

JANUARY 1, 2023



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 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

Sat, Dec 31 7th day within the Octave of Christmas
VIGIL: SOLEMNITY OF MARY,
THE HOLY MOTHER OF GOD
4:00 pm, Canton † Pat Mack
(The Bradford & Hamburger Families)

Sunday, January 1 SOLEMNITY OF MARY,
THE HOLY MOTHER OF GOD
8:00 am, Ralston † Pro Populo
9:30 am, Canton † Bill & Bonnie Spencer
(Jeff & Beth Cole)
11:15 am, Troy † John Pazzaglia (Pat & Joel Heiland)

Monday, January 2 Saints Basil the Great & Gregory
Nazianzen, Bishops, Doctors of the Church
7:00 am, Rectory For the special intentions of Rev.
Eugene Mattoli (The Bogaczyk Family)

Tuesday, January 3 Christmas Weekday
5:30 pm, Troy † Gary Ulmer
(The Bradford & Hamburger Families)

Wed, January 4 Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton, Religious
5:30 pm, Canton † Mary Wilcox (Mark & Sarah Hazle-
ton)
6:00 pm - Holy Hour

Thursday, January 5 Saint John Neumann, Bishop
No Mass

First Friday, January 6 Christmas Weekday
7:00 am, Canton: † Rosary Rally Prayer Intentions

Saturday, January 7 Christmas Weekday
VIGIL: THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD
4:00 pm, Canton † Pro Populo

Sunday, January 8 THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD
8:00 am, Ralston † Helen DePiano (Ed & Maryann Kanaley
9:30 am, Canton † Mark Kingsley
(George & Theresa Kingsley)
11:15 am, Troy † Joseph Hamburger
(The Bradford & Hamburger Families)

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 Pope Emeritus, Benedict XVI, that
God who humbled himself to share in our humani-
ty and healed our infirmities may ease his suffer-
ings and comfort him in his time of illness.

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

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



SAINT MICHAEL'S ALTAR & ROSARY SOCIETY
will not meet in January. The next meeting will be
on Wednesday, February 8th at 12:30 pm
in St. Michael's Church hall.

FROM FATHER JOE'S DESK

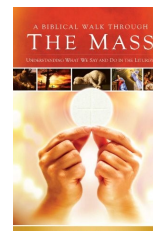
INTERESTED IN BECOMING CATHOLIC, OR REFRESHING YOUR MEMORY?

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 mem-
bership in the Catholic Church. The next session is at 7
pm on Monday, January 2nd, 2023 in the rectory.



A BIBLICAL WALK THROUGH THE MASS

The 5-session program *A Biblical Walk
Through the Mass* is now a part of the Confir-
mation curriculum in Saint Michael's Parish!
You are warmly invited to join us for this pro-
gram upstairs in St. John's on Tuesdays at
6:00 pm January 24th through February 28th.
(We will not meet on February 14th.)



DISCOVER THE BEAUTY AND RICHES OF THE MASS

The words, the gestures, and the rituals of the Mass are
rich in meaning. Everything we say and do in the Liturgy
is steeped in biblical language. *A Biblical Walk Through
the Mass* explores the extraordinary biblical roots of the
Liturgy and reveals what it all means and why it all mat-
ters. This fascinating tour of the Mass will renew your
faith and deepen your love for and devotion to the Holy
Eucharist.

Go to https://youtu.be/Du_7GGoRZXs for a teaser of
the program. No materials are needed. If you want them,
they can be purchased here:

[https://ascensionpress.com/collections/a-biblical-walk-
through-the-mass](https://ascensionpress.com/collections/a-biblical-walk-through-the-mass)

SAINT MICHAEL PARISH PRAYER LIST

Barby, John Adams, Peggy Adams, Tom Ambruch,
Gus Branish, 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, Michelle Redline,
Raegan Isabelle Redline, Jim Seiberlich,
Rich Stankiewicz, Frank Sullivan, Matthew Warren,
Steven Wilber, John Wilcox, Anthony Wolf,
Donna Wolf, Nicholas Wolf

SAINT MICHAEL'S PARISH OFFERINGS December 19 - 25, 2022

Weekly Offerings:	2,022.00
Christmas Offerings:	2,382.00
Electronic Offerings:	485.00
Other Parish Income:	138.00
Total Parish Income:	5,027.00
Average weekly expenses:	3,721.88
Difference:	1,305.12
Christmas Mass Intentions:	71.00
Care & Education of Priests:	26.00



Thank you for your continued support.

Growing in FAITH™

Discovering hope and joy in the Catholic faith.

January 2023

St. Michael Parish

One Minute Meditations

A kinder, gentler you

Kindness is contagious. A recent study found that witnessing an act of kindness produces good feelings and inspires imitation. In the new year, make efforts to be kinder – more friendly, generous, and considerate – and inspire others to do the same.

Choose not to be offended

In the news or on social media, it can appear that there is more polarization around issues now than in the past. Each side wants to persuade the other. Being right is no compensation for broken friendships, however. If there is someone in your life who deliberately pursues you to argue, don't take the bait. Rather than let arguments create a rift, look the other way when feeling slighted. Being kind is more rewarding than being right.

"I have told you this that you might have peace in me. In the world you will have trouble, but take courage, I have conquered the world" (John 16:33).



Fall deeper in love with Christ in the New Year

At the center of all we do as Catholics must be a close and personal relationship with Jesus. He offers to each of us a deep, intimate, "I love you forever" kind of relationship. Make time to fall deeper in love with Christ:

T-Talk: Prayer is an amazing privilege. Through it, we have an open invitation: *"Call to me, and I will answer you"* (Jeremiah 33:3). We have a promise that He hears us: *"When you call me, and come and pray to me, I will listen to you"* (Jeremiah 29:12). The God of the universe wants to hear from you.

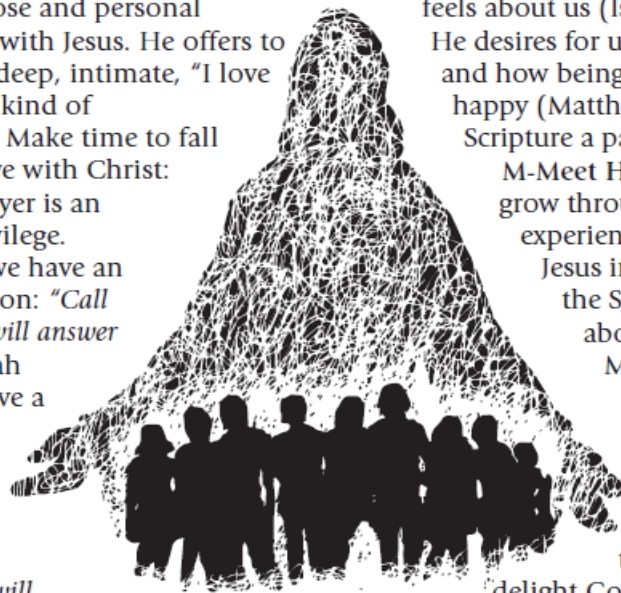
I-Intimacy: To love Christ, we must know Him. In Scripture, God tells us

who He is (Exodus 34:6), how He feels about us (Isaiah 43:4), what He desires for us (Luke 12:32), and how being His will make us happy (Matthew 5-7). Make Scripture a part of every day.

M-Meet Him: Relationships grow through shared experiences. We meet Jesus in prayer, Scripture, the Sacraments, and above all, during the Mass.

E-Everything for love: St. Thérèse of Lisieux discovered that she could

delight God by simply picking up a pin out of love. He wants to hear us, His beloveds, say, "I love you, too," in words and actions. Essential to falling in love with God is making time for Him.



Why Do Catholics Do That?

Catholics recognize the Bible as the inspired, inerrant Word of God, and we reject beliefs that contradict Scripture. Long before the Gospels were written down, the Apostles passed on to their disciples all that Jesus taught and did. This



Why do Catholics believe things that aren't in the Bible?

is what we call, "Tradition," or what was "handed on." Not everything that was handed on could be written down. It was impossible to include everything Jesus did (John 21:25). Catholic beliefs don't depart from Scripture, but delve deeper into it.

Make one change for God this year

When making New Year's resolutions this year, consider one change that will bring you closer to God. Here are some ideas other Catholics have used to strengthen prayer, serve the poor, and evangelize our faith ...

Laura felt her prayer life growing stale, so when her parish asked for adorers for the perpetual adoration chapel, she jumped at the chance. Now, Mondays at midnight, Laura can be found in the presence of the Eucharist. She



said, "I really look forward to my peaceful hour each week. It's just me and Him."

Peter's law practice is incredibly busy, but he takes an afternoon off every month to work at the local soup kitchen serving hot meals to the homeless and working poor. When asked why, he said, "Jesus said, 'When I was hungry, you gave me to eat.'"

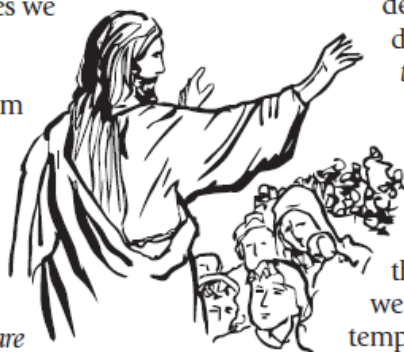
JoAnn's children are grown, yet she teaches a religious education class at her parish. "What better way to spread our faith than to children? That's where I can do the most good," she said.

from Scripture

Matthew 5:1-12a, Jesus' blueprint for holiness

This passage contains the Sermon on the Mount during which Jesus detailed the Beatitudes – the attitudes we need to be truly holy, and therefore happy. In fact, "beatitude" is translated from the Greek word for happiness. Jesus was saying, "Happy are you!" or "Congratulations!" if you live by these attitudes.

When Jesus said, "blessed are the poor in spirit ... blessed are they who mourn ... the persecuted" He promised that when we turn to God in times of trial, we will be comforted and cared for. When He said, "Blessed are the pure in heart ... those who hunger and thirst



for righteousness," He was showing us that a holy heart will receive what it desires. When He described "the meek ... the merciful ... the peacemakers," He gave us a blueprint for how to act.

We can measure our behavior against these standards. When we are faithful to God in tempting moments, and translate holy inner attitudes into outward actions, we'll know we're on the right path to holiness. When we live by the Beatitudes, we'll be truly happy.

Q & A

What qualities can I pursue to make me a better follower of Jesus?

Actually, when you were baptized, made your First Communion, or got Confirmed, the Holy Spirit conferred gifts to help you grow in strength and holiness. Recognizing these gifts and nurturing them will certainly make you a better Christian.

Wisdom: This gift helps us stay focused on God's will and His plan for us.

Understanding: Lets us grasp truths. It means seeing with the heart and the mind.

Counsel: Also called "right judgment," counsel enables us to weigh alternatives to make the right choice.

Fortitude: The ability to remain firm against pressure. (Also called courage.)

Knowledge: A person with knowledge sees more than one dimension of an issue to determine the right path.

Piety: Helps us think of ourselves as children of God and be eager to serve Him.

Fear of the Lord: The wonder and awe God inspires encourages us to respect Him and all his creations.

The more you use these gifts, the more you will grow in faith and holiness. Then you will certainly become a better Christian.

Feasts & Celebrations

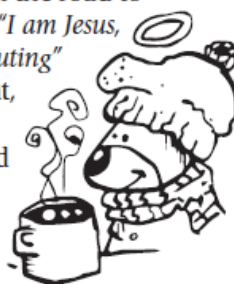
January 2 – St. Gregory Nazianzen (389). Known as "The Theologian" for his faithfulness and eloquence, St. Gregory was unwillingly made Bishop of Sasima. He worked to clarify the Church's teachings about the Holy Trinity.

January 16 – St. Berard and Companions (1220). St. Francis of Assisi sent St. Berard and his companions to evangelize in the Muslim territories. After being arrested in Morocco, they were martyred after refusing to stop preaching and renounce their Faith.

January 23 – St. Marianne Cope

(1918). St. Marianne began religious life as an educator in New York schools, and later became a nurse. In 1883, she helped St. Damien de Veuster serve the leper colonies of Hawaii, continuing his work after his death.

January 25 – Conversion of St. Paul (1st Century). Formally called "Saul", he persecuted the Christians until Jesus appeared to him on the road to Damascus, saying, "I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting" (Acts 9:5). After that, Saul became Paul and traveled around the known world, preaching the Faith.



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)

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POPE QUOTE: "Let us pray together for Pope Emeritus Benedict who is supporting the Church in silence. Let us ask the Lord to console him and to sustain him in this witness of love for the Church, until the end."

POPE FRANCIS'S JANUARY PRAYER INTENTION: EDUCATORS: We pray that educators may be credible witnesses, teaching fraternity rather than competition and helping the youngest and most vulnerable above all.

ADDITIONAL CHRISTMAS MASS INTENTIONS

††† Bill & Bonnie Spencer, Monty & Kathie Spencer, Walt & Gerry Spencer, Tom & Joe Spencer, Tony & Peg Acresti, Herman & Kate Kilborn, Louis & Rosa Acresti, Lisa Mosser, Willie & Nancy Wright, Lois Rook, Kevin Rook, Skip Cole, A. Perry & Thelma Cole, Hilda Dick Cressy, Doug Peabody, Phyllis Way and Gary & Claudia Blaney by Jeff & Beth Cole.

††† Robert W. Grantier, Richard Carlonas, Babs Morris and deceased members of the Ripley and Grantier Families by Shirley R. Grantier.

††† Private intention by Mr. Will Hawrylo.

CONFIRMATION CHOIR

On May 24, 2023, Bishop Bambara will be celebrating the sacrament of Confirmation for all the students in our deanery. This celebration will take place at SS. Peter & Paul Church in Towanda, beginning at 5 pm. We would like to have a choir composed of singers from all our parishes. Anyone interested in participating, please contact Marie Seibert at seibertspace2@comcast.net.

Diocese of Scranton DIOCESAN ANNUAL APPEAL

As of December 12th, we are at 102.03% of our \$12,000 parish goal. \$12,243 has been donated or pledged. Thank you to everyone who has contributed thus far, both financially and with your prayers.

JANUARY 2 - 8, 2023 READINGS

Mon - 1 Jn 2:22-28 Ps 98:1-4 Jn 1:19-28

Tues - 1 Jn 2:29—3:6 Ps 98:1, 3c-4, 5-6 Jn 1:29-34

Wed - 1 Jn 3:7-10 Ps 98:1, 7-8 Jn 1:35-42

Thurs - 1 Jn 3:11-21 Ps 100:1b-5 Jn 1:43-51

Fri - 1 Jn 5:5-13 Ps 147:12-15, 19-20

Mk 1:7-11 or Lk 3:23-28 or 3:23, 31-34, 36, 38

Sat - 1 Jn 5:14-21 Ps 149:1-6a, 9b Jn 2:1-11

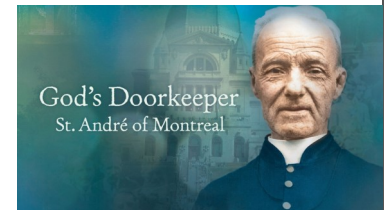
Sun - Is 60:1-6 Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 10-13 Eph 3:2-3a, 5-6
Mt 2:1-12



WEEK OF JANUARY 1, 2023

GOD'S DOORKEEPER: ST. ANDRÉ OF MONTREAL

This week, we celebrate the memorial of a humble doorkeeper, St. André of Montreal. Learn how this man became a great saint through his small acts of love!



HOW TO PRAY

Whether you are a veteran in the spiritual life or are just beginning, start this year off right by recommitting yourself to prayer! Join Drs. Tim Gray and Elizabeth Klein as they discuss ways to kickstart your prayer life this year!



MARY OF NAZARETH

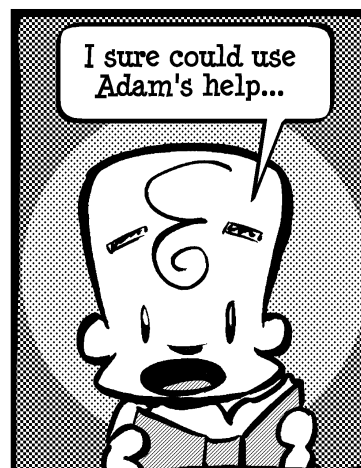
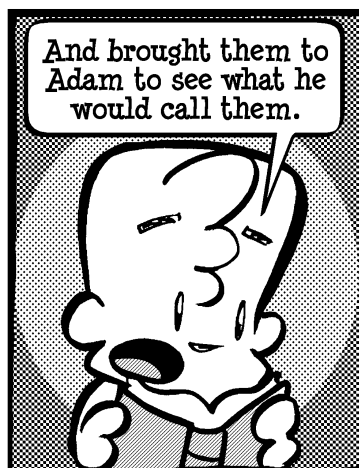
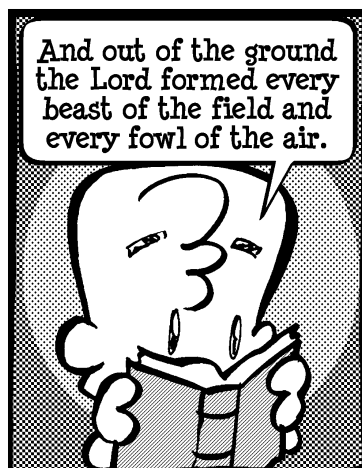
What would it have been like to have known the Mother of God? Watch this beautiful film portraying the life of Mary in order to contemplate Mary's profound faith and the mysteries of her life.



Our parish has a FORMED subscription. To set up your free account visit formed.org/signup and use zip code 17724 to find our parish.

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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Columbia Crossroads, PA 16914
Phone/Fax: 570-297-4711
Email:
hawthornridge@gmail.com
PA030014
St. Michael Parish member



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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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**John Peter and
James Paul
Pazzaglia**



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**SAINT MICHAEL'S
ALTAR & ROSARY
SOCIETY**
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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.

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