

FEBRUARY 2, 2025



THE PRESENTATION 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

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, February 1 Weekday

VIGIL: THE PRESENTATION OF THE LORD
4:00 pm, Canton † Gerald Dalton (The Dalton Family)

Sunday, February 2 THE PRESENTATION OF THE LORD

8:00 am, Ralston † Pro Populo
9:30 am, Canton † Theresa Kingsley (Jerry & Joy Brann)
11:15 am, Troy † Nicholas DePalma, Sr. (Jayne Cleveland)

Monday, February 3 Weekday

7:00 am, Rectory - For the special intentions of
Donald Trump (The Garvey Family)

Tuesday, February 4 Weekday

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

Wednesday, February 5 Saint Agatha, Virgin, Martyr

5:30 pm, Canton † Hazel Dalton (The Dalton Family)
6:00 pm, Holy Hour

Thursday, February 6 Saint Paul Miki and
Companions, Martyrs

No Mass

First Friday, February 7 Weekday

7:00 am, Canton † Catherine Dalton (The Dalton Family)

Saturday, February 8 Weekday

VIGIL: 5TH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME
4:00 pm, Canton † Pro Populo

Sunday, February 9 5TH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME

8:00 am, Ralston † Gerald Dalton (The Dalton Family)
9:30 am, Canton † Theresa Kingsley (Jane & Eric Polcrack)
11:15 am, Troy † Michael Bridgham (Bill Bridgham)

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. (Offered by Caitlin Barr)

*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 January 20 - 26, 2025

Weekly Offerings:	3,411.00
Electronic Offerings:	475.00
Other Parish Income:	213.50
 Total Parish Income:	4,099.50
Average weekly expenses:	4,356.13
Difference:	(256.66)
LA Wildfires:	1,049.00
Care & Education of Priests:	50.00

Thank you for your continued support.

Contribution statements are available on request
from the parish office. If you received one last year, it
will be sent ASAP, so please call if it doesn't arrive by
January 31st.

CHANCE OF A LIFETIME

The Knights of Columbus have begun their annual
COAL (Chance of a Lifetime) Sweepstakes. The
sweepstakes has a 1st prize of \$15,000.00 in cash with a
total of \$60,000.00 in prizes to be given away. The
drawing will be held on May 16, 2025. Tickets cost
\$5.00 and you may purchase as many as you would like.

Proceeds go to the Scholarship Program for the children
and grandchildren of The Knights of Columbus attending
Catholic Schools. Thank you for your support!

Games of Chance License #2202

1st Prize:	\$15,000	2nd Prize:	\$10,000
3rd Prize:	\$7,500	4th Prize:	\$5,000
5th Prize:	\$5,000	6th Prize:	\$5,000
7th Prize:	\$2,500	8th Prize:	\$2,500
9th Prize:	\$2,500	10th Prize:	\$2,500
11th Prize:	\$2,000	12th Prize:	\$2,000
13th Prize:	\$1,000	14th Prize:	\$1,000
15th Prize:	\$1,000	16th Prize:	\$1,000

BLESSING OF THROATS

In honor of the February 3rd Feast of Saint Blaise,
Bishop and Martyr, Father Joe will bless throats at the
end of all weekend Masses this weekend, Feb. 1 & 2.



Father Joe celebrates his 63rd
birthday this Friday, February 7th! When
you see him, be sure to wish him a
Happy Birthday!

MASS INTENTIONS

We are running short of Mass intentions. The usual
offering is just \$10 per Mass, and goes to the celebrant
after the Mass is offered. One of the blessings of being
in a small parish is that we have no limit on the number
of intentions you can offer. Larger parishes fill their entire
calendar in a matter of days and severely limit the
number of Masses each family can request. Contact the
parish office to request Mass intentions or we will be
forced to again import intentions from other parishes.

SAINT MICHAEL PARISH PRAYER LIST

Barby, John & Peggy Adams, Karl Barton,
Cassi Blaney, Joseph Blaszczyk, 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,
Lauren Kreager, 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, Ahmed Hassa Sharief,
Anthony Shipula, Bev Smith, Sharon Snyder,
Carl E. Steffon, Elias Vroman, Calvin Watson,
Steven Wilber, John Wilcox, Anthony Wolf,
Nicholas Wolf, Fran Zizza

Growing in FAITH™

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

February 2025

St. Michael Parish

One Minute Meditations

St. Jerome Emiliani

St. Jerome led a wayward life while a soldier until he was captured in battle and turned back to God. Soon after returning to Venice, he began studying for the priesthood and was ordained in 1518. With the devastation from the war came famine and plague. At his own expense, St. Jerome cared for the victims left behind, especially the children. For this purpose, he and some companions founded the Clerks Regulars of Somasca, in Somasca, Italy.

Imitating Christ in the world

When Jesus said, *"I am the way"* (John 14:6), He meant for us to follow Him and live as He lived. He ate, slept, worked, and cared for friends and family, much like we do. Now, ordinary life, lived in union with Christ, can be an opportunity of grace for us.

"All the feasts in the Church's calendar are events of remembrance and hence events of hope."
Pope Benedict XVI

"I choose Heaven!"

Our time on Earth is but a fleeting moment compared to the vastness of eternity. Yet, we often prioritize earthly concerns over preparing for Heaven. Jesus reminds us of the right priority: *"Seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things will be given to you besides"* (Matthew 6:33). When we put God first, He faithfully provides for our every need.

What are your true priorities? Your daily routine is a reflection of your heart. Pause and consider: What consumes your time and energy? The things that dominate your schedule are the true indicators of your priorities. If they are pulling you away from God, it's time to reevaluate and make a change.

Where do you turn for guidance? When faced with decisions, do you seek advice from friends, social media, or colleagues, or do you turn

to prayer and Scripture? Aligning our choices with God's wisdom leads to lasting fulfillment and peace. Resolve to trust His direction over the fleeting opinions of the world. When we place our decisions in His hands, we can move forward with confidence.

Do you trust God with your happiness? God's promises assure us of His perfect plan: *"For I know well the plans I have in mind for you, says the Lord, plans for your welfare, not for woe, plans to give you a future full of hope"* (Jeremiah 29:11). If trusting Him feels difficult, invite Him into your doubts and fears. Ask Him to reveal His goodness and faithfulness—He will answer, because He is always near.

Refocus your heart and trust God's plan for your life. Let go of distractions, realign your priorities, and step into the peace that comes from seeking Him first.

Why Do Catholics Do That?

Why are Catholics only baptized once?

The Catholic Church teaches that Baptism is the gateway to the Christian life, marking the beginning of our communion with God.

Through this Sacrament, we are adopted as God's children and permanently sealed as His own. Baptism transforms us into new creations, opening our hearts to

grace, strengthening us against sin, and deepening our love for God and others (*Catechism of the Catholic Church*, #1121).

Because this sacred mark is everlasting, Baptism is received only once, signifying our eternal bond with God and call to holiness.

Trusting God in unexpected moments

Imagine you're at a wedding celebration for your friends. The atmosphere is lively, the music is playing, and everyone is enjoying themselves—until you overhear a troubling conversation. The kitchen has run out of wine. Due to an oversight, the caterers didn't bring enough, and with all the stores closed, the situation seems hopeless. What now?

"They have no wine" (John 2:3). Moments of crisis can catch us off guard, but they don't have to shake us. When Mary encountered this dilemma at the wedding in Cana, she didn't panic or place blame. Instead, she turned to the one she knew could help—her Son, Jesus.

With confidence, she simply informed Him of the need, trusting fully in His ability to provide.

"Do whatever He tells you" (John 2:5). These profound words, Mary's last recorded in Scripture, offer us a powerful lesson. When we bring our problems to God, He often invites us to be part of the solution. Trusting Him means being open to His direction, even when it leads to unexpected actions. The servants at Cana likely didn't anticipate filling massive jars with water, yet their obedience led to an extraordinary outcome—the finest wine, far surpassing anything they could have imagined. With God, the impossible becomes possible.

from Scripture

Luke 6:27-38, The demands of merciful love

In this Gospel passage, Jesus challenges our natural sense of fairness by commanding us to "love your enemies ... lend expecting nothing in return ... and forgive." These teachings contrast with the Old Testament principle of "an eye for an eye," which aimed to prevent excessive punishment, and the idea of exchanging favors as a sign of gratitude.

However, human justice can lead to destructive cycles of retaliation and diminish the sincerity of generosity. When giving is tied to expectations, it becomes difficult

to discern whether kindness is motivated by love or the hope of something in return.

Jesus invites us to embrace God's justice—one that surpasses human understanding. God's love is not conditional or transactional; it is generous, selfless, and freely given to all, regardless of merit.

As children of God, we are called to reflect His love by extending kindness, forgiveness, and generosity without expectation. In doing so, we move beyond human limitations and participate in God's perfect justice.

Feasts & Celebrations

February 2 – The Presentation of the Lord. In accordance with the Law of Moses, Mary and Joseph brought Jesus to the Temple forty days after His birth, and Simeon praised God for revealing the long-awaited Savior (Luke 2:29-32).

February 10 – St. Scholastica (543). Twin sister to St. Benedict, St. Scholastica established a community of religious women about five miles from her brother's monastery.

February 17 – The Seven Holy Founders (13th century). Seven

Italian noblemen who withdrew from the immorality of the times to live in prayer, simplicity and penance. Their order, the Servants of Mary, was later approved by the Holy See in 1304.

February 23 – St. Polycarp (155). Bishop of Smyrna, Asia-Minor, Polycarp was a disciple of the apostle St. John the Evangelist, and a friend of St. Ignatius of Antioch. He faithfully cared for his flock despite being surrounded by pagans and a government opposed to his religion. Before he was martyred, he thanked God for making him worthy of a martyr's death.

Q & A What do icons offer to our devotional life?

Icons are a revered form of sacred art. These sacred images carry a deep historical and theological significance, rich in symbolism and spiritual depth. Recognizable by their distinctive "flattened" style, vivid colors, and frequent use of gold backgrounds, icons often depict significant events from the lives of Jesus, Mary, and the saints, offering a window into their mystical and spiritual dimensions.

At first glance, the stylized, two-dimensional nature of icons, coupled with the direct gaze of the figures, can feel unfamiliar or even challenging to engage with in prayer. It is often recommended to begin by spending just five minutes a day in quiet reflection before an icon, gradually increasing the duration over time. There is no need to rush—prayer with icons is a contemplative journey, and as we remain open and attentive, the Holy Spirit gradually unveils their deeper meaning to us.

Our Mission

To provide practical ideas that promote faithful Catholic living.
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**POPE FRANCIS'S
FEBRUARY PRAYER INTENTION
FOR VOCATIONS TO THE PRIESTHOOD
AND RELIGIOUS LIFE**

Let us pray that the ecclesial community might welcome the desires and doubts of those young people who feel a call to serve Christ's mission in the priesthood and religious life.

FIRST FRIDAY ADORATION

The World is full of noise, worry, and distractions, but our hope is in Jesus. Find peace and regain perspective by spending time with Jesus, truly present in the Eucharist. First Friday Adoration follows the 7:00 am Mass in St. Michaels' Church, reposition is at 7:00 pm. Everyone is welcome to sit in silent adoration of the Blessed Sacrament during this time. If you can commit an entire hour, contact Leslie Debach at (315) 521-0258.



Next weekend we will take up the **COLLECTION FOR THE CHURCH IN LATIN AMERICA**. For many in Latin America and the Caribbean, a rising secular culture, difficult rural terrain, and a shortage of ministers all present obstacles to practicing the faith. Your support for the collection provides lay leadership training, catechesis, priestly and religious formation, and other programs to share our Catholic faith with those who long to hear the Good News of Christ. To learn more about how your gifts make a difference, visit www.usccb.org/latin-america. *We do not have envelopes available, so include your name if you need it recorded for your taxes.*



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As of January 25th, we have reached 77.42% of our \$19,238 parish goal. \$14,895.00 has been donated or pledged by 70 donors, which makes our current participation rate 25.93%. Thank you to everyone who has contributed thus far, both financially and with your prayers.

FEBRUARY 3 - 9, 2025 READINGS

- Mon:** Heb 11:32-40 Ps 31:20-24 Mk 5:1-20
- Tues:** Heb 12:1-4 Ps 22:26b-28, 30-32 Mk 5:21-43
- Wed:** Heb 12:4-7, 11-15 Ps 103:1-2, 13-14, 17-18a Mk 6:1-6
- Thurs:** Heb 12:18-19, 21-24 Ps 48:2-4, 9-11 Mk 6:7-13
- Fri:** Heb 13:1-8 Ps 27:1, 3, 5, 8b-9c Mk 6:14-29
- Sat:** Heb 13:15-17, 20-21 Ps 23:1-6 Mk 6:30-34
- Sun:** Is 6:1-2a, 3-8 Ps 138:1-5, 7-8 1 Cor 15:1-11 Lk 5:1-11



WEEK OF FEBRUARY 2, 2025

ST. JOSEPHINE BAKHITA: A STORY OF GOD'S RESCUE

Join Sister Imelda as she shares the amazing story of St. Josephine Bakhita, who, after being taken captive and made a slave, finds freedom by giving her life to God.



THE PRESENTATION | EPISODE 5

MYSTERIES OF THE ROSARY: THE JOYFUL MYSTERIES

The Presentation is already foreshadowing the Cross. The offering Mary makes at the Presentation in the Temple becomes manifested and reaches its fulfillment at Calvary.



BAKHITA: FROM SLAVE TO SAINT

Originally born in Sudan, Josephine was kidnapped by slavers and was eventually sold to a merchant in Italy. By the grace of God, she lived a heroic life of forgiveness and mercy which led her to become a saint.



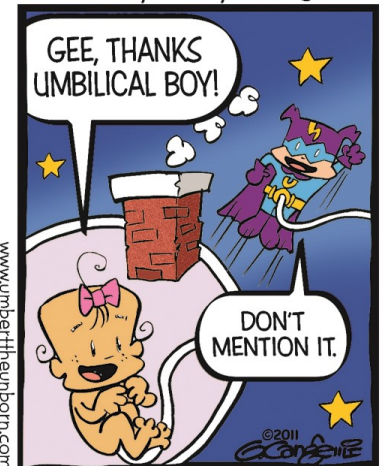
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Umbert the Unborn

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.



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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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Patrick J. Barrett, III
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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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