APRIL 27, 2025

# ST. MICHAEL

## **CATHOLIC PARISH**

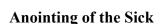
(covering worship sites in Ralston, Canton & Troy)

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



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 within the Octave of Easter Sat, April 26 VIGIL: DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY

4:00 pm, Canton † Pro Populo

Sunday, April 27

DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY

8:00 am, Ralston † Bea Jones (Dan & Betsy Clark) 9:30 am, Canton † John Murray (Jerry & Joy Brann)

11:15 am, Troy † Joey Szczech (Tim, Leona & Barb)

Monday, April 28

Easter Weekday

No Mass

Tuesday, April 29 No Mass

Saint Catherine of Siena, Virgin,

Doctor of the Church

Wednesday, April 30 No Mass or Holy Hour Easter Weekday

Thursday, May 1

Easter Weekday

No Mass

First Friday, May 2 No Mass

Saint Athanasius, Bishop,

Doctor of the Church

Saturday, May 3 SAINTS PHILIP AND JAMES, APOSTLES VIGIL: THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER

4:00 pm, Canton † Russell Harrington

(Ray & Kathleen Harrington)

Sunday, May 4

THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER

8:00 am, Ralston † Pro Populo

9:30 am, Canton † Beatrice Jones (Jerry & Joy Brann)

11:15 am, Troy † Mike Bridgham (Louise Wilber)

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 those who have participated in an abortion and feel they have committed an unforgiveable sin to come to know the Lord's limitless mercy, and turn to Him for forgiveness and heal-

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

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



205.00

### SAINT MICHAEL'S PARISH OFFERINGS **April 14 - 20, 2025**

Weekly Offerings:	2,747 .00
Easter Offerings:	2,454.00
Electronic Offerings:	525.00
Other Parish Income:	107.50
Total Parish Income:	5,833.50
Average weekly expens	es: <u>4,356.13</u>
Difference:	1,477.37

Thank you for your continued support.

Good Friday Offering:

#### From Father Joe's Desk

### MOTHER'S DAY SPIRITUAL BOUQUET CARDS

In addition to the Mother's Day intention envelopes that are in your offertory packets, Mother's Day Spiritual Bouquet cards are in all three churches. If you choose to use these cards, there is an envelope for your intentions and donation that goes in the collection basket, and another envelope with a beautiful Mother's Day card that you can give to your living mother, grandmother, or great grandmother. Just take that card out of the intention envelope and only bring the sealed intention envelope with the information filled out on the envelope, back to the church on or before Mother's Day.

### WELCOME, MONSIGNOR VINCENT YORK

This weekend we have a visiting celebrant, Monsignor Vincent York from the Diocese of Allentown.



Together, we changed lives this Lent through CRS Rice Bowl. THANK YOU for being a part of this effort! Don't forget to turn in your CRS Rice Bowl on the table by the bulletins by May 4th or donate online at crsricebowl.org/donate.



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



As of April 12, 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.

### SAINT MICHAEL PARISH PRAYER LIST

Barby, John & Peggy Adams, Karl Barton, Cassi Blaney, Joseph Blasz, 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 Moralez, Delina Morgan, Mary Nybeck, Pamela Porter O'Brien, John O'Brien, Leo Parchesky, Ramona Parker, Gary Paquette, Lori Pellegrini, Tymber Pepper, Brittany Romaine, 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.

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

May 2025

St. Michael Parish



### St. Augustine of Canterbury

St. Augustine was an Italian Benedictine monk who, with forty other monks, was sent to re-evangelize England. The Celtic population had already accepted Christ, but the incoming Anglo-Saxons hadn't. St. Augustine and his companions arrived at Ebbsfleet in 597, and were, thankfully, welcomed by King Ethelbert of Kent, who gave them permission to preach the Gospel. He also later converted. St. Augustine and his companions successfully converted southern England. He is called the "Apostle of England."

### Happy Pentecost!

On Pentecost, the Holy Spirit descended on the Blessed Mother and the Apostles in the Upper Room, in a display of divine glory. The Holy Spirit continues to guide the Church, just as He inspired the first Apostles to go preach to the ends of the earth. How might He be guiding you? (We celebrate Pentecost on June 8, this year.)

### "Be the one"

"Be with Jesus. ... I always write that sentence, 'I looked for one to comfort Me, but I found no one.' Then I write, 'Be the one.' So now you be that one. Try to be the one to share with Him, to comfort Him, to console Him. So let us ask Our Lady to help us understand."

Mother Teresa

## "Be not afraid"

What God wants most for each of us is to be happy with Him in Heaven. He uses the world to shape us and give us qualities that will help us get there untainted by sin. "Indeed, like clay in the hand of the potter, so are you in my hand ..." (Jeremiah 18:6). Sometimes that means allowing us to undergo trials that cleanse and strengthen us.

Don't judge a gift by its ugly wrapping paper. Some virtues can only be acquired through hardship. Avoiding discomfort will cause you to miss out on experiences God wants you to have. While they may be uncomfortable, God would remove them at once if they weren't good for your soul.

"Pray, hope and don't worry."
This famous advice from St. Pio of Pietrelcina (Padre Pio) is both comforting and practical. Many of tomorrow's troubles exist only in our minds. Live your trust in God by refusing to think about what might

happen and instead deal with what is happening right now. Refuse to worry. "Can any of you by worrying add a single moment to your life-span?" (Matthew 6:27).

"Fear not, for I am with you, be not dismayed, for I am your God; I will strengthen you, I will help you, I will uphold you with my victorious right hand" (Isaiah 41:10).

Accept aid. When overwhelmed, we may overlook the help God is already providing, mistakenly believing we must face challenges alone. This mindset can lead to pride — the temptation to act without God.

Instead, stay open to help from others, seek guidance in Scripture and Church teachings, and remain rooted in prayer and the Sacraments, especially the Eucharist. Once your storm passes, you'll be prepared to support others through theirs.

## Why Do Catholics Do That

# Why do Catholics have different images of the Blessed Mother?

In the well-known Marian apparitions approved by the Church — Guadalupe, Lourdes, Fatima, and Kibeho — the Blessed Virgin Mary's appearance seems to adapt to the local culture of those to whom she appears, while her central message remains consistent: a call to prayer, repentance and renewed devotion to the Faith.

For example, the miraculous image

of Our Lady of Guadalupe features symbolic elements that the Aztec people would have understood, communicating the Gospel message in a way that resonated within their cultural context. This adaptation of Mary's appearance underscores her closeness to the communities she visits, reflecting the profound truth of her spiritual motherhood of all Christians.

# The Ascension brings us closer to Jesus

The Ascension might have felt like a moment of separation to Jesus' disciples, but in reality, it brought them closer to Him in a deeper spiritual connection. Through His Ascension, Jesus became spiritually present everywhere, continually interceding on our behalf. He is always thinking of us, presenting our needs to the Father. When we pray, we are never alone—Jesus Himself is praying with us and for us.

Prayer "power-up." Prayer doesn't have to feel good to be good prayer. It can be a real struggle to pray throughout the day, to stay focused on God, and not get distracted. That's when we can lean on Jesus' perfect prayer to the Father. We

can join our prayers to His, and know they are pleasing to God.

Offer it up. Whether it involves suffering, fulfilling a necessary duty, or performing an act of charity, when we unite these actions with Jesus' self-offering on the Cross, they gain profound spiritual significance and immeasurable value for souls — especially our own.

Mass intentions. During Holy Communion or right after Mass, take a moment to present your concerns, and your desires to God, dedicating them to the service and glory of His love. Remember, God is never outdone in generosity!

# from Scripture

# John 14:23-29, "I am with you always."

This Gospel reading comes from Jesus' farewell discourse at the Last Supper. As He prepared to face His Passion, death, Resurrection, and Ascension, Jesus sought to strengthen His disciples, a close-knit group who had followed Him for three years. In this poignant moment, He reassured them of His continued presence, even after His departure. Before ascending to Heaven, Jesus promised, "I am with you always" (Matthew 28:20).

Jesus' message was clear: although His followers would no longer see Him physically, He would remain invisibly but powerfully present. If they kept His word, both He and the Father would dwell within them through grace. Furthermore, He promised to send the Holy Spirit as a guide and comforter, granting them the gift of His peace and the assurance of His return.

It is natural to feel that being faithful would be easier if we could see and hear Jesus directly. Yet, He remains present in His Church—in her worship, prayer, sacraments, and acts of charity.

Above all, Jesus is profoundly present in the Eucharist, where His Body, Blood, Soul, and Divinity are truly present (*CCC*, #1374). We do not need to look back in time; we encounter Jesus at every Mass.

# Feasts & 🖊 🔘

May 3 – Sts. Philip and James (First Century). St. Philip was born in Bethsaida and followed John the Baptist before he followed Christ. After the Ascension, St. Philip preached in Asia Minor, where he was martyred. St. James, the son of Alphaeus, was also one of the twelve Apostles.

May 12 – Sais Nereus and Achilleus (d.c.100). Little is known about the early lives of Saints Nereus and Achilleus. They were Roman soldiers of the Praetorian Guard but converted to Christianity. They resigned the army, refusing to serve the Emperer. They

were exiled from Rome to the island of Terracina and were beheaded.

May 29 – Solemnity of the Ascension of the Lord (1st Century). Today marks the completion of Jesus' mission of salvation and his triumphant entry into Heaven. Note: In many dioceses, observance of Ascension has been moved to the following Sunday.

May 29 – Pope St. Paul VI (1978). Born in 1897, near Brescia, Italy, Giovanni Battista Montini spent most of his priesthood working for the Vatican. He was elected pope in 1963 and concluded the Second Vatican Council, went on many apostolic missions, and wrote several significant encyclicals. He died in 1978.

### Q & A

# How can I make a consecration to Mary?

The Marian Consecration, or *Total Consecration to Mary*, is a devotion dating back to the 1700s, introduced by St. Louis de Montfort. It involves entrusting one's life to Jesus through the Blessed Mother. This practice has been highly praised by many saints and popes, including Pope St. John Paul II.

Marian consecration does not involve worshiping Mary or treating her as divine. Instead, it acknowledges that Mary, as Christ's mother, always leads us to her Son. Mary serves as a bridge, guiding us closer to Jesus by the safest and most direct route.

On the Cross, Jesus gave His mother to humanity, saying, "Behold your mother" (John 19:26-27). St. John Paul II saw this as an invitation to deeper intimacy with Christ by drawing closer to the one closest to Him on earth.

Many who practice the consecration experience a deeper, more transformative prayer life, drawing closer to both Mary and Jesus. (Note: Catholic websites like EWTN and the National Shrine of St. Louis de Montfort provide free downloadable versions and instructions.)

### Our Mission

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### POPE FRANCIS'S MAY PRAYER INTENTION

For working conditions
Let us pray that through work, each person might find fulfilment, families might be sustained in dignity, and that society might be humanized.

# (Excerpted) STATEMENT OF THE MOST REVEREND JOSEPH C. BAMBERA, BISHOP OF SCRANTON, ON THE DEATH OF POPE FRANCIS

I join with Catholics ... around the world today in grieving the death of our beloved Holy Father, Pope Francis, who returned to the house of our Heavenly Father in the morning hours of Easter Monday, .

. . . .

Pope Francis will long be remembered as a shepherd who drew us all closer to the heart of Christ. ..., Pope Francis made it his mission to share the endless compassion of God. His words, which I have often quoted in my homilies, always pointed us toward the essential truths of our faith – that God is love, that mercy is the cornerstone of our salvation, and that our mission is to reflect that divine mercy in our daily lives.

.... His focus on God's mercy – and that no one can be excluded from it – was not just an abstract teaching. It permeated his words and actions, from his encounters with the poor and marginalized, to his tireless efforts to foster peace and reconciliation around the globe.

. . . .

In gratitude for his life and teachings – I will celebrate a special Diocesan Memorial Mass for Pope Francis on Tuesday, April 22, 2025, at 12:10 p.m. at the Cathedral of Saint Peter in Scranton. All are invited to attend.

Eternal rest grant unto him, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon him. May he rest in peace. Amen.

# GRADUATION MASS & DINNER

This year's graduates will be celebrated during the 4:00 pm Mass on Saturday, June 7th and by a dinner in the hall following the Mass. If you or a close family member will be graduating high school or college this year, please contact the parish office.

### APRIL 28 - MAY 4, 2025 READINGS

Mon: Acts 4:23-31 Ps 2:1-9 Jn 3:1-8

**Tues:** Acts 4:32-37 Ps 93:1-2, 5 Jn 3:7b-15 **Wed:** Acts 5:17-26 Ps 34:2-9 Jn 3:16-21

**Thurs**: Acts 5:27-33 Ps 34:2, 9, 17-20 Jn 3:31-36 **Fri:** Acts 5:34-42 Ps 27:1, 4, 13-14 Jn 6:1-15

**Sat:** 1 Cor 15:1-8 Ps 19:2-5 Jn 14:6-14

**Sun**: Acts 5:2432, 40b-41 Ps 30:2, 4-6, 11-13

Rv 15:11-14 Jn 21:1-19

### This week on formed, week of April 27, 2025

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You may have heard of him, the sneaker-wearing, computerloving "gamer saint" of our time. But beyond the headlines and hashtags, the real story of Carlo is



something deeper, something the world desperately needs to hear. Known for his deep love of God, devotion to the Eucharist, and quiet acts of charity, Carlo's life was a testament to everyday holiness.

### THE WILD GOOSE

In this Easter season, join Fr. Dave Pivonka in the Wild Goose, a 14-part series on living a life inspired by and with the Holy Spirit.



### DIVINE MERCY WITH FR. MICHAEL GAITLEY

Renowned speaker and author Fr. Michael Gaitley tells the dramatic history of God's love and mercy as interwoven through the transformative message of St.



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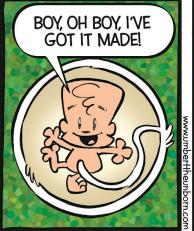
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Umbert the Unborn







GRANDPARENTS! NOW THAT'S WHAT I CALL FINANCIAL SECURITY.

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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St. Michael Parish member



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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.

> BARRETT LAW OFFICES Patrick J. Barrett, III

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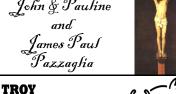
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SUNDAY-THURSDAY - 7:30AM - 8:00PM FRIDAY AND SATURDAY - 7:30AM - 9:00PM

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