

MARCH 12, 2023



THE 3RD 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. (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



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, March 11	Lenten Weekday
VIGIL: 3RD SUNDAY OF LENT	
4:00 pm, Canton † Bonnie Spencer (Jeff & Beth Cole)	
Sunday, March 12	3RD SUNDAY OF LENT
8:00 am, Ralston † Pro Populo	
9:30 am, Canton † Richard Ross (The Ross Family)	
11:15 am, Troy † Louis Bitcola (Cheryl Carlonas)	
Monday, March 13	Lenten Weekday
7:00 am, Rectory † Richard D. Ross (by Jim & Shelly Ross & Family)	
5:30 - 7:00 pm, Canton, The Light is ON For You	
Tuesday, March 14	Lenten Weekday
5:30 pm, Troy † Dr. Charles Driscoll	
6:00 pm, Stations of the Cross	
Wednesday, March 15	Lenten Weekday
5:30 pm, Canton † Jack Callahan (Bridget & Shawn)	
6:00 pm, Stations of the Cross	
Thursday, March 16	Lenten Weekday
No Mass	
Friday, March 17	Lenten Weekday
7:00 am, Rectory † Floyd Nowak (Don, Sue & Veronica Nowak)	
Saturday, March 18	Lenten Weekday
VIGIL: 4TH SUNDAY OF LENT (LAETARE SUNDAY)	
4:00 pm, Canton † Michael Hughes (Leslie & Chick Debach)	
Sun, Mar 19	4TH SUNDAY OF LENT (LAETARE SUNDAY)
8:00 am, Ralston † Pro Populo	
9:30 am, Canton † Christopher Arnold (The Honorable & Mrs. Matthew Brann & Family)	
11:15 am, Troy † Richard Knecht (The Bradford & Hamburger Fmailies)	

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 for those nearing the end of life to be given the grace to persevere in faith and place their trust in God as they prepare in hope for eternity with Christ.

SAINT MICHAEL'S PARISH OFFERINGS February 27 - March 5, 2023

Weekly Offerings:	2,117.00
Electronic Offerings:	1,420.00
God's Love Unites Us one-time gifts:	110.00
Other Parish Income:	474.00
Total Parish Income:	4,121.00
Average weekly expenses:	4,267.09
Difference:	(146.09)
Care & Education of Priests:	662.00

Thank you for your continued support.

2022 CONTRIBUTION STATEMENTS are available.
Request a statement by contacting the parish office.

FROM FATHER JOE'S DESK

INTERESTED IN BECOMING CATHOLIC, OR REFRESHING YOUR MEMORY?



We are now in the catechumenate phase of RCIA, 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, March 13, 2023 in the rectory.

Congratulations to Cassandra Johnson and Barbara & Dennis Clarke on completing the Rite of Election last Sunday in St. Peter's Cathedral in Scranton.

What Are the Scrutinies?

When we scrutinize something, we look at it carefully and examine it thoroughly. The rites called the *scrutinies* "are meant to uncover, then heal all that is weak, defective, or sinful in the hearts of the elect; to bring out, then strengthen all that is upright, strong, and good." (*Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults*, 141). The elect look within themselves to find anything that keeps them from Christ. Then they look to Christ to heal those weaknesses and strengthen them when they face temptation.

Three Scrutinies for the elect occur on the third, fourth, and fifth Sundays of Lent. Following instruction on the mystery of sin during the catechumenate, the Church invites the elect to reflect on three Gospel stories that reveal the meaning of their upcoming baptism.

First Scrutiny (at our 9:30 am Mass this Sunday)

Christ as Living Water

In the Gospel story of Jesus meeting a Samaritan woman at a well (John 4:5-42), Jesus speaks to her of living water: "Jesus...said to her, 'Everyone who drinks this water will be thirsty again; but whoever drinks the water I shall give will never thirst; the water I shall give will become in him a spring of water welling up to eternal life.'" John 4:13-14

SAINT MICHAEL PARISH PRAYER LIST

Barby, Bob Abbott, John Adams, Peggy Adams,
Tom Ambruch, Gus Branish, Betty Brown,
Todd Congdon, Paul Dean, Mark Desborough,
Carlene Eck, Dorland Eck, Leon English,
Melissa Gowan, Cassie Hamburger,
Robert Dale Hostetter, Victoria Johnson, Beatrice Jones,
Antoinette King, David Kule, Jo Kule, Paula Longacre,
Tom McBlane, Darlene McCurdy, Bunny Meuse,
Bernadette Moore, Orlando Moralez, Delina Morgan,
Donna Noble, Rich Stankiewicz, Frank Sullivan,
Joe Turk, 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.*



SENIOR MASS AND BREAKFAST

The Senior Mass and Breakfast for 2023 graduates will be at 9:30 am in St. Michael's Church and hall on Sunday, April 30th. If you have a family member who will be graduating from High School or receiving a College Degree, please contact the parish office.

DEANERY LENTEN PENANCE SERVICES

Sunday, March 26, 5th Sunday of Lent

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

4:00 pm, Ss. Peter & Paul Church, Towanda

April 2, Palm Sunday

2:00 pm, Saint Basil the Great Church, Dushore

5:00 pm, Epiphany Church, Sayre

BISHOP BAMBERA ANNOUNCES DISPENSATION FOR SAINT PATRICK'S DAY

During the penitential season of Lent, Catholics age 14 and over are required to abstain from eating meat on Friday. This ecclesiastical law helps us to commemorate as a community the Passion and Death of the Lord and to practice the self-restraint called for by this holy season.

The memorial of Saint Patrick falls on a Friday this year, March 17, the Friday of the Third Week of Lent. Given the importance of this feast in the life of the Diocese of Scranton and in the lives of many local Catholics, the Most Rev. Joseph C. Bambera, Bishop of Scranton, is granting a dispensation from the Friday Lenten abstinence on Friday, March 17, 2023, to those who wish to take advantage of this opportunity.

Code of Canon Law No. 87 states, "A diocesan bishop, whenever he judges that it contributes to their spiritual good, is able to dispense the faithful from universal and particular disciplinary laws issued for his territory or his subjects by the supreme authority of the Church."

This dispensation applies to celebrations in parishes, fraternal organizations and families. It is not required that anyone make use of this dispensation. The dispensation does not apply to any other celebrations of Saint Patrick that might take place on any other Fridays in Lent.

All the faithful who take advantage of this dispensation are encouraged to abstain from meat on some other day as part of their penitential practices during Lent and/or perform an act of service, prayer or sacrifice in keeping with the character of the Lenten season.



BISHOP'S YOUTH AWARDS

Saint Michael's Parish congratulates two outstanding youths who were nominated for the 2023 Bishop's Youth Awards. **Bella Wood** and **Tony Asbury** travelled to St. Peter's Cathedral in Scranton on Tuesday, March 7th to receive this award, which honors those 8th and 12th grade students that have shown extraordinary commitment to their faith echoing the actions of the early Church, "They devoted themselves to the teaching of the apostles and to the communal life, to the breaking of bread and the prayers." (Acts 2:42, NABRE).



Along with saying "yes" when asked to help out in Church, **Bella** is an Altar Server in Saint Michael's Church, attends Adult Education on Sunday mornings, and is preparing for the Sacrament of Confirmation. **Tony** rings the bell in St. Michael's bell tower for a full minute 15 minutes prior to the 9:30 am Sunday Mass and helps with Christmas decorating and un-decorating.

NEWS FROM THE KNIGHTS

LENTEN FOOD DRIVE

During Lent we prepare ourselves to celebrate the Paschal Mystery of Our Lord's death and resurrection by prayer, fasting, and almsgiving. It is a sad reality that many in our own community experience food insecurity. Please help by making donations of food part of your Lenten almsgiving.



THIS WEEK ON FORMED WEEK OF MARCH 12, 2023

THE STORY OF DEATH | ETERNAL REST | EPISODE 1

Where did death come from? What does death mean for the human person? Is it simply just part of life, or is it something else? In this first session, we discuss the story of death and God's response to it: defeating death by dying and rising from the dead.



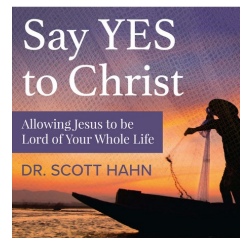
LIVING LENT AS A FAMILY (PART 2 OF 4)

Dr. Ben Akers sits down with Keenan and Bri Fitzpatrick, parents of four, to discuss liturgical living during Lent and marks of the Christian home in our world today.



SAY YES TO CHRIST: ALLOWING JESUS TO BE LORD OF YOUR WHOLE LIFE BY SCOTT HAHN

Mary conformed the entirety of her life to the Divine Will. In doing so, she became the model of perfect discipleship. In this talk, Dr. Scott Hahn discusses why we too should surrender our lives to the Lord.



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



POPE QUOTE: "During Lent we are called to respond to God's gift by accepting his word, which is "living and active" (Heb 4:12). Regular listening to the Word of God makes us open and docile to his working and bears fruit in our lives.

POPE FRANCIS'S MARCH PRAYER INTENTION: FOR VICTIMS OF ABUSE: We pray for those who have suffered harm from members of the Church; may they find within the Church herself a concrete response to their pain and suffering.

GOD'S LOVE UNITES US

Thank you to all parishioners who have completed and submitted your Commitment Card. For those parishioners who have not yet had the opportunity to submit their card, a final letter will be mailed to you with a personalized Commitment Card. We invite all faithful parishioners to complete a card as our parish goal is 100% participation! You may return your card by:

- mailing it to the church using the pre-addressed envelope included with the letter.
- or bringing it to Mass next Sunday.
- or you may visit our parish website at <https://stmichaelscanton.com/> and complete an electronic Commitment Card.

All cards need to be returned to the parish by Sunday, March 26.

As a friendly reminder, electronic giving is an **easy, safe and secure** way to support St. Michael Church. To set-up a recurring weekly or monthly gift or to make a one-time donation directly from your bank account, please contact the parish office. **We are grateful for your support!**



MARCH 13 - 18, 2023 READINGS

Mon - 2 Kgs 5:1-15ab Pss 42:2, 3; 43:3, 4 Lk 4:24-30

Tues - Dn 3:25, 34-43 Ps 25:4-9 Mt 18:21-35

Wed - Dt 4:1, 5-9 Ps 147:12-13, 15-16, 19-20
Mt 5:17-19

Thurs - Jer 7:23-28 Ps 95:1-2, 6-9 Lk 11:14-23

Fri - Hos 14:2-10 Ps 81:6c-11b, 14, 17 Mk 12:28-34

Sat - Hos 6:1-6 Ps 51:3-4, 18-21ab Lk 18:9-14

Sun - 1 Sm 16:1b, 6-7, 10-13a Ps 23:1-6 Eph 5:8-14
Jn 9:1-41

ST MICHAELS ALTAR & ROSARY SOCIETY ANNUAL PIEROGI SALE!

We are taking orders until March 20th in all three Churches. Order forms are in the usual spots in all three churches and on the parish website at

<https://stmichaelscanton.com/news/annual-pierogie-sale/>



SCHEDULE FOR PICK-UP FROM ST. MICHAEL'S HALL

- Friday, March 24th from Noon to 5:00 pm
- Saturday, March 25th from Noon until 4:00 pm
- Sunday, March 26th from 10:30 am until 11:00 am

We also have sign-up sheets for volunteers for the kitchen for March 20th through March 24th (9 am - 2 pm, lunch provided) and for donation of ingredients.

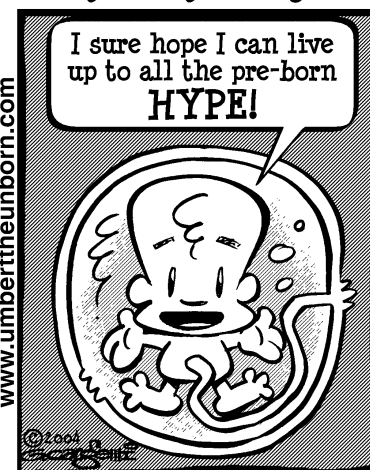
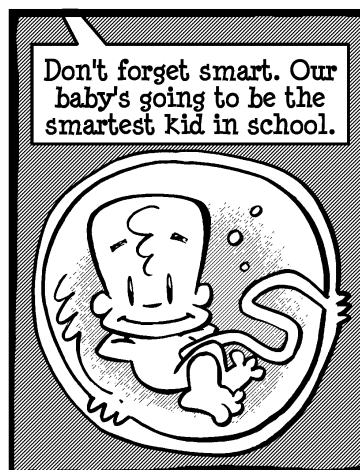
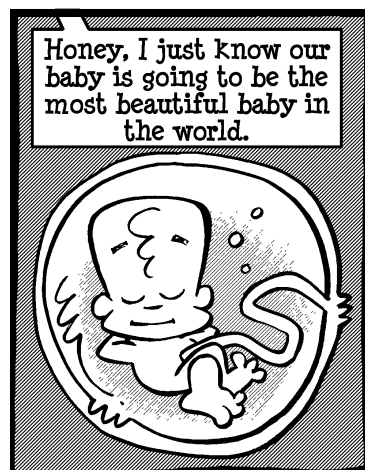


Catholic Relief Services Collection

Next week our parish will take up The Catholic Relief Services Collection. Funds from this collection provide food to the hungry, support displaced refugees, and bring Christ's love and mercy to vulnerable people here and abroad. Next week, please give generously to the collection and reveal Christ's love to those most in need. Learn more about the collection at www.usccb.org/catholic-relief.

Umbert the Unborn

by Gary Cangemi



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SHROUD OF TURIN PRESENTATION

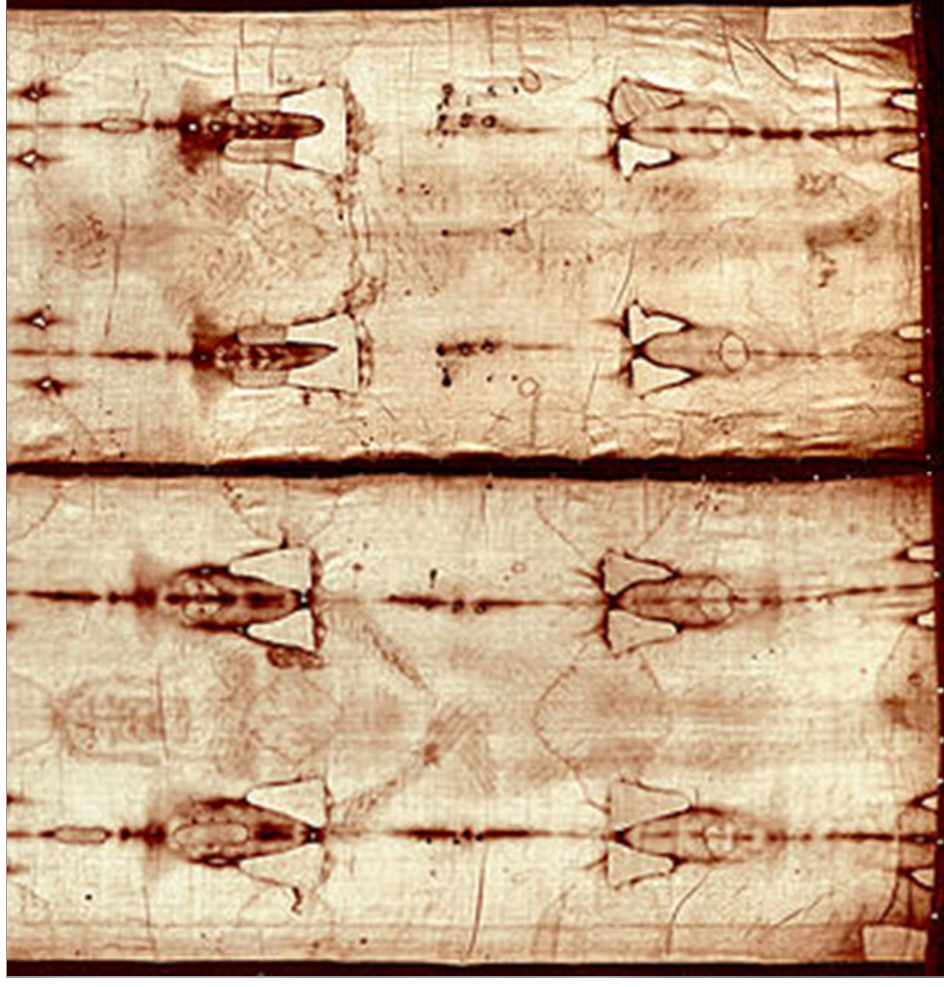
The Knights of Columbus Council #5517 will host a one hour presentation of the Shroud of Turin on Saturday, March 25, 2023, at 5:00 p.m. in St. Michael's Hall, 107 N. Washington Street, Canton, Pa. The presentation will feature a full sized replica of the Shroud of Turin.

The talk will consist of the many details discovered in this studied fabric. The speaker, Alex Piechocki, is from St. Peter and Paul's Parish in Towanda, Pa. He has presented to audiences at various parishes in the Scranton Diocese, as well as to schools, groups, and parishes in New York and the Pennsylvania Southern tier. He has travelled extensively, and has been to 5 of the world's 7 continents. He has visited 49 of the states in the USA. Some of his travels have been to many Holy and religious sites. He has walked the Camino across Spain to the church of St. James in Compostella, where the great apostle's remains are buried. Some of the other highlights have been his travels to Israel,

Egypt, and France (Paris, and Lourdes), as well as many domestic and Canadian sites. With a professional background in the sciences (Chemistry and Engineering) he loves to share his knowledge, demonstrating the power and glory of God's works.

Enhance your Lenten experience. Come and spend some time and discover for yourself if Our Father, in heaven, left a photograph of His Son's passion for us.

The presentation is free. A light meal and fellowship will follow the presentation. **ALL ARE WELCOME!**





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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hawthornridge@gmail.com
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MON & TUES: CLOSED

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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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