

DECEMBER 15, 2024



THE THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT 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

Wednesday: 6:00 pm, St. Michael's Church following 5:30 pm Mass,
Benediction at 7:00 pm

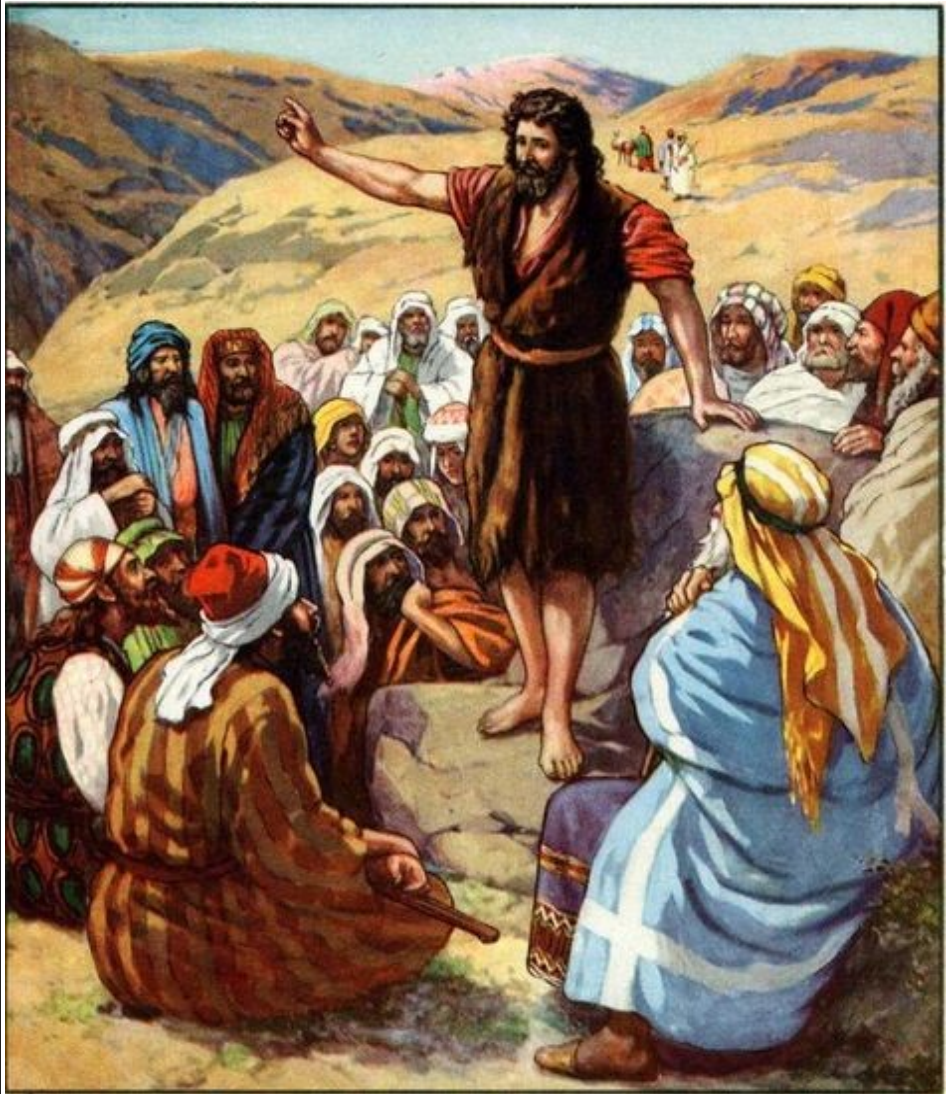
First Friday: Adoration after 7 am Mass until 7 pm, St. Michael's Church

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. (2024/25)

(Religious education classes held during the school year)
Sunday - 8:15 am - 9:15 am,
St. Michael 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, December 14 Saint John of the Cross, Priest,
Doctor of the Church

VIGIL: THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

4:00 pm, Canton † Pro Populo

Sunday, December 15 THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

8:00 am, Ralston † John D'Annibale

(Mr. & Mrs. Scott Dimarco & Family)

9:30 am, Canton † Ann Mallare (Atty & Mrs. Jerry Brann)

11:15 am, Troy † Michael Davison

(Jayne Cleveland and Riley Getola)

Monday, December 16 Advent Weekday

7:00 am, Rectory † Benjamin Hutcheson

(Holy Child Ladies Guild)

Tuesday, December 17 Late Advent Weekday

5:30 pm, Troy † Carol Dalton (The Sleboda Family)

Wednesday, December 18 Late Advent Weekday

5:30 pm, Canton - For the special intentions of

Donald Trump (The Meyers Family)

No Holy Hour

Thursday, December 19 Late Advent Weekday

No Mass

Friday, December 20 Late Advent Weekday

7:00 am, Rectory † John D'Annibale

(Mr. & Mrs. Scott Dimarco & Family)

Saturday, December 21 Late Advent Weekday

VIGIL: FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

4:00 pm, Canton † David Reed & deceased Family

(Alden & Rosemary Fitzwater)

Sunday, December 22 FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

8:00 am, Ralston † Pro Populo

9:30 am, Canton † Patricia Ann Benson

(Jerry & Joy Brann)

11:15 am, Troy † Mike Davison (Shirley Grantier)

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 women who are unexpectedly pregnant to be filled with trust in God's providence and lovingly welcome the gift of their child.

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

SAINT MICHAEL'S PARISH OFFERINGS

December 2 - 8, 2024

Weekly Offerings: 2,595.00

Electronic Offerings: 475.00

Other Parish Income: 688.25

Total Parish Income: 3,758.25

Average weekly expenses: 4,124.61

Difference: (366.36)

Care & Education of Priests: 91.00

Religious Retirement Fund: 398.00

Thank you for your continued support.



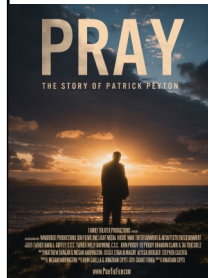
Sunday, December 15th

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

4:30 pm - Church of the Epiphany, Sayre

PARISH CHRISTMAS PARTY AND MOVIE SCREENING

St. Michael's Parish Christmas Party will be on Monday, December 16th in the parish hall. The party will



feature a screening of the movie PRAY.

The party will begin at 6:00 pm and the movie will begin at 6:30 pm. The movie is just over an hour long, so the party will continue after the movie. Bring a dish/snack to pass.

Christmas
PARTY

We are so thankful to everyone who donated time, soups, BBQ, cookies, fudge and other donations to make our Marketplace and Cafe a success this year!
God Bless you all!

RETIREMENT FUND FOR RELIGIOUS.

Women and men religious offer gratitude. "Sincere thanks to the donors of the Retirement Fund for Religious. I hope we meet, if not in this world, then in the next," says Sister Teresa Korycka, 81, of the Sisters Servants of Mary Immaculate. Your gift impacts over 24,000 senior women and men religious, providing them a dignified retirement. To learn how your donation helps, visit retiredreligious.org.

SAINT MICHAEL PARISH PRAYER LIST

Barby, John & Peggy Adams, Karl Barton,
Cassi Blaney, Joseph Blaszc, Gus Branish, Joy Brann,
Betty Brown, Dennis & Barbara Clarke, Kiran Dhawan,
Dorland & Carlene Eck, Leon English, Ben Flood,
Douglas Greene, Melissa Gowan, William Hall,
Robert Dale Hostetter, Victoria Johnson, Beatrice Jones,
David Kule, Jo Kule, Bob Lutz, Joyce Maloney,
Tom McBlane, Bunny Meuse, Bernadette Moore,
Orlando Morales, Delina Morgan, Mary Nybeck,
Pamela Porter O'Brien, Leo Parchesky, Ramona Parker,
Gary Paquette, Lori Pellegrini, Pat Rushin,
Cristy Schmelzle, Anthony Shipula, Sharon Snyder,
Carl E. Steffon, Elias Vroman, Calvin Watson,
Steven Wilber, John Wilcox, Anthony Wolf,
Nicholas Wolf, Fran Zizza

*Contact the office to add a name to the prayer list.
Names remain on the list for 3 months per request.*



POPE FRANCIS'S DECEMBER PRAYER INTENTION

FOR PILGRIMS OF HOPE

We pray that this Jubilee Year strengthen our faith, helping us to recognize the Risen Christ in our daily lives, and that it may transform us into pilgrims of Christian hope.

CCD CHRISTMAS/ADVENT PROGRAM

The children of Saint Michael Parish's Religious Education Program will give a presentation about Advent at the end of the 9:30 am Mass on Sunday, December 15th. The CCD program is a highlight of every Advent in our parish. You are cordially invited to attend this Mass and the Children's Christmas Party/Fellowship that will follow.



CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PARTY

The Children's Christmas Party will be in St. Michael's Hall following the 9:30 am Mass on Sunday, December 15th. All children of any age are invited!

MERRY CHRISTMAS!



Donate now at AnnualAppeal.org, call (570) 207-2250 or click this QR code



As of December 7th, we have reached 63.26% of our \$19,238 parish goal. \$12,170 has been donated or pledged by 58 donors, which makes our current participation rate 21.5%. Thank you to everyone who has contributed thus far, both financially and with your prayers.

DECEMBER 16 - 22, 2024 READINGS

- Mon:** Nm 24:2-7, 15-17a Ps 24:4-5ab, 6, 7bc, 8-9 Mk 21:23-27
- Tues:** Gn 49:2, 8-10 Ps 72:1-4b, 7-8, 17 Mt 1:1-17
- Wed:** Jer 23:5-8 Ps 72:1-2, 12-13, 18-19 Mt 1:18-25
- Thurs:** Jgs 13:2-7, 24-25a Ps 71:3-4a, 5-6b, 16-17 Lk 1:5-25
- Fri:** Is 7:10-14 Ps 24:1-6 Lk 1:26-38
- Sat:** Sg 2:8-14 or Zep 3:14-18a Ps 33:2-3, 11-12, 20-21 Lk 1:39-45
- Sun:** Mi 5:1-4a Ps 80:2-3, 15-16, 18-19 Heb 10:5-10 Lk 1:39-45



WEEK OF DECEMBER 15, 2024

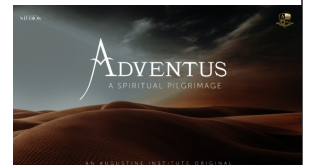
30 MINUTES BC

30 Minutes BC creatively explores the profound emotions and intimate struggles of Mary and Joseph during the final 30 minutes before the birth of Jesus. As the clock ticks down, the couple navigates a whirlwind of hope, joy, and uncertainty, turning to God amidst it all.



ADVENTUS: A SPIRITUAL PILGRIMAGE

This Advent, make a spiritual pilgrimage to the Holy Land. Uncover the beauty of the place where Christ was born, preparing your heart for Christ's coming so you can enter more deeply into this season.



CHRISTMAS (PART 2) | WHAT CATHOLICS BELIEVE

Join Dr. Michael Barber as he answers some of the Internet's most popular questions about Christmas. What are the 12 days of Christmas? Was Santa Claus a real person? What is Advent?

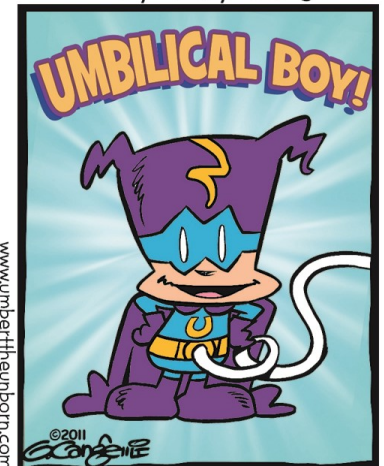


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Umbert the Unborn

by Gary Cangemi



POLISH CHRISTMAS WAFER: A FLAVORLESS TRADITION THAT'S OH SO SWEET

by SARAH ZIELINSKI

Nothing says "I love you," at least in my Polish-American family, quite like the sharing of a thin, flat, tasteless wafer called *an oplatek* at Christmas.

We're not alone. Before sitting down to Christmas Eve dinner, many families with roots in Poland and other Eastern European countries will take part in this tradition, which has roots dating back hundreds of years.

"For us, Polish Americans, the *oplatek*, that wafer, is Christmas Eve," says Sophie Hodorowicz Knab, author of the book *Polish Customs, Traditions and Folklore*. "It defines people's heritage."

Christmas Eve marks the end of Advent. Traditionally, that meant the last day of fasting, so in mostly Catholic Poland, the dinner was typically meatless. The menu might have included items such as pea soup, boiled potatoes, fried fish and stewed fruits, Knab notes in *The Polish Country Kitchen Cookbook*.

Before the meal, though, came a small, informal ceremony — one that is still carried out in many homes, including in the U.S.

At the start of dinner, just after grace, the male head of the household takes the wafer and expresses his hopes for his wife in the new year. He might wish her good health, or ask for forgiveness for some fault.

"My father used to say, 'OK, I'm not the best, but I'll try harder,' " Knab says. "My mother would always say, 'You work so hard and I appreciate you for that.' "

The wife breaks off a piece of the *oplatek* and eats it. She then reciprocates the good wishes and shares the wafer with her husband. And the ceremonial sharing of wafer and good wishes continues with older relatives, guests and children, starting with the oldest.

"The sharing of this unleavened bread with another person is sharing all that is good with life," says Knab. "It's a time to tell each other, 'I love you, I care about you.' And you do it in an open area, where everyone else can see you."

The wafer is typically a rectangle about the size of a hand and embossed with a Christmas scene, such as the Nativity. It is made of flour and water pressed between two engraved pieces of metal and is similar to the bread wafer used in Holy Communion. To be frank, it can be pretty dry and tasteless (my family struggled to finish our wafer last year), but the sentiment is so sweet that it's worth the effort.

Ethnographers believe that the tradition may have gotten its start with the sharing of a ritual flatbread called *podplomyk*, Knab says. Pieces of the thin bread, usually baked before other loaves of dough were placed in the oven, were shared with members of the household, and with neighbors, as a gesture of goodwill.

"Bread was very hard to come by" in the Middle Ages, Knab says. "Sharing of this bread was a caring kind of exchange."

That bread eventually morphed into the flat wafer, says Knab, and the sharing continued. During World War II, with families scattered all over the world, people would send pieces of *oplatek* to remind them of each other.

And some continue to include the wafers in their mailings. "I still get letters from Poland with pieces," she says.

The *oplatek* tradition spread among Lithuanians, Czechs and Slovaks. And even families decades removed from their Eastern European roots share the wafers.

"It has just continued down through the generations," Knab says, "because it's such a beautiful tradition."

From: www.npr.org/sections/thesalt/2012/12/19/167650665



The oplatki wafers are available at the entrances of all three churches. All we ask is a \$2.00 donation per packet to defray the cost.

Each packet contains 6 wafers of different colors, all of which are edible.

I hope you enjoy this custom!

Bold and Beloved

Inspired by the teachings of St. Catherine of Siena



You are invited to join us for a weekend full of fun, fellowship and praise for the Adult Women's Retreat being held by the Diocese of Scranton.

The weekend begins on Friday January 24th, 2025, with check-in starting as early as 4 pm and continuing until 6:45 pm. The Retreat will end on January 26th, 2025, with check-out between 12:30 pm and 1:30 pm.

The Retreat will feature discussions and reflection on the teachings of St. Catherine of Siena who said, "Be who you are meant to be, and you will set the whole world on fire".

This retreat is being designed for all adult women 18 and older. So, mothers bring your daughters and daughters bring your mothers and sisters. We will be lead in the retreat by six different local women in ministry who, like St. Catherine of Siena, have flourished where they were planted. Accompanying these women, as the music minister for the retreat, is local musician Michael Corsini.

The retreat will take place at Holy Transfiguration Retreat Center (1000 Seminary Road, Dalton, PA 18414).

Please see the links below for the two ways you are welcome to register. If you have any questions (including financial concerns for the retreat) please call Marianne Guarnieri at 570-207-2213. We look forward to seeing you there.

<https://www.dioceseofscranton.org/2025-catholic-womens-retreat-registration-if-paying-with-credit-card/>
<https://www.dioceseofscranton.org/2025-catholic-womens-retreat-registration-if-paying-with-check/>

PRAYER FOR ADVENT

My hidden Lord Jesus, I love You and thank You with profound gratitude for uniting Yourself with fallen humanity. When You first entered into this world, You remained hidden for nine months in the immaculate womb of Your Blessed Mother. She carried You, body and blood, soul and divinity, within the sanctuary of her body. She also carried You within her heart as a result of her perfect love for You and her perfect obedience to the will of the Father.

Precious Lord, as I embrace this Advent Season, please open my eyes to see the great value and blessing of Your Incarnation. Help me to discover Your hidden presence in this world and within my own soul. I desire to see, understand and experience the profound effects that Your Incarnation has on my life and I desire to receive those effects more fully this Advent. May I become a sanctuary in which You dwell so that I, like Your dear Mother, may bring Your presence into the world.



Pilgrims of Hope

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with Bishop Joseph C. Bambera
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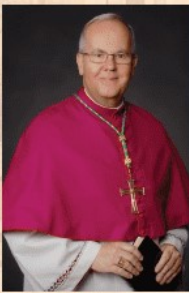


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My loving Jesus, I choose You, this Advent, as my King and my God. I abandon myself to You and seek to put all my trust in Your tender care. Draw me close to You and free me from my sin so that I may love You with a pure and holy heart.

Mother Mary, as You carried your dear Son in your immaculate womb, you also carried Him in your heart. Pray for me, this Advent, that I may surrender myself to the will of the Father in imitation of you. You said "Yes" to all that God asked of you and never hesitated to fully embrace His divine will. Pray that I may imitate your perfect example so as to share a deeper union with you and your divine Son.

Come, Lord Jesus,
 Come, Lord Jesus,
 Come, Lord Jesus!
 Amen.





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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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 welcome new members.



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