

MARCH 23, 2025



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

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

PARABLE OF THE THE BARREN FIG TREE



CUT IT DOWN

LUKE 13:7

Knowing-Jesus.com

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, March 22 Lenten Weekday

VIGIL: 3RD SUNDAY OF LENT

4:00 pm, Canton † Robert Dalton (The Dalton Family)

Sunday, March 23 3RD SUNDAY OF LENT

8:00 am, Ralston † Pro Populo

9:30 am, Canton † Ann Mallare

(Jerome Wynne & Marie Merker)

11:15 am, Troy † Pasquale DePalma (Jayne Cleveland)

Monday, March 24 Lenten Weekday

7:00 am, Rectory - Private Intention

Tuesday, March 25 THE ANNUNCIATION OF THE LORD

5:30 pm, Troy † Patricia McGovern (Barbara Wywiorski)

6:00 pm, Stations of the Cross

Wednesday, March 26 Lenten Weekday

5:30 pm, Canton † Allan Cole (Jeff & Beth Cole)

6:00 pm, Canton - Stations of the Cross

Thursday, March 27 Lenten Weekday

No Mass

Friday, March 28 Lenten Weekday

7:00 am, Rectory † Jack Rushin (John & Pat Rushin)

Saturday, March 29 Lenten Weekday

VIGIL: 4TH SUNDAY OF LENT

4:00 pm, Canton † Beatrice Jones (Susan Schiess)

Sunday, March 30 4TH SUNDAY OF LENT

8:00 am, Ralston † Pro Populo

9:30 am, Canton † Gerry Spencer (Jeff & Beth Cole)

11:15 am, Troy † Rob Morris (Theresa & Joe Sheridan)

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 all mothers facing difficult pregnancies to be lovingly accompanied as they prepare to encounter Christ anew through the gift of their children.

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 March 10 - 16, 2025

Weekly Offerings: 1,863.00

Electronic Offerings: 475.00

Other Parish Income: 60.00



Total Parish Income: 2,398.00

Average weekly expenses: 4,356.13

Difference: (1,958.13)

Thank you for your continued support.

Contribution statements are available on request from the parish office. If you received one last year, it was sent mid-January, so please call if it hasn't arrived.

NEWS FROM THE KNIGHTS

THE TITLE OF THE CROSS PRESENTATION

The Knights of Columbus JFK Council #5517 of St. Michael's Parish will host a

presentation on THE TITLE OF THE CROSS on Saturday, April 5, 2025 at 5:00 PM in the church hall. The presentation will follow the 4:00 PM Mass.

Most are familiar with the sign "INRI" that was written over the Cross of Jesus. We will have an exact replica of the original Titular which is venerated in the Basilica of the Holy Cross in Rome. Alex Piechocki will be doing a one hour presentation helping us understand the mystery behind this relic, as well as proving to the audience that this relic is not a fake, but the real wooden tablet over the Cross of Our Lord.

Enhance your Lenten experience. Come and spend some time discovering the history and mystery of the Titulus Crucis. The presentation is free. A light meal and fellowship will follow the presentation. All are welcome!

CHANCE OF A LIFETIME

The Knights of Columbus annual COAL (Chance of a Lifetime) Sweepstakes is underway. 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

Prizes

1st: \$15,000 2nd: \$10,000 3rd: \$7,500

4th, 5th & 6th: \$5,000

7th, 8th, 9th, & 10th: \$2,500

11th & 12th: \$2,000

13th, 14th, 15th, & 16th: \$1,000

SAINT MICHAEL PARISH PRAYER LIST

Barby, John & Peggy Adams, Karl Barton, Cassi Blaney, Joseph Blaszyk, Gus Branish, Betty Brown, Dennis & Barbara Clarke, Anthony DeMarco, Kiran Dhawan, Dorland & Carlene Eck, Leon English, Douglas Greene, Melissa Gowan, William Hall, Robert Dale Hostetter, Victoria Johnson, 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, John O'Brien, Leo Parchesky, Ramona Parker, Gary Paquette, Lori Pellegrini, Tymber Pepper, Pat Rushin, Cristy Schmelzle, Ahmed Hassa Sharief, Anthony Shipula, Bev Smith, 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.*



NAZARETH GROUP

Nazareth Group is for young women, grades 9 - 12, who desire to learn more about the faith, to make wholesome friendships, and to grow in their love for Jesus Christ through prayer and hearing inspirational talks.

Upcoming Meetings: April 5 and June 7, 2025.

Two locations are available. For reservations, call:
Mother of God Convent

215 Wellwood Drive, Tunkhannock, PA 18657
Sr. Angela - (570) 836-2737

Mother of the Eucharist Convent

6100 Jacks Hollow Road, Williamsport, PA 17702
Sr. Clare - (570) 745-3334

"May I die for love of Your Love, You Who were so good as to die for love of my love." St. Francis of Assisi

CATHOLIC RELIEF SERVICES COLLECTION

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 here and abroad. Next week, 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.

Envelopes for this offering are next to the bulletins. Please include your name, or write a check, if you want your offering posted to your family account.

CANTON AREA LENTEN LUNCHEONS

Lenten Luncheons are held in the Canton Church of Christ hall on Tuesdays during Lent. Area churches take turn hosting. Doors open at 11:30. See you there!

- **March 25: Saint Michael's - Baked Ziti**
- April 1: Impact Church - Goulash
- April 8: Alba - Sloppy Joes
- April 15: Grover Church of Christ - Chicken & Biscuits

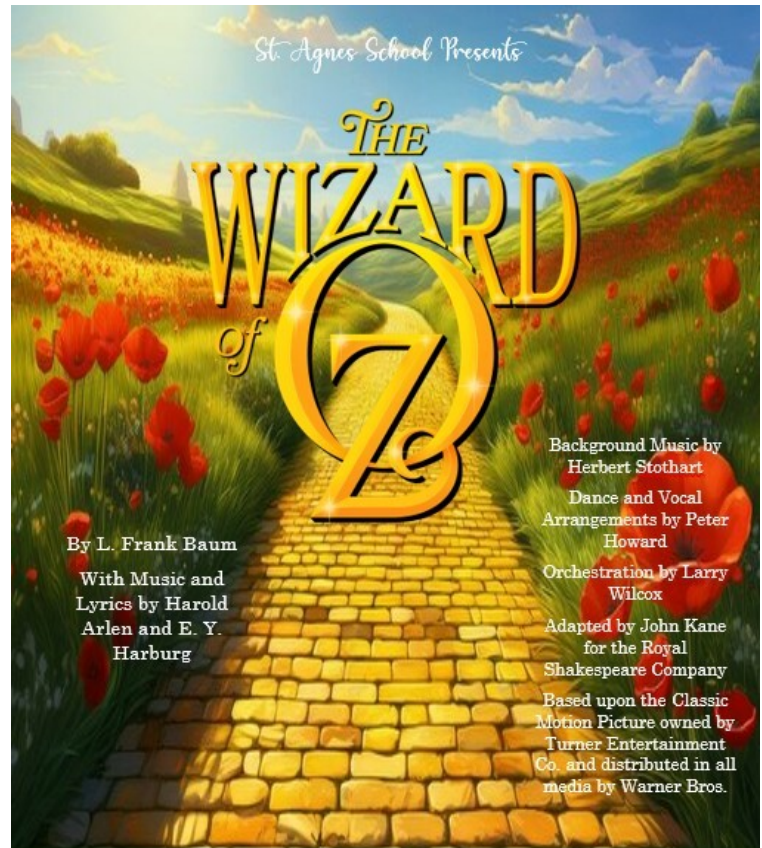


WEDDING ANNIVERSARY
MASS

Sunday, June 1st, 2025
2:30pm

His Excellency, the Most Reverend Joseph C. Bambera, D.D., J.C.L., Bishop of Scranton, and the Office for Parish Life invite couples celebrating their 25th or 50th wedding anniversary in 2025 to a Diocesan Wedding Anniversary Mass on Sunday, June 1st, 2025. The event includes a 2:30 PM Mass at the Cathedral of Saint Peter followed by a light reception.

The registration deadline for this event is May 11. To register, please go to www.dioceseofscranton.org or contact Bridget Guarnieri at (570-207-2213 x 1133) or familylife@dioceseofscranton.org.



By L. Frank Baum

With Music and
Lyrics by Harold
Arlen and E. Y.
Harburg

Background Music by
Herbert Stothart
Dance and Vocal
Arrangements by Peter
Howard

Orchestration by Larry
Wilcox

Adapted by John Kane
for the Royal
Shakespeare Company

Based upon the Classic
Motion Picture owned by
Turner Entertainment
Co. and distributed in all
media by Warner Bros.

APRIL 4TH & 5TH, 2025 | 7PM

THE KEYSTONE THEATRE, TOWANDA

ADULTS \$10 CHILDREN/SR CITIZENS \$8

Reserved seating tickets available beginning Sunday, March 23 at

ST. AGNES SCHOOL

102 THIRD ST. TOWANDA, PA | (570) 265-6803

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



Lenten
Dinners



LENTEN FISH DINNERS

Sponsored by Knights of Columbus Council #3915

Benefits St. Agnes School and

Bradford-Sullivan Counties Special Olympics

March 21st April 4th April 11th

JFK Hall at St. Agnes School. Eat in or take out

Serving from 4:00 - 6:30 pm

Menu: Baked Haddock, homemade macaroni & cheese,
stewed tomatoes, coleslaw, roll & butter

Cost: \$14 - Adult \$11 - Senior Citizens,
\$9 - Students (14 and under) Children under 5 eat free

AN EXORCIST EXPLAINS WHY THE DEVIL HATES BELLS SO MUCH

“THE DEVIL HATES EVERYTHING BEAUTIFUL AND THE BELLS ARE SPECIFICALLY USED TO DRAW ATTENTION TO THE DIVINE WORSHIP OF GOD.”

<https://www.ncregister.com/blog/an-exorcist-explains-why-the-devil-hates-bells-so-much>

Patti Maguire Armstrong | Blogs | October 1, 2019



Nine new bells are displayed in the nave of Notre Dame Cathedral in Paris before being installed in 2013.

(photo: Fraser Mummery / Wikimedia Commons / CC BY 2.0)

“The devil hates bells,” a deacon involved in the deliverance ministry recently told my husband and me. He is actually our daughter’s father-in-law, so it was just a casual conversation — or at least for us.

I had never heard of the bell-aversion, so during my next interview with an exorcist — this one from the mountain West — I asked about it. Father Theophilus (which means “loved of God” but it is not his real name because exorcists usually need to keep their identity secret) confirmed it. “Devils hate bells,” he said. “I use them in sessions all the time. I have a nicely-toned consecration bell that I use.”

The devil has screamed, “Knock it off!” at the sound of bells during exorcisms and tried to knock them out of his hand. The Rite of Exorcism uses prayers and holy water, but Father Theophilus also brings many tools into the fight against evil such as music, chants, sacred art, a team of prayer warriors, holy water and blessed bells to overwhelm the devil.

“Why bells?” I asked.

“Satan is always attacking us through our senses,” he said. “So the liturgy itself needs to be a holy assault on our senses: our sight, our touch, our smells and hearing. We have prayed as a Church with all these sensual things, because she learned through millennia that this is what repels the enemy.”

Father Theophilus uses his altar or *sanctus* handheld bells. “When these consecrated bells are used at Mass it is to say, ‘Look at him, the Word made Flesh!’” he said. “The bell humiliates the devil because it’s a non-rational object that is doing what they were made to do. They

don’t want to adore God.”

Another reason the devil hates bells is because they hate everything beautiful and holy, according to Father Theophilus. “We are moved by beauty,” he said. “It stirs our souls — beautiful music, beautiful prayers, flowers, beautiful tones ... the devil hates everything beautiful and the bells are specifically used to draw attention to the divine worship of God.”

It is customary to bless everything involved in the liturgy and to bless the church bells also, Father Theophilus said. “Blessings makes things holy — set apart for God. Everything in the liturgy needs to be set apart for God.”

Just as the *sanctus* bells give glory to God, so too does the ringing of church bells, whether the church has an old cast-iron bell or an electronic recording, Father Theophilus explained. Both can be blessed. “Traditionally, church bells called us to prayer,” he said. “If you have an Angelus app on your phone, a bell will ring to alert you.”

The Angelus is a Catholic prayer originating with an 11th-century monastic custom. Church bells called people at 6 am, 12 noon, and 6 pm to pray the Angelus — Latin for “angel.” People stopped what they were doing, knelt down and prayed. The Angelus commemorates the Incarnation when the Angel Gabriel declared to the Virgin Mary, and she responded: “Behold the handmaid of the Lord; be it done unto me according to Thy word.” And the Word was made Flesh and dwelt among us.

The bell in Saint Michael’s bell tower (photo below) is rung for one full minute beginning at five minutes before the 9:30 am Sunday Mass. It has two inscriptions.:

ST. MICHAEL’S CHURCH CANTON, PA.
REV. WM. H. CONNOLLY, RECTOR.
1899 - 1900.

‘GLORIA IN ALTISSIMIS DEO, ET IN TERRA PAX HOMINIBUS VOLUNTATIS’ - LUKE II, 14. (*)

and

MC SHANE BELL FOUNDRY.
BALTIMORE, MD.
1899.

* Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to men of good will.’ - Luke 2:14





POPE FRANCIS'S MARCH PRAYER INTENTION

FOR FAMILIES IN CRISIS: Let us pray that broken families might discover the cure for their wounds through forgiveness, rediscovering each other's gifts, even in their differences.

LENTEN HOLY HOURS WITH BISHOP BAMBERA

For the third straight year, Bishop Bambera will visit each deanery in the Diocese of Scranton during Lent to hold a special Holy Hour for the faithful.



In the Sayre Deanery, Holy Hour will be at 7 pm on Monday, March 31st in Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish, Saint Basil Church, 123 Churchill Street, Dushore, PA. The complete list can be found online at <https://www.dioceseofscranton.org/bishop-bambera-to-hold-holy-hours-throughout-diocese-during-lent/>

The Sacrament of Reconciliation will be available in Saint Michael's Church on Mondays during Lent from 5:30 - 7 pm, except on Monday, March 31st. Father Joe will be attending Holy Hour with Bishop Bambera in St. Basil Church, Dushore.



DEANERY LENTEN PENCE SERVICES

Sunday, April 6

2:00 pm, St. Michael's Church, Canton
4:00 pm, Ss. Peter & Paul Church, Towanda

Sunday, April 13

2:00 pm, St. Basil Church, Dushore
4:30 pm, Epiphany Church, Sayre



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



As of March 15, we have reached 78.46% of our \$19,238 parish goal. \$15,095.00 has been donated or pledged by 72 donors. Our current participation rate 26.67%. Thank you to everyone who has contributed thus far, both financially and with your prayers.

MARCH 24 - 30, 2025 READINGS

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

Tues: Is 7:10-14; 8:10 Ps 40:7-11 Heb 10:4-10
Lk 1:26-38

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

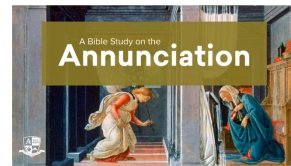
Sat: Hos 6:1-6 Ps 51:3-4, 18-21b Lk 18:9-14

Sun: Jos 5:9a, 10-12 Ps 34:2-7 2 Cor 5:1-21
Lk 15:1-3, 11-32

THIS WEEK ON **formed**, WEEK OF MARCH 23, 2025

A BIBLE STUDY ON THE ANNUNCIATION

In this video, Dr. Ben Akers leads us through a brief study of Luke 1:26-38, highlighting some of the key Old Testament passages evoked by Gabriel's words.



The reflection concludes with some thoughts on how we can imitate Mary's Yes in our own life, especially in this time of suffering.

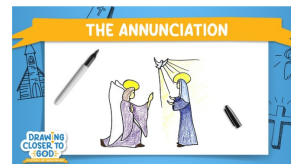
THE ANNUNCIATION | SACRED ART

Join Dr. Ben Akers and Taylor Kemp as they discuss the spiritual and theological significance of the Annunciation over a piece of Sacred Art by Elizabeth Zelasko that depicts this incredible scene.



THE ANNUNCIATION: HAIL MARY

Join Ms. Kim as she discusses devotion to Mary and the significance of Mary's "yes." All the while, you will learn new drawing techniques as you draw the Annunciation.

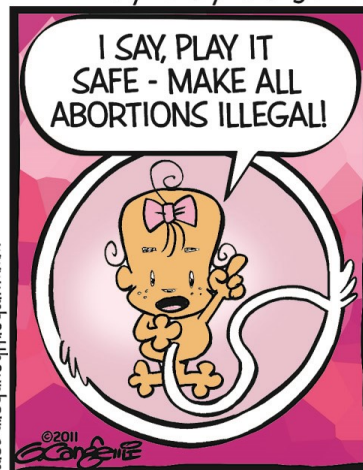


Set up your free account by visiting formed.org/signup. Use zip code 17724 to find our parish.

You can download the FORMED App to enjoy FORMED wherever you have internet access.

Umbert the Unborn

by Gary Cangemi



www.umberttheunborn.com

©2011 G. 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.



www.hooverclothingstore.com
754 Canton Street • Troy, PA
Monday-Saturday • 8am-5pm • 570-297-7770

ABC **ST. AGNES SCHOOL**
102 Third St.,
Towanda, PA 18848
(570) 265-6803
www.stagneselem.com
Pre-K (3 & 4 year olds) to Grade 6
Middle States Accredited

Pepper Funeral Home

and Cremation Facility, Inc. Paul (P.D.) Pepper, Owner/Supervisor
Services with love and compassion.
Springbrook Drive, Rt. 14 South, Canton, PA 17724
(570) 673-4333 · www.pepperfuneralhomes.com
WITH SPRINGBROOK DRIVE CREMATORY ON-SITE

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



Trinity Family Health Care
"Serving all your health care needs - naturally!"
Paul J. Hamburger, B.S., D.C.
Doctor of Chiropractic
18109 Route 14, Troy, PA 16947
570-297-0471 - 570-297-5434 (Fax)
St. Michael Parish member

"Serving The Community With Dignity and Respect"
MORSE & KLEESE FUNERAL HOME, INC.
Areas Most Affordable Prices · Locally Owned and Family Operated
Telephone Inquiries Welcome · Inflation Proof
Pre-Need Planning Available · Personalized Cremation Service Available
KENNETH H. ROBERTSON, SUPERVISOR/OWNER
94 N. CENTER ST. **570-673-3193** CANTON

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
507 West Pine Street
Athens, PA 18810
570-888-0297
Fax 570-888-4142
patrick@barrettlawofficepa.com

LEONA MEAT PLANT
1961 Leona Road, Troy, PA 16947
Hours:
Monday - Friday: 7am - 5pm
Saturday: 7am - 3pm
Closed on Holidays
For information or to place an order call us at:
Local: (570) 297-3574, Toll Free: (800) 416-3968
Fax: (570) 297-3562
e-mail: sales@LeonaMeatPlant.com

BWC
BRANN WILLIAMS & CALDWELL
ATTORNEYS AT LAW
1090 WEST MAIN ST.
TROY, PA 16947-0277
PHONE (570) 297-2192
120 TROY ST., CANTON
PA 17724-0146
PHONE (570) 673-5495
*A Time-tested partnership
You can trust.*

*In loving memory of
Carol Ann
Gergel*
Saint Jude,
Pray for us.

Jennings Coal Sales
(570) 673-4125
Canton, PA 17724
Bulk · Bagged · Stoves · Parts · Service
Blacksmith Coal Available

**The Golden Oak Inn
Bed and Breakfast**
477 Canton Street
Troy, PA 16947
570-297-4315
www.TheGoldenOakInn.com

EMPCCC
Endless Mountains Pregnancy Care Center
First Look Pregnancy Center
116 WALNUT STREET, ATHENS, PA 18810
26 WEST MAIN STREET, CANTON, PA 17724
13 STATE STREET, TOWANDA, PA 18848
209 WEST LOCKHART STREET, SAYRE, PA 18840
FREE PREGNANCY TESTS
(570) 721-2936 OR CONTACT@EMPCCFREE.COM
WWW.EMPCCFREE.COM

tributes of life
Gerald W. Vickery, Jr.
Funeral & Cremation Services, Inc.
1093 West Main Street, Troy, PA 16947
vickeryfh.com
Daniel Gilliland, Supervisor
Daniel Gilliland
Funeral Director
dgilliland@tributesoflife.com
p 570-297-3030
c 570-506-3665
f 570-297-4093

BLOSSBURG PIZZA & SUBS
OPEN 7 DAYS A WEEK!
SUN-THURS 11 AM-8PM
FRI & SAT 11AM-9PM
7 RIVERSIDE PLAZA
BLOSSBURG, PA 16912
570-638-6323
& Bakery

THE FARMER'S TABLE
242 MAIN STREET
BLOSSBURG, PA 16912
570-781-7050
SUNDAY-THURSDAY - 7:30AM - 8:00PM
FRIDAY AND SATURDAY - 7:30AM - 9:00PM

Midway truck stop
Owner: The Lees
PHONE 570-673-4328
State route 14
Roaring Branch Pa
Monday-Friday: 11 am - 8 pm
Saturday: 6 am - 2 pm
Closed Sunday

*In loving memory of
John & Pauline
and
James Paul
Pazzaglia*

**The Law Office of
Christina Fleury**
www.ChristinaFleury.com
517 Main Street, Towanda
570.265.6000
Wills, Powers of Attorney,
Estates, Family Matters,
Preservation of Assets in
Nursing Home Crisis
*Respecting the dignity and
lifetime of experiences
of every client*

Grange Mutual Fire Insurance Company
Located in Troy, PA since 1877.
· Homeowners · Mobile Homeowners
· Farm Owners · Rental and Seasonal Properties
Wendy Howe, secretary Tom Elliott, agent
570-297-4779 570-358-3940

TROY VETERINARY CLINIC
LA: 673-3181 / SA: 673-3182
15579 RT. 14, TROY PA 16947

Steinbacher · Goodall · Yurchak
Your elder care and special needs law firm
Quality representation in litigation
(Formerly the Law Offices of Leslie Wizelman)
WYALUSING WYSOX
PAElderCounsel.com • 570.746.3844