

FEBRUARY 5, 2023



THE 5TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

# 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. (2022/23)

(Religious education classes  
held during the school year)

Sun: 8:15 am, St. Michael hall

Tue: 6:00 pm, St. John Nepomucene hall

**YOU ARE**  
THE SALT OF THE EARTH



Caution: if salt loses its savor, how can it be made salty again? It is not good for anything, except to be thrown out

Matthew 5 // Salt & Light

**YOU ARE**  
THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD



So let your light shine before others, that they may see your good works and praise your Father in heaven

GodTreks.com // Gospel Graphics

### 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, February 4** Weekday

VIGIL: 5TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

4:00 pm, Canton † Nicholas DePalma (Jayne Cleveland)

**Sunday, February 5** 5TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

8:00 am, Ralston † Pro Populo

9:30 am, Canton † Joanne & Bob Strozyk (Pat Pepper)

11:15 am, Troy † Barbara Sinkew (Pat & Joel Heiland)

**Mon, Feb 6** Saint Paul Miki and Companions, Martyrs

7:00 am, Rectory † John Petro

**Tuesday, February 7** Weekday

5:30 pm, Troy † Pauline Pazzaglia (Barb Pulver)

**Wednesday, February 8** Weekday

5:30 pm, Canton † Floyd Nowak (Frank & Mary Burke)

6:00 pm Holy Hour

**Thursday, February 9** Weekday

No Mass

**Friday, February 10** Saint Scholastica, Virgin

7:00 am, Rectory † Dustin Hoover (Bailey Olson)

**Saturday, February 11** Weekday

VIGIL: 6TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

4:00 pm, Canton † Rich Carlonas (Cheryl Carlonas)

**Sunday, February 12** 6TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

8:00 am, Ralston † Pro Populo

9:30 am, Canton † Robert Fleury (The Fleury Family)

11:15 am, Troy † Don Wilber (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 this week are offered in memory of Richard Blaszyk by Mary Blaszyk. 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 PARISH PRAYER LIST

Barby, John Adams, Peggy Adams, Tom Ambruch, Gus Branish, Betty Brown, Paul Dean, Mark Desborough, Carlene Eck, Dorland Eck, Leon English, Melissa Gowan, Robert Dale Hostetter, Victoria Johnson, Beatrice Jones, Antoinette King, David Kule, Jo Kule, Paula Longacre, Tom McBlane, Darlene McCurdy, Bunny Meuse, Bernadette Moore, Delina Morgan, Donna Noble, Rich Stankiewicz, Frank Sullivan, Matthew Warren, Steven Wilber, John Wilcox, Anthony Wolf, Donna Wolf, Nicholas Wolf

Contact the parish office to add a name to the prayer list. Names remain on the list for 3 months per request.

## FROM FATHER JOE'S DESK

### INTERESTED IN BECOMING CATHOLIC, OR REFRESHING YOUR MEMORY?

We are now in the catechumenate phase, the period of formal preparation for entrance into full membership in the Catholic Church. The catechumenate period is a time of focused learning on topics related to Catholic belief and practice, training you in the Christian life. It is a time of "more intense preparation for the sacraments of initiation". The next session is at 7 pm on Monday, February 6, 2023 in the rectory.



**Father Joe** celebrates his 61st birthday on Tuesday, February 7th! When you see him, be sure to wish him a **Happy Birthday!**

### DEANERY WIDE LENTEN HOLY HOURS

In conjunction with the NATIONAL EUCHARISTIC REVIVAL taking place within our country since Corpus Christi Sunday, 2022, Most Reverend Joseph C. Bambera, D.D., J.C.L., Bishop of Scranton, will visit each of the 12 deaneries in the Diocese of Scranton to celebrate a Holy Hour with exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, Vespers and a homily on the Most Holy Eucharist during Lent, 2023.

#### DATES IN OUR AREA

Williamsport Deanery  
Wednesday, March 8, 7:00 pm  
Our Lady of Lourdes Parish,  
Montoursville

Sayre Deanery  
Thursday, March 9, 7:00 pm  
SS. Peter and Paul Parish, Towanda



### SAINT MICHAEL'S PARISH OFFERINGS January 23 - 29, 2023

Weekly Offerings:	2,273.00
Electronic Offerings:	485.00
Other Parish Income:	32.50
Total Parish Income:	2,790.50
Average weekly expenses:	4,267.09
Difference:	(1,476.59)
The Church in Latin America:	241.00
Care & Education of Priests:	54.00



Thank you for your continued support.

2022 CONTRIBUTION STATEMENTS are available. To request a statement, contact the parish office using 1 of 3 options. Be sure to include your name and address if using option 1 or 2:

- 1) Call (570) 673-5253
- 2) E-mail office@stmichaelscanton.com
- 3) Write "Statement" on your offertory envelope near your name.



# Growing in FAITH™

Discovering hope and joy in the Catholic faith.

February 2023

St. Michael Parish

## One Minute Meditations

### Flee temptation

Christians are meant for Heaven.

Yet, the world can work against our efforts for holiness. St. Peter tells us to "escape the corruption in the world caused by evil desires" (2 Peter 1:4). Ask God often to protect you from sin, to give you the wisdom and courage to make good choices and, become sensitive to the promptings of the Holy Spirit. God will reveal when you've messed up, and rejoice with you when you get it right.

### Serve without complaint

Every job has aspects about it that are tedious, messy, and unrewarding, yet they are necessary. However, they can be opportunities to grow in virtue: humility, patience, self-discipline, etc. When you dread doing your work, smile and say a prayer, "and your Father, who sees in secret, will repay you" (Matthew 6:4).

"The works of God are all of them good; in its own time every need is supplied" (Sirach 39:16).



## Take steps to share your faith during Lent

Jesus didn't intend for the Great Commission – "Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations" (Matthew 28:19) – to be a heavy burden.

He meant witnessing to His love to come through the natural course of living a Christ-inspired life. Consider making more disciples this Lent:

Live a Catholic life. Non-believers may hear what we say about Jesus, but they are persuaded by seeing how our love for Him shapes our lives. It is critical that worship – Sunday Mass, Confession, Scripture – informs our life choices. When we spend time in Jesus' presence, His character rubs off on us.

Bring Christ out into the world. Jesus asked that we care for the poor and needy, thus acting as

His hands and feet in the world. We may not be able to solve all of their problems, but we can show them the reality of Christ's love in their lives.

Talk about God's plan. God wants us each to experience the peace He offers.

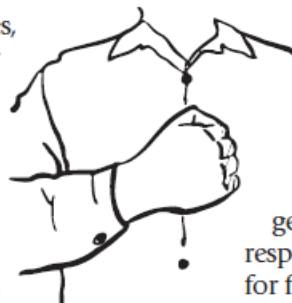
Help others know that God's love is personal and He has a specific plan for each of us.

Invite. Some people will be ready to "come and see," so consider inviting seekers to Mass. Others might be ready to "take up and read." Share your favorite inspirational reading. If you need other suggestions, ask your pastor or favorite religious.



## Why Do Catholics Do That?

When we use our voices, our minds, and even our bodies during prayer, we pray with deeper meaning and enthusiasm. During the Confiteor at Mass, for example, we strike our chest three times, saying,



## Why do Catholics strike their chests?

"through my fault, through my fault, through my most grievous fault." It's an ancient symbol of sorrow and repentance for having offended God or hurting our neighbor. Such a gesture reminds us to take responsibility for our actions and pray for forgiveness and grace to change.

# Lent leads us back to God

*"For gracious and merciful is he, slow to anger, rich in kindness, and relenting in punishment"* (Joel 2:13). Lent may be a penitential season, but it is also a wonderful reminder that no matter how we let sin interfere in our relationship with God, He always wants us back. Gracious and merciful is He.

*"Return to me with your whole heart."* Throughout the year, sin creeps into our daily lives almost without our noticing. A bad habit such as using bad language or gossiping can keep



us from loving God fully. Lent is a time to examine our lives and sweep aside whatever keeps us from giving God our whole heart.

*"Rend your hearts, not your garments."* God doesn't just want outward acts of repentance. Our Father wants a change of heart. Start with Confession and then practice virtues such as prudence, temperance, and fortitude.

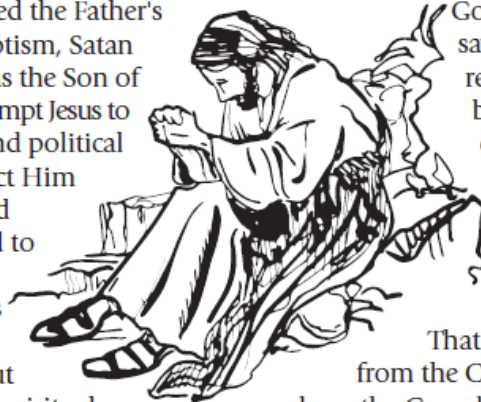
*"Gather the people, notify the congregation."* Become more active in your parish to build it up. Consider attending Mass more often than just once a week.

## from Scripture

### Matthew 4:1-11, Victory in the wilderness

In this passage, Jesus is tempted by the devil. Having witnessed the Father's declaration at His baptism, Satan tested Jesus' identity as the Son of God. His goal was to tempt Jesus to embrace an earthly and political mission and to distract Him from the suffering and death that would lead to the world's salvation.

Satan tempted Jesus to satisfy His hunger with a miracle – to put physical needs above spiritual needs. In His response, Jesus taught us to put spiritual needs first and to entrust both body and soul to God's care. Next, Satan commanded Jesus to jump from



the temple roof in an effort to force God to miraculously save Him. Again, Jesus refused. God is not to be forced or controlled.

Finally, Satan offered to surrender all the kingdoms of the world if Jesus would worship him.

That would save Jesus from the Cross. Instead, Jesus chose the Cross because it was the only way to save us. When tempted to do what's "easy" versus what's morally right, ask for the strength to choose what's right.

## Q & A

### What's a simple way to explain the Faith, if asked?

St. Peter says to be ready to *"account for the hope that is in you"* (1 Peter 3:15). Consider using this simple, five-point explanation, inspired by Bishop Michael Jackels:

**Pinky:** The smallest finger recalls our weakness and need for a Savior.

Although Jesus redeemed us, we're still weak and must pray for God's graces daily.

**Ring finger:** To save us, Jesus took on our human nature, "wedding"

Himself to us. At Sunday Mass, we worship God and become one with Him in Holy Communion.

**Middle finger:** Jesus was raised up on the Cross for sins, then raised from the dead. We attend Confession monthly and receive the saving graces. We hope to be raised to eternal life.

**Pointer:** Jesus' call is universal, yet personal. He singled you out and chose you to follow Him; only you can give Jesus your "Yes" – in word and deed.

**Thumb:** Lastly, hitchhikers point their thumbs to ask, "Are you on my way?" Likewise, we're called to ask, "Are you going His Way?" (John 14:6).



## Feasts & Celebrations

Lent begins February 22, and is devoted to the Passion of Our Lord. One form of observance is to pray the Stations of the Cross and meditate on Jesus' walk to Calvary.

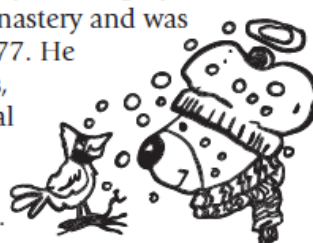
**February 1 – St. Brigid of Ireland (525).** Born to an Irish chieftain and an enslaved mother in Ireland, St. Brigid founded a monastery for monks and nuns at Kildare and served as abbess until her death.

**February 11 – Our Lady of Lourdes (1858).** A heavenly "lady" appeared to St. Bernadette Soubirous, a poor girl

from a village in France and a miraculous spring emerged from a nearby cave. The "lady" revealed herself as the "Immaculate Conception," the Blessed Virgin Mary.

**February 22 – Ash Wednesday.** The first day of Lent. Ashes are placed on the foreheads as a sign of penance.

**February 27 – St. Gregory of Narek (1003).** Born in Armenia to a devout Christian family, St. Gregory entered the Narek Monastery and was ordained in 977. He wrote treatises, letters, mystical poems, and Scripture commentaries.



## 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:** “As Christians we must radiate the beauty of God’s love everywhere through our lives. Faith is not a privilege to be claimed, but a gift to be shared.”

**POPE FRANCIS’S FEBRUARY PRAYER INTENTION:** FOR PARISHES: We pray that parishes, placing communion at the center, may increasingly become communities of faith, fraternity and welcome towards those most in need.

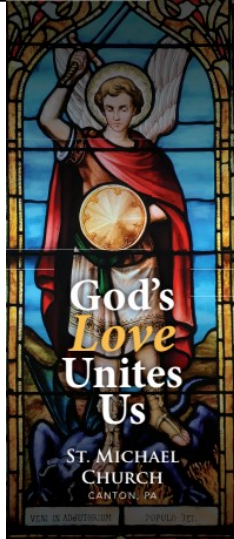
### “GOD’S LOVE UNITES US” PROGRAM

This week you will receive a brochure introducing our “God’s Love Unites Us” Program. I’m proud to be part of the Saint Michael Parish community. On Commitment Weekend, February 11 & 12, I invite each of you to participate in this important program and help us respond to God’s great gift of love. I ask that you please review this brochure and prayerfully consider how you and your family can help St. Michael Parish by financially supporting our ministries, furthering our mission, and reinforcing our future. We ask that all faithful parishioners complete a Commitment Card. A card will be included in the brochure mailing for you to:

- mail to the church using the pre-addressed envelope included in this mailing.
- or bring your card to Mass next Sunday.
- or you may visit our parish website at [www.stmichaelscanton.com](http://www.stmichaelscanton.com) and complete an electronic Commitment Card.

The back of the Commitment Card has a place for you to include any prayer intentions you wish to share. We welcome all intentions and they will be prayed for collectively over the next few weeks. If you would like to speak to Father Joe, please indicate so on your card and he will be in contact with you.

Our goal is 100% participation! Thank you for your generosity and support of St. Michael Parish!



### FEBRUARY 6 - 13, 2023 READINGS

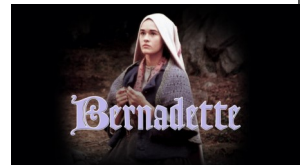
**Mon** - Gn 1:1-19 Ps 104:1-2, 5-6, 10, 12, 24, 35 Mk 6:53-56  
**Tues** - Gn 1:20—2:4a Ps 8:4-9 Mk 7:1-13  
**Wed** - Gn 2:4b-9, 15-17 Ps 104:1-2, 27-30 Mk 7:14-23  
**Thurs** - Gn 2:18-25 Ps 128:1-5 Mk 7:24-30  
**Fri** - Gn 3:1-8 Ps 32:1-2, 5-7 Mk 7:31-37  
**Sat** - Gn 3:9-24 Ps 90:2-6, 12-13 Mk 8:1-10  
**Sun** - Sir 15:15-20 Ps 119:1-2, 4-5, 17-18, 33-34 1 Cor 2:6-10 Mt 5:17-37



### WEEK OF FEBRUARY 5, 2023

#### BERNADETTE

Millions of people each year go on pilgrimage to Lourdes, a place where miracles frequently occur. Explore the origins of this miraculous place of encounter with the Lord in this movie which depicts Mary's apparitions to St. Bernadette.



#### BAKHITA: FROM SLAVE TO SAINT

Bakhita: From Slave to Saint tells the incredible story of St. Josephine Bakhita. Originally born in Sudan, Josephine was kidnapped by slavers and was eventually sold to a merchant in Italy. By the grace of God, she lived a heroic life of forgiveness and mercy which led her to become a saint.



#### HOW AND WHY TO PRAY THE ROSARY

As we celebrate Our Lady of Lourdes this week, we invite you to learn more about the Rosary! Join Dr. Tim Gray and Dr. John Sehorn as they discuss how they pray the Rosary and how it has changed their lives!

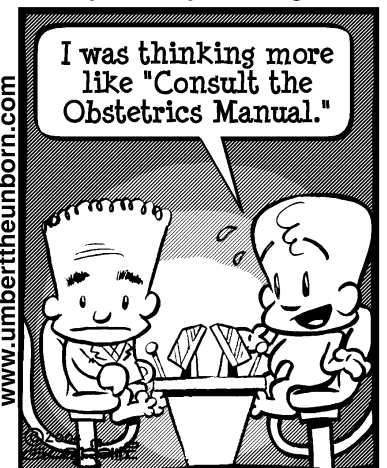
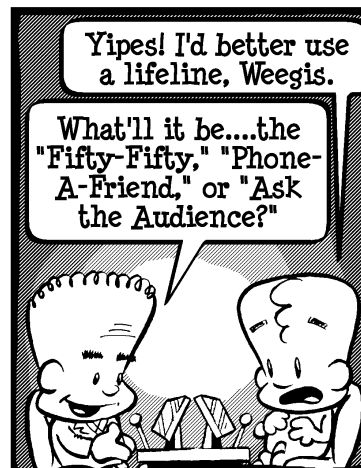
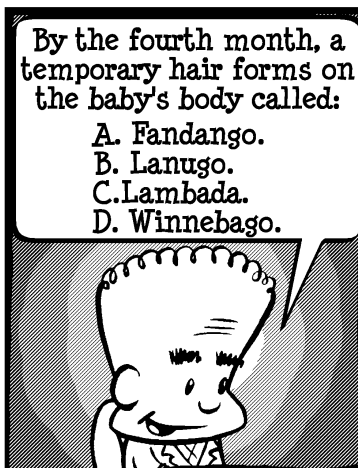
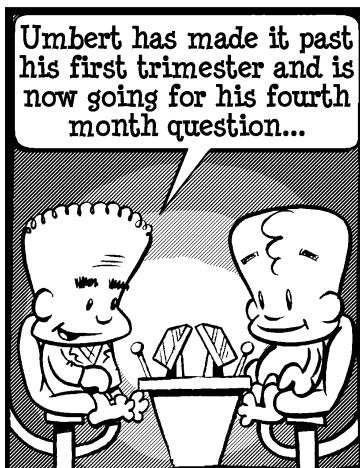


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## Umbert the Unborn

by Gary Cangemi



www.umberttheunborn.com



### 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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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**  
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