14, 2021

Weekly Offerings:	1,637.00
Electronic Offerings:	520.00
Other Parish Income:	662.00
Total Parish Income:	2,819.00
Average weekly expenses:	3,762.36
Difference:	(943.36)



November 15-21, 2021

Weekly Offerings:	1,831.60
Electronic Offerings:	520.00
Other Parish Income:	300.00
Total Parish Income:	2,651.60
Average weekly expenses:	3,762.36
Difference:	(1,110.76)

World Mission Sunday: 20.00
Catholic Campaign for Human Development: 282.00

November 22-28, 2021

Weekly Offerings:	1,623.00
Electronic Offerings:	520.00
Katherine Lepper Memorials:	220.00
Other Parish Income:	235.00
Total Parish Income:	2,598.00
Average weekly expenses:	3,762.36
Difference:	(1,164.36)

Pontifical Mission Sunday: 1,326.00

In Cathy’s absence, a few Building & Maintenance and Care & Education of Priests envelopes were not processed. They will be included next week.

Thank you for your patience and continued support.

DECEMBER 6 - 12, 2021 READINGS

Mon - Is 35:1-10 Ps 85:9ab, 10-14 Lk 5:17-26

Tues - Is 40:1-11 Ps 96:1-3, 10ac, 11-13 Mt 18:12-14

Wed - Gn 3:9-15, 20 Ps 98:1-4 Eph 1:3-6, 11-12

Lk 1:26-38

Thurs - Is 41:13-20 Ps 145:1, 9-13b Mt 11:11-15

Fri - Is 48:17-19 Ps 1:1-4, 6 Mt 11:16-19

Sat - Sir 48:1-4, 9-11 Ps 80:2ac, 3b, 15-16, 18-19

Mt 17:9a, 10-13

Sun - Zep 3:14-18a (Ps) Is 12:2-6 Phil 4:4-7

Lk 3:10-18

SAINT MICHAEL PARISH CHRISTMAS MASS SCHEDULE

Christmas Eve, Friday, December 24th

4:00 pm, St. Michael’s Church, Canton

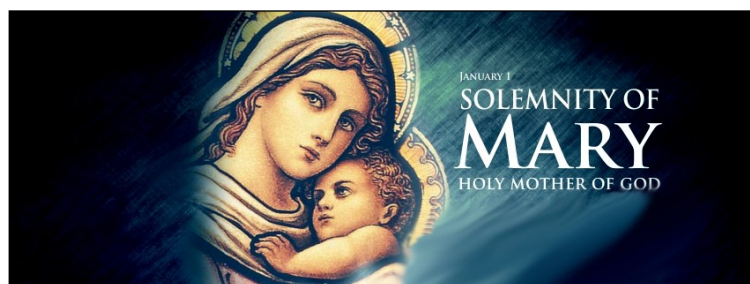
7:00 pm, St. Aloysius Church, Ralston

Christmas Day, Saturday, December 25th

12:00 am, St. John Nepomucene Church, Troy

10:00 am, St. Michael’s Church, Canton

There will not be a 4:00 pm Vigil Mass on December 25th. December 26th will follow the regular Sunday Mass Schedule.



SAINT MICHAEL PARISH MASS SCHEDULE

Friday, December 31, 2021

5:30 pm Vigil Mass, St. John’s Church

Saturday, January 1, 2022

9:30 am, St. Michael’s Church

Umbert the Unborn

by Gary Cangemi



Growing in FAITH™

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December 2021

St. Michael Parish

One Minute Meditations

The gift of Advent

The season of Advent began on November 28 and continues until Christmas Eve.

The Church offers us this time as a gift to slow down, quiet down, and reflect on God's love for us. Consider setting aside quiet time each day to be with Him.



Celebrate birth

December is the month in which we celebrate the birth of the infant King. This has become a time to reaffirm our respect for life from conception to natural death. We pray that all babies are given the gift of life.

"Let not your heart be disturbed. Do not fear that sickness, nor any other sickness or anguish. Am I not here, who is your Mother? Are you not under my protection? Am I not your health? Are you not happily within my fold? What else do you wish? Do not grieve nor be disturbed by anything."
(Our Lady to St. Juan Diego, December 9, 1531)



Make this Christmas your own

Each year at Christmas, we celebrate an amazing truth. God came to Earth, in person, to be with us and, hopefully, bring us to Heaven. Think of it – the Creator of the universe came to be with you and me and promised to remain with us. Try these ways to keep the wonder of Christmas alive the whole year round:

Receive Him with Mary's open heart. When the angel Gabriel delivered God's stunning message, Mary accepted God's will completely. She kept her heart open to His will throughout her life. We can imitate her by letting nothing come between us and God. Go to

Confession regularly. Pray daily. Attend Mass at least weekly. Receive Jesus in your heart.

Adore Him like the Magi. After receiving Communion, you are literally heart-to-heart with Jesus. Thank Him, praise Him, or just rest in Him. Give Him the gift of your full attention. Receive the graces of His love.

Proclaim Him like the Angels. Just as the heavenly host announced Christ's birth to the shepherds with gladness, so we are to proclaim Jesus to those around us. We do this when we join in worship at Mass each Sunday, and give Him credit for our blessings and gifts. His presence in our hearts becomes evident when we live with love and Christmas joy.



Why Do Catholics Do That?

Why do Catholics believe Jesus really came?

That Jesus lived in first century Israel is well documented by both Christian sources and non-Christian sources. The Old Testament, which was known to Jews many years before Christ's birth, predicted the coming of the Messiah.



Jesus' life, death, and Resurrection fulfilled those prophecies. The Gospels name eyewitnesses as sources for the miracles Jesus worked. Another compelling argument for Jesus' reality, however, is the witness of the martyrs through the centuries, who remained faithful to Christ even to death.

Develop an Advent frame of mind

The holiday season can seem more like a test of endurance than preparation for a celebration. In the midst of the seasonal stress, we are asked to reach into ourselves and bring out only what is kind, generous, and loving. It may help to remember that the real reason for the season is the celebration of unimaginable Love.

Try to see with a Father's eye. Our Heavenly Father delights in our creation and loves us for exactly who we are. During Advent, try to see yourself through His eyes. Not the flawed human visible to



humanity, but the spectacular product of God's divine love and the reflection of His glory.

Prepare your gift. Make your gift to Jesus an open heart, ready to receive the love He has for you. *"For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life"* (John 3:16).

Anticipating an eternity of unimaginable love is absolutely the right Advent frame of mind.

from Scripture

Luke 2:41-52, Finding in the Temple

The Feast of the Holy Family (December 26) includes the story of finding Jesus in the Temple, a story of love and obedience. Jesus, Mary, and Joseph traveled to Jerusalem for the Passover, as was the custom for Jews of that time. They traveled in a large group for protection against bandits who infested the hill country. So it wasn't surprising that His parents didn't miss Jesus as they started the return trip. Upon discovering Him missing, they hurried back to Jerusalem.

On the third day of searching, they found Jesus in the Temple. He was

questioning the priests and amazing them with his understanding. However, Mary asked how He could have caused

His parents so much worry and Jesus replied, "Did you not know I must be in my Father's house?"

Though they were puzzled by His answer, Mary and Joseph took Jesus back to Nazareth. He

remained there in obedience to His parents until it was time for his public ministry. We learn from this story to obey not only God but also those in authority over us.



Feasts & Celebrations

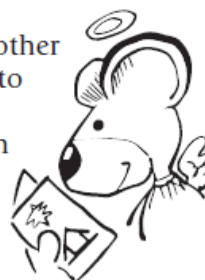
December 2 – St. Bibiana (363). Virgin and martyr, St. Bibiana was the daughter of a Roman official who converted to Christianity and was martyred for his faith. Bibiana was tortured and executed for her Christianity, as well.

December 8 – Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary. On this day we commemorate that Mary was conceived in St. Anne's womb without Original Sin. In addition to attending Mass for this Holy Day of Obligation, praying a joyful Rosary is a wonderful way

to celebrate.

December 12 – Gaudete Sunday. This Sunday marks the halfway point of Advent. We light the rose candle in the Advent wreath for joy. During the last two weeks of Advent, the Church prepares to celebrate Jesus' birth at Christmas.

December 29 – St. Thomas Becket (1170). As Archbishop of Canterbury, King Henry II tried to pressure him and the other bishops into agreeing to unjust laws, but St. Thomas refused to sign his approval for them. He was eventually martyred for his faith.



Q & A Do we have to return to Mass in person?

When we love someone, we don't want to just call or send an email. We want to be together in person, growing in love and friendship. Then, too, when we love Jesus, we want to be with Him

in body, blood, soul and divinity in the Eucharist. "It is a substantial presence by which Christ...makes

himself wholly and entirely present" (*Catechism of the Catholic Church*, #1374).

The Eucharist is a gift we can only fully receive in person. It is spiritual food for the journey. In it we receive not just graces, but Jesus, Himself. Nowhere else on Earth and in no other way can we be so closely united to Him who loves us most.

It is possible – and required – to attend Mass in person unless there is a grave reason to stay away. Still, let nothing keep you from Jesus in the Eucharist. Go to Confession regularly and never miss Mass. Do whatever you can to receive Jesus in the Eucharist. Remember, God is never outdone in generosity.

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Knights of Columbus Council #5517

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in Saint Michael's church hall
at 12:30 pm. We always wel-
come new members.

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Advent 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
November 28 Buy or make an Advent wreath. Bless it and light the first candle tonight and every night this week. Read Luke 21:25-28, 34-36.	29 Advent is about waiting for the Savior to come. Offer a simple prayer of praise anytime you have to wait during Advent.	30 The presence of Jesus reminds us to hope in God's mercy. Make a list of reasons for your hope today.	1 Pick one habit that is keeping you from holiness. Identify your "go-to sin" and resolve to conquer it during Advent.	2 Add 20 minutes of daily prayer during Advent. Set an alarm to remind you to pray for 10 minutes each morning and night this month.	3 In gratitude that God provides for your needs, set aside gently used clothing and give it to the poor. Add a piece you love as a special sacrifice.	4 Perform a thorough examination of conscience today. Then attend Confession to ready your soul to greet the Savior.
5 At sundown tonight, light two violet candles in the Advent wreath and read Luke 3:1-6.	6 St. Nicholas was a generous man and a courageous bishop. Today, make at least one generous act of love in his honor.	7 In your Christmas cards write a note about the blessings you received this year as a witness to God's love.	8 The feast of the Immaculate Conception celebrates Mary's freedom from Original Sin. Attend Mass and pray a Rosary.	9 Today, let nothing discourage you in honor of St. Juan Diego. He never gave up, placing his trust in Jesus and His Mother.	10 Buy Christmas gifts from stores or online merchants that carry "fair trade" items to support workers in developing countries.	11 To honor the feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe tomorrow, place a rose in a vase in your home and pray a "Hail Mary" whenever you pass it.
Gaudete 12 Sunday-Joy! Celebrate the halfway point of Advent. Light two violet candles and the rose one for joy. Read Luke 3:10-18.	13 Spend time in silence today. Say "no" to unnecessary distractions. In silence and peace, you will be open to God's will.	14 Think of Biblical accounts of God's mercy to sinners. Ask forgiveness from someone you have hurt and forgive those who wronged you.	15 In honor of the Holy Family's trek to Bethlehem, pray for all those who have been forced from home.	16 Send a card to someone who lost a loved one in the last year. Offer your thoughts and prayers for healing and comfort.	17 Pray for the men and women in the armed services who won't be able to spend Christmas with their families.	18 Pray the Angelus at 6:00 am, 12:00 pm, and 6:00pm every day until Christmas.
19 Light all four candles in the wreath tonight and all week. Read Luke 1:39-45.	20 This can be a sad time for those who are alone. Include anyone in your own gatherings who might be otherwise forgotten.	21 As a gift to the coming Savior, repair a relationship with a friend or family member that needs healing.	22 Make an effort to share God's love today. Say a kind word or listen with compassion to someone who is suffering.	23 Gather friends and neighbors and Christmas carol (safely) at a nursing home or homeless shelter.	24 Even if you live alone, put up and decorate a Christmas tree. Light it as a symbol of Christ, the Light of the World.	Rejoice! 25 Read the story of Jesus' birth in Luke 2:1-20 and focus on each detail. Think of how joyful it will be to meet Jesus when he comes again.