MARCH 26, 2023



THE 5TH 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

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

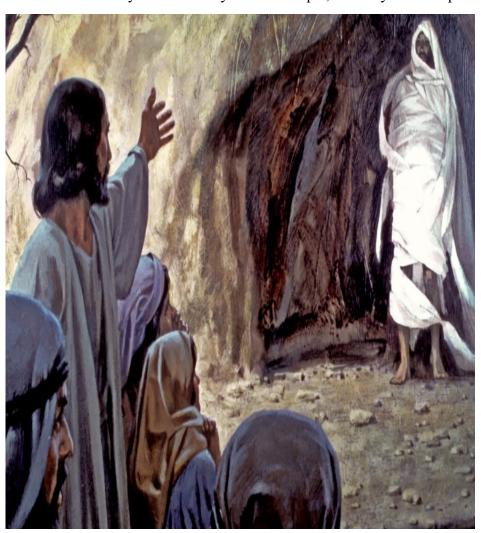
Wed: 6:00 pm, St. Michael's Church following 5:30 pm Mass, Benediction at 7:00 pm First Friday: Adoration after 7 am Mass until 7 pm, St. Michael's Church

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 25 The Annunciation of the Lord Vigil: 5th Sunday of Lent

4:00 pm, Canton † Holy Souls in Purgatory

(Susan Schiess)

Sunday, March 26

5TH SUNDAY OF LENT

8:00 am, Ralston † Judy Callahan (Bridget & Shawn)

9:30 am, Canton † Pro Populo

11:15 am, Troy † Pauline Pazzaglia

(St. John's Altar & Rosary Society)

2:00 pm, Canton - Lenten Penance Service

Monday, March 27

Lenten Weekday

7:00 am, Rectory † Carol Ann Gergel (James Gergel) 5:30 - 7:00 pm, Canton, The Light is ON For You

Tuesday, March 28

Lenten Weekday

5:30 pm, Troy † Inez Tarszowicz

(St. Mary's Bingo Committee)

6:00 pm, Stations of the Cross

Wednesday, March 29

Lenten Weekday

5:30 pm, Canton † Geraldine Spencer (Jeff & Beth Cole) 6:00 pm, Stations of the Cross

Thursday, March 30

Lenten Weekday

No Mass

Friday, March 31

Lenten Weekday

7:00 am, Rectory † Chris Arnold (Jeff & Beth Cole)

Saturday, April 1

Lenten Weekday

VIGIL: PALM SUNDAY OF THE PASSION OF THE LORD 4:00 pm, Canton † Pro Populo

Sun, Apr 2 Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord 8:00 am, Ralston † Jack Callahan (Bridget & Shawn) 9:30 am, Canton - For the special intentions of

Tony Asbury for his 18th birthday (Cathy Asbury) 11:15 am, Troy † Pro Populo

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 all mothers facing difficult pregnancies to be lovingly accompanied as they prepare to encounter Christ anew through the gift of their children.

SAINT MICHAEL'S PARISH OFFERINGS March 13 - 19, 2023

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Weekly Offerings:	2,854.00
Electronic Offerings:	490.00
God's Love Unites Us one-time gifts:	150.00
Other Parish Income:	39.00
Total Parish Income:	3,533.00



Average weekly expenses: 4,267.09 Difference: (734.09)

Catholic Relief Services: 367.00 Care & Education of Priests: 10.00

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 in the catechumenate phase of RCIA, a time of focused learning on topics related to Catholic belief & 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 27 in the rectory.

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.

Third Scrutiny (at the 9:30 Mass this Sunday) Christ as the Resurrection ands the Life

In the Gospel story of Jesus raising his friend Lazarus back to life (John 11:1-45), Jesus calls himself the resurrection and the life:

"Jesus said to [Martha], 'Your brother will rise.' Martha said to him, 'I know he will rise, in the resurrection on the last day.' Jesus told her, 'I am the resurrection and the life; whoever believes in me, even if he dies, will live, and everyone who lives ands believes in me will never die." John 11:23-26

ANNUAL CHRISM MASS

All the faithful of the Diocese of Scranton are invited to attend the annual Chrism Mass at the Cathedral of Saint Peter, 315 Wyoming Ave. Scranton, on Tuesday, April 4, 2023 at 4:00 p.m.

At this Mass, priests from throughout the Diocese will renew their priestly promises before the Bishop, and the oils to be used for the sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation, Anointing of the Sick and Holy Orders will be blessed and consecrated. Participation in the Chrism Mass is a beautiful way to pray for and support our priests and to express our unity as the Diocese of Scranton.

For reserved seating, please contact the Office for Parish Life at 570-207-2213 or email oplgeneral@dioceseofscranton.org.

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, Gary Polly, 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.

Discovering **hope and joy** in the Catholic faith.

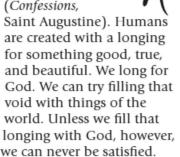
April 2023

St. Michael Parish

One Minute Meditations

The God-shaped hole

St. Augustine wrote,
"You have made us
for yourself and
our hearts are
restless until
they find their
rest in Thee,"
(Confessions,
Saint Augustine)



Grow in love

Having received the gift of divine life, we must give it to others. "Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another" (1 John 4:11). When we share God's life and love, we grow in that very life and love.

"But the angel said to the women, 'Do not be afraid; for I know that you seek Jesus who was crucified. He is not here; for he has risen,

as he said.

Come, see the

place where he

lay'"

lay'" (Matthew 28:5-6).



Powerful gifts of Eucharistic devotion

As the "the source and summit of our faith," the Eucharist is the greatest of God's gifts. During the Easter season, resolve to look at the Eucharist with new eyes of gratitude and strengthened devotion:

Return love for Love:
The Eucharist is not a
symbol; it is Jesus
Christ. He loves us
beyond imagining —
personally, closely,
sacrificially, and
tenderly. In adoring,
receiving, and loving
the Blessed Sacrament,
we're returning love for
Love.

Fuel for the fight: The Eucharist nourishes and strengthens our souls. "How can we last...without hearing Jesus say, 'I love you' – impossible..." (Mother Teresa). The Eucharist strengthens against temptation and

protects from mortal sins.

Source of joy: The Eucharist is a glimpse of Heaven, a foretaste of the heavenly banquet, and a pledge of future glory. St. John Vianney commented, "If we really understood the Mass, we would die of joy."

Wisdom and guidance:
As Chancellor of
England, St. Thomas
More received
Communion daily for
"light and wisdom" in
his administrative
decisions. We can turn to
the Blessed Sacrament for
guidance whenever we have

weighty decisions, questions, or doubts.

Communion empowers us to love: "Even as I have loved you...you also love one another" (John 13:34). Jesus specifically told his followers to love others as we've been loved. Receiving the Eucharist worthily empowers us to love like Him.



Why do Catholics celebrate Holy Week?

Holy Week is a sacred time, specially devoted to celebrating the work of our redemption – the suffering and Death of Jesus on the Cross. The events honored during Holy Week, especially on Holy Thursday and Good Friday, remind us of

an amazing truth: God loved us first, even when that love cost Him everything. On Easter, He rose gloriously from the dead, offering redemption. This event is so tremendous we need a week to prepare our hearts to receive it.

Choose new life at Easter

"... I have set before you life and death, blessing and curse; therefore choose life, that you and your descendants may live, loving the Lord your God, obeying his voice, and cleaving to him; for that means life to you and length of days ..." (Deuteronomy 30:19-20).

When the Israelites were poised to enter the land God had promised them, Moses wanted all to understand what was at stake. He didn't want them to just enter the Promised Land, Moses wanted them to remain there with God's



blessing. So Moses put the choice facing all of God's people in the clearest possible terms. When we choose to follow God, we choose life over death.

The choice is still ours. We can say "yes" or "no" to God's love. While our choices lead to consequences, it is still up to us.

When we live within God's laws, we choose life. Honesty over lies and deceit, self-control over sinful pleasure, generosity over selfishness. This is how we choose new life with God.

from Scripture

John 10:1-10; Trusting the Good Shepherd

In this Scripture passage, Jesus used the image of a shepherd to reveal who He is,

how He cares for us, and more importantly, how He wants us to relate to Him. The image of a shepherd was a powerful choice.

A good shepherd knew each sheep in his care individually. He never left his flock. Many sheep-pens didn't have doors, so the shepherd would sleep in the entry way to prevent enemies from getting to his flock. Predators

would have to go through him first. If a sheep got lost, hurt, or was attacked, the shepherd took care of it, even risking his life for the sheep.

Jesus' illustration is clear.
Without the constant care,
guidance, and protecting
presence of the shepherd
(God), the sheep (us)
wouldn't survive. That's
uncomfortable because it
means we're dependent
and vulnerable. But the
deeper truth is that Jesus,
our Shepherd, knows us
each personally,

individually. Our Shepherd heals us, provides for us, and protects us, even to offering up His own life. He asks us to trust Him and ultimately, lead us Home.



April 2 – Palm Sunday of the Lord's Passion (1st Century). On Palm Sunday of the Lord's Passion, we recall Jesus' triumphant entry into Jerusalem, when He was greeted by crowds waving palms and cheering. This Sunday marks the beginning of Holy Week.

April 9 – The Resurrection of the Lord (1st Century). Easter, the celebration of Jesus' Resurrection of the dead, is the holiest day of the year. The Season of Easter lasts for 50 days from Easter Sunday until Pentecost.

April 13 - Pope St. Martin I (665).

St. Martin was elected to succeed Theodore I as pope. He was arrested and dragged to Constantinople after censuring the Byzantine Emperor Constans II for heresy. He died in exile.

April 16 – Divine Mercy Sunday (1931). Jesus asked St. Faustina to ensure that the Sunday after Easter become the "Feast of Mercy."
He promised that anyone who honors Him as the King of Mercy and prays The Chaplet of Divine Mercy will receive special graces and great mercy.



Am I wrong to have doubts?

There is good doubt and bad doubt. Bad doubt that says, "I won't believe this unless you prove it," can become sinful and should be avoided. Good doubt ("I'm struggling to understand this") is a sign you're ready to go deeper into the faith.



Sometimes doubts arise from genuine or incomplete understanding of Church teaching. Archbishop Fulton Sheen famously said, "There are not one hundred people in

the United States who hate The Catholic Church, but there are millions who hate what they wrongly perceive the Catholic Church to be." With questions, turn to the Catechism, reference the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops (usccb.org), ask your priest.

If, after all that, something still doesn't make sense, then it really is a mystery and that's the point at which we humbly allow Christ to conform our ways of thinking to His (not the other way around). Entrust everything to God, and He will resolve it, in His own way, in His own time. "Lord, I believe, help my unbelief!" (Mark 9:24).

Our Mission

To provide practical ideas that promote faithful Catholic living.

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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 by April 17th.



The Sacrament of Reconciliation is available in St. Michael's Church on Mondays during Lent from 5:30 - 7:00 pm.

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

WHAT IS THE SACRAMENT OF CONFESSION

https://www.catholicscomehome.org/your-questions/ what-is-the-sacrament-of-confession/

The Sacrament of Reconciliation is one of the most unique and beautiful aspects of Catholicism. Jesus Christ, in His abundant love and mercy, established the Sacrament of Confession, so that we as sinners can obtain forgiveness for our sins and reconcile with God and the Church. The sacrament "washes us clean," and renews us in Christ.

"Jesus said to them again, 'Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, even so I send vou.' And when he had said this, he breathed on them, and said to them, 'Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven

EXPERIENCE PEACE AND LOVE

If you haven't been to Confession in a while, the Catholic Church wants to welcome you back, and invites you to participate in this beautiful sacrament of healing. Take a step in faith. You'll be surprised about how free you feel after taking part in the Sacrament of Reconciliation. So many Catholics describe incredible feelings of peace, joy, relief, and love that they never expected. Jesus is calling you to experience His mercy in this way too.

Catholic Relief Services Collection

Thank you for your generous support of The Catholic Relief Services Collection and for revealing Christ's love to those who are poor and marginalized around the world. If you missed the collection, it's not too late to give! Just visit www.usccb.org/nationalcollections for more information on how to give.

News from the Knights

LENTEN FOOD DRIVE

During Lent we prepare to celebrate the Paschal Mystery of Our Lord's death and resurrection by prayer, fasting, and almsgiving. The Canton Area Food



Pantry services approximately 40 families each month. Please help by making Drive donations of food a part of your Lenten almsgiving.

SAINT MICHAEL'S ALTAR & ROSARY SOCIETY

There is a box in Saint Michael's Church for donations to help fill the Easter Gift Bags for shut-in parishioners. Snacks, puzzle books, prayer cards & books, etc. will be greatly appreciated. Call the parish office if you know a shut-in parishioner so they can receive a bag.



CONFIRMATION RETREAT

Confirmandi from St. Michael, Epiphany, Immaculate Heart of Mary, Our Lady of Perpetual Help and Ss. Peter & Paul Parishes met in Ss. Peter & Paul Church on Saturday, March 25th for their Confirmation Retreat. Please pray for all of them, especially *Hailey Cummings*, Haylie Davies-Grove and Bella Wood, as they continue preparing to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation on Tuesday, May 24th at 5 pm in Ss. Peter & Paul Church, Towanda. Bishop Bambera will be the celebrant.

FORMED

WEEK OF MARCH 26, 2023

THE HOUR OF OUR DEATH | ETERNAL REST | EPISODE 3

The Anointing of the Sick is one of the seven sacraments of the Church. This session, we discover the role of this sacramental anointing in the spiritual struggle



during serious illness, the final stages of our temporal life, and the hour of our death.

THE PASCHAL MYSTERY:

THE MYSTERY OF JESUS' DEATH & RESURRECTION

Through Jesus's Death on the Cross, God reveals himself most profoundly as the God who is love. Christ's sacrificial love saves us from sin and shows us the



pathway to true human happiness. We are made to live like Christ: in total, self-giving love.

LIVING LENT AS A FAMILY (PART 4 OF 4)

Dr. Ben Akers sits down with Kevin and Lisa Cotter to discuss liturgical living during Lent as a family. They discuss together about a variety of topics, includ-



ing having a prayer space in the home and decorating the home according to the liturgical season.

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



POPE QUOTE: "Let us ask the grace to be surprised every day by God's gifts and to see the various circumstances of life, even the ones that are the most difficult to accept, as occasions to do good, as Jesus did with the blind man."

POPE FRANCIS'S MARCH PRAYER INTENTION: FOR A CULTURE OF PEACE AND NON-VIOLENCE: We pray for the spread of peace and non-violence, by decreasing the use of weapons by States and citizens.

ST MICHAELS ALTAR & ROSARY SOCIETY ANNUAL PIEROGI SALE!

SCHEDULE TO PAY & 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 *THANK YOU* to *EVERYONE* who prayed for this sale; volunteered time and talent; donated ingredients, money and equipment; and purchased pierogies.

LENTEN REGULATIONS

Weekdays of Lent: There is no obligation to fast. Voluntary acts of self-denial are recommended.

Ash Wednesday and Good Friday: These are days of Fast and Abstinence from meat. There is a limit of one full meal and two smaller meals that do not equal the main meal on these days for all between the ages of 18 and 59 inclusive.

Days of Abstinence: (All Fridays in Lent) All who have reached their 14th year are bound to abstain totally from meat.

EASTER DUTY OBLIGATION: After they have received their First Holy Communion, Catholics are bound by the obligation of receiving Holy Communion at least once a year. This precept should be fulfilled during the Easter Season. Catholics are also bound to confess serious (mortal) sins at least once a year, but this is not limited to the Lenten/Easter Season.

MARCH 27 - APRIL 1, 2023 READINGS

Mon - Dn 13:1-9, 15-17, 19-30, 33-62 Ps 23:1-6

Jn 8:1-11

Tues - Nm 21:4-9 Ps 102:2-3, 16-21 Jn 8:21-30

Wed - Dn 3:14-20, 91-92, 95 (Ps) Dn 3:52-56

Jn 8:31-42

Thurs - Gn 17:3-9 Ps 105:4-9 Jn 8:51-59

Fri - Jer 20:10-13 Ps 18:2-7 Jn 10:31-42

Sat - Ez 37:21-28 (Ps) Jer 31:10-13 Jn 11:45-56

Sun - Mt 21:1-11 Ps 22:8-9, 17-18, 19-20, 23-24

Phil 2:6-11 Mt 26:14—27:66

God's Love Unites Us

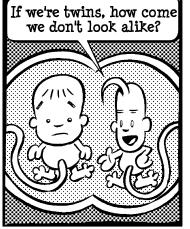
Thank you to all parishioners who have completed and submitted your Commitment Card. For those parishioners who have not yet had the opportunity to submit their card, a final letter will be mailed to you with a personalized Commitment Card. We invite all faithful parishioners to complete a card as our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

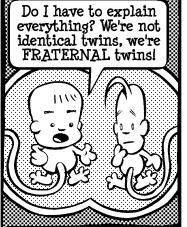
- mailing it to the church using the pre-addressed envelope included with the letter.
- or bringing it to Mass next Sunday.
- or you may visit our parish website at https://stmichaelscanton.com/ and complete an electronic Commitment Card.

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!**

Umbert the Unborn







You're ADOPTED!





7:00 pm - Mass of the Lord's Supper, St. Michael's Church



12:00 pm - Solemn Good Friday Service,

St. Michael's

5:00 pm - Stations of the Cross, St. Michael's 5:30 pm - Meatless Supper, St. Michael's (hosted by the Knights of Columbus)



12:00 pm - Blessing of the Easter Baskets, St. John's 1:00 pm - Blessing of the Easter Baskets, St. Michael's 8:00 pm - Easter Vigil in the Holy Night, St. Michael's



GUIDE TO CONFESSION

From https://thelightison.org/guide-to-confession/

BEFORE CONFESSION

Confession can seem intimidating ..., but with some simple preparation, it can be a healing encounter with Christ that will leave you filled with peace.

PRAY: Pray that God will give you peace and help you make a good confession.

A Prayer Before Confession

Dear Jesus, help me to make a good Confession. Help me to find out my sins. Help me to be sorry for them. Help me to make up my mind not to sin again. Have mercy on me, O Lord, and forgive me. Mary, my mother, pray for me.

REFLECT: Reflect on ways you have harmed your relationship with God, yourself and others. Consider using and Examination of Conscience to reflect in preparation for your confession.

DURING CONFESSION

GREETING: The priest will welcome you; he may say a short blessing or read a Scripture passage.

SIGN OF THE CROSS: Together, you and the priest will make the Sign of the Cross. You may then begin your confession with these or similar words: "Bless me, Father, for I have sinned. It has been (give weeks, months, or years) since my last confession."

Confession: Confess all your sins to the priest. If you are unsure what to say, ask the priest for help. When you are finished, conclude with these or similar words: "I am sorry for these and all my sins."

PENANCE: The priest will propose an act of penance. The penance might be prayer, a work of mercy, or an act of charity. He might also counsel you on how to better live a Christian life.

ACT OF CONTRITION: Say an Act of Contrition, expressing sorrow for your sins and resolving to leave sin behind and live more like Jesus Christ!

An Act of Contrition

My God, I am sorry for my sins with all my heart. In choosing to do wrong and failing to do good, I have sinned against you whom I should love above all things. I firmly intend, with your help, to do penance, to sin no more, and to avoid whatever leads me to sin.

Our Savior Jesus Christ suffered and died for us. In his name, my God, have mercy.

ABSOLUTION: The priest then blesses you in the person of Christ as he says the prayer of Absolution which frees you from your sins.

AFTER CONFESSION

REJOICE: Through the grace of the Sacrament of Reconciliation God has reminded you of His unending love.

RESOLVE: Resolve to leave sin behind and live in the light.

RESPOND: Follow through with the penance the priest gave you and share the mercy you received with others.



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 PA030014

St. Michael Parish member



1961 Leona Road, Troy, PA 16947 Hours Monday - Friday: 7am - 5pm Saturday: 7am - 3pm Closed on Holidays

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Garos Ann

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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.

BARRETT LAW OFFICES Patrick J. Barrett, III

Attorney and Counselor at Law 17-21 Troy St. - PO Box 157 Canton, PA 17724 570-673-5180 Fax: 570-673-5780 patbar.law@frontiernet.net 507 West Pine Street Athens, PA 18810 570-888-0297 Fax 570-888-4142

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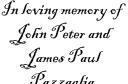
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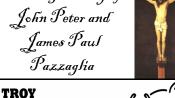
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