

APRIL 3, 2022



THE FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT

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

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.

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, April 2	Lenten Weekday
VIGIL: 5TH SUNDAY OF LENT	
4:00 pm, Canton † Neil Grieves (John & Pat Rushin)	
Sunday, April 3	5TH SUNDAY OF LENT
8:00 am, Ralston † Maria Kniffin	
(Mr. & Mrs. Arthur Hamm)	
9:30 am, Canton † Ed Stanton (Chris & Chrissi Stanton)	
11:15 am, Troy † Pro Populo	
2:00 pm, Canton - Lenten Penance Service	
Monday, April 4	Lenten Weekday
7:00 am, Rectory † Dr. Charles Driscoll	
Tuesday, April 5	Lenten Weekday
5:30 pm, Troy † John Petro	
6:00 pm Stations of the Cross	
Wednesday, April 6	Lenten Weekday
5:30 pm, Canton † Monty Spencer & Mike Acresti	
(Jeff & Beth Cole)	
6:00 pm Stations of the Cross	
Thursday, April 7	Lenten Weekday
No Mass	
Friday, April 8	Lenten Weekday
7:00 am, Rectory † Jefferey Wynne (His Estate)	
Saturday, April 9	Lenten Weekday
VIGIL: PALM SUNDAY OF THE PASSION OF THE LORD	
4:00 pm, Canton † Tom Blaszczyk (Mom)	
Sun, Apr 10	PALM SUNDAY OF THE PASSION OF THE LORD
8:00 am, Ralston † Pro Populo	
9:30 am, Canton † Katherine Lepper	
(The Jerome Wynne Family)	
11:15 am, Troy † Florence DePalma (Jayne Cleveland)	

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 for elected officials to work to protect human life from conception to natural death. *Sanctuary lamp intentions may be requested by contacting the parish office.*

SAINT MICHAEL'S PARISH OFFERINGS March 14 - 20, 2022

Weekly Offerings:	3,183.00
Electronic Offerings:	520.00
Other Parish Income:	278.00
Total Parish Income:	3,979.00
Average weekly expenses:	3,762.36
Difference:	(132.86)
Care & Education of Priests:	20.00
Catholic Relief Services:	20.00

Thank you for your continued support.

To request a 2021 Contribution Statement, contact the parish office.

LENTEN PENANCE SERVICES

Sunday, April 3rd

St. Michael's Church, Canton - 2:00 pm

Sts Peter & Paul, Towanda - 4:00 pm

Sunday, April 10th

3:00 PM: Epiphany, Sayre - 3:00 pm

THE SEARCH

BROUGHT TO YOU FROM
FORMED

This is the 6th week for *The Search*! View episode six, *Am I Saved?* To get the conversation started, discuss at least one of these questions:

- True freedom is not in doing whatever you want to do, but in doing what you ought to do. What does this statement mean to you?
- Do you find yourself angry with God for the pain and suffering you experience?
- What is the difference between simply existing and really living?

SAINT MICHAEL'S ALTAR & ROSARY SOCIETY

There is a box in Saint Michael's Church for donations to help fill the Easter Gift Bags for shut-in parishioners. Snacks, puzzle books, prayer cards & books, etc. will be greatly appreciated. Call the parish office if you know a shut-in parishioner so they can receive a bag.

REMINDER

The April meeting will be held on Wednesday, April 6th at 12:30 pm in St. Michael's hall. At this meeting, please turn in your nomination for Woman of the Year. Ballots are in the vestibule of Saint Michael's Church. Thank You.

DIOCESE OF SCRANTON CHRISM MASS

All the faithful of the Diocese of Scranton are invited to attend the annual Chrism Mass at the Cathedral of Saint Peter, Scranton, on Tuesday, April 12, 2022, at 4 pm.

For reserved seating, please call David Baloga in the Office for Parish Life at 570-207-2213 ext. 1158, or email David-Baloga@dioceseofscranton.org

SAINT MICHAEL PARISH PRAYER LIST

Barby, John Adams, Peggy Adams, Jason Bellows, Allura Booker, Tom Ambruch, Betty Brown, Jeremy Colony, Paul Dean, Carlene Eck, Dorland Eck, Melissa Gowan, Robert Dale Hostetter, Ben Kopetan, Ralph Lepper, Lanny Lutz, Creighton MacGill, Tom McBlane, Darlene McCurdy, Bunny Meuse, Bernadette Moore, John Orr, Cathy Ostaszewski, Pauline Pazzaglia, Dave Shedden, Mike Slocum, Andrea Smith, Rich Stankiewicz, Rev. Joseph Staszewski, Frank Sullivan, Elias Vroman, Wanda Wennerholt, Steven Wilber, Anthony Wolf, Donna Wolf, Johnathan Wolf, Nicholas Wolf, Barb Yanak

Growing in FAITH™

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

April 2022

St. Michael Parish

One Minute Meditations

Healthy worship

Recent medical studies revealed that people who attend church at least weekly have longer life expectancies and fewer complications from illnesses or surgeries than non-churchgoers. Going to church may not protect us from health crises, but it does help us cope with them.

Empty and fill

There are times in our lives when we have to empty our minds of negativity so God can replace it with peace and joy. Each day, take time to rid yourself of anger, fear, self-pity, jealousy, and bitterness. Then look for God's gifts of peace, wisdom, friendship, forgiveness, and love.

Speak the truth

Do you have the courage to speak out against injustice or sin? Yes, when you do, you may be called "intolerant" for sharing Gospel truths, but tolerance doesn't render truth untrue. In fact, saying nothing can be worse. Christ is clear: "When your brother sins, rebuke him and when he repents, forgive him" (Luke 17:3).



Give Sundays to God

God intended Sundays as days for worship, rest, and charity for His people. In today's world, however, it can be challenging to "keep holy the Lord's Day." Try these suggestions to recapture your Sundays for God:

Worship: Mass is a direct encounter with God. Make it the center and highlight of your day. Prepare yourself to receive Jesus in the Eucharist by going to Confession regularly and staying aware of your conscience so as to avoid sin. One of the best ways to honor Him is respond to His love with your own.

Rest: Make Sunday different from the rest of the week. Avoid unnecessary work. Finish errands and chores by sundown on Saturday. Serve leftovers or

casseroles on paper plates to minimize washing up. Limit screen time, social

media, online shopping.

Joy: God rested on the Seventh Day and delighted in His creation (Genesis 1:31-2:2). Find time

today to do something that brings you joy. Spend time with loved ones, take a nature walk, indulge in a hobby, read a good book.

Charity: Traditionally, charitable works are performed on the Lord's Day.

Consider putting money in the poor box at church, donating food or clothes to a shelter, or visiting a lonely neighbor. Don't forget, praying for others and treating them with kindness is a much-needed act of charity.



Why Do Catholics Do That?

In the Apostles Creed, we profess that Jesus "descended into hell" – Hades in Greek or Sheol in Hebrew. Used here, it means "the realm of the dead," not necessarily the place of punishment.

Human sin closed the gates of heaven even to righteous

Why do Catholics believe Jesus "descended into hell"?



souls, until Christ's coming. After accomplishing our redemption on the Cross, Jesus descended to the underworld, bringing news of their salvation to the righteous souls who were waiting to enter heaven (*Catechism of the Catholic Church* (CCC), #633).

Keep Easter joy alive throughout the year

Easter Sunday celebrates Jesus' victory over death, sin, and Satan. In fact, it is the most important event in human history. This joy Easter inspires can't be contained to just one day; the Church gives us a whole season to celebrate. Try these ideas to prolong the joy of Easter:

Keep a Lenten practice that helped you grow closer to God – a small sacrifice to honor His sacrifice. For example, attend an extra Mass during the week, or perform an act of charity to share God's love.

Decorate the house. Celebrate the victory Christ won for you. Display an image of the Risen Christ in your home.

Decorate crosses and statues with white sashes. Put out bouquets of flowers (real or silk) for the garden in which Jesus rose (John 19:41).

Proclaim the Good News. Mary Magdalene was the first to share the news of the Resurrection (John 20:17). Share it, too, by wearing a cross or crucifix, saying grace in public, talking about His grace, imitating His forgiveness.



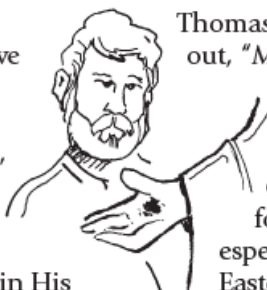
from Scripture

John 20:19-31, "Jesus, I trust in You"

The two Resurrection appearances of Jesus to His disciples in this passage highlight God's merciful love.

The first appearance was on Easter Sunday. Jesus could have abandoned His Apostles, just as they had abandoned Him in the Garden of Gethsemane, but He didn't. Instead, Jesus appeared to them and gave them His peace, His Spirit, and the power to forgive sins in His name.

The second visit was for "Doubting" Thomas, who wasn't present for the first appearance. Thomas couldn't believe that Jesus was really risen, despite the accounts of eyewitnesses.



He demanded physical proof. Jesus appeared in the Upper Room and invited Thomas to investigate. St. Thomas, moved to faith, cried out, "My Lord and my God!" (John 20:28).

This passage reminds us we can always bring our doubts, fears, and need for forgiveness to God, especially on the Sunday after Easter — Divine Mercy Sunday. To the disciples who abandoned Him, Jesus extended His peace and forgiveness. For St. Thomas who had been struggling with doubt, Jesus came in person to strengthen his faith. "Jesus, I trust in You!"

Q & A

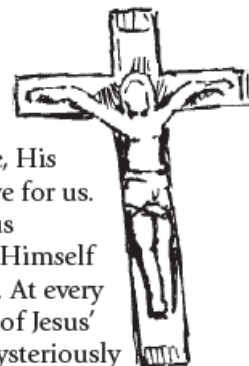
Why do Catholics display crucifixes?

Catholics display the Crucifix because it reminds us of Jesus' sacrifice, His victory, and His love for us.

His sacrifice. Jesus willingly sacrificed Himself for us on the Cross. At every Mass, the moment of Jesus' sacrifice is made mysteriously present again in the sacrifice of the Eucharist in an unbloody manner. The Crucifix indicates that the sacrifice of the Cross and the Mass are one sacrifice (CCC #1545).

His victory. The Crucifix looks like defeat, but in fact, it's a sign of victory. Jesus' sacrifice reconciled us with God, reopened Heaven to us, and broke the grip of death. Jesus took on death, sin, and evil, and rose again in triumph.

His love. "Greater love has no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends" (John 15:13). The Crucifix reveals how precious we are to God. Jesus taught us that true love seeks the good of the other. Jesus put our good first. He endured the crucifixion so we can be with Him forever in Heaven.



Feasts & Celebrations

April 5 – St. Vincent Ferrer (1419). Against his parents' wishes, St. Vincent Ferrer joined the Dominican Order. He preached through much of Europe. He was called the Angel of Judgment because his sermons aimed to prepare his listeners for judgment.

April 8 – St. Julie Billiart (1816). Born in France, St. Mary Rose Julie Billiart was devoted to the care and education of the poor. After receiving a vision of her future religious order, she later founded the Sisters of Notre Dame.

April 24 – Divine Mercy Sunday. In 1931, Jesus appeared to St. Faustina and asked that the Sunday after Easter become the "Feast of Mercy." Jesus promised special graces to those who honor him as the King of Mercy and pray The Chaplet of Divine Mercy.

April 25 - St. Mark (1st century). St. Mark wrote the second Gospel largely based on St. Peter's perspective.

He accompanied Saints Paul and Barnabas on their journey through Cyprus and is credited with founding the Church of Alexandria.



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: "Let us pray together untiringly to the Queen of Peace, to whom we consecrated humanity, in particular Russia and Ukraine, with such a large and intense participation for which I thank all of you."

POPE FRANCIS'S PRAYER INTENTION:

APRIL - FOR HEALTH CARE WORKERS: We pray for health care workers who serve the sick and the elderly, especially in the poorest countries; may they be adequately supported by governments and local communities.

CATHOLIC RELIEF SERVICES COLLECTION

This week we take up The Catholic Relief Services Collection to reveal Christ's love to our brothers and sisters in need. Please prayerfully consider how you can support the collection. Learn more about the collection at www.usccb.org/catholic-relief.

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS LENTEN FISH DINNERS



Saint Basil's Church Hall

123 Churchill St., Dushore, PA 18614

Friday, April 8th

4 pm through 7 pm (Or until the food is gone.)

Adults: \$12 Children: \$5 Under 6: free

HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE

Palm Sunday

Regular weekend Mass schedule

Holy Thursday

7:00 pm - Mass of the Lord's Supper, St. Michael's

Good Friday

12:00 pm - Solemn Good Friday Service, St. Michael's

5:00 pm - Stations of the Cross, St. Michael's

5:30 pm - Meatless Supper, St. Michael's
(hosted by the Knights of Columbus)

Holy Saturday

12:00 pm - Blessing of the Easter Baskets, St. John's

1:00 pm - Blessing of the Easter Baskets, St. Michael's

8:00 pm - Easter Vigil in the Holy Night, St. Michael's

Easter Sunday

Regular Sunday Mass Schedule

APRIL 4 - 10, 2021 READINGS

Mon - Dn 13:1-9, 15-17, 19-30, 33-62 Ps 23:1-6

Jn 8:12-20

Tues - Nm 21:4-9 Ps 102:2-3, 16-21 Jn 8:21-30

Wed - Dn 3:14-20, 91-92, 95 (Ps) Dn 3:52-56

Jn 8:31-42

Thurs - Gn 17:3-9 Ps 105:4-9 Jn 8:51-59

Fri - Jer 20:10-13 Ps 18:2-7 Jn 10:31-42

Sat - Ez 37:21-28 (Ps) Jer 31:10-13 Jn 11:45-56

Sun - Lk 19:28-40 (procession) Is 50:4-7

Ps 22:8-9, 17-18, 19-20, 23-24 Phil 2:6-11

Lk 22:14—23:56

THE LIGHT IS ON FOR YOU

Confessions will be heard

in Saint Michael's Church on Mondays
from 5:30 to 7:00 pm - through Monday, April 4th.

BE A CATHOLIC MAN

A Saturday morning men's conference sponsored by Holy Spirit Parish and the "Be A Catholic Man" (BACM) Initiative (affiliated with the Scranton Diocesan Men's Conference)

Saturday, April 9, 2022

St. Martha's Church

260 Bonnieville Rd, Fairmount Springs

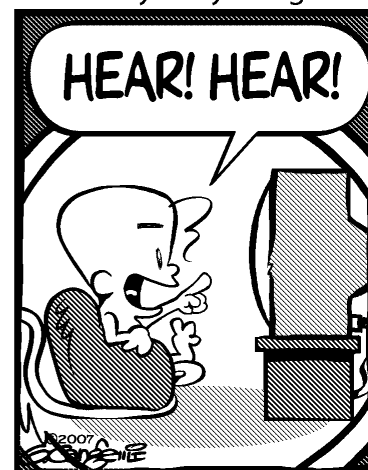
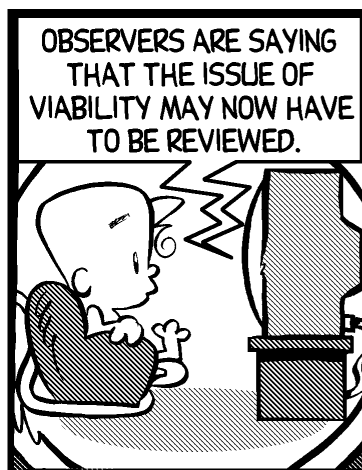
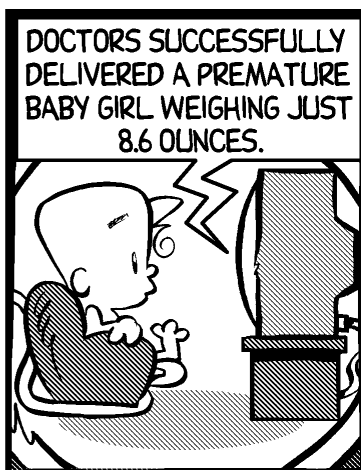
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|------------|--|
| 7:30 a.m. | Confessions available |
| 8:00 a.m. | Holy Mass |
| 8:45 a.m. | Registration, breakfast, and fellowship |
| 9:30 a.m. | Presentations on Masculinity, Brotherhood, and Fatherhood |
| 10:40 a.m. | Presentation: "Why God Is Referred To As He" |
| | <small>Dr. Christopher Carr, Assistant Professor of Religious Studies, Misericordia University</small> |
| 11:30 a.m. | Conference concludes |



There is no cost to attend. All men are welcome. Please spread the word! **Pre-registration is appreciated.** Call 570-301-9253 or email rdmicca@aol.com.

Umbert the Unborn

by Gary Cangemi





Knights of Columbus Council #5517

Looking for new members.
Meetings are the 2nd Wednesday of the Month at 7:15 in St. Michael's Hall.



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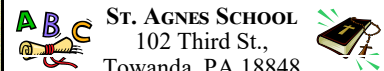
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SAINT MICHAEL'S ALTAR & ROSARY SOCIETY

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

BARRETT LAW OFFICES Patrick J. Barrett, III

Attorney and Counselor at Law
17-21 Troy St. - PO Box 157
Canton, PA 17724
570-673-5180
Fax: 570-673-5780
patbar.law@frontiernet.net
507 West Pine Street
Athens, PA 18810
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