

JANUARY 5, 2025



# EPIPHANY OF THE LORD 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

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.

### 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 - 7:00 pm

First Friday: Adoration after 7:00 am Mass until 7:00 pm

St. Michael's Church

### Confessions

Sat: 3:15 - 3:45 pm, St. Michael (also available by appointment)

### 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 ed 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



## LITURGY SCHEDULE

**Saturday, Jan 4** Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton, Religious  
 VIGIL: EPIPHANY OF THE LORD  
 4:00 pm, Canton † Betty Jean Stachowski  
 (Good Samaritans)

**Sunday, January 5** EPIPHANY OF THE LORD  
 8:00 am, Ralston † Pro Populo  
 9:30 am, Canton † Mark Kingsley  
 (George & Theresa Kingsley)  
 11:15 am, Troy † William Misson (Anonymous)

**Monday, January 6** Christmas Weekday  
 7:00 am, Rectory † Carol Dalton (Elaine Kurzejewski)

**Tuesday, January 7** Christmas Weekday  
 5:30 pm, Troy † Anthony Walkowiak  
 (Anna Bogaczyk & Family)

**Wednesday, January 8** Christmas Weekday  
 5:30 pm, Canton † Martha Fish (Leona Winder & Family)

**Thursday, January 9** Christmas Weekday  
 No Mass

**Friday, January 10** Christmas Weekday  
 7:00 am, Rectory † Eleanor Augustine  
 (Bernadine & Keith Youman)

**Saturday, January 11** Christmas Weekday  
 VIGIL: BAPTISM OF THE LORD  
 4:00 pm, Canton † Pro Populo

**Sunday, January 12** BAPTISM OF THE LORD  
 8:00 am, Ralston † Elaine Clarke (The Richard King Fmily)  
 9:30 am, Canton † Isabelle Loftus & Dorothy Ferretti  
 (Families)  
 11:15 am, Troy † Mike Davison (Time, Leona & Barb)


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 repose of the soul of Theresa Kingsley. May her soul and all the souls of the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace.



*Sanctuary lamp intentions may be requested by contacting the parish office.  
 The cost is \$10 for all three lamps for a weekend.*

### SAINT MICHAEL'S PARISH OFFERINGS December 23 - 29, 2024

Weekly Offerings:	2,020.00
Christmas Offerings:	4,555.00
Electronic Offerings:	475.00
Other Parish Income:	<u>150.00</u>
 Total Parish Income:	7,200.00
Average weekly expenses:	<u>4,124.61</u>
Difference:	3,075.39
Care & Education of Priests:	60.00

*Thank you for your continued support.*

Diocese of Scranton Presents 2025 Jubilee



# Pilgrims of Hope PILGRIMAGE TO ROME

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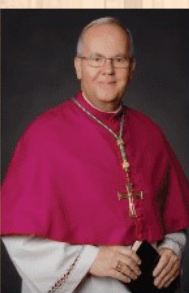


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A Communal Rosary is prayed at 9:30 on  
 Thursday mornings in St. Michael's Church.  
 All are invited to participate.



### 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 Moralez, Delina Morgan, Mary Nybeck,  
 Pamela Porter O'Brien, Leo Parchesky, Ramona Parker,  
 Gary Paquette, Lori Pellegrini, Pat Rushin,  
 Cristy Schmelzle, Anthony Shipula, Bev Smith,  
 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.*

# Growing in FAITH™

Discovering **hope** and **joy** in the Catholic faith.

January 2025

St. Michael Parish

## One Minute Meditations

### St. André Bessette

Born in Montreal, Canada, St. Alfred Bessette was orphaned at the age of twelve. He was mentored by Fr. André Provençal, who inspired him to join religious life. He joined the Congregation of the Holy Cross at twenty-five, becoming "Brother André," and was the doorkeeper for their school. During an epidemic, everyone in his care was miraculously healed with oil from a lamp lit before St. Joseph. With help and donations, he built an oratory to St. Joseph.

### Holy simplicity

Holy simplicity, or "spiritual childhood," starts with being who you are and not trying to be who you're not — even in prayer. When we're open-hearted with God, His grace can change our hearts. We grow in humility, trust, and love — the roots of "tough" virtues like courage, perseverance, and faithfulness.

*"Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, so that you may be children of your Father in heaven"*  
(Matthew 5:44-45).

## 7 resolutions to transform your New Year

The New Year is a chance to come closer to becoming the person you are meant to be. As you embrace the new beginning, consider these seven resolutions to allow God's love to transform your life.

1. **Trust Him:** Trust in God is the foundation of a peaceful soul. Start each day praying, "O Sacred Heart of Jesus, I surrender myself to You; Take care of everything," and He will.

2. **Embrace authentic humility:** A humble heart chooses others first. Ask, "How can I best love this person?" and let your actions reflect that answer.

3. **Partner with your guardian angel:** Your guardian angel is always with you, offering guidance and protection (Matthew 18:10). Call

upon your angel daily for heavenly help.

4. **Practice self-discipline:** Small sacrifices can lead to profound transformation. Skip cream in your coffee, offer someone full attention, cut back on screen time.

5. **Seek out silence:** God often speaks in silence. Find silence in your day to rest in God's presence, and let Him renew your spirit.

6. **Deepen your knowledge of our Faith:** Faith blossoms with understanding. Look through the Catechism until something interests you, and dive deeper.

7. **Offer God your free time:** If you have an hour to yourself, spend five minutes in prayer. No time spent with Love, Himself, is ever wasted.

## Why Do Catholics Do That?

## Why do Catholics have two versions of the Creed?

The Apostles' Creed is the summary of the beliefs of the early Church. The Nicene Creed is an expanded form of the Apostles' Creed and comes from two great Church councils (Nicaea, 325 and Constantinople, 381). Intended to combat Arianism, the Nicene

Creed emphasizes Jesus' divinity and divine Sonship (*Catechism of the Catholic Church*, #465). As a communal profession of faith, the Nicene Creed affirms the core beliefs of the Church and unites the congregation in a shared declaration of truth.



# A proven way to grow in friendship with God

Do you long to feel God’s love more deeply but find something holding you back? St. Ignatius of Loyola shared this struggle, inspiring him to create a transformative daily practice. This practice can help you live with greater joy in your journey with Christ:

1. **Give thanks:** Reflect on the blessings of your day. Pause to savor them and offer heartfelt gratitude.
2. **Seek clarity:** Ask God for the grace to recognize your sins and remove them from your heart.
3. **Examine your day:** Review your actions from

waking until now. Reflect on how sin crept in, the virtues you may need to cultivate, and areas of your life that need God’s healing touch.

4. **Ask for mercy:** Come to God in repentance. His mercy welcomes you back, and Scripture assures us that Heaven rejoices over every contrite heart (Luke 15:7).
5. **Resolve to grow:** Commit to loving God and others more fully tomorrow. Plan how to resist temptation, make an effort to amend relationships, or prepare for Confession if needed.

## from **S**cripture

### Luke 1:1-4, 4:14-21; Not the Messiah they expected ...

In this passage, Jesus returned home to Nazareth to teach in the synagogue. He read the prophecy of Isaiah about the coming of the Messiah, who would “bring glad tidings to the poor.” Then He said, “Today this Scripture passage is fulfilled in your hearing.” He confirmed that He was the long-awaited Messiah.

His hearers must have been shocked: they expected the Messiah to be a worldly king from an important city, not a carpenter-turned-preacher from a small town like Nazareth. They expected this Messiah-king to defeat the

oppressive Romans and make Israel a powerful nation. Instead, Jesus conquered the even greater enemies of sin and death by His Death and Resurrection.

Throughout the Bible, God chose unlikely heroes to carry out His plans: think of Abraham, Moses, David, St. Peter, St. Paul, and many others. Jesus, the Son of God, came to Earth as a newborn infant and lived in humility, poverty, and service. The Good News is that God’s love is stronger than sin and death. If He rose to glory, those who follow Him faithfully will, too.

## **Q** Does fervent prayer & change God’s mind?

Prayer doesn’t change God’s mind, as if He had to be persuaded to love us. God is a good Father, and He is our Father who knows how to give good gifts (Matthew 7:9-11). Yet, prayer is still powerful and worthwhile for other reasons:

**Prayer changes us:** God rewards persistent, faith-filled prayer: “Lord, I entrust this to you. Thy Will be done.” When we persevere in prayer, grace goes to work in our souls: our desires are purified, ordered, and sometimes even deepened. Our hearts are gradually brought into line with God’s, and we begin to see, choose, and love like He does.

**Prayer is relationship:** A read through Scripture shows God seems to enjoy involving many “co-conspirators” in His plans, even today. He doesn’t need us yet desires our (active) involvement in His plans. He has the final say, but wants to hear our thoughts, questions, and concerns. God didn’t make us to be robots but His children and heirs (Galatians 4:6-7). Prayer isn’t magic. It’s way more powerful.

## Feasts & Celebrations

January 3 – The Holy Name of Jesus. In January we celebrate the Holy Name of Jesus. “... At the name of Jesus every knee should bend, of those in heaven and on earth and under the earth” (Philippians 2:10).

January 7 – St. Raymond of Peñafort (1275). St. Raymond studied canon (Church) law before joining the Dominican Order. He worked for Pope Gregory IX, then was appointed archbishop of Tarragona, Spain. Afterwards, he was elected head of the Dominicans. He retired two years

later.

January 23 – St. Vincent of Saragossa (304). Born in Saragossa, Spain, St. Vincent trained as a deacon under Bishop Valerius. During the Diocletian persecutions, St. Vincent and the bishop were captured. St. Vincent was tortured but refused to deny Christ.

January 26 – Saints Timothy and Titus (1st century). St. Timothy was converted by St. Paul and became his trusted friend, joining him in apostolic work, especially at Corinth. St. Titus served the early Church as a peacemaker and as administrator to a community on Crete.

### 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 - Revised)



**POPE FRANCIS'S  
JANUARY PRAYER INTENTION**  
FOR THE RIGHT TO AN EDUCATION  
Let us pray for migrants, refugees,  
and those affected by war, that their  
right to an education, which is neces-  
sary to build a better world, might al-  
ways be respected.

**NOTRE DAME HIGH SCHOOL OPEN HOUSE**

Notre Dame High School, Grades 7–12 is hosting an Open House on Monday, January 27, from 6:00 pm - 7:30 pm for prospective students and their families. Registration begins at 5:45 pm followed by a brief presentation in the Charles and Mary Crossed Auditorium. Open House is your chance to meet the faculty, administration, and students, tour the campus, learn about the benefits of a Notre Dame education, and explore the many opportunities that await your student at Notre Dame. Notre Dame is a college preparatory school offering an inclusive environment that is rich in the traditions of the Sisters of Mercy and academic excellence. Notre Dame offers a competitive athletic program, opportunities to participate in the performing, visual, and language arts along with extra-curricular activities such as FTC & FRC Robotics teams, Climate Crusaders, The Notre Dame Spotlighters Group, MaryLeaf (school newsletter), Yearbook, and Quiz League. Notre Dame H.S. is located at 1400 Maple Avenue, Elmira, NY. To RSVP for the Open House or to submit your application for the 2025-26 school year, visit [notredamehighschool.com](http://notredamehighschool.com). Questions may be directed to Mr. Nick Weiermiller, Director of Admissions at 607-734-2267.

**OUR CALL TO SERVE**  
CATHOLIC MINISTRIES APPEAL

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As of December 28th, we have reached 69.5% of our \$19,238 parish goal. \$13,270 has been donated or pledged by 62 donors, which makes our current participation rate 23%. Thank you to everyone who has contributed thus far, both financially and with your prayers.

**JANUARY 6 - 12, 2025 READINGS**

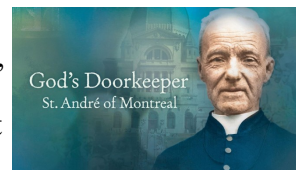
- Mon:** 1 Jn 3:22—4:6 Ps 2:7b-8, 10-12a Mt 4:12-17, 23-25
- Tues:** 1 Jn 4:7-10 Ps 72:1-4, 7-8 Mk 6:34-44
- Wed:** 1 Jn 4:11-18 Ps 72:1-2, 10, 12-13 Mk 6:45-52
- Thurs:** 1 Jn 4:19—5:4 Ps 72:1-2, 14, 15bc, 17 Lk 4:14-22a
- Fri:** 1 Jn 5:5-13 Ps 147:12-15, 19-20 Lk 5:12-16
- Sat:** 1 Jn 5:14-21 Ps 149:1-6a, 9b Jn 3:22-30
- Sun:** Is 42:1-4, 6-7 Ps 29:1a, 2, 3ac-4, 3b, 9b-10 Acts :34-38 Lk 3:15-16, 21-22



**WEEK OF JANUARY 5, 2025**

**GOD'S DOORKEEPER**

This week, we celebrate the memorial of a humble doorkeeper, St. André of Montreal. Learn how this man became a great saint through his small acts of love!



**THE THREE WISE MEN**

Ms. Kim explains the Solemnity of the Epiphany and the importance of the wise men's gifts by teaching students how to draw the three magi. She challenges kids to do an act of kindness for someone, offering it as a gift to Jesus.



**EPIPHANY**

What is Epiphany? Join Dr. Michael Barber to find out.

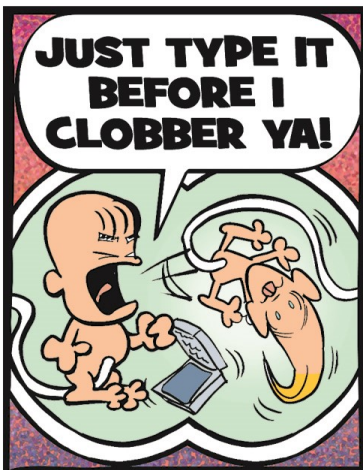
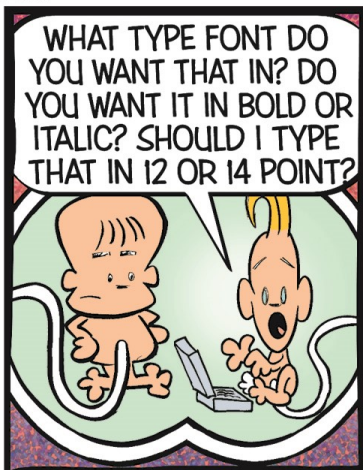


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**Umbert the Unborn**

by Gary Cangemi





### PARISH REGISTRATION

All Catholics should be registered in their local parish. This helps facilitate many church activities such as requests for sponsor forms, marriage in the church and other religious needs. Having accurate statistics is also important when the Diocese is allocating clerical and financial resources.

Receiving sacraments in a parish does not automatically register you in the parish. For example, parents will sometimes bring their newborn to the parish they grew up in for baptism, especially if they have family members who cannot travel easily.

*For our young adults, if you have entered the work force and/or have completed a four year degree, you should be registered as an independent family rather than as a child in your parents' family, even if you still live in their home.*

Cathy will be happy to help, so call or email the parish office with questions about your status or to make any changes. Offertory envelopes are not required, but if you receive them, you are definitely registered.

### NOTICE REGARDING REPORTING SEXUAL ABUSE OF A MINOR

It is the policy of the Diocese of Scranton to report any allegation of sexual abuse of a minor to law enforcement. If you are a victim of sexual abuse committed by a priest, deacon, religious or lay employee or volunteer of the Diocese of Scranton, you are encouraged to immediately report the matter to law enforcement. If any priest, deacon, religious, lay employee or volunteer of the Diocese of Scranton has cause or reason to suspect that a minor has been subjected to any form of abuse, including child sexual abuse, the matter will be reported to law enforcement. It is also the policy of the Diocese to adhere to all civil and state regulations. In accordance with the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania's Child Protective Services Laws, reports of suspected child abuse should also be made immediately by phone to the 24-Hour Child Abuse hotline (ChildLine) at 1-800-932-0313 or electronically at [www.compass.state.pa.us/cwis](http://www.compass.state.pa.us/cwis) To this end, the Diocese is equally committed to adhering to the norms of the Code of Canon Law and to upholding the tenets of the USCCB Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People, which includes supporting victims of sexual abuse in their pursuit of emotional and spiritual well-being. As such, information regarding an allegation of sexual abuse of a minor should also be reported to the Victim Assistance Coordinator, Mary Beth Pacuska at (570-862-7551).

### AVISO AL RESPECTO DE REPORTAR EL ABUSO SEXUAL DE UN MENOR

De Edad Es la norma de la Diócesis de Scranton reportar cualquier alegación de abuso sexual de un menor de edad a las autoridades. Si usted es una víctima de abuso sexual cometido por un sacerdote, diácono, religioso o empleado laico, o voluntario de la Diócesis de Scranton, usted está obligado a reportar el asunto inmediatamente a las autoridades de la ley. Si algún sacerdote, diácono, religioso, empleado laico o voluntario de la Diócesis de Scranton tiene sospecha de que un menor de edad ha sido sujeto a cualquier forma de abuso, incluyendo abuso sexual de menor de edad, el asunto será reportado a las autoridades de la ley. Es la norma de la Diócesis defender todas las regulaciones civiles y del estado. De conformidad con la Comunidad de los Servicios de Protección Infantil de Pennsylvania Leyes, informes de sospecha de abuso de niños también debe hacerse inmediatamente por teléfono las 24 horas maltrato infantil hotline (ChildLine) al 1-800-932-0313 o electrónicamente en [www.compass.state.pa.us/cwis](http://www.compass.state.pa.us/cwis)

Al fin de que la Diócesis esté comprometida igualmente a defender las normas del Código de Derecho Canónico y defender los principios de la Carta Para la Protección de Niños y Jóvenes (Conferencia de los Obispos Católicos de los Estados Unidos), lo cual incluye apoyar a las víctimas de abuso sexual en pos del bienestar emocional y espiritual. Por eso, información respecto a una alegación del asunto sexual de un menor de edad, debe ser reportada a la Coordinadora Diocesana de Asistencia para Las Víctimas, Mary Beth Pacuska, a (570-862-7551).



## Women's Retreat



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Confession

January  
24-26, 2025

Mass & Worship

Fellowship

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## Holy Transfiguration Retreat Center

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Ages 18+



Have you dropped your land line? Do you have a new cell phone number or email address? Have you moved? To update your information, write the change on your offertory envelope or contact the parish office.  
*(Unlisted numbers, cell phone numbers, and email addresses are not shared without your permission.)*

Contact  
INFORMATION

### BULLETIN ADS

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*The blessing of a home and inscription of the initials of the three Magi above each door can be performed either by a priest or the head of the household. To ask Father Joe to bless your home with the epiphany blessing, please contact Father Joe directly.*

### BLESSING OF A HOUSE

**PRIEST:** Our help is in the name of the Lord.

**PEOPLE:** Who made heaven and earth.

**PRIEST:** The Lord be with you.

**PEOPLE:** And with your spirit

**PRIEST:** Let us pray.

Peace to this house, and to all who enter here. Sprinkle me, O Lord, with blessed water, and I shall be purified; wash me and I shall be whiter than snow. Have mercy on me, O God, in your great mercy. Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit. As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end, Amen.

Blessed be your name, our God, our shelter from all that homelessness and lack of place can mean. Blessed be your name, for you have sheltered us. Bless now this house, this dwelling place of life and love, for you alone assure the peace and strength, the care that covers all our differences. You make these rooms a source of confidence, of dignity and freedom, for the members of our family household, and therefore for our country and the world. Let your Spirit dwell in us and open us to all who need our hospitality and care. Amen.

(SPRINKLE ALL THE ROOMS)

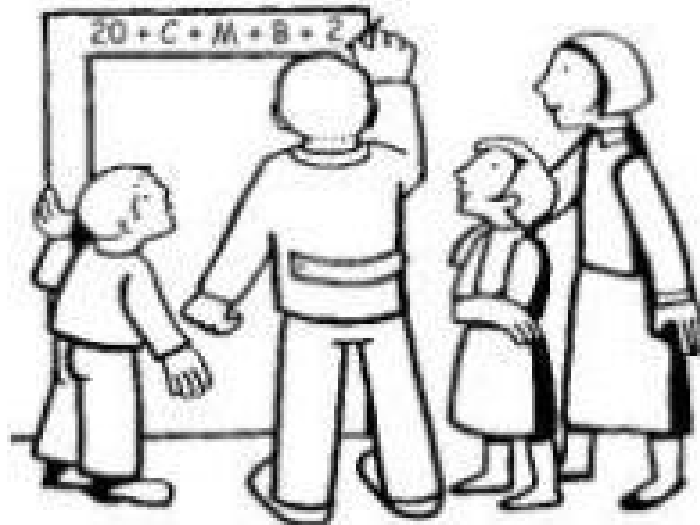
**PRIEST:** In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**ALL:** Amen.

**PRIEST:** From the East, the Magi have come to Bethlehem to adore the Lord; Opening their treasuries, they offered Him gifts; gold to the Great King; frankincense to the true God; and myrrh for His burial.

(Priest then marks the door with blessed chalk in honor of the Three Kings: Casper, Melchior and Balthasar. Letters are written first, then crosses, then numbers.)

20 † C † M † B † 25



**PRIEST:** Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name. Thy Kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.

**ALL:** Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. Amen.

**PRIEST:** Oh Lord, hear our prayer

**ALL:** And let our cry come unto you.

**PRIEST:** The Lord be with you,

**ALL:** And with your spirit.

**PRIEST:** Let us pray.

Oh Lord, God Almighty, bless this home † and under its shelter let there be peace, health, happiness, humility, chastity, goodness, kindness, prosperity, obedience to Your Commandments, and thanksgiving. Protect this house from fire, disaster or anyone who would want to enter it unlawfully. May these blessings descend abundantly on this home, and remain always in the heart of those who dwell here.

**ALL:** Amen

(CONCLUDING PRAYER)

**PRIEST:** Come, Lord God, we humbly beg you, and fill this house with the serenity of your love, joy and peace. Shower your benediction and grace in abundance upon all who dwell herein. May the peace and blessing of almighty God rest upon this house and all who dwell in it.

**ALL:** 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.



4423 Leona Road  
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