

APRIL 30, 2023



FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

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, April 29 Easter Weekday

VIGIL: 4TH SUNDAY OF EASTER

4:00 pm, Canton † Pro Populo

Sunday, April 30 4TH SUNDAY OF EASTER

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

9:30 am, Canton † Chris Arnold (Jerry & Joy Brann)

11:15 am, Troy † William Misson

Monday, May 1 Easter Weekday

7:00 am, Rectory † Nancy Wright & Skip Cole
(Jeff & Beth Cole)

Tuesday, May 2 Saint Athanasius, Bishop,
Doctor of the Church

5:30 pm, Troy † Inez Tarszowicz (Ann & Andrew Kulick)

Wed, May 3 SAINTS PHILIP AND JAMES, APOSTLES

5:30 pm, Canton † Jean Balough (David Beahm)

6:00 pm, Holy Hour

Thursday, May 4 Easter Weekday

No Mass

First Friday, May 5 Easter Weekday

7:00 am, Canton † Kathleen Spencer (Jeff Beth Cole)

Saturday, May 6 Easter Weekday

VIGIL: 5TH SUNDAY OF EASTER

4:00 pm, Canton † Pro Populo

Sunday, May 7 5TH SUNDAY OF EASTER

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

9:30 am, Canton † Marie O'Hara (Dot Hopkins)

11:15 am, Troy † Mr. & Mrs. Joe Szczech
(Tim, Barb & Leona)

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 the lives of persons with disabilities to be recognized as worth protecting and fighting for in all circumstances.

Sanctuary lamp intentions may be requested by

SAINT MICHAEL PARISH PRAYER LIST

Barby, Bob Abbott, John Adams, Peggy Adams,
Tom Ambruch, Cleta Barton, Karl Barton,
April Bilbrey, 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,
Mike Losey 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.

FROM FATHER JOE'S DESK

MOTHER'S DAY SPIRITUAL BOUQUET CARDS

In addition to the Mother's Day intention envelopes that are in your offertory packets, Mother's Day Spiritual Bouquet cards are in all three churches. If you choose to use these cards, there is an envelope for your intentions and donation that goes in the collection basket, and another envelope with a beautiful Mother's Day card that you can give to your living mother, grandmother, or great grandmother. Just take that card out of the intention envelope and only bring the sealed intention envelope with the information filled out on the envelope, back to the church on Mother's Day.

The following are reflections from the newest members of our parish family - Barbara Clarke, Dennis Clarke and Cassandra Johnson - who were fully received into the Catholic Church at this year's Easter Vigil:

Barbara: "I feel my sins are now totally forgiven. I have been released from sin and feel gloriously renewed in my being. Becoming Catholic feels right in my soul. I feel God's blessings as never before and I am thankful for God's Loving Mercy and for finding a new family in Catholic beliefs."

Dennis: "Joining the Catholic Church, being baptized, the people who helped me through the classes and the members of the Church made me feel welcome."

Cassandra: "It made me feel like I was finally at peace and that all my sins are forgiven. I feel at peace because I finally am now back to being a full child of the Lord. Although I was always a child of the Lord I feel that I'm now completely one of the Lord's children because I have received Confirmation. I feel like my sins are forgiven because I feel like my soul has been completely cleansed of my sins. Even though my sins are forgiven through Baptism and Penance, I now feel like my sins are forgiven entirely since I have received Confirmation. I really enjoyed the experience of becoming Catholic."

NEWS FROM THE KNIGHTS

The food donation bin is available for those who wish to make donations. Hunger never ends.



SAINT MICHAEL'S PARISH OFFERINGS April 17 - 23, 2023

Weekly Offerings:	3,357.50
Electronic Offerings:	515.00
Other Parish Income:	415.00
Total Parish Income:	4,287.50
Average weekly expenses:	4,267.09
Difference:	20.41
Care & Education of Priests:	47.00
Catholic Home Missions Appeal:	20.00

Thank you for your continued support.

2022 CONTRIBUTION STATEMENTS are available.

Request a statement by contacting the parish office.

Growing in FAITH™

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May 2023

St. Michael Parish

One Minute Meditations

Act in confidence

Jesus does not want us to be troubled by worldly concerns.

"My peace I give you" (John 14:27). When you feel



yourself starting to worry or stew about a difficult situation (or person), act out your belief that your prayer for resolution will be answered. Substitute positive, cheerful thoughts for negative ones. God is in control.

Your Lenten change

Lent is a time when we make changes that bring us closer to God. During Lent, many of us fast from our favorite food or drink, and approach Easter a little lighter in spirit and in body. Don't forget that a Lenten change can continue beyond Easter. Consider continuing your Lenten fast on Fridays throughout the year, or for a week each month, for example. Find ways to make your Lenten change permanent.

Rest and relax

God expects us to be sure to rest.

"Come to me, all you who labor and are burdened, and I will give you rest" (Matthew 11:28).



Welcome all God's children

God loves each of us uniquely and fiercely no matter where we come from or how we look. Those of us who follow Him know that it's not just important to love each other. It's God's law.

Celebrate diversity. Invite foreigners or people who are different from you to your home or church. Jesus was once a foreigner in a strange land and was grateful for the hospitality He received. There is great diversity in the Communion of Saints.

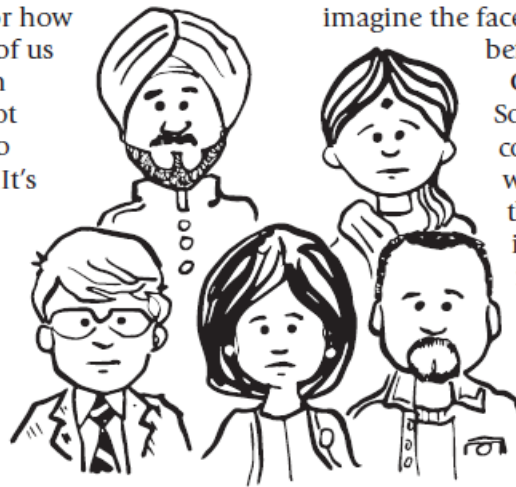
Practice patience. It can be tough to listen to someone with a speech impediment or a heavy accent. Imagine, though, how grateful that

person will be when you offer your attention. Perhaps it would help to imagine the face of Christ in the face before you.

Counsel the ignorant. Someone from another country, background, or with different abilities than yours might behave in what looks like an inconsiderate way out of ignorance or limitations. He might appreciate being informed.

Speak up. Don't stay quiet when you witness prejudice, and be positive about diversity if friends or relatives start criticizing others' faith, cultures or abilities.

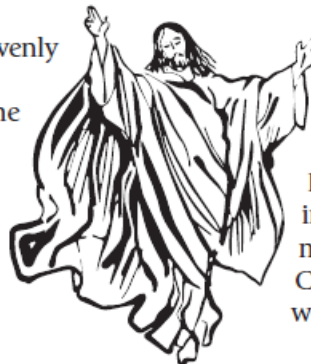
Act with love. The God of love gave of Himself so we could be reunited with Him. We share that love when we assume the best of others and look for the good in all God's children.



Why Do Catholics Do That?

Why do Catholics celebrate the Ascension?

Jesus' Ascension into heavenly glory is good news. Sacred Scripture explains that in the Ascension, Jesus, the High Priest, entered the heavenly temple to pray for us with the Father (Hebrews 9:24). Secondly, from his throne in heaven,

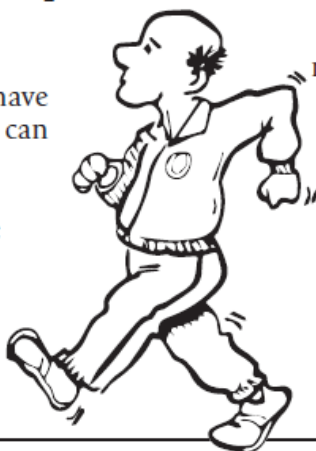


Jesus sends us the Holy Spirit, who keeps us connected to Him, especially in the Eucharist. Lastly, since Christ entered into eternal glory, we as the members of His Body, the Church, may hope to follow if we remain faithful to Him.

Take good care of yourself. You belong to God.

Taking care of ourselves can become a low priority in the midst of other obligations. Yet caring for our bodies and minds is a duty we have to God. He needs us strong and healthy so we can help build up His kingdom.

Body: What you put into your body is even more important than what you put on it. Take steps to make your diet healthier and more nourishing. Avoid drugs or excessive alcohol. Doctors urge daily exercise and eight hours of sleep each night.



Mind: Become picky about what you feed your mind, too. What you watch, read, and listen to influences the way you look at the world. Evidence shows that it's hard to regularly watch violent shows or movies and still be a calm and happy person. Programs or movies that portray infidelity or promiscuity as acceptable behaviors eventually dull our sense of sin. Feed your mind positive, Gospel-centered images that will build you up and inspire you. Surround yourself with people who do the same.

from Scripture

John 20:19-23, "Receive the Holy Spirit"

This Gospel passage gives us a glimpse of how the apostles spent their first Easter Sunday – hiding in a locked room.

They were terrified the Romans would find them and execute them. To their surprise and great relief, Jesus appeared to them in glory and spoke words of peace. He showed them His glorious wounds as "living proof" of His Resurrection.

Then Jesus gave them a mission: "Whose sins you forgive are forgiven them, and whose sins you retain are retained" establishing the Sacrament of Penance (John 20:23). He gave them the Holy Spirit, anticipating the feast of



Pentecost. Now, having authority to forgive sins, the apostles and their successors could continue

Jesus' work after He returned to heaven.

Jesus' appearance to His apostles reveals the fullness of God's mercy. He also sent the Holy Spirit to them. He descended powerfully on Pentecost, the birthday of the Church. That same

Spirit is gifted to us in Baptism and dwells in our souls. Ask the Holy Spirit to reveal God's love to you and help you become more like Christ each day.

Q & A

What is the meaning of the Miraculous Medal?

The Miraculous Medal, given to St. Catherine Labouré in 1830, was designed by the Blessed Mother to teach us three things:

Mary prays for us: The medal's front reads: *O Mary, conceived without sin, pray for us who have recourse to thee.* We don't



pray to her; she prays for us! Of course, we can go directly to Jesus anytime. In fact, Mary's role is to bring us to Jesus as swiftly and safely as possible.

Evil can be defeated: Mary is shown crushing Satan's head, recalling the prophecy of his defeat (Genesis 3:15). Mary's humble "yes" to God paved the way for Christ's victory over death, sin, and evil. When we give God our "yes," then Christ's victory bears fruit in our lives.

Grace is always available: St. Catherine asked why only some of the gemstones in Mary's rings radiated light. Her answer? The dim gems symbolize "the graces for which souls forget to ask." God's grace is always available to us. All we have to do is ask.

Feasts & Celebrations

May 3 – Sts. Philip and James (1st Century). St. Philip was born in Bethsaida and followed John the Baptist before he followed Christ. After the Ascension, St. Philip preached in Asia Minor, where he was martyred. St. James, son of Alphaeus, was also one of the twelve Apostles.

May 10 - St. John of Ávila (1569). Born to wealthy, pious parents, St. John left a budding career as a lawyer to become a priest. At the request of his bishop, he worked and preached to renew the faith of Catholics in Andalusia.

May 18 – Solemnity of the Ascension of the Lord (1st Century). This solemnity marks the completion of Jesus' mission of salvation and His triumphant entry into heaven. *Note: In many dioceses, observance of Ascension has been moved to the following Sunday.*

May 25 – St. Mary Magdalene de' Pazzi (1607). Born to a distinguished Florentine family, Catherine de' Pazzi became a Carmelite nun. Upon making vows, she experienced ecstasies, and became a mystic and a healer.



Our Mission

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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: "God's gaze never stops with our past filled of errors, but looks with infinite confidence at what we can become."

POPE FRANCIS'S MAY PRAYER INTENTION:

FOR CHURCH MOVEMENTS AND GROUPS: We pray that Church movements and groups may rediscover their mission of evangelization each day, placing their own charisms at the service of needs in the world.



WEEK OF APRIL 30, 2023

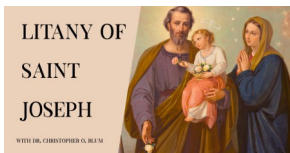
ST. JOSEPH: OLD AND NEW (PART 1 OF 4)

Join Taylor Kemp and Dr. Ben Akers as they comment on St. Joseph and his importance in the life of the Church. In this episode, they reflect on the Joseph of the Old and New Testament.



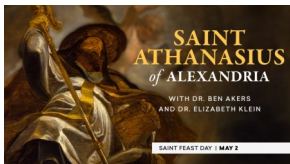
LITANY OF SAINT JOSEPH

Join Dr. Christopher O. Blum as he prays the Litany of St. Joseph, asking for his intercession in your life and the lives of your loved ones.



SAINT ATHANASIUS OF ALEXANDRIA | CATHOLIC SAINTS

Join Dr. Ben Akers and Dr. Elizabeth Klein as they discuss the early Church Father, St. Athanasius. A bishop and Doctor of the Church, St. Athanasius is remembered as the great defender of the Nicene Creed. He was exiled five times from his own diocese under four different emperors. A great teacher, his writings are accessible to both beginners and experts in theology, writing works that serve different needs in the Church.



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Use zip code 17724 to find our parish.

MAY 1 - 7, 2023 READINGS

Mon - Acts 11:1-18 Pss 42:2-3; 43:3-4 Jn 10:11-18

Tues - Acts 11:19-26 Ps 87:1-7 Jn 10:22-30

Wed - 1 Cor 15:1-8 Ps 19:2-5 Jn 14:6-14

Thurs - Acts 13:13-25 Ps 89:2-3, 21-22, 25, 27
Jn 13:16-20

Fri - Acts 13:26-33 Ps 2:6-11 Jn 14:1-6

Sat - Acts 13:44-52 Ps 98:1-4 Jn 14:7-14

Sun - Acts 6:1-7 Ps 33:1-2, 4-5, 18-19 1 Pt 2:4-9
Jn 14:1-12

SAINT MICHAEL PARISH SACRAMENTS

Saint Michael's will celebrate **First Holy Communion** on Sunday, May 21st at both the 9:30 am Mass in Saint Michael's and the 11:15 am Mass in Saint John's.

Please pray for: **Cole Bradford, Laurel Golembewski, and Isaac Watson** and their families as they make final preparations for this important day in their lives.



The Most Reverend Joseph C. Bambera will celebrate **Confirmation** on Wednesday, May 24th at 5 pm in Ss. Peter & Paul Church, Towanda for Confirmandi from St. Michael, Epiphany, Immaculate Heart of Mary, Our Lady of Perpetual Help, and Ss. Peter & Paul Parishes. Please pray for all the Confirmandi, but especially **Hailey Cummings, Haylie Davies-Grove, and Bella Wood** from Saint Michael Parish.



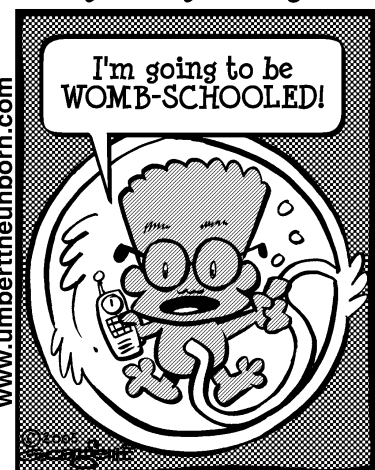
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by Gary Cangemi



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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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