

APRIL 6, 2025



# 5TH 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

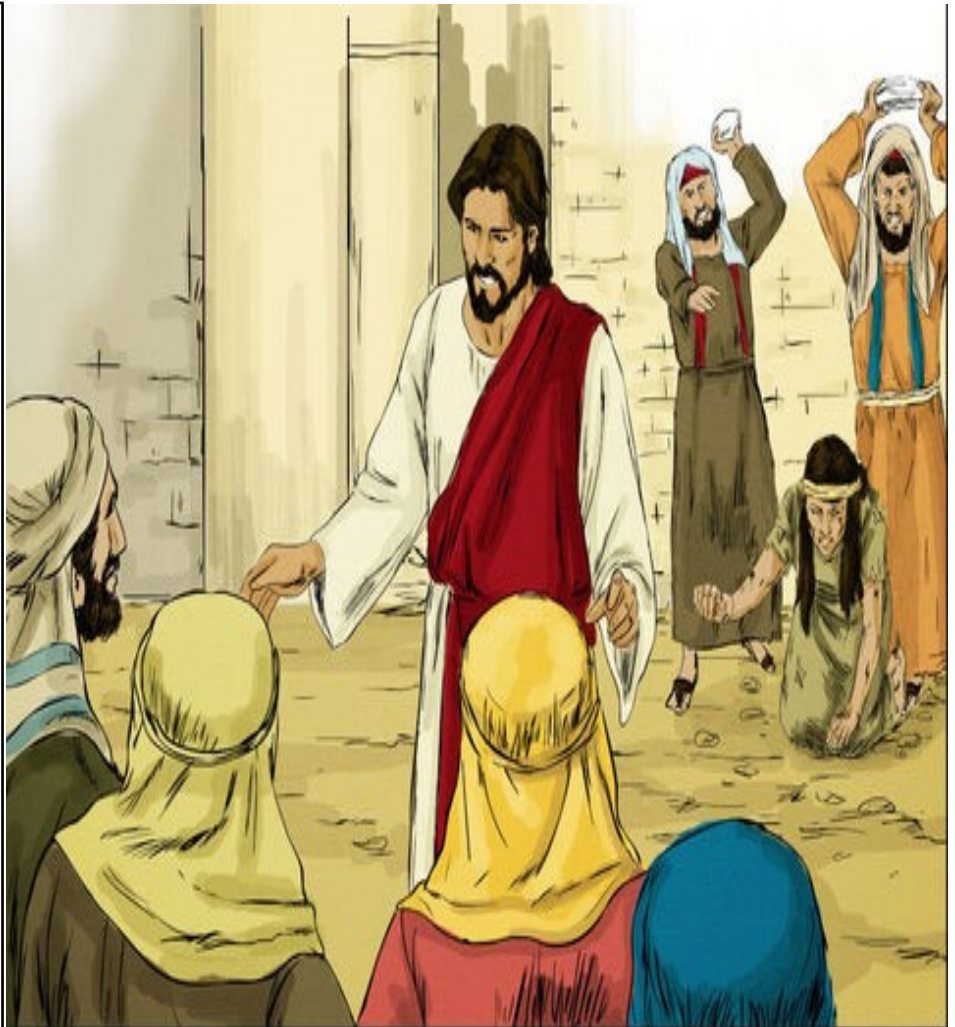
First Friday: Adoration after 7 am Mass until 7 pm, St. Michael's Church

### 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



### 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, April 5** Lenten Weekday  
 VIGIL: 5TH SUNDAY OF LENT  
 4:00 pm, Canton † David Snell (Susan Schiess)

**Sunday, April 6** 5TH SUNDAY OF LENT  
 8:00 am, Ralston † Pro Populo  
 9:30 am, Canton † Theresa Kathleen Kingsley  
 (Jerome, June & Joseph Wynne)  
 11:15 am, Troy † Josephine Szczech (Tim, Leona & Barb)

**Monday, April 7** Lenten Weekday  
 7:00 am, Rectory † Thomas Dalton (The Dalton Family)

**Tuesday, April 8** Lenten Weekday  
 5:30 pm, Troy † Deceased members of Knights of  
 Columbus Council #5517 (K of C Council #5517)  
 6:00 pm, Stations of the Cross

**Wednesday, April 9** Lenten Weekday  
**NO MASS OR STATIONS**

**Thursday, April 10** Lenten Weekday  
 No Mass

**Friday, April 11** Lenten Weekday  
 7:00 am, Rectory - For the special intentions of  
 Kimberly Acibiade) (Ray & Katherine Harrington)

**Saturday, April 12** Lenten Weekday  
 VIGIL: PALM SUNDAY OF THE PASSION OF THE LORD  
 4:00 pm, Canton † Ken Riordan (Jean & Mike Herman)


**Sunday, April 13** PALM SUNDAY OF THE  
PASSION OF THE LORD  
 8:00 am, Ralston † Pro Populo  
 9:30 am, Canton † Ed Cosgrove (Jerry & Joy Brann)  
 11:15 am, Troy † Florence DePalma (Jayne Cleveland)

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 elected officials to work to protect  
 human life from conception to natural death.  
*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 24 - 31, 2025

Weekly Offerings:	1,977.00
Electronic Offerings:	525.00
Other Parish Income:	34.50
 Total Parish Income:	2,536.50
Average weekly expenses:	4,356.13
Difference:	(1,819.63)
Catholic Relief Services:	496.00

*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

### CHANCE OF A LIFETIME

The Knights of Columbus annu-  
 al COAL (Chance of a Lifetime) Sweep-  
 stakes 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 chil-  
 dren and grandchildren of The Knights of Columbus at-  
 tending Catholic Schools. Thank you for your support!

See the parish website for prize information:  
<https://stmichaelscanton.com/news/news-from-the-knights/>



## HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE

### Palm Sunday

Regular Weekend Schedule

### Monday of Holy Week

7 am Mass, rectory chapel

### Tuesday of Holy Week

4 pm Chrism Mass, St. Peter's Cathedral, Scranton

### Wednesday of Holy Week

No Mass or Stations

### Holy Thursday

7 pm Mass of the Lord's Supper

Canton

### Good Friday

12 pm Celebration of the Lord's Passion, Canton

7 pm Stations of the Cross

followed by a meatless meal in the hall

### Holy Saturday

Blessing of the Easter Baskets

12 pm, Troy

1 pm, Canton

8 pm, Easter Vigil Mass, Canton

### Easter Sunday

Regular Sunday Schedule



## SAINT MICHAEL PARISH PRAYER LIST

Barby, John & Peggy Adams, Karl Barton,  
 Cassi Blaney, Joseph Blaszc, Gus Branish, Betty Brown,  
 Dennis & Barbara Clarke, Anthony DeMarco,  
 Kiran Dhawan, Dorland & Carlene Eck, Leon English,  
 Douglas Greene, Melissa Gowan, William Hall,  
 Joann Hickok, 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.*

# Growing in FAITH™

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

April 2025

St. Michael Parish

## One Minute Meditations

### St. Catherine of Siena

Born in 1347, St. Catherine began having divine visions as a young girl, and after much resistance from her family, she became a member of the Third Order of St. Dominic. She lived a life of solitude, prayer, poverty, mortification, and acts of charity. Her reputation for holiness spread and people began seeking her advice, especially to resolve political feuds peacefully. She is a Doctor of the Church for her works of doctrine and spiritual inspiration.

### "Silent Saturday"

On Holy Saturday, also called "Silent Saturday," we recall Mary's silent waiting for Jesus' Resurrection. Waiting is part of God's plan, and He uses that time to heal and prepare our hearts for the next stage. Thank God for the seasons of waiting, as you prepare your heart and home to celebrate the joy of Easter Sunday.

### Celebrate Mercy

Divine Mercy Sunday, established by Pope St. John Paul II in 2000, fulfills Jesus' request to St. Faustina Kowalska in the 1930s, calling the world to trust in His infinite mercy. It is celebrated on April 27 this year.

*"If I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, so that where I am, there you may be also" (John 14:3).*

## Anointed for a Mission

*Living as Priest, Prophet, and King*

In ancient Israel, priests and kings were anointed with oil as a sign that they were set apart for a sacred mission. In baptism, we too were anointed, marking us as belonging to Christ and sharing in His threefold office as priest, prophet, and king. As we approach our new life at Easter, we can take our proper place in His kingdom:

### Priest

A priest serves as a bridge between God and humanity, offering sacrifices and interceding for others. We embrace our baptismal priesthood when we pray for others, make sacrifices on their behalf, and fully participate in the Mass with devotion and joy.

### Prophet

A prophet is God's messenger, speaking the truth and calling people to conversion. A prophet's words have power because they flow from a holy life. We share in Christ's prophetic mission by living out our faith, teaching

others about God's love, and spreading the Gospel.

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*"But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's own people, that you may declare the wonderful deeds of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light" (1 Peter 2:9).*

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### King

A true king protects, leads, and serves as a model of virtue. We fulfill our royal calling when we guide and educate others in the faith, resist sin, and strive to lead others to Christ. We are servant leaders when we build up the Church, defend what is right, and help others on their path to salvation.

By fully living our faith, actively participating in the Church, and embracing the Sacraments, we do more than follow Christ—we become His hands and voice in the world. This is our calling and our mission.

**Why Do Catholics Do That?**

**Why do Catholics venerate the Cross on Good Friday?**

Veneration of the Cross is a devotion, traditionally observed during the Good Friday liturgy. The Church invites the faithful to bow, kneel, or in some other way venerate the image of the crucified Christ.

While physically kissing a statue may seem unusual, the act is not about the

object itself but about honoring the One it represents. Much like observing a moment of silence before a war memorial, we pause to remember and revere the greatest act of love. In this gesture, we express sorrow for sin, love for Christ, and gratitude for His saving victory.

# Keep watch with Jesus

*A Holy Thursday invitation*

On Holy Thursday night, Jesus went to the Mount of Olives to pray. In His anguish, He turned to His disciples and asked, *“And he came to the disciples and found them sleeping; and he said to Peter, “So, could you not watch with me one hour?”* (Matthew 26:40). Yet, they slept.

That same night, Jesus instituted the Eucharist, ensuring His presence would remain with us always. This Holy Thursday, set aside an hour to stay with Him.

**Enter the Garden:** Meditate on Matthew 26:36-46 or Luke 22:39-46. Listen to Jesus’ prayer of surrender: *“Thy will be*

*done”* (Matthew 26:42). Make it your own, trusting that God will bring all things to fulfillment in His perfect way.

**Make a spiritual Communion:** St. Thomas Aquinas described this as a prayer of longing for the Eucharist when receiving it physically isn’t possible. Though it cannot replace the Mass, it is deeply pleasing to God and nourishes the soul.

**Simply be present:** Prayer is not about many words or devotions but about being with Him. This Holy Thursday, offer Jesus your silent presence—attentive, open, and watchful—for He is always present to you.

## from Scripture

### John 20:19-31, “Doubting” Thomas believes

The two Resurrection appearances of Jesus to His disciples in this passage highlight God’s merciful love. The first appearance was on Easter Sunday. He could have abandoned them, just as they had abandoned Him in the Garden of Gethsemane, but He didn’t. Instead, Jesus appeared to them and gave them His peace, His Spirit, and the power to forgive sins in His name.

The second visit was for St. “Doubting” Thomas, who wasn’t there the first time. He refused to believe that Jesus was really risen, despite the evidence of several eyewitnesses.

He demanded physical proof. Jesus appeared in the Upper Room and invited him to touch Him. St. Thomas, moved to faith, cried out, *“My Lord and my God!”* (John 20:28).

This passage reminds us we can always bring our doubts, fears, and need for forgiveness to God, especially on this Sunday — Divine Mercy Sunday. To the disciples who abandoned Him, Jesus extended His peace and forgiveness. For St. Thomas who had been struggling with doubt, Jesus came in person to strengthen his faith. *“Jesus, I trust in You!”*

## Q & A

### How can I be sure that I am discerning God’s will in prayer?

God calls all of us to greater holiness, deeper intimacy with Him and greater charity for others. If you feel God is calling you, consider the “roots and fruits” more carefully before responding.

While the Holy Spirit often works through our “holy imagination,” not everything that pops into our heads is from Him. God will never tell us to sin or contradict Church teachings, and His voice is always gentle (if firm) and brings a deep peace that remains, even when our emotions and situations change.

Assuming the “roots” are good, you can take the first steps in answering the call. Examples of “good fruits” would be an increase in virtue, greater attraction to the Sacraments, a concrete change in how we treat others, and even a change of heart in others.

It’s always good to find a good spiritual director when discerning “big” decisions, e.g., a vocation. Be at peace: if you are seeking God’s will in good faith, He will direct you where you need to be.

## Feasts & Celebrations

**April 13 – Palm Sunday.** On Palm Sunday of the Lord’s Passion, we recall Jesus’ triumphant entry into Jerusalem, when He was greeted by crowds waving palms and cheering, *“Hosanna to the Son of David!”* (Matthew 21:9). This Sunday marks the beginning of Holy Week.

**April 16 – St. Joseph Benedict Labré (1783).** Nicknamed “the poor man of the Forty Hours (Eucharistic) devotion,” St. Benedict lived most of his life as a poor pilgrim. When he wasn’t in church, he lived on the streets, in poverty and absorbed in prayer.

**April 25 – St. Mark the Evangelist**

(First Century). St. Mark wrote the second Gospel based on St. Peter’s perspective and accompanied Saints Paul and Barnabas on their missionary journey in Cyprus. He is credited with founding the Church of Alexandria.

**April 27 – Divine Mercy Sunday.** Jesus promised St. Faustina that those who receive the Sacrament of Confession and the Eucharist on this day will receive complete forgiveness of sins and punishment—a grace akin to baptism. This extraordinary gift highlights God’s desire to wipe away our past and renew us in His love.

**April 28 – St. Louis de Montfort (1716).** A French priest with a passion for preaching the Gospel, St. Louis had a special devotion to the Blessed Mother, and his True Devotion to Mary is widely popular today.

### 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 APRIL PRAYER INTENTION



FOR THE USE OF THE NEW TECHNOLOGIES:  
Let us pray that the use of the new technologies will not replace human relationships, will respect the dignity of the person, and will help us face the crises of our times.

### THIS WEEK ON **formed**, WEEK OF APRIL 6, 2025

THE TRUTH ABOUT THE SHROUD OF TURIN  
w/FR. ROBERT SPITZER | CHRIS STEFANICK SHOW

The Shroud of Turin is the subject of a lot of rumors, myths and controversies — maybe you've heard some of them yourself and don't know what to believe. In this episode, Fr. Robert Spitzer offers amazing facts and stories about the Shroud.



### PREPARING FOR HOLY WEEK

Join Dr. Tim Gray and Dr. Mark Giszczak, professor of Sacred Scripture at the Augustine Institute Graduate School of Theology, as they walk through the liturgies of Holy Week, historical spots in the Holy Land, and how to prepare our hearts for the events of the Passion.



### SAINT JOHN BAPTIST DE LA SALLE

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The Sacrament of Reconciliation is available in Saint Michael's Church on Mondays during Lent from 5:30 - 7 pm.



### APRIL 7 - 13, 2025 READINGS

**Mon:** Dn 13:1-9, 15-17, 19-30, 33-62 Ps 23:1-6  
Jn 8:12-20  
**Tues:** Nm 21:4-9 Ps 102:2-3, 16-21 Jn 8:21-30  
**Wed:** Dn 3:14-20, 91-92, 95 (Ps) Dn 3:52-56  
Jn 8:31-42  
**Thurs:** Gn 17:3-9 Ps 105:4-9 Jn 8:51-59  
**Fri:** Jer 20:10-13 Ps 18:2-7 Jn 10:31-42  
**Sat:** Ez 37:21-28 (Ps) Jer 31:10-13 Jn 11:45-56  
**Sun:** Lk 19:28-40 (procession)  
Is 50:4-7 Ps 22:8-9, 17-18a, 19-20, 23-24 Phil 2:6-11  
Lk 22:14—23:56 (Passion reading)

### CLEANING BEE - SAINT JOHN'S CHURCH

All parishioners are invited to Saint John Nepomucene Church on Saturday, April 12th from 10:00 am until 12:00 pm for a CLEANING BEE in preparation for Easter Sunday and the Easter Season.



### 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!

- April 8: Alba - Sloppy Joes
- April 15: Grover Church of Christ - Chicken & Biscuits

### CATHOLIC MINISTRIES APPEAL

As of March 22, we have reached 79.76% of our \$19,238 parish goal. \$15,345.00 has been donated or pledged by 73 donors. Our current participation rate is 27.04%. Thank you to everyone who has contributed thus far, both financially and with your prayers.

### DEANERY LENTEN PENANCE SERVICES

Sunday, April 6

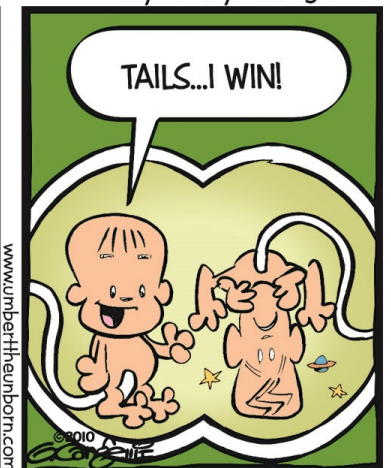
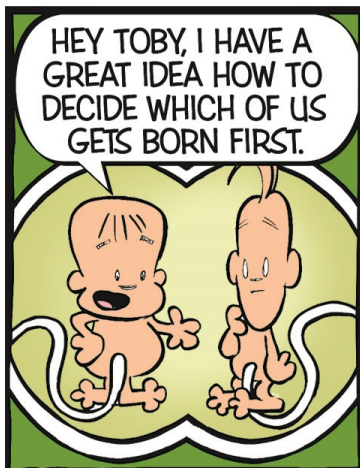
2:00 pm, St. Michael's Church, Canton  
4:00 pm, Ss. Peter & Paul Church, Towanda

Sunday, April 13

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

## 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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