

FEBRUARY 4, 2024



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

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

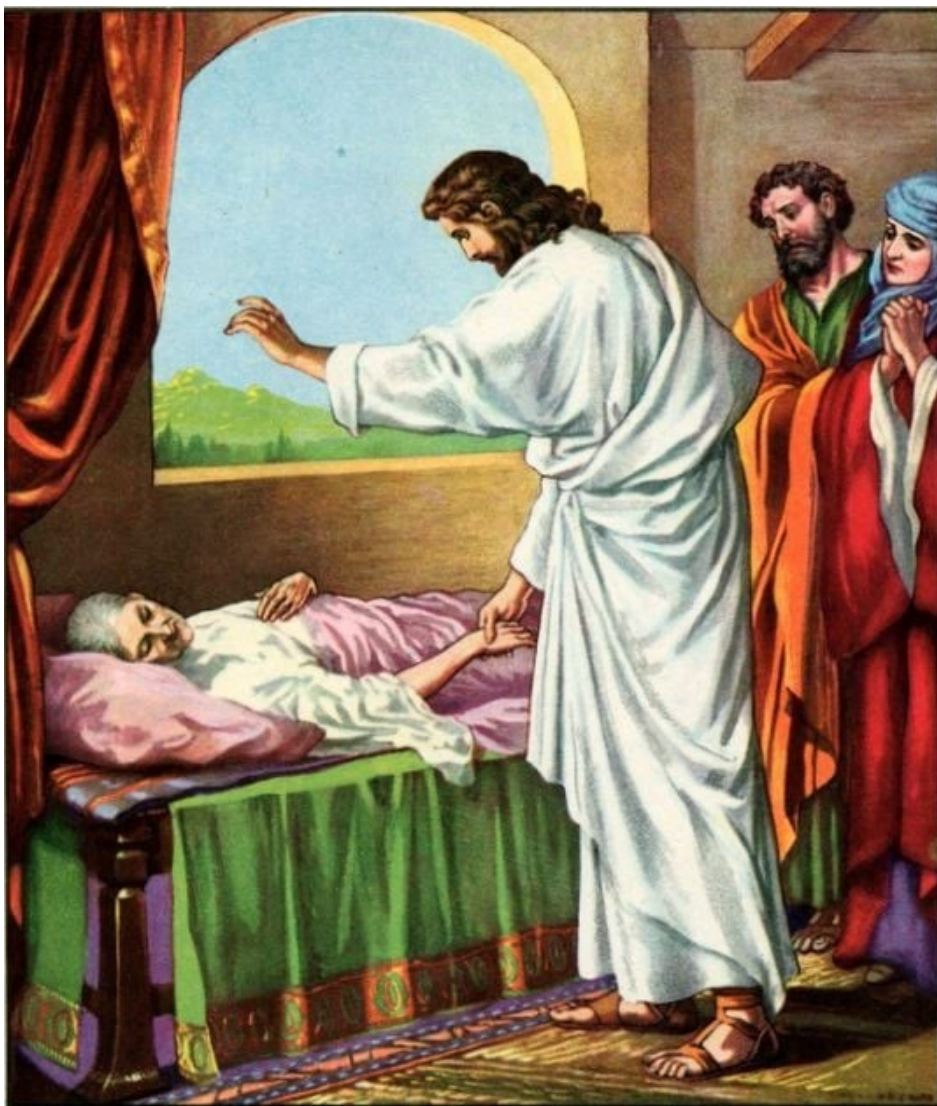
To all elderly and homebound, if you would like a visit from Father Joe on First Friday, please contact the Parish Office and let us know the month before.

C.C.D. (2023/24)

(Religious education classes
held during the school year)

Sun: 8:15 am, St. Michael Church hall

Sun: 10:15 am, St. John Nepomucene
Church 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, February 3 Weekday

VIGIL: 5TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

4:00 pm, Canton † Irene Bitcola (Cheryl Carlonas)

Sunday, February 4 5TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

8:00 am, Ralston † Pro Populo

9:30 am, Canton † David Snell (Susan Schiess)

11:15 am, Troy † Nicholas DePalma, Sr. (Jayne Cleveland)

Monday, February 5 Saint Agatha, Virgin, Martyr

7:00 am, Rectory † Betty Rieppel (Suzanne Kick)

Tues, Feb 6 Saint Paul Miki and Companions, Martyrs

5:30 pm, Troy † Anna & Walter Tokarz (Betty Tokarz)

Wednesday, February 7 Weekday

5:30 pm, Canton † Stephen Innes (St. Michael's A&R)

6:00 pm, Holy Hour

Thursday, February 8 Weekday

No Mass

Friday, February 9 Weekday

7:00 am, Rectory † Raymond Watkins

(Anna Bogaczyk & Family)

Saturday, February 10 Saint Scholastica, Virgin

VIGIL: 6TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

4:00 pm, Canton † Isabelle Loftus & Dorothy Ferretti

(Their Families)

Sunday, February 11 6TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

8:00 am, Ralston † Pro Populo

9:30 am, Canton † Mark Kingsley

(George & Theresa Kingsley)

11:15 am, Troy † James Curyk (Drew Olver)

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 sick, especially those nearing life's end, to be cared for with tenderness and compassion as they prepare to enter eternal life.

SAINT MICHAEL'S PARISH OFFERINGS

January 22 - 28, 2024

Weekly Offerings: 2,580.00

Altar & Rosary Dues: 30.00

Electronic Offerings: 475.00

Other Parish Income: 87.00



Total Parish Income: 3,172.00

Average weekly expenses: 4,124.61

Difference: (952.61)

Church in Latin America: 223.00

Care & Education of Priests: 25.00

Thank you for your continued support.

To request a 2023 Contribution Statement, call or email the parish office or write "Statement" on your offertory envelope. Statements can be emailed, mailed or held at the office to be picked up during office hours.

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS VALENTINE'S BREAKFAST

Sunday, February 11, 2024

St. Michael's Church Hall

Following the 9:30 am Mass until 11:00 am

Pancakes, eggs, sausage, bacon, coffee, tea

Donation at the Door



Father Joe

celebrates his 62nd birthday on
Wednesday, February 7th!

When you see him,
be sure to wish him a

Happy Birthday!

CHILI COOKOFF

St. Michael's Cemetery Association will be hosting a Chili cook-off on February 13th, (Ash Wednesday is February 14th) in St. Michael's Church Hall from 5:30 to 7:00 pm. There will be a \$5 entry fee for each chili to be judged. Chilis can be donated without being in the competition. Prizes will be awarded for the hottest (yet still edible), best mild and best unique chilis. Prizes include a portion of the entry fees and, of course, BRAGGING RIGHTS! We also need donations of muffins, crackers, corn bread, or any other side dish that will pair well with chili. Beverages will be provided. All are invited to attend, donations will be accepted at the door.



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



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As of January 26th, we are at 101.57% of our \$12,000 parish goal. \$12,188 has been donated or pledged. 63 families have donated thus far, which is a participation rate of 43.75% 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.

February 2024

St. Michael Parish

One Minute Meditations

St. Josephine Bakhita

Born in Darfur, Sudan around 1869, she was kidnapped and sold into slavery. Her captors gave her the name Bakhita, meaning "fortunate." After several years of serving under cruel masters, she was bought by Augusto Michieli. The Michielis sent Bakhita with their daughter to Italy, where Bakhita encountered Catholicism. Overjoyed, she was baptized and took the name Josephine. In 1893, instead of returning to Africa with the Michielis, she entered the Institute of St. Magdalene of Canossa.

The moment of truth

Conversion begins when we accept responsibility for our failures. Lent is an opportunity to stop and take a good look at our lives. Identify all the ways that sin keeps you from living the way Jesus taught us to live. Know that it may take courage to face your shortfalls.

"Apart from the cross, there is no other ladder by which we may get to heaven." St. Rose of Lima



Deepen the connection to Christ during Lent

The key to a fruitful Lent is not to perform miserable penances. A good Lent hinges on encountering Christ in a personal way and letting Him change our hearts and minds. In fact, an effective way to deepen our encounter with Him is through the Eucharist. Consider these suggestions:

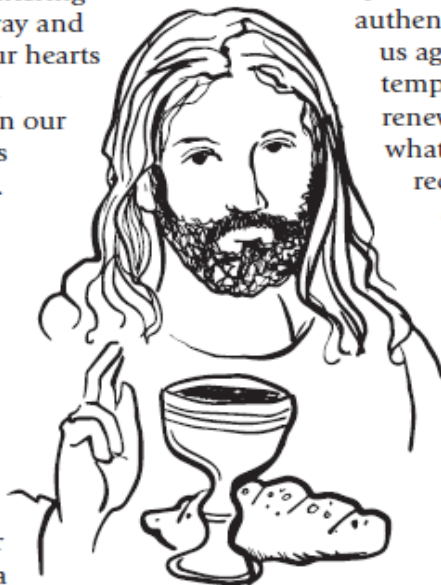
"Here I am, Lord. Love me!" Mother Teresa told her sisters to start their chapel time with this bold prayer, "Here I am, Lord. Love me!" No matter whether you are in His Presence for Mass, a holy hour, or a quick visit in front of the Blessed Sacrament, begin with, "Here I am, Lord. Love me!" It's a prayer of faith God delights to answer.

Live for the next Communion.

Every Communion deepens our union with God, strengthens our faith, helps us love more authentically, and immunizes us against future temptations. Each week, renew your resolve to do whatever is needed to receive Jesus well. For example, avoid activity or entertainment that tempts you away from God, and if you sin seriously, immediately go to Confession and start anew.

Invite others to the feast. Invite a friend, neighbor or colleague to Mass or Adoration

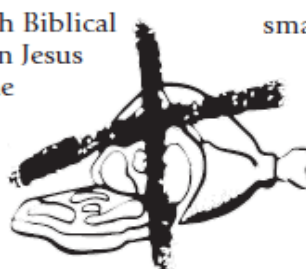
with you. Pray for priests to stay close to the Eucharist. Most importantly, pray that more people come to faithfully encounter Jesus in the tabernacle.



Why Do Catholics Do That?

Why do Catholics have to fast on Ash Wednesday?

Fasting is a practice with Biblical roots, most notably, when Jesus fasted for forty days in the desert. Those in good health, aged 18-59, are required to fast on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday. We're permitted one full meal and two



smaller meals that together don't equal the full meal. This includes abstaining from meat. Fasting expresses our recognition that we've sinned and desire to make amends. It purifies our hearts and frees them to love God and others well.

Pope Francis's three-point approach to Confession

Instead of dreading seeking the Sacrament of Penance and Reconciliation (Confession), Pope Francis suggested we look at it as "the Sacrament of the tenderness of God, His way of embracing us." Follow the pope's three-point approach to the Sacrament:

What's my intention? Rather than an obligation, consider the Sacrament a fresh start. Firmly resolve, from this moment forward, to give up the activities or behaviors that separate you from God. The firm resolution to change is key to receiving absolution effectively.

Are there loose ends? Unconfessed sin creates



distance between us and God. Make sure you have not withheld mortal sins in prior Confessions, either intentionally or accidentally. If you become aware that you have, confess them and leave the confessional a new man or woman.

Have I completed the assigned penance? The Sacrament is meant to change us.

Purposefully make amends and continue your resolutions to realign your life to the Gospel.

Seeking Reconciliation often and staying in a state of grace helps us become holier people of God.

from Scripture

Mark 9:2-10, Heavenly glory, not worldly power

In Jesus' time, Israel was occupied by the Romans. The Israelites already had a long history of being attacked and conquered by other nations. The Jews dreamed of the day when the Messiah would set them free and make them the victors.

God had set up Moses as liberator and lawgiver, and sent them Elijah, the first of the great prophets who foretold Christ's coming. So when Jesus was transfigured in glory with Moses and Elijah, the Apostles assumed that God was revealing Jesus as the Messiah.

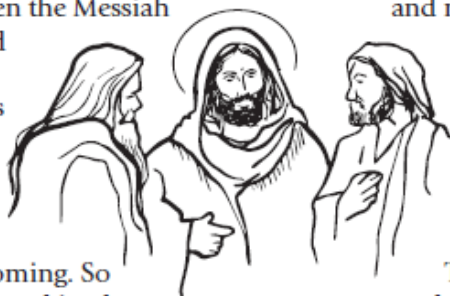
Moses and Elijah spoke with Jesus about His death and Resurrection.

Jesus warned His disciples that He would suffer and die (Mark 8:31). While many Jews were expecting the Messiah to overthrow the Romans and make Himself king,

God revealed that the Messiah would save His people by His own death and Resurrection.

The Transfiguration was

meant to strengthen the faith of the Apostles and prepare them for the Passion. The Transfiguration reminds us that however difficult this life may be there is unimaginable glory that awaits us in Heaven.



Q & A

Why should we "offer it up"?

When tempted to complain about suffering, we may be encouraged to "offer it up" instead. This act of surrender carries incredible spiritual power.

A share in Christ's Cross. Because Jesus is God, His suffering and sacrifice have infinite value. When we unite even our

small sufferings to Jesus' suffering, it takes on an infinite value in helping Him to save souls.

Spiritual "strength training." When we offer

our sufferings to God, He is able to work on our hearts. Suffering for others helps us to become less selfish and more compassionate, less hard-hearted and more patient, less self-indulgent and more generous. Our hearts emerge more Christ-like, and better able to love.

Prudence is needed. Under most circumstances, encouragement to "offer it up" works as a spiritual discipline for inconveniences or mild suffering.

Sometimes, however, remediation or professional help may be needed. God sees the sincerity of our love so we can still offer our suffering to Him and yet take constructive action to remediate whatever is causing the suffering. Be prudent.



Feasts & Celebrations

February 3 – St. Blaise (316). A bishop in fourth-century Turkey, St. Blaise was arrested for being a Christian. On his way to jail, he healed a young boy choking on a fish bone. Refusing to deny his faith, the bishop was martyred.

February 11 – Our Lady of Lourdes (1858). A heavenly lady appeared to St. Bernadette Soubirous, a poor girl from a French village, and a spring with miraculous, healing waters emerged from a nearby cave. The lady revealed herself as the "Immaculate

Conception," the Blessed Virgin Mary.

February 14 – Ash Wednesday. The first day of Lent. Ashes of old palms are placed on the forehead as a sign of penance. It's also a day of abstinence from meat and fasting – one regular meal and two small meals that together don't equal a full meal.

February 22 – The Chair of St. Peter. Marking St. Peter's

establishment of the Holy See, on this festival we thank God for His Church and pray for its holy preservation.



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)



**POPE FRANCIS'S
FEBRUARY PRAYER INTENTION**
FOR THE TERMINALLY ILL: Let us pray
that the sick who are in the final stages
of life, and their families, receive the
necessary medical and human care and
accompaniment.

BLESSING OF THROATS

In honor of the February 3rd Feast of Saint Blaise,
Bishop and Martyr, Father Joe will bless the throats of
everyone who comes forward at the end of all weekend
Masses this weekend, February 3rd & 4th.

Saint Michael Parish

Saint Michael Church, Canton
Saint John Nepomucene Church, Troy
Saint Aloysius Church, Ralston

Pastor:

Rev. Joseph P. Kutch

Sayre Deanery
Epiphany, Sayre
Holy Name of Mary, Montrose
Immaculate Heart of Mary,
Dushore
Most Holy Trinity, Susquehanna
Our Lady of Perpetual Help, Wy-
alusing
Saint Brigid, Friendsville
Saint Michael, Canton
Saints Peter and Paul, Towanda

PARISH DEMOGRAPHIC INFORMATION

	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019
Number of Households	146	144	145	380	379
Number of Parishioners	673	684	686	864	818
Total Number of Weekend Masses	4	4	4	4	4
Total Average Weekend Mass Attendance	163	158	143	115	192

2023 Worship Site Attendance Breakdown:

Saint Michael Church - 109 (2), Saint John Nepomucene Church - 33
(1), Saint Aloysius Church - 21 (1)

SACRAMENTAL INFORMATION

	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019
Baptisms	4	1	2	4	5
First Holy Communions	3	1	6	9	6
Confirmations	6	2	4	7	1
RCIA/Baptism	2	0	0	1	2
Marriages	1	0	0	2	2
Funerals	6	5	5	7	8

FAITH FORMATION PARTICIPATION

	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019
Religious Ed K-8	26	27	20	28	35
Religious Ed 9-12	0	0	0	0	0
Catholic School Stdnts	3	1	3	0	0
Adult Faith Formation	5	6	0	0	13

All data in this report has been supplied to the Diocese by
your Parish. 2023 data is from July 1, 2022 - June 30, 2023



VISION 2030

Creating Parish Communities Rooted
in the Life of Jesus Christ



**DIOCESE OF
SCRANTON**

FEBRUARY 5 - 11, 2024 READINGS

Mon: 1 Kgs 8:1-7, 9-13 Ps 132:6-10 Mk 6:53-56

Tues: 1 Kgs 8:22-23, 27-30 Ps 84:3-5, 10-11

Mk 7:1-13

Wed: 1 Kgs 10:1-10 Ps 37:5-6, 30-31, 39-40

Mk 7:14-23

Thurs: 1 Kgs 11:4-13 Ps 106:3-4, 35-37, 41

Mk 7:24-30

Fri: 1 Kgs 11:29-32; 12:19 Ps 81:10-15 Mk 7:31-37

Sat: 1 Kgs 12:26-32; 13:33-34 Ps 106:6-7, 19-22

Mk 8:1-10

Sun: Lv 13:1-2, 44-46 Ps 32:1-2, 5, 11

1 Cor 10:31—11:1 Mk 1:40-45



WEEK OF FEBRUARY 4, 2024

STS. BENEDICT AND SCHOLASTICA | LITTLEST SAINTS

A pair of holy twins, a cave, and a group of naughty
monks... this is the story of Saint Benedict and Saint
Scholastica. Visit their website here:

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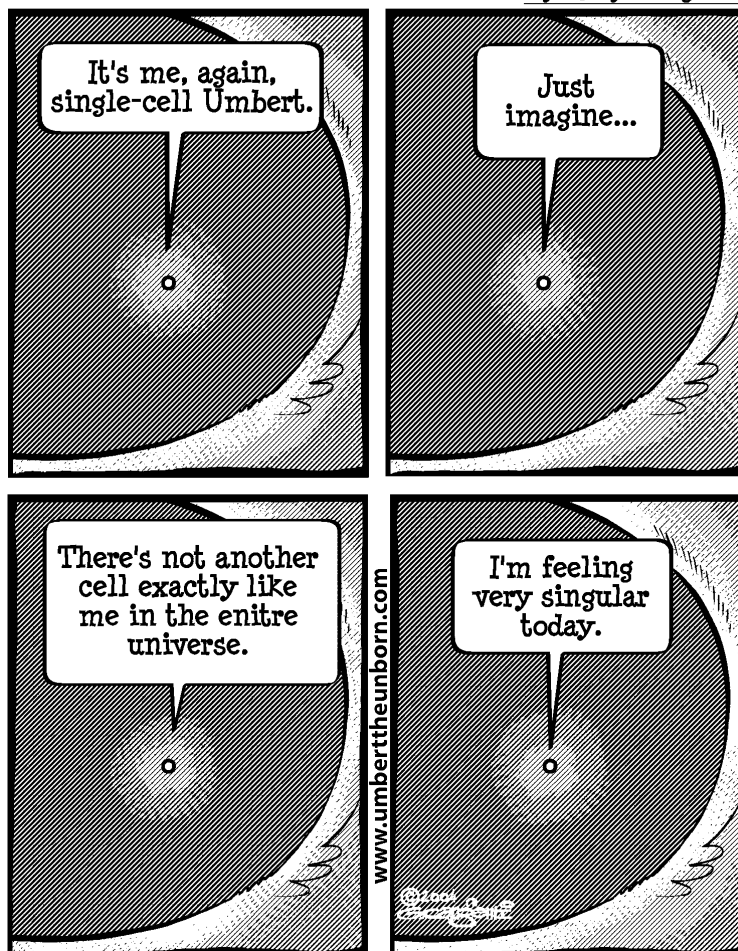
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Umbert the Unborn

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.



4423 Leona Road
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hawthornridge@gmail.com
PA030014
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FRIDAY AND SATURDAY - 7:30AM - 9:00PM

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John Peter and
James Paul
Pazzaglia



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Gerges

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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 1:00 pm. We always wel-
come 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
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