

DECEMBER 31, 2023



THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY & JOSEPH

# 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



### 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, December 30** 6th Day w/in the Octave of the Nativity of the Lord  
VIGIL: THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY & JOSEPH  
4:00 pm, Canton † Dorris Ann Mallore  
(St. Michael's A&R)

**Sunday, December 31** THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY & JOSEPH  
8:00 am, Ralston † Pro Populo  
9:30 am, Canton † Robert Fleury (The Family)  
11:15 am, Troy † Mary Watkins (Tom Wierbowski)

**Monday, January 1** THE SOLEMNITY OF MARY, THE HOLY MOTHER OF GOD  
9:30 am, Canton † John Mastrodomenico  
(Joe & Maryann Maresco)

**Tuesday, January 2** Saints Basil the Great & Gregory Nazianzen, Bishops, Doctors of the Church  
5:30 pm, Troy † Tim Fink (The Santangelo Family)

**Wednesday, January 3** Christmas Weekday  
5:30 pm, Canton † Agnes Shillman (Tom Wierbowski)  
6:00 pm, Holy Hour

**Thursday, January 4** Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton, Religious  
No Mass

**First Friday, January 5** Saint John Neumann, Bishop  
7:00 am, Canton † John Campbell (Jeanie Seeley)

**Saturday, January 6** Christmas Weekday  
VIGIL: THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD  
4:00 pm, Canton † Lyle Mattock (The Hermans)

**Sunday, January 7** THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD  
8:00 am, Ralston † Jean Smigelski (Pat & Joe Cole)  
9:30 am, Canton † Christine Marie Vroman  
(Jeff & Beth Cole)  
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 families, as the domestic Church, to pursue holiness, pass on the faith, and persevere in love.

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

### SAINT MICHAEL'S PARISH OFFERINGS December 18 - 25, 2023

Weekly Offerings:	2,802.00
Christmas Offerings:	3,104.00
Electronic Offerings:	515.00
Other Parish Income:	148.50
 Total Parish Income:	6,569.50
Average weekly expenses:	4,211.61
Difference:	2,357.89
Christmas Mass Intentions:	20.00

*Thank you for your continued support.*

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For more information, contact the Office for Parish Life at  
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### SAINT MICHAEL PARISH PRAYER LIST

Barby, John Adams, Peggy Adams, Tom Ambruch, Karl Barton, April Bilbrey, Joseph Blaszc, Gus Branish, Joy Brann, Betty Brown, John Chapman Jr., Dennis & Barbara Clarke, Darlene Cole, Todd Congdon, Carlene Eck, Dorland Eck, Leon English, Ben Flood, Melissa Gowan, Cassie Hamburger, Cody Heim, Robert Dale Hostetter, Victoria Johnson, Beatrice Jones, Antoinette King, Theresa Kingsley, David Kule, Jo Kule, Joyce Maloney, Tom McBlane, Darlene McCurdy, Bunny Meuse, Bernadette Moore, Orlando Moralez, Delina Morgan, Leo Parchesky, Ramona Parker, Gary Paquette, Gary Polly, Patricia Rogers, Katy Snyder, Rich Stankiewicz, Mary Catherine Taylor, Joe Turk, Elias Vroman, Matthew Warren, Glenda Watson, 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.



Scan to donate  
or visit  
[annualappeal.org](https://annualappeal.org)



As of December 15th, we are at 82.03% of our \$12,000 parish goal. \$9,843 has been donated or pledged. 55 families have donated thus far, which is a participation rate of 38.19% of 144 active families in the parish. Thank you to everyone who has contributed thus far, both financially and with your prayers.



# Growing in FAITH™

Discovering hope and joy in the Catholic faith.

January 2024

St. Michael Parish

## One Minute Meditations

### St. Marguerite Bourgeoys

Born at Troyes, France in 1620, St. Marguerite

consecrated herself to God and became a missionary. A friend

introduced her to the mayor of Ville Marie (now Montreal) in Canada and, on his invitation, traveled to the New World to teach. With several others, she founded the Congregation of Notre-Dame de Montreal – a non-cloistered teaching order that was formally approved in 1676. By her death in 1700, she was called “Mother of the Colony.”

### Celebrate life

January is the month during which our Church celebrates life. This is when we take time to recognize that we are all reflections of God and have great value in His eyes from the moment of conception to a natural death. Celebrating life means being pro-human every day of the year.

*“For behold, I create new heavens and a new earth; and the former things shall not be remembered or come into mind” (Isaiah 65:17).*



## This year, don't neglect “the one thing needful”

When St. Martha complained to Jesus that her sister, Mary, was sitting at His feet instead of helping to host Him, He corrected Martha for neglecting the “one thing ... needful” (Luke 10:42)

– intimacy with Him. In the New Year, resolve not to neglect the “one thing needful” and remain intimate with Him.

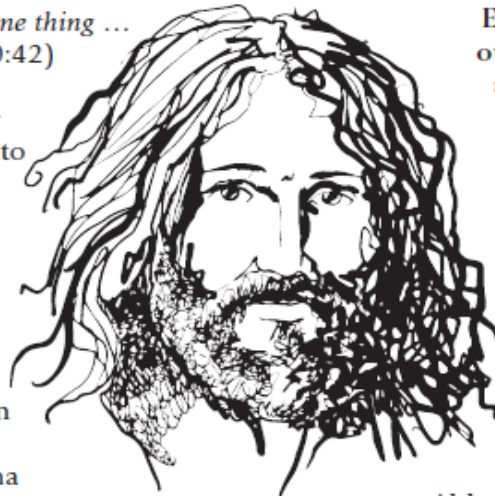
Build an “inner chapel.” While on mission in the world, St. Catherine of Siena maintained an “inner chapel” in her soul to speak with God, heart to heart. Jesus urged us to do the same (Matthew 6:6). Shut out the world for a while and take refuge in your inner chapel every day.

Sit at His feet. Mary believed in Jesus and gave Him her best. He must be our hope, our salvation, our all. This is absolutely necessary.

Encounter Him in others. Mother Teresa said, “Until you can hear Jesus in the silence of your own heart, you will not be able to hear Him saying ‘I thirst’ in the hearts of the poor.” The closer we grow to God, the better we’ll “see” and love Him in others.

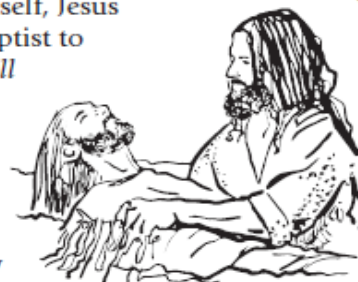
Serve Him.

Although Mary wasn’t waiting on Christ like Martha, she was ministering to him in a deeper and truer sense. No one serves Christ better than by hearing His Words and doing His will.



## Why Do Catholics Do That?

Although sinless Himself, Jesus allowed St. John the Baptist to baptize Him to “fulfill all righteousness” (Matthew 3:15). By this action, Jesus signaled His willingness to take away our sins by His death and bring us new life by His Resurrection. It



## Why was Jesus baptized?

was also by His baptism that Jesus instituted Baptism as a Sacrament – the Sacrament by which we’re sanctified and recreated as children of God. We are mystically baptized into Jesus’ death, to be raised by Him in glory.

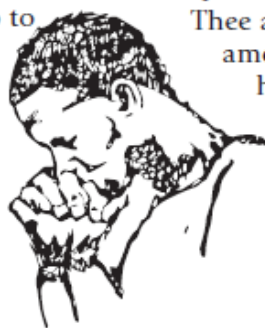
# Reclaim the Name

January is the month traditionally devoted to honoring the holy name of Jesus. What can we do to reclaim reverence for His name in a culture that considers it to be just another word?

Bow your head. *"At the name of Jesus every knee should bend, in heaven and on earth and under the earth"* (Philippians 2:10). Make a slight, reverent nod whenever you hear Jesus' name in public, in conversation, on TV or in movies.

Offer a prayer. Don't hesitate to ask others not to misuse God's or Jesus' names. If they don't

respond, offer a prayer of reparation: "I kneel before Thee and offer Thee reparation; I would make amends for all the blasphemies uttered against Thy holy name."



Don't normalize blasphemy. Curate the media you watch, listen to, or sing along with. Avoid songs, shows, or movies in which Jesus's name is disrespected. We are called to strive for holiness, not worldliness. More importantly, it's a way to give Christ the reverence and love He is due.

## from Scripture

### Mark 1:21-28, What God says happens

In this Gospel passage, Jesus and His apostles entered the synagogue at Capernaum where Jesus taught those gathered on the Sabbath. It was customary for learned teachers to say, "Thus says the Lord..."

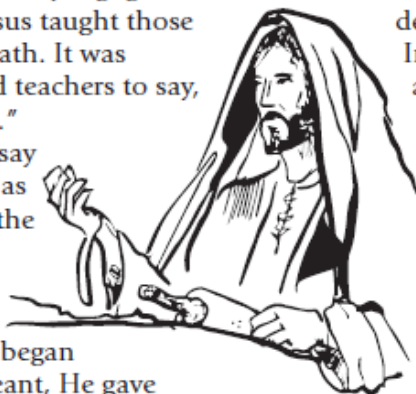
Instead Jesus said, "I say to you ..." He taught as one who spoke with the authority of God.

His calm authority astounded Jesus' listeners. Just as they began to wonder what it meant, He gave them a sign. He further demonstrated His authority by performing an exorcism. Spirits that bedeviled an unfortunate man at the synagogue recognized who Jesus was.

They were forced to obey Him when He commanded them to depart, despite their reluctance. In fact, God's power and authority isn't just a formality. What God says, happens.

Our kind and gentle Savior is also our powerful and awesome Lord. As the Second Person of the Trinity, Jesus has supreme majesty and

we will one day appear before Him to be judged. Yes, He is our divine savior and mediator. But if we say, "Jesus is Lord," then we give Him our loyalty and obedience.



## Feasts & Celebrations

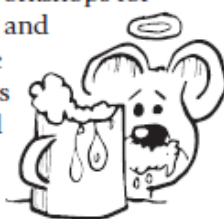
January 1 – Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God. When we celebrate this feast, we honor Mary, but also acknowledge Jesus as true God and true Man.

January 8 – Baptism of the Lord (1st Century). Jesus began His public ministry by getting baptized by St. John the Baptist. Jesus was to be baptized to "fulfill all righteousness" (Matthew 3:15). This was also when God reveals Jesus as His "beloved Son" (Matthew 3:17).

January 26 – St. Paula (404). After

her husband – a Roman senator named Toxotius – died, St. Paula gave up her wealthy lifestyle for the Gospel, devoting herself to prayer, poverty, and charitable works. She also befriended and supported St. Jerome in translating the Vulgate.

January 31 – St. John Bosco (1888). Moved by the plight of the young, abandoned boys in Rome, St. John opened the Oratory of St. Francis de Sales and provided workshops for them in shoemaking and tailoring. In 1859, he founded the Salesians who were committed to education and mission work.



## Q & A What to do when prayer feels flat.

"I just don't feel close to God." "Is He really listening?" In fact, God is constantly pursuing us in love, wanting to share His joy with us (*Catechism of the Catholic Church*, #1). Yet, even the most passionate prayer life can feel flat sometimes. Try these tips to keep

prayer fresh:

**Cultivate gratitude.** Although God never abandons us, factors like health or mood can affect our prayer. St. Alphonsus

Liguori recommended, "Often recall the loving way in which [God] has acted toward you." Reviewing our blessings helps us appreciate God's love for us over time.

Don't wait to ask for help. God's heart is always opened to us. "Good" prayer happens when we're honest with Him. This is an exercise of faith, which He generously rewards.

Treat Him with love. God wants a relationship of love, respect, and faithfulness with each of us. If prayer feels empty, try treating God with the love, consideration, and tenderness you give and receive from those closest to you. It will make a difference!



## 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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# Saint Michal Parish

## 2023 Christmas Mass Intentions

††† Mr. & Mrs. Joe Szczech, Wallace & Mary Bell, Laurie Weidlich, and Mr. Patricia Bell by Mr. & Mrs. Timothy Bell.

††† Mr. & Mrs. Joe Szczech, Wallace & Mary Bell, Laurie Weidlich, and Mr. Patricia Bell by Mr. & Mrs. Timothy Bell.

††† Mr. & Mrs. William Brann, Mr. & Mrs. William Madigan, and Patti Pessoni by Atty. & Mrs. Gerald Brann.

††† James & Shirely Brenchley by Mr. & Mrs. John Brenchley.

††† Deceased members of the Brozowski, Kendra and Vineski families by Mr. & Mrs. Michael Brozowski.

††† William L. Spencer, Bonita M. Spencer, Monty Spencer, Kathleen Spencer, Margaret Acresti, Anthony Acresti, Mike Acresti, Louis Acresti, Rosa Acresti, Herman Kilborn, Kathryn Kilborn, Nancy Acresti, Walter Spencer, Geraldine Spencer, Robert Spencer, Joseph Spencer, Thomas Spencer, Lisa Mosser, Wayne Scott, Christine Vroman, Evelyn Terry, Kloey Miller, Paula Longacre, Martha Johnson, William Wright, Nancy Wright, Hilda Cressy, Dick Cressy, Doug Peabody, Perry Cole, Thelma Cole, Skip Cole, Lois Rook, Ron Rook and Kevin Rook by Jeff & Beth Cole.

††† A Special Intention by Patricia Deeghan.

††† Mr. & Mrs. Leon English, Mr. & Mr. William Brass, Kenneth Brass, Martin Horn, Charles Marsh, Dale Maryfield, and Tom Spencer by Mr. Leon English, Jr.

††† Robert G. Fleury and Joann Moore by Patricia Fleury.

††† Carol Ann Gergel, the Gergel Family and the Yankus Family by James R. Gergel.

††† Carol Ann Gergel and Marlyn Kinch by Thomas & Nanette Gergel.

††† The Hamburger and Bradford Families by Dr. Paul Hamburger.

††† Mr. & Mrs. Edward Beaderman, Mr. & Mrs. Myron Parks, Lyle Mattocks, Frank Levindoski, Mr. & Mrs. Andrew Beaderman, and Mr. & Mrs. Leo Levindoski by Mr. & Mrs. Arthur Hamm.

††† Private intention by Mr. Will Hawrylo.

††† Frank Taverniti and Helen Taverniti by Mrs. Diane Hedrick.

††† Gene & Mary McMahon, Frank & Joey Herman and a special intentions by Mr. & Mrs. Michael Herman.

††† Hal Hopkins and the Dolobach Family by Mrs. Harold Hopkins.

††† Mark Kingsley by Mr. & Mrs. George Kingsley.

††† Family by Mr. & Mrs. James Maloney.

††† Private intention by Patrick & Marcia McConnell.

††† Mr. & Mrs. William O’Gara, Mr. & Mrs. Thomas J. O’Gara, and Meghan Ann O’Gara by Thomas & Celeste O’Gara.

††† John & Elizabeth Bruno, Helen Lougher, and Tom & Mary Ann Deljanovan by Carole Parker.

††† Joy, Douglas & David Snell, June & Rancy Pepper, and Joanne & Bob Strozyk by Mrs. Rancy Pepper.

††† Mr. & Mrs. Joseph Pierchorowicz, Juan & Rita Martínez, and William Thacker by David E. Pierchorowicz.

††† Mr. & Mrs. Joseph T. Sheridan, and Mr. & Mrs. John Jones by Mr. & Mrs. Joseph Sheridan.

††† For family members, unborn infants, and those with disabilities by Mrs. Sherry Vargson.

††† Lillian Wolf; Michael W. Wolf, Sr.; Robert Wolf; and Christian Shaffer by Donna M. Wolf.

††† Mary L. Hardy by Jeannine J. Wynne.

††† Joseph & Adell Wynne, Jefferey Wynne, and Ann Wynne Mallare by Mr. & Mrs. Jerome Wynne.

††† Jefferey J. Wynne by Mr. Joseph Wynne II.

A decorative border of red poinsettias with green leaves frames the entire page.

# Saint Michael Parish

## 2023 Christmas Flower Intentions

- ††† Mr. & Mrs. Joe Szczech, Wallace & Mary Bell, Laurie Weidlich, Patricia Bell, Barb (Babs) Morris and Eugene Fletcher by Mr. & Mrs. Timothy Bell.
- ††† The Weiss and Blaszc Families by Mrs. Richard Blaszc.
- ††† Mr. & Mrs. William Brann and Mr. & Mrs. William Madigan by Atty. & Mrs. Gerald Brann.
- ††† Mr. & Mrs. James Branchley by Mr. & Mrs. John Branchley.
- ††† The Mansuy & Clark Families Mr. & Mrs. Daniel Clark.
- ††† In memory of deceased members of the Capaldi, DePalma and Cleveland Families by Mrs. Burton Cleveland.
- ††† Patricia Rynone, Amy Delores Debach, Charlie Debach, Dawn Debach, and Ruth Coumbe by Mr. & Mrs. Charles Debach Jr.
- ††† Special intention by Patricia Deeghan.
- ††† Mr. & Mrs. Leon English, Sr.; Mr. & Mrs. William Brass; Kenneth Brass; Jean Storrs; and Martin Horn by Mr. Leon English, Jr.
- ††† Fitzwater Families and Acresti Families by Mr. & Mrs. Alden Fitzwater.
- ††† Carol Ann Gergel and Marilyn Kinch by Thomas & Nanette Gergel.
- ††† Frank Taverniti and Helen Taverniti by Mrs. Diane Hedrick.
- ††† Mary Meyer, Floyd Jones and Fred Meyer by Mrs. Beatrice Jones.
- ††† Alan Kelley and deceased members of the Joseph & Rita Shon Family by Mrs. Terri Kelley.
- ††† Mark Kingsley by Mr. & Mrs. George Kingsley.
- ††† Robert May; Katherine Lepper; Marry Matthews, Sr; and Dr. Clarence A. Scott by Jeannette May.
- ††† Joy & Douglas Snell; June & Rancy Pepper, Sr.; and Joanne & Bob Strozyk by Mrs. Rancy Pepper.
- ††† Joseph & Helen Pierchorowicz, Juan & Rita Martinez, and William Thacker by David E. Pierchorowicz.
- ††† Mildred Polly by Michael Polly.
- ††† Mr. Joseph Szczech, Josephine Szczech, Bill & Beverly Ayers, William Curtiss, Eugene Fletcher, Donald Wilber, Babs Morris, Lillian Packard, Pauline Pazzaglia, and Frank Composto by Barbara Szczech.
- ††† Mark H. Kingsley, members of the Kingsley Family, and members of the Vargson Family by Mrs. Sherry Vargson.
- ††† Mr. & Mrs. Joe Szczech and Don Wilber by Joe & Fran Weed.
- ††† Joseph Szczech, Josephine Szczech, and Donald Wilber by Mrs. Louise Wilber.
- ††† Lillian Wolf; Michael Wayne Wolf; Robert E. Wolf, Sr.; Christian Bernhard Shaffer; and Joseph Paul Lever, Jr. by Donna M. Wolf.
- ††† Deceased members of the Wynne Family by Mr. Joseph Wynne, II.
- ††† Private intentions by Mr. David Beahm, James R. Gergel, Dr. Paul Hamburger, Mr. Arthur Hamm, Will Hawrylo, Mr. & Mrs. Michael Herman, Mr. & Mrs. Edward Kanaley, Walburga Koval, Mr. & Mrs. Lester Kulp, Mr. & Mrs. James Maloney, Patrick & Marcia McConnell, Thomas & Celeste O'Gara, Mr. & Mrs. Richard Ross, and Mr. & Mrs. Jerome Wynne.



**POPE FRANCIS'S  
JANUARY PRAYER INTENTION  
FOR THE GIFT OF DIVERSITY IN  
THE CHURCH :** Let us pray that  
the Holy Spirit helps us recog-  
nize the gift of different charisms  
within the Christian community,  
and to discover the richness of  
different ritual traditions in the  
heart of the Catholic Church.

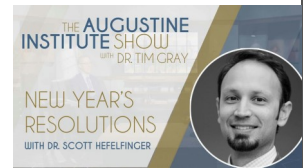
# 9 DAYS FOR LIFE



**JANUARY 1 - 7, 2024 READINGS**  
**Mon** - Nm 6:22-27 Ps 67:2-3, 5-6, 8 Gal 4:4-7 Lk 2:16-21  
**Tues** - 1 Jn 2:22-28 Ps 98:1-4 Jn 1:19-28  
**Wed** - 1 Jn 2:29—3:6 Ps 98:1-3, 6 Jn 1:29-34  
**Thurs** - 1 Jn 3:7-10 Ps 98:1, 7-9 Jn 1:35-42  
**Fri** - 1 Jn 3:11-21 Ps 100:1-5 Jn 1:43-51  
**Sat** - 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  
**Sun** - Is 60:1-6 Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 10-13 Eph 3:2-3a, 5-6 Mt 2:1-12

## THIS WEEK ON FORMED WEEK OF DECEMBER 31, 2023

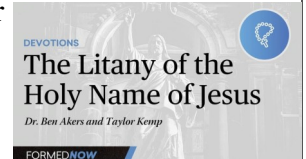
**NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTIONS  
THE AUGUSTINE INSTITUTE SHOW**  
What's your resolution this year? Dr. Tim Gray welcomes Dr. Scott Hefelfinger, Assistant Professor of Theology in the Augustine Institute Graduate School of Theology, to celebrate one year of the Augustine Institute Show!



**THE HOLY FAMILY**  
We are excited to announce our series of FORMED Now! Christmas and New Year special episodes. In these episodes, professors from the Augustine Institute Graduate School will lead us in reflections throughout the season!



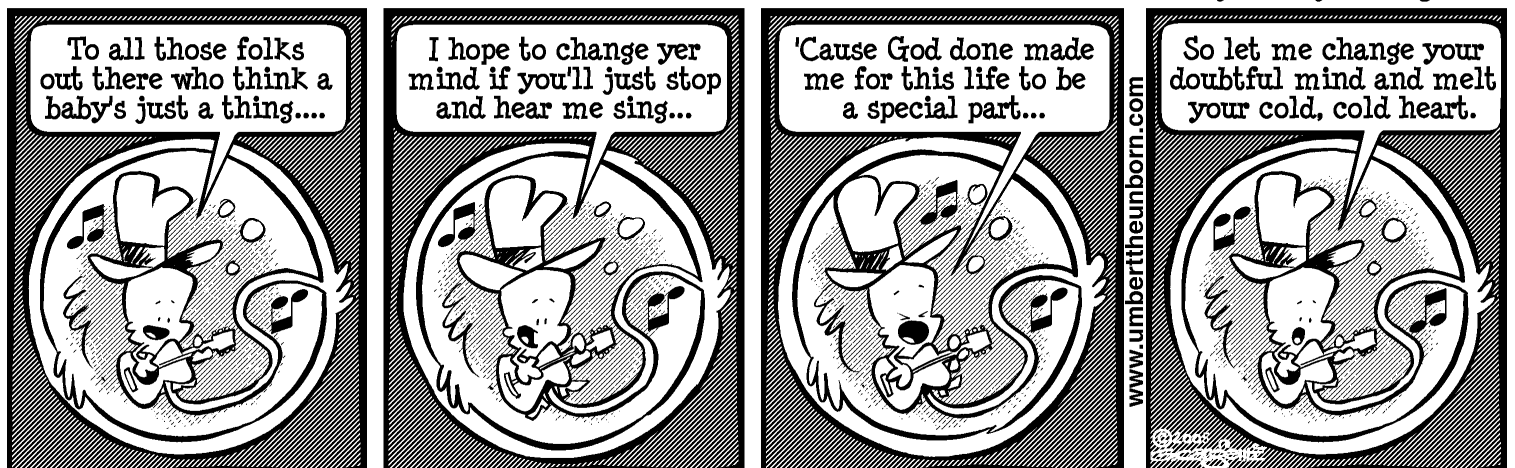
**LITANY OF THE HOLY NAME OF JESUS**  
Join Dr. Ben Akers and Taylor Kemp as we celebrate the feast of The Most Holy Name of Jesus with this litany prayer of the Holy Name.



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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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St. Michael Parish member

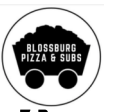


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Altar & Rosary  
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all women of  
the parish. We meet on the  
2nd Wednesday of each month  
in Saint Michael's church hall  
at 1:00 pm. We always wel-  
come new members.

**BARRETT LAW OFFICES**  
Patrick J. Barrett, III  
*Attorney and Counselor at Law*  
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