

DECEMBER 4, 2022



# 2ND 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, 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)

**2:00 pm, Canton - Advent Penance Service**

**Monday, December 5** Advent Weekday

7:00 am, Rectory † Michael Acresti (by Jeff & Beth Cole)

**Tuesday, December 6** Advent Weekday

5:30 pm, Troy † Pauline Pazzaglia (Pat & Joel Heiland)

**Wed, Dec 7** Saint Ambrose, Bishop, Doctor of the Church

VIGIL: THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION OF THE

BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

5:30 pm, Canton † Eugene Jessup (Rita & Seth Chamberlain)

**Thursday, December 8** THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

7:00 am, Canton † Phyllis Gerg (Bob & Lola Gerg)

5:30 pm, Troy † Thomas Dalton (Bob & Carol Dalton)

**Friday, December 9** Advent Weekday

**NO MASS**

**Saturday, December 10** Advent Weekday

VIGIL: THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

4:00 pm, Canton † Pro Populo

**Sunday, December 11** THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

8:00 am, Ralston † Betty Shanley (St. Michael's A&R)

9:30 am, Canton † Mary Small

(The Bradford & Hamburger Families)

11:15 am, Troy † Pamela Keeney (Chick & Leslie Debach)

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 for God to help us prepare the way of the Lord by acting with tenderness and compassion, especially toward the most vulnerable among us.

### 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, 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

## 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, December 5th 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



## 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 CHRISTMAS PARTY & COOKIE EXCHANGE

December 14, 12:30 pm, St. Michael's Hall

We will have a brief meeting followed by our Christmas Party & Cookie Exchange. Please bring a plate of your favorite cookies for this event.

### \*\*\*CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PARTY\*\*\*

Following the 9:30 am Mass on Sunday, December 18th, fellowship will include a CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PARTY! Please sign your child/children up on the sheet by the bulletins (in all 3 churches) so that a gift can be given to each child with a personalized name tag.

### SAINT MICHAEL'S PARISH OFFERINGS

**November 21 - 27, 2022**

Weekly Offerings:	2,280.00
Electronic Offerings:	485.00
Other Parish Income:	199.50
Total Parish Income:	2,964.50
Average weekly expenses:	3,721.88
Difference:	(727.38)
Care & Education of Priests:	150.00



*Thank you for your continued support.*





**POPE QUOTE:** "During this Advent Season, let us ask the Lord to help us keep the lamp of faith alit in our lives, to be prepared to receive him, and that he fill us with peace and joy."

**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.

### THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY (a Holy Day of Obligation)

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 7

5:30 pm, Saint Michael's Church (Vigil Mass)

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 8

7:00 am, Saint Michael's Church

5:30 pm, Saint John's Church

Holy days of obligation are feast days on which Catholics are required to attend Mass and to avoid (to the extent that they are able) servile work. The observance of Holy Days of Obligation is part of the Sunday Duty, the first of the Precepts of the Church, and are listed in Canon 1246 of the 1983 Code of Canon Law. Holy Days of Obligation are days other than Sundays on which Catholics are required to participate in the Mass, the primary form of worship. Any feast celebrated on a Sunday, such as Easter, falls under normal Sunday Duty and thus isn't included in a list of Holy Days of Obligation.

<https://www.learnreligions.com/holy-days-of-obligation-541520>

Diocese of Scranton

## DIOCESAN ANNUAL APPEAL



As of November 28th, we are at 94.85% of our \$12,000 parish goal. \$11,383 has been donated or pledged.

Thank you to everyone who has contributed thus far, both financially and with your prayers.

### DECEMBER 5 - 11, 2022 READINGS

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

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

**Wed** - Is 40:25-31 Ps 103:1-4, 8, 10 Mt 11:28-30

**Thurs** - Gn 3:9-15, 20 Ps 98:1-4 Eph 1:3-6, 11-12  
Lk 1:26-38

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

**Sat** - Sir 48:1-4, 9-11 Ps 80:2-3, 15-16, 18-19  
Mt 17:9a, 10-13

**Sun** - Is 35:1-6a, 10 Ps 146:6-10 Jas 5:7-10 Mt 11:2-11

### SAINT JOHN CEMETERY ASSOCIATION

Saint John's Cemetery Association asks you to please consider donating to the upkeep of Saint John's Cemetery. Checks payable to *St. John Cemetery Association* can be mailed to:

St. John Cemetery Association  
Attn: Treasurer  
346 Brozowski Way  
Troy, PA 16947

*St. John's Cemetery Association members are:*  
*Robert (Bob) Williams, Judy Brozowski, John Wilcox,*  
*Bob Vineski, James Phillips and Robert Brown.*

Anyone wanting further details or who may be interested in serving on the Cemetery Association, please contact either Bob Williams or Judy Brozowski.

### 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.

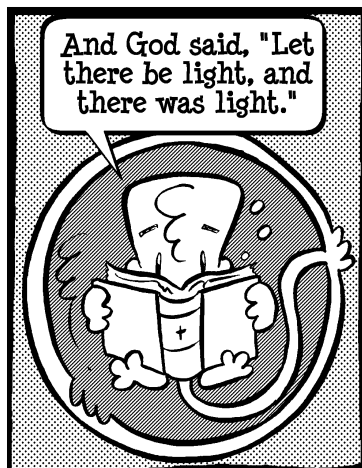
Checks payable to *St. Michael Cemetery Association* can be mailed to:

St. Michael Cemetery Association  
Attn: Treasurer  
1160 Beach Road  
Granville Summit, PA 16926

*St. Michael's Cemetery Association members are:*  
*Jim Ross, Sherry Vargson, Diane Hedrick,*  
*Jane Polcrack, Beth Cole and Jerome Wynne.*

## Umbert the Unborn

by Gary Cangemi



## POLISH CHRISTMAS WAFER A FLAVORLESS TRADITION THAT'S OH SO SWEET

by SARAH ZIELINSKI

Nothing says "I love you," at least in my Polish-American family, quite like the sharing of a thin, flat, tasteless wafer called *an oplatek* at Christmas.

We're not alone. Before sitting down to Christmas Eve dinner, many families with roots in Poland and other Eastern European countries will take part in this tradition, which has roots dating back hundreds of years.

"For us, Polish Americans, the *oplatek*, that wafer, is Christmas Eve," says Sophie Hodorowicz Knab, author of the book *Polish Customs, Traditions and Folklore*. "It defines people's heritage."

Christmas Eve marks the end of Advent. Traditionally, that meant the last day of fasting, so in mostly Catholic Poland, the dinner was typically meatless. The menu might have included items such as pea soup, boiled potatoes, fried fish and stewed fruits, Knab notes in *The Polish Country Kitchen Cookbook*.

Before the meal, though, came a small, informal ceremony — one that is still carried out in many homes, including in the U.S.

At the start of dinner, just after grace, the male head of the household takes the wafer and expresses his hopes for his wife in the new year. He might wish her good health, or ask for forgiveness for some fault.

"My father used to say, 'OK, I'm not the best, but I'll try harder,'" Knab says. "My mother would always say, 'You work so hard and I appreciate you for that.'"

The wife breaks off a piece of the *oplatek* and eats it. She then reciprocates the good wishes and shares the wafer with her husband. And the ceremonial sharing of wafer and good wishes continues with older relatives, guests and children, starting with the oldest.

"The sharing of this unleavened bread with another person is sharing all that is good with life," says Knab. "It's a time to tell each other, 'I love you, I care about you.' And you do it in an open area, where everyone else can see you."

The wafer is typically a rectangle about the size of a hand and embossed with a Christmas scene, such as the Nativity. It is made of flour and water pressed between two engraved pieces of metal and is similar to the bread wafer used in Holy Communion. To be frank, it can be pretty dry and tasteless (my family struggled to finish our wafer last year), but the sentiment is so sweet that it's worth the effort.

Ethnographers believe that the tradition may have gotten its start with the sharing of a ritual flatbread called *podplomyk*, Knab says. Pieces of the thin bread, usually baked before other loaves of dough were placed in the oven, were shared with members of the household, and with neighbors, as a gesture of goodwill.

"Bread was very hard to come by" in the Middle Ages, Knab says. "Sharing of this bread was a caring kind of exchange."



That bread eventually morphed into the flat wafer, says Knab, and the sharing continued. During World War II, with families scattered all over the world, people would send pieces of *oplatek* to remind them of each other.

And some continue to include the wafers in their mailings. "I still get letters from Poland with pieces," she says.

The *oplatek* tradition spread among Lithuanians, Czechs and Slovaks. And even families decades removed from their Eastern European roots share the wafers.

"It has just continued down through the generations," Knab says, "because it's such a beautiful tradition."

From: [www.npr.org/sections/thesalt/2012/12/19/167650665](http://www.npr.org/sections/thesalt/2012/12/19/167650665)

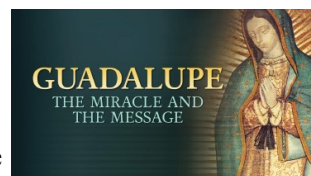
**The oplatki wafers are available at the entrances of all three churches. All we ask is a \$2.00 donation per packet to defray the cost. Each packet contains 6 wafers of different colors, all of which are edible. I hope you enjoy this custom!**



WEEK OF DECEMBER 4, 2022

GUADALUPE: THE MIRACLE AND THE MESSAGE

Enjoy this film narrated by Jim Caviezel that walks us through our Mother's miraculous appearance to Juan Diego, an encounter that has influenced the conversion of millions of people.



FORMED LIVE: DO WE MAKE TOO MUCH OF MARY?

Why do Catholics think so highly of Mary? Join Dr. Tim Gray and Dr. John Sehorn as they discuss our Lady's esteemed place among the saints.



MARIAN DOGMAS WITH BRANT PITRE

Listen in as Matt Fradd and Dr. Brant Pitre explore the Church's understanding of Mary's role in the Church.

*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.*





## ADVENT

Human beings cannot live without hope. Unlike the animals, we are blessed - or cursed - with the ability to think about the future and to fear our actions to shaping it. So essential is this to human life, that human beings cannot live without hope, without something to live for, without something to look forward to. To be without hope, to have nothing to live for, is to surrender to death in despair. But we can find all sorts of things to live for and we can hope for almost anything; for some measure of success or security or for the realization of some more or less modest ambition; for our children, that they might be saved from our mistakes and sufferings and find a better life than we have known; for a better world, throwing ourselves into politics or medicine or technology so that future generations might be better off. Not all these forms of hope are selfish; indeed, they have given dignity and purpose to the lives of countless generations.

But one of the reasons why we read the Old Testament during Advent is to learn what to hope for. The people of the Old Testament had the courage to hope for big things: that the desert would be turned into fertile land; that their scattered and divided people would eventually be gathered again; that the blind would see, the deaf hear, the lame walk; that not only their own people, but all the peoples of the earth, would be united in the blessings of everlasting peace. Clearly, their hopes were no different from ours or from any human being's: lasting peace, tranquil lives, sufficiency of food, an end to suffering, pain and misery.

Thus we hope for the same things as the Old Testament people, for their hopes are not yet realized. But we differ from them in two ways. First, the coming of Jesus in history, as a partial fulfillment of God's promises, immeasurably confirms and strengthens our hope. Secondly, we differ from the Old Testament people because Jesus has revealed to us that God is not afar off, but is already in our midst. Hence the importance in the Advent liturgy of John the Baptist and of Mary; because they recognized the new situation, they serve as models for the Church in discerning the presence of our Savior in the world.

*Taken from "The Sprit of Advent," Mark Searle, in Assembly, Volume 7:1. © Notre Dame, IN*

## NOTICE REGARDING REPORTING SEXUAL ABUSE OF A MINOR

It is the policy of the Diocese of Scranton to report any allegation of sexual abuse of a minor to law enforcement. If you are a victim of sexual abuse committed by a priest, deacon, religious or lay employee or volunteer of the Diocese of Scranton, you are encouraged to immediately report the matter to law enforcement. If any priest, deacon, religious, lay employee or volunteer of the Diocese of Scranton has cause or reason to suspect that a minor has been subjected to any form of abuse, including child sexual abuse, the matter will be reported to law enforcement. It is also the policy of the Diocese to adhere to all civil and state regulations. In accordance with the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania's Child Protective Services Laws, reports of suspected child abuse should also be made immediately by phone to the 24-Hour Child Abuse hotline (ChildLine) at 1-800-932-0313 or electronically at [www.compass.state.pa.us/cwis](http://www.compass.state.pa.us/cwis) To this end, the Diocese is equally committed to adhering to the norms of the Code of Canon Law and to upholding the tenets of the USCCB Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People, which includes supporting victims of sexual abuse in their pursuit of emotional and spiritual well-being. As such, information regarding an allegation of sexual abuse of a minor should also be reported to the Victim Assistance Coordinator, Mary Beth Pacuska at (570-862-7551).

## AVISO AL RESPECTO DE REPORTAR EL ABUSO SEXUAL DE UN MENOR

De Edad Es la norma de la Diócesis de Scranton reportar cualquier alegación de abuso sexual de un menor de edad a las autoridades. Si usted es una víctima de abuso sexual cometido por un sacerdote, diácono, religioso o empleado laico, o voluntario de la Diócesis de Scranton, usted está obligado a reportar el asunto inmediatamente a las autoridades de la ley. Si algún sacerdote, diácono, religioso, empleado laico o voluntario de la Diócesis de Scranton tiene sospecha de que un menor de edad ha sido sujeto a cualquier forma de abuso, incluyendo abuso sexual de menor de edad, el asunto será reportado a las autoridades de la ley. Es la norma de la Diócesis defender todas las regulaciones civiles y del estado. De conformidad con la Comunidad de los Servicios de Protección Infantil de Pennsylvania Leyes, informes de sospecha de abuso de niños también debe hacerse inmediatamente por teléfono las 24 horas maltrato infantil hotline (ChildLine) al 1-800-932-0313 o electrónicamente en [www.compass.state.pa.us/cwis](http://www.compass.state.pa.us/cwis)

Al fin de que la Diócesis esté comprometida igualmente a defender las normas del Código de Derecho Canónico y defender los principios de la Carta Para la Protección de Niños y Jóvenes (Conferencia de los Obispos Católicos de los Estados Unidos), lo cual incluye apoyar a las víctimas de abuso sexual en pos del bienestar emocional y espiritual. Por eso, información respecto a una alegación del asunto sexual de un menor de edad, debe ser reportada a la Coordinadora Diocesana de Asistencia para Las Víctimas, Mary Beth Pacuska, a (570-862-7551).



## Christmas Mass Schedule

### SATURDAY, DECEMBER 24TH

4 pm, Saint Michael Church, Canton

7 pm, Saint Aloysius Church, Ralston

### SUNDAY, DECEMBER 25TH

12 am (Midnight), Saint John Nepomucene Church, Troy

9:30 am, Saint Michael Church, Canton



### 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.



4423 Leona Road  
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Phone/Fax: 570-297-4711  
Email:  
hawthornridge@gmail.com  
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SUN, WED & THURS: 11AM - 8PM  
FRI & SAT: 11AM - 9PM  
MON & TUES: CLOSED

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SUNDAY-THURSDAY - 7:30AM - 8:00PM  
FRIDAY AND SATURDAY - 7:30AM - 9:00PM

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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  
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Athens, PA 18810  
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Daniel Gilliland, Supervisor

Daniel Gilliland  
*Funeral Director*  
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