

MARCH 3, 2024



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



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."

Anointing of the Sick

All who are seriously ill, hospitalized, or having surgery can receive this sacrament. Contact the parish office to request this sacrament.

Baptism

The sacrament of Baptism is celebrated by appointment. All parents must attend a baptismal preparation meeting prior to the Baptism. 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

St. Michael's Church: 6 - 7 pm Mass
on Wednesdays and First Fridays
after 7 am Mass until 7 pm.

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 held on
Sundays from September until May
8:15 am, St. Michael's hall
10:15 am, St. John's hall

Pastoral Council: David Beahm, David Brann, Leslie Debach, Will Hawrylo, Jean Herman, Ralph Lepper, Sherry Vargson, Sarah Watson - youth representative

LITURGY SCHEDULE

Saturday, March 2 Lenten Weekday

VIGIL: 3RD SUNDAY OF LENT

4:00 pm, Canton † Pro Populo

Sunday, March 3 3RD SUNDAY OF LENT

8:00 am, Ralston † Catherine Hackett (M/M Scott DiMarco)

9:30 am, Canton † James Curyk (Joan Jannone)

11:15 am, Troy † Rita Mays (Bob & Ann Bowens)

Monday, March 4 Lenten Weekday

7:00 am, Rectory † Robert Schwarz (Anna Bogaczyk)

5:30 - 7:00 pm, Canton, The Light is ON For You

Tuesday, March 5 Lenten Weekday

5:30 pm, Troy † Nelli Cerra (Mr. & Mrs. Scott DiMarco)

6:00 pm Stations of the Cross

Wednesday, March 6 Lenten Weekday

5:30 pm, Canton † Monty Spencer & Joseph Spencer
(Jeff & Beth Cole)

6:00 pm Stations of the Cross

Thursday, March 7 Lenten Weekday

7:00 pm Lenten Holy Hour with Bishop Bambera
Epiphany Parish, Sayre

Friday, March 8 Lenten Weekday

NO MASS

Saturday, March 9 Lenten Weekday

VIGIL: 4TH SUNDAY OF LENT

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

Sunday, March 10 4TH SUNDAY OF LENT

8:00 am, Ralston † Dr. Richard Black

(Theresa & Scott Delmotte)

9:30 am, Canton † Bonnie Spencer (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 the intentions of Alexei Navalny.

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

SAINT MICHAEL'S PARISH OFFERINGS February 19 - 25, 2024

Weekly Offerings: 2,479.00

Electronic Offerings: 475.00

Other Parish Income: 92.55



Total Parish Income: 3,046.55

Average weekly expenses: 4,124.61

Difference: (1,078.06)

Care & Education of Priests: 50.00

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.



You're invited to our
**St. Patty's Day
Bash!**

March 16, 2024
6:00 - 9:00 pm
Saint Michael's
Church Hall

Bring your best Irish Dish to share
BYOB (you can share this, too!)



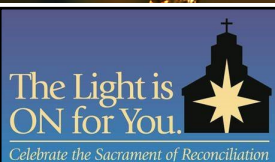
DIOCESE OF SCRANTON
SAYRE DEANERY

**LENTEN
HOLY HOUR**
with Bishop Bambera

Thursday, March 7
at 7:00 P.M.

Epiphany Parish
304 South Elmer Avenue
Sayre, PA 18840

NATIONAL
Eucharistic
Revival



The Light is
ON for You.
Celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation

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

SAINT MICHAEL PARISH PRAYER LIST

Barby, John Adams, Peggy Adams, Cathy Asbury,
Karl Barton, April Bilbrey, Cassi Blaney, 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.

Growing in FAITH™

Discovering hope and joy in the Catholic faith.

March 2024

St. Michael Parish

One Minute Meditations

Pope St. Zachary

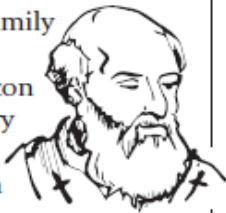
Born to a Greek family in Calabria, Italy, St. Zachary was deacon to Pope Gregory III before succeeding him as pope in 741.

As pope, St. Zachary skillfully negotiated peace for Italy several times, most notably with the Lombards and the Franks. St. Zachary supported St. Boniface's German mission, ransomed slaves sold by Venetian merchants, and supported the restoration of churches. He carried the Church through troubled times with charity, prudence, and skillful leadership.

Trust

St. (Mother) Teresa of Calcutta refused donations beyond the current needs of her community. Accepting such help would mean she didn't trust God to provide for their needs. When we rely on God, we demonstrate our faith, just as Mother Teresa did.

"God is faithful and will not let you be tried beyond your strength; but with the trial he will also provide a way out, so that you may be able to bear it"
(1 Corinthians 10:13).



Finish Lent strong

The last weeks of Lent can feel like the last yards of a marathon. We're just pushing ourselves to reach the finish line of Easter. Instead, think of Lent as a time of silence, simplicity, and sacrifice that helps us become the people God wants us to be. That's the real point of Lent.

Silence:

Prayer is oxygen for the soul. It is during prayer when God speaks to our hearts. Lent done right removes distractions so that our prayer is richer and our focus more attentive. It is critical to find time to be with Him in attentive silence each day.

Simplicity: Avoid material clutter. Consider the six month rule – if you haven't worn it or used it in the last

six months – give it away. Not only will you help those in need, decluttering creates room in our homes and hearts for God.

Sacrifice:

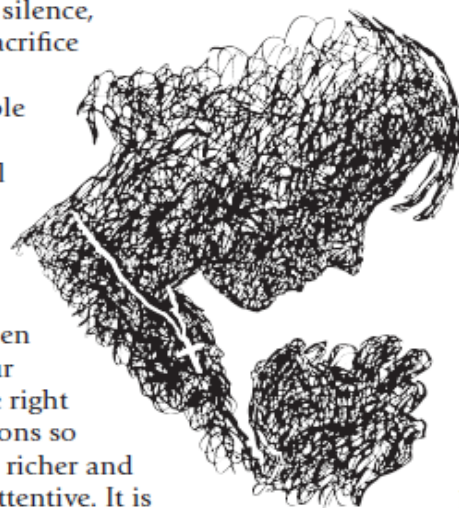
Through sacrifice we give back to God what we owe Him. While we can't repay Him for His gifts in equal measure, we can express gratitude with small sacrifices that show our return back to Him in gratitude and love.

Sacraments:

Sacraments are the fuel for fighting evil. During Lent, these spiritual battles intensify. Weekly

Mass and monthly Confession

keep up our spiritual strength. Don't fight on fumes. Fuel up with the Sacraments.

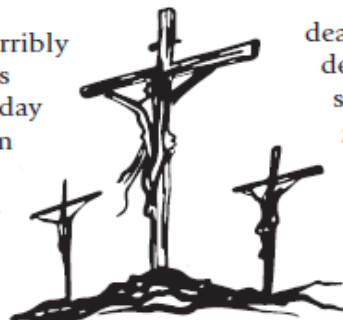


Why Do Catholics Do That?

Although it recalls a terribly sad event, Good Friday is "good" because it is the day when Jesus saved us from our sins, reconciled us with God, and reopened Heaven. Out of what seemed like defeat, God brought victory. By His

Why do Catholics call Good Friday "good"?

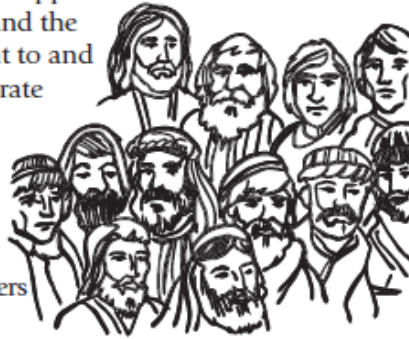
death, Jesus conquered sin and death. On Good Friday, we see more clearly God's goodness, justice, wisdom, power, and love. "God proves his love for us in that while we were still sinners Christ died for us" (Romans 5:8).



"By this all men will know that you are my disciples..."

Each Triduum begins by recalling the Last Supper during which Jesus gave us the priesthood and the Eucharist as His means of remaining present to and in His Church. On Holy Thursday, we celebrate discipleship and are all asked to renew our commitment to following Jesus.

Disciples act with love. "By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another" (John 13:35). True followers of Jesus know that how we treat others proves that we know Him and follow Him.



Disciples answer the call. God chooses us first, but we must answer the call. If Peter had not dropped his nets and followed Jesus, he would not have been a disciple. Discipleship involves a choice to drop everything for Him.

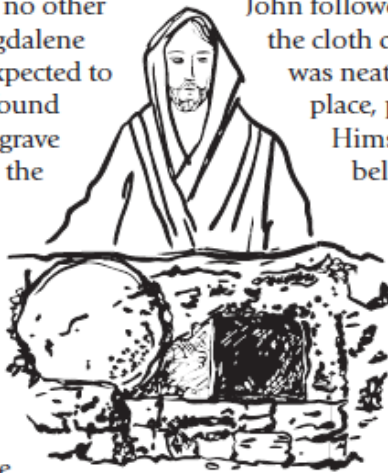
Disciples make other disciples. Ultimately, we need to do what Jesus did, which is to make more disciples. This was His final command, "Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations" (Matthew 28:19). The Catholic Church's mission is to make disciples who make disciples.

from Scripture

John 20:1-9, Jesus - not death - has the last word

The Resurrection is the keystone of our Faith, making a claim no other faith can. When Mary Magdalene arrived at the tomb, she expected to find a body. Instead, she found the stone rolled back, the grave clothes neatly folded, and the tomb empty. She concluded, wrongly, that thieves had taken the Lord's body, and she ran to tell Peter and John.

When Peter and John arrived, Peter entered first and also saw that the grave clothes had been left behind, not left in a heap, but neatly arranged. No grave robber would have taken the



body and left the clothes behind. John followed Peter and saw that the cloth covering Christ's face was neatly folded in a separate place, perhaps by Christ Himself. He saw and believed.

The Resurrection proves that Christ is who He says He is. Therefore, we must give Him our final allegiance. Because Jesus rose from the dead in glory, we also have the hope of rising

in glory with Him on the Last Day. Christ - not death, sin, or evil - has the last word.

Q & A What are the Corporal Works of Mercy?

As followers of Christ, we're encouraged to care for each other. Jesus' parable of the judgment of the sheep and the goats (Matthew 25:31-46) lists the ways we can care for those in physical need: "For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me..." (Matthew 25:35).



These are the Corporal Works of Mercy: to feed the hungry and give drink to the thirsty, to clothe the naked, to visit the sick and imprisoned, to shelter the homeless and to bury the dead. Essentially, "it is by what they have done for the poor that Jesus Christ will recognize His chosen ones" (Catechism of the Catholic Church #2443).

The Corporal Works of Mercy are about being aware of others' needs and responding to them. Living the Corporal Works of Mercy is how we can make our love for God and others visible and effective. "Whatever you did for one of these...you did for me" (Matthew 25:40).

Feasts & Celebrations

March 8 - John of God (1550). Moved to repentance by a homily of St. John of Ávila, St. John left his career in the Portuguese military to establish a hospital for the sick and poor. After his death, his assistants formed the Brothers Hospitallers.

March 19 - St. Joseph, Husband of Mary (1st century). Jesus' earthly father and husband to the Blessed Mother, St. Joseph is a model of fatherhood and a protector of families.

March 24 - 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 cheering crowds waving palms. This Sunday marks the beginning of Holy Week.

March 26 - St. Margaret Clitherow (1586). St. Margaret converted to Catholicism soon after she married, when Catholicism was illegal in England. Margaret continued to practice her faith, even hiding priests in her house so they could say Mass. She remained joyful, faithful, and peaceful until her martyrdom.



Our Mission

To provide practical ideas that promote faithful Catholic living.
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POPE FRANCIS'S MARCH PRAYER INTENTION

FOR THE NEW MARTYRS: We pray that those who risk their lives for the Gospel in various parts of the world inflame the Church with their courage and missionary enthusiasm.



WEEK OF MARCH 3, 2024

LITURGICAL LIVING CATHOLIC ALL YEAR AT HOME
W/ KENDRA TIERNEY

Join the Tierney family as they celebrate the feast of Saint Frances of Rome, patroness of homemaking! Learn about practicing the corporal works of mercy in the home, the very Catholic Lenten history of pretzels and beer, and watch Kendra and three-year-old Barbara make something they like to call "trash can soup." Find this episode's feature recipes and more about liturgical living in the home at Catholic All Year. <https://catholicallyear.com/at-home/>.



THE FAITHFUL DEPARTED | ETERNAL REST | EPISODE 4

What is left for the living to do after someone dies? In this session, we talk about the final ways in which those still living on earth care for the body and soul of the dead. We discuss the work that remains for the living to do as we grieve for the deceased and as we turn to the work of preparing for our own death, and the hope in which we live and die as Christians.



DEATH, WHERE IS YOUR STING? SARAH KIRCHNER'S
STORY | FEARLESS | EPISODE 4

Despite our attempts to cheat it, we all must face death eventually. Listen as Chris shares the powerful story of Sarah Kirchner and her courageous battle against pediatric bone cancer. Who can bring us victory in the face of such significant trials? Find out in this lesson. ..



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Use zip code 17724 to find our parish

MARCH 4 - 10, 2024 READINGS

Mon: 2 Kgs 5:1-15b Ps 42:2-3; 43:3-4 Lk 4:24-30

Tues: Dn 3:25, 34-43 Ps 25:4bc-5ab, 6-7bc, 8-9

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, 18-21b Lk 18:9-14

Sun: 2 Chr 36:14-16, 19-23 Ps 137:1-6 Eph 2:4-10

Jn 3:14-21

DEANERY PENANCE SERVICES

March 10

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

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

March 24

2:00 pm, St. Basil's Church, Dushore

4:30 pm, Church of Epiphany, Sayre



Scan to donate
or visit
annualappeal.org



As of February 23rd, we are at 125.4% of our \$12,000 parish goal. \$15,048 has been donated or pledged. 71 families have donated thus far, which is a participation rate of 49.3% of 144 active families in the parish. Thank you to everyone who has contributed thus far, both financially and with your prayers.

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. 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

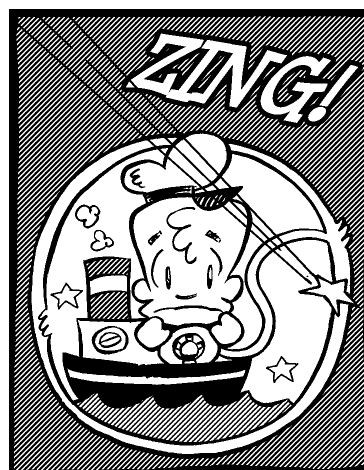
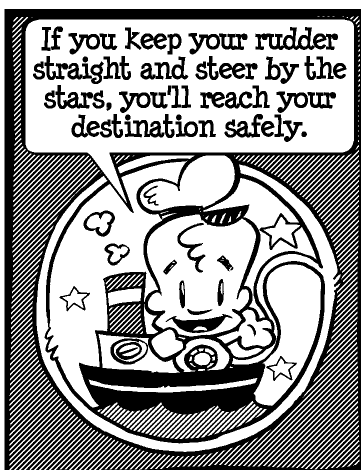
FOOD FOR FAMILIES

Lent is the perfect liturgical season to help those in our community experiencing food insecurity. Please consider donating 1 food item per day for the 40 days of Lent as part of your Lenten almsgiving.



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
Columbia Crossroads, PA 16914
Phone/Fax: 570-297-4711
Email:
hawthornridge@gmail.com
PA030014
St. Michael Parish member



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Carol Ann
Gerges
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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.

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James Paul
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