

NOVEMBER 27, 2022



# 1ST 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](mailto:office@stmichaelscanton.com)

website: [www.stmichaelscanton.com](http://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

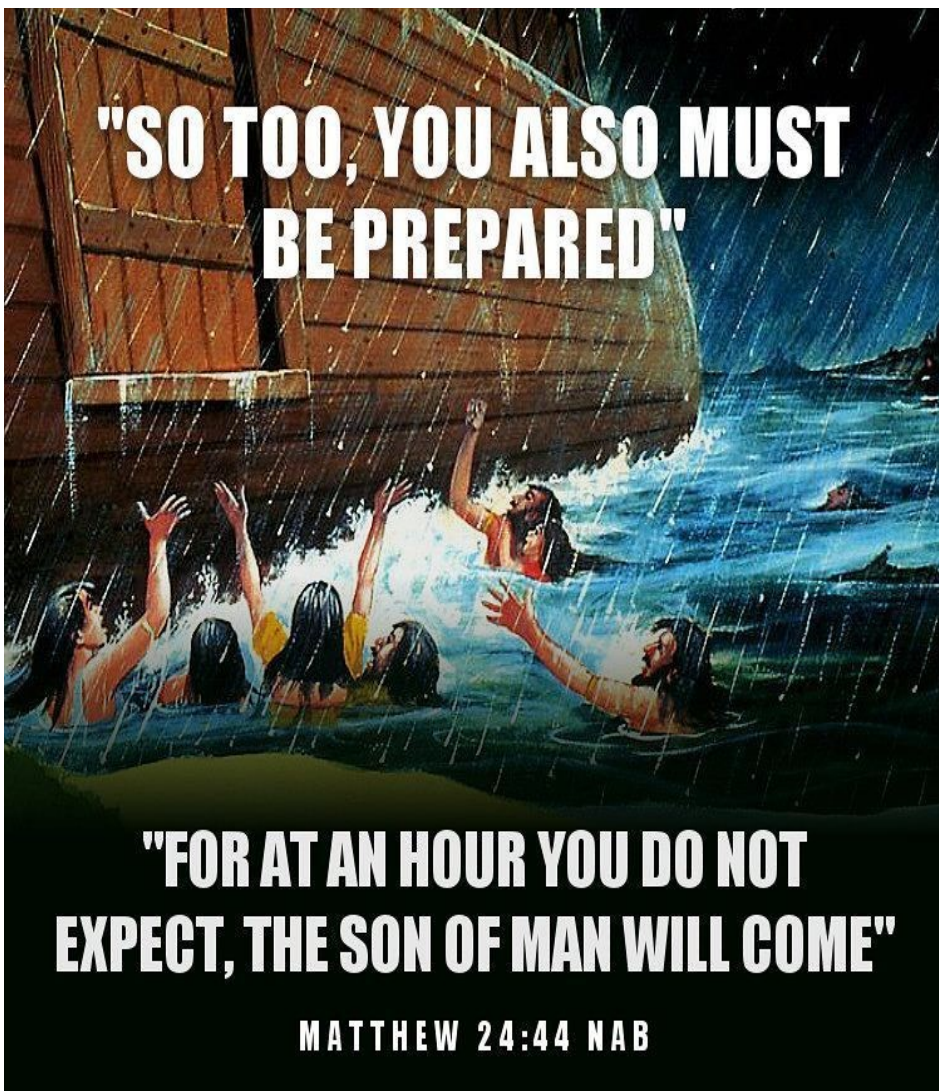
### First Fridays

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 Beahm, David Brann, Leslie Debach, Will Hawrylo,  
Jean Herman, Ralph Lepper, Sherry Vargson  
Sarah Watson - 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, November 26** Weekday

VIGIL: FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

4:00 pm, Canton † Pro Populo

**Sunday, November 27** FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

8:00 am, Ralston † William Owens (Joan Miller & Family)

9:30 am, Canton † Robert Gerg (Bob & Lola Gerg)

11:15 am, Troy - For the Special Intentions of Christy Pazzaglia & Family (Pauline Pazzaglia)

**Monday, November 28** Advent Weekday

7:00 am, Rectory † Carol Ann Gergel (by James Gergel)

**Tuesday, November 29** Advent Weekday

5:30 pm, Troy † Pauline Pazzaglia (Chick & Leslie Debach)

**Wednesday, November 30** SAINT ANDREW, APOSTLE

5:30 pm, Canton † James Mulno (Saint Michael's A&R)

6:00 pm, Holy Hour

**Thursday, December 1** Advent Weekday

No Mass

**First Friday, December 2** Advent Weekday

7:00 am, Canton † Margaret Acresti & Frances Reed  
(Alden & Rosemary Fitzwater)

**Saturday, December 3** Saint Francis Xavier, Priest

VIGIL: SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

4:00 pm, Canton † Pauline Pazzaglia

(Saint Michael's A&R)

**Sunday, December 4** SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

8:00 am, Ralston † Pro Populo

9:30 am, Canton † Kathryn Kilborn (Jeff & Beth Cole)

11:15 am, Troy † Larry Kielsor (Louise Wilber)

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



A Communal Rosary is prayed at 9:30 am Thursday mornings in St. Michael's Church. All are invited to participate.



The sanctuary lamps in all three churches burn this week in memory of Evelyn Terry by Family.

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

### SAINT MICHAEL'S PARISH OFFERINGS November 14 - 20, 2022

Weekly Offerings:	1,645.00
Electronic Offerings:	485.00
Individual IRA contribution:	2,600.00
Other Parish Income:	173.00
<b>Total Parish Income:</b>	<b>4,903.00</b>
Average weekly expenses:	3,721.88
<b>Difference:</b>	<b>1,181.12</b>



CCHD: 340.00  
Care & Education of Priests: 1.00

*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) is 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. The next session is at 7 pm on Monday, November 28th in the rectory.



SUNDAY, DECEMBER 4

**2 pm, St. Michael's Church, Canton**

4 pm, St. Basil's Church, Dushore

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 11

2 pm, Ss. Peter & Paul Church, Towanda

4 pm, Church of Our Lady of Perpetual Help, Wyalusing

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 18

3 pm, Church of the Epiphany, Sayre

ADVENT  
PENANCE  
SERVICES



### BAKED GOODS NEEDED!

Donations of home-baked goods for the Christmas Craft Bazaar and Café are requested and can be dropped off in Saint Michael's Church hall on Friday, December 2nd any time during First Friday Adoration (7 am - 7 pm)  
(Vendors will be loading in Noon - 4:00 pm)



### THIS WEEK ON **FORMED** WEEK OF NOVEMBER 27, 2022

ADVENTUS: A SPIRITUAL PILGRIMAGE

This Advent, make a spiritual pilgrimage to the Holy Land. Uncover the beauty of the place where Christ was born, preparing your heart for Christ's coming so you can enter more deeply into this season.

MAKING ADVENT GREAT FOR KIDS

Advent is a time where we seek to grow in intimacy and relationship with the Lord. But this is not only for adults! Join Dr. Tim Gray and Paul McCusker as they discuss ways you can make Advent great for your kids.

*Our parish has a FORMED subscription.*

*To set up your free account visit [formed.org/signup](http://formed.org/signup) and use zip code 17724 to find our parish.*

### SAINT MICHAEL PARISH PRAYER LIST

Barby, John Adams, Peggy Adams, Tom Ambruch, Betty Brown, Paul Dean, Carlene Eck, Dorland Eck, Leon English, Melissa Gowan, Robert Dale Hostetter, Victoria Johnson, Beatrice Jones, Antoinette King, David Kule, Jo Kule, Tom McBlane, Darlene McCurdy, Bunny Meuse, Bernadette Moore, Delina Morgan, Donna Noble, Steve Noble, Pauline Pazzaglia, Michelle Redline, Raegan Isabelle Redline, Jim Seiberlich, Rich Stankiewicz, Frank Sullivan, Matthew Warren, Steven Wilber, John Wilcox, Anthony Wolf, Donna Wolf, Nicholas Wolf

# Growing in FAITH™

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December 2022

St. Michael Parish

## One Minute Meditations

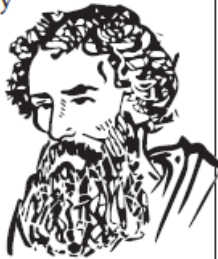
### Begin in His presence

Jesus came among us to be with us. When you first wake up in the morning, but before you get out of bed, place yourself in His presence. Take a few minutes to focus on a sacred picture or an image that will help you to "Be still, and know that I am God" (Psalm 46:10).

### Holiday advice

The holiday season is an exciting time but it can also be a time when money worries, family worries, and every kind of worry intrudes. Instead, try to follow this advice from St. Paul, "Finally, brethren, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is gracious, if there is any excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things," (Philippians 4:8).

"She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins" (Matthew 1:21).



## Encounter Christ this Christmas

God came to us in the most vulnerable human form possible so that He could draw us to Himself for all eternity. This Christmas, answer His call and come close to Him:

**In song.** Listen to and ponder the words of your favorite Christmas hymns. Imagine the reality of heavens filled with angels and faraway kings answering the call to pay Him homage.

**In service.** The newborn Jesus is the physical sign of God's love for us. When we give of our time and resources in His service, we become an instrument of that love. Share His love in your parish, in your neighborhood, in your community.

**In mercy.** Experience God's mercy in Confession and His loving presence in the Eucharist.

Then, like Him, offer mercy to anyone who may have hurt you. "Forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors" (Matthew 6:12).

**In prayer.** Jesus came to live among us so He could be intimate with us. He wants to connect on a deep level - more than rushed prayers or perfunctory devotions. During Advent, find quiet time to give Him your full attention and speak to Him heart to heart.

**In watchfulness.** Live this Advent with a new awareness of the presence of God. Be awake to who He is and how precious you are to Him.



## Why Do Catholics Do That?

God gave us body and soul, so it makes sense actions that combine prayer and movement help us to most fully participate. During Mass, each posture means something. We stand to show respect when the priest (representing Christ) enters and

## Why do Catholics stand, sit, and kneel at Mass?

leaves, when the Gospel is read, and when we proclaim the Creed. We sit to focus on the homily, and kneel during the Consecration, showing adoration and humility. We genuflect to the tabernacle and altar to demonstrate ultimate respect.



# Spread the "Good news of great joy"

After the shepherds visited Jesus, they told others who didn't yet know about Him. Pope St. John Paul II urged us to do the same: "If we truly encounter Christ again and again, we cannot keep him to ourselves." As disciples, we are required to make disciples.

Practice urgency. Those who do not have a personal relationship with Christ suffer the misery of our fallen world. Worse, they cannot enter eternal life. Our Catholic Faith holds the key to



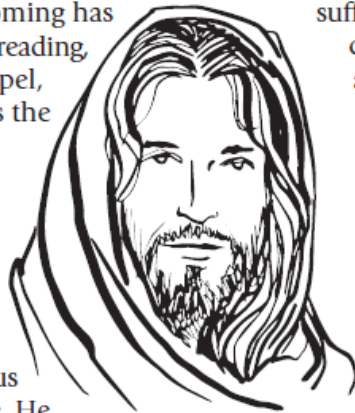
peace in this world and salvation in the next. Sharing our knowledge and love for Him is urgent. Spend time in the Word. The world desperately needs to know the Truth contained in the Word. Those who spend time with Scripture grow deeper in their relationship with God and can share that knowledge. Actively listen. It is through listening that we earn the right to be heard. Active listening helps us discern where our companion is in the faith journey. Then we learn how best to share the gospel message.

## from Scripture

### John 1:1-18, Who is Jesus Christ?

Our faith hinges on knowing Christ – who He is and what His coming has meant for us. This Scripture reading, the Prologue of John's Gospel, gives us the answer. Jesus is the divine Word who always existed, the Second Person of the Trinity, and the source of life. Grace and truth come to us through Christ. To know Jesus is to know God.

At the Annunciation, Jesus took on our human nature. He became like us in all things except sin. Yet even though He was God and perfect Man, He still suffered. He got tired, hungry, and thirsty. He worked,



wept, slept, and prayed. He suffered temptation in the desert, and was abandoned, rejected, and wounded by those He loved. God understands us.

Jesus Christ made a bold claim. He said that He is truly God and truly man, and that our salvation comes through Him.

Will we choose Him as our Messiah? Will we live our lives as children of God? If our answer is "yes," then Jesus is the one to whom we turn for enlightenment and grace.

## Q & A

### What does Our Lady of Guadalupe teach us about Christmas?

The feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe (December 12) occurs during Advent. Almost 500 years after Our Lady appeared to St. Juan Diego, we can still learn from her miraculous image on his tilma (cloak).

God is the source of life. Viewed upside down, the flowers on Our Lady's dress take the shape of hearts with arteries coming out, representing life which originates from God. He sustains us with His grace, especially through the Sacraments.

God draws near. A four-petalled flower on Mary's dress symbolizes the Aztecs' highest deity, perceived as distant and unmoved by their concerns. The flower's placement over Mary's womb shows that the Almighty God draws close in love and humility, even becoming one of us.

Humility and joy. Aztec gods were painted looking up and ahead, yet Our Lady's head is bowed in humility and prayer. She is from Heaven, but is not God. She is a messenger of His love, modeling a humble, joyful response to Him and ready to bring His love to others.



## Feasts & Celebrations

December 9 – St. Juan Diego (1548). St. Juan Diego was visited by the Blessed Mother at Tepeyac Hill in Mexico. She asked that a chapel be built and sent him with roses as a sign. When St. Juan emptied the roses before the bishop, his cloak retained the image of the Blessed Mother.

December 16 – St. Adelaide of Burgundy (999). A Burgundian princess, St. Adelaide escaped from a murderous plot for the throne. She married King Otto I, the Holy Roman Emperor. As Queen of Germany, she was

known for charitable works, including founding and restoring monasteries.

December 20 – St. Dominic of Silos (1073). St. Dominic was a Benedictine monk, born around 1000 AD in Navarre, Spain. Recognized for his leadership abilities, he was appointed abbot of St. Sebastian's monastery at Silos.

December 28 – Feast of the Holy Innocents (1st century).

On this day, we remember the infants massacred by King Herod's soldiers (Matthew 2:16-18). We also pray for the safety of unborn children.



### 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:** "Through prayerful silence and hidden sacrifice, contemplative monasteries maternally sustain the life of the Church."

**POPE FRANCIS'S DECEMBER PRAYER INTENTION:** VOLUNTEER NOT-FOR-PROFIT ORGANIZATIONS: We pray that volunteer non-profit organizations committed to human development find people dedicated to the common good and ceaselessly seek out new paths to international cooperation.

**NOVEMBER 28 - DECEMBER 4, 2022 READINGS**  
**Mon** - Is 4:2-6 Ps 122:1-9 Mt 8:5-11  
**Tues** - Is 11:1-10 Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 12-13, 17 Lk 10:21-24  
**Wed** - Rom 10:9-18 Ps 19:8-11 Mt 4:18-22  
**Thurs** - Is 26:1-6 Ps 118:1, 8-9, 19-21, 25-27a  
 Mt 7:21, 24-27  
**Fri** - Is 29:17-24 Ps 27:1, 4, 13-14 Mt 9:27-31  
**Sat** - Is 30:19-21, 23-26 Ps 147:1-6  
 Mt 9:35—10:1, 5a, 6-8  
**Sun** - Is 11:1-10 Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 12-13, 17 Rom 15:4-9  
 Mt 3:1-12

**"It is a good thing to give thanks to the Lord"**  
 - Psalm 92:1a



Thanksgiving is at the heart of Christian Life. It is a time when we give thanks for all God's gifts and blessings!  
 Thank you for your generous gifts to the 2022 Diocesan Annual Appeal. During this time, let us remember to pray for those who are hurting, lonely or in need of assistance.



**GIFTS OF ALL SIZES ARE NEEDED AND APPRECIATED!**  
 As of November 21st, we are at 94.03% of our \$12,000 parish goal. \$11,283 has been donated or pledged. Thank you to everyone who has contributed thus far, both financially and with your prayers.

*Parish Christmas Party*

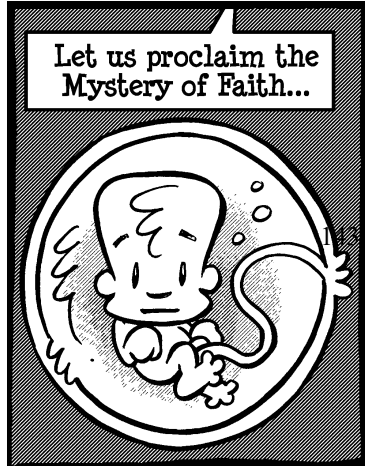
When: 6 - 9 pm, December 10, 2022  
 Where: Saint Michael's Church Hall  
 What: Adult affair (BYOB)  
 What (2): Bring a dish or snack to pass  
 Who: Sponsored by the Parish Pastoral Council

**SAINT MICHAEL'S ALTAR & ROSARY SOCIETY**  
 The Harvest Supper Committee thanks all who helped with everything that goes into the Harvest Supper. Every task was greatly appreciated. **Thank You!**

**SAINT MICHAEL CEMETERY ASSOCIATION**  
 Saint Michael's Cemetery Association asks you to please consider periodic donations to the Perpetual Care Fund for Saint Michael's Cemetery. This fund is used for upkeep of the grounds such as lawn care, road care, removal of dead trees and the like.  
*St. Michael's Cemetery Association members are:*  
 Jim Ross, Sherry Vargson, Diane Hedrick,  
 Jane Polcrack, George Kingsley, Beth Cole  
 and Jerome Wynne.

**Umbert the Unborn**

by Gary Cangemi



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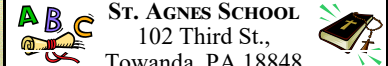


### Knights of Columbus Council #5517

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



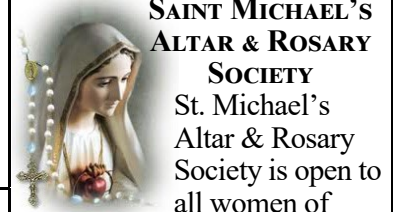
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### SAINT MICHAEL'S ALTAR & ROSARY SOCIETY

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 welcome new members.



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# 2022 Advent Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p><b>27 November</b> Buy or make an Advent wreath. Light the first violet candle for Hope.</p> 	<p><b>28</b> Decide how to prepare for Jesus' birth during Advent: deeper prayer, acts of charity, fasting.</p> 	<p><b>29</b> Make a playlist of music appropriate for Advent that anticipates Christ's birth. Listen and meditate to it until Christmas.</p> 	<p><b>30</b> St. Andrew the Apostle St. Andrew answered Jesus' call and led others to Him. Pray for those discerning the priesthood or religious life.</p> 	<p><b>1</b> December Ask God to reveal what's keeping you from fully experiencing His love. Resolve to deal with it by Christmas.</p> 	<p><b>2</b> First Friday Devotion Attend Mass or visit Jesus in the Eucharist in church (find the red candle). Give thanks for His blessings.</p> 	<p><b>3</b> Set up a nativity. Leave it empty and add the figures slowly through the weeks.</p> 
<p><b>4</b> Read <i>Matthew 3:1-12</i>. Tonight, light one violet candle and a second one for Faith.</p> 	<p><b>5</b> Pray the Joyful Mysteries of the Rosary. Ask Mary, who received Christ perfectly, to help you welcome Him.</p> 	<p><b>6</b> St. Nicholas of Myra Perform a simple act of kindness in honor of this generous saint.</p> 	<p><b>7</b> Singing is praying twice. Play some Advent hymns to get into the season and sing along.</p> 	<p><b>8</b> The Immaculate Conception of Mary To honor the Blessed Virgin Mary, attend Mass and pray for the Church in the United States.</p> 	<p><b>9</b> Contact Catholic Relief Services (877-HELPCRS or <a href="http://www.catholicrelief.org">www.catholicrelief.org</a>) to see how you can help.</p> 	<p><b>10</b> Attend Confession and experience God's mercy. Find an examination of conscience here, under "Prayers": <a href="https://www.usccb.org">https://www.usccb.org</a></p> 
<p><b>11</b> <i>Gaudete Sunday</i> Read <i>Matthew 11:2-11</i>. Light two violet candles and the rose one for Joy.</p> 	<p><b>12</b> Our Lady of Guadalupe Display flowers at home to honor Mary. Pray for expectant mothers and their babies.</p> 	<p><b>13</b> At the half-way point of Advent, renew your resolutions for change.</p> 	<p><b>14</b> Set out an empty box. Add gently used clothes, starting today. When it's full, bring it to a clothing drive.</p> 	<p><b>15</b> Christmas is a busy time for parishes. Stop by your parish office and offer your services.</p> 	<p><b>16</b> Eat a simple, meatless meal and donate the money you saved to the poor box at church.</p> 	<p><b>17</b> Pray one of the seven "O Antiphons" daily, found in the hymn, "O Come, O Come Emmanuel."</p> 
<p><b>18</b> Read <i>Matthew 1:18-24</i>. Light all the candles and the last one for Peace.</p> 	<p><b>19</b> Visit your parish and light a candle for anyone traveling this week.</p> 	<p><b>20</b> Write down all your worries and entrust them to God, "Jesus, I trust in You."</p> 	<p><b>21</b> Straighten up the house and make any final preparations. The King is coming!</p> 	<p><b>22</b> Read <i>Luke 2:1-7</i> and place yourself in the scene. Imagine how you'd react if you were there.</p> 	<p><b>23</b> Think of the Advent resolutions you want to keep year-round.</p> 	<p><b>24</b> <i>Christmas Eve!</i> Tonight, place Jesus in the manger and rejoice! Offer thanks to God for sending His Son for us.</p> 



# Saint Michael's Christmas Bazaar & Café

**SATURDAY, DECEMBER 3, 2022**

**8:00 AM UNTIL 3:00 PM**

**SAINT MICHAEL'S CHURCH HALL**

**107 NORTH WASHINGTON STREET, CANTON, PA**

Come join us this year for a Warm and Joyful  
Christmas Craft Bazaar and Café.

**The Christmas Bazaar will have thirty-one tables in all!**

This year we will feature two wineries, modern and Native American jewelry, quilts, table runners, acrylic and water-color paintings, hand cut lamp shades and jackets, natural fur jointed bears, hats and gloves, holiday decorated rough cut barn wood products, Avon gifts and products, pottery, children's gifts and surprise bags, the Christmas Candy and Cookie Shop and much more!

Take a chance on our beautiful quilt raffle!

The huge Chinese Auction has a wide variety of products and gift cards, including local gas, food and other businesses.



*Glory to God  
in the highest*

## The Christmas Café

will feature delicious homemade soups  
and BBQ sandwiches. Eat-in or take-out.

**Santa is coming to town**

from Noon until to 2 pm!

**Hope to see you there!**

