

AUGUST 3, 2025



18TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

# 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](mailto:office@stmichaelscanton.com)

website: [www.stmichaelscanton.com](http://www.stmichaelscanton.com)

Summer Office Hours: Mondays & Wednesdays 8:00 am - 3:30 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

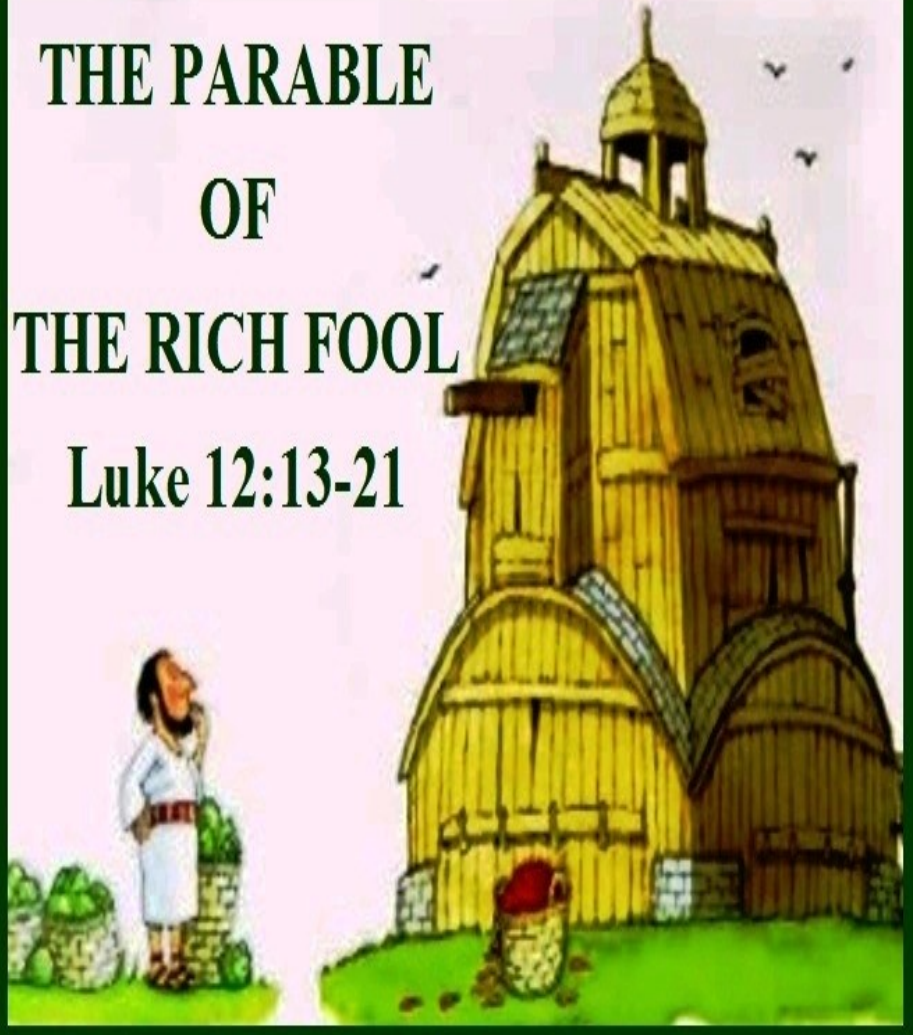
### First Fridays

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

## THE PARABLE OF THE RICH FOOL Luke 12:13-21



**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

<b>Saturday, August 2</b>	Weekday
VIGIL: 18TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME	
4:00 pm, Canton † Pamela Anzer (Mike & Jean Herman)	
<b>Sunday, August 3</b>	18TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
8:00 am, Ralston † Pro Populo	
9:30 am, Canton † Robert Fleury (Christina Fleury)	
11:15 am, Troy † Rich Carlonas (Cheryl Carlonas)	
<b>Monday, August 4</b>	Saint John Vianney, Priest
7:00 am, Rectory † Carol Ann Gergel (James Gergel)	
<b>Tuesday, August 5</b>	Weekday
5:30 pm, Troy - For the special intentions of Donald Trump (The Myers Family)	
<b>Wed., August 6</b>	THE TRANSFIGURATION OF THE LORD
5:30 pm, Canton † Beatrice Jones (Reuben & Olga Rivera)	
6:00 pm Holy Hour	
<b>Thursday, August 7</b>	Weekday
No Mass	
<b>Friday, August 8</b>	Saint Dominic, Priest
7:00 am, Rectory † Gertrude Alcibiade (Ray & Katherine Harrington)	
<b>Saturday, August 9</b>	Weekday
VIGIL: 19TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME	
4:00 pm, Canton † Mary Krise Dunbar (Sherry Vargson)	
<b>Sunday, August 10</b>	19TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
8:00 am, Ralston † Pro Populo	
9:30 am, Canton - For the canonization of Blessed Father Michael McGivney (K of C Council #5517)	
11:15 am, Troy † Joseph Pierchorowicz (Mr. & Mrs. David Pierchorowicz)	

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 Lord to generously provide for the needs of mothers as they dedicate themselves to caring for their children.

*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.



### SAINT MICHAEL'S PARISH OFFERINGS July 21 - 27, 2025

Weekly Offerings:	2,430.00
Electronic Offerings:	525.00
Other Parish Income:	103.00
Total Parish Income:	3,058.00
Average weekly expenses:	4,356.13
Difference:	(1,298.13)
Care & Education of Priests:	1.00



*Thank you for your continued support.*

## NEWS FROM THE KNIGHTS

MASS INTENTION FOR THE CANONIZATION OF  
BLESSED FATHER MICHAEL MCGIVNEY,  
FOUNDER OF THE KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS



Next Sunday, August 10th, the 9:30 am Mass will be offered for the Canonization of Blessed Father Michael McGivney by the Knights of Columbus. A Rosary and Litany of Blessed Father Michael McGivney will begin at 8:45 am, led by the Knights of Columbus.

Michael McGivney was born August 12, 1852, ordained December 22, 1877, and died August 14, 1890 at the age of 38 after serving in the Priesthood for 13 years.



He founded the Knights of Columbus in 1882. He was declared Venerable on March 15, 2008. A miracle was approved for his Beatification on May 27, 2020. Venerable Father Michael McGivney was beatified on October 31, 2020. His Feast Day is established as August 13th.

## VOLUNTEERS & DONATIONS NEEDED!

We're providing a dinner for CHS athletes during their Summer Camp on Monday, August 11th. The menu is baked ziti with homemade bread, salad, corn on the cob, and desserts. Call or email the parish office to volunteer your time and/or donate food.

We'll start cooking at 2:00 pm in Saint Michael's kitchen and load up to go to the school at 4:00 pm to be ready to serve at 4:30. This is always a fun event, so take this opportunity to bless these young athletes and enjoy the camaraderie of fellow parishioners!

## SAVE THE DATE!

The ENDLESS MOUNTAINS CHORAL SOCIETY invites you to their Fall *Choral Anthems Concert* in Saint Michael's Church on Sunday, September 14th at 4:00 pm. A light reception will follow in the church hall.

## SAINT MICHAEL PARISH PRAYER LIST

Barby, John & Peggy Adams, Karl Barton, Cassi Blaney, Joseph Blaszczyk, Mary Blaszczyk, Gus Branish, Betty Brown, Dennis Clarke, Grace Cott, Anthony DeMarco, Kiran Dhawan, Philip Doud, Dorland & Carlene Eck, Leon English, Wayne Ettinger, Misty Frame, Douglas Greene, Melissa Gowan, William Hall, Barb Hinman, Maryllis Hughes, Victoria Johnson, Bob Jones, Lauren Kreager, David Kule, Jo Kule, Judy Lepper, Bob Lutz, Joyce Maloney, Tom McBlane, Ed "Buster" Merritt, Delina Morgan, Charlotte Morse, Mary Nybeck, Pamela Porter O'Brien, John O'Brien, Leo Parchesky, Ramona Parker, Gary Paquette, Lori Pellegrini, Olivia Perrotto, Brittany Romaine, Pat Rushin, Cristy Schmelzle, Ahmed Hassa Sharief, Anthony Shipula, Christine Shipula, Bev Smith, Elias Vroman, Calvin Watson, Steven Wilber, John Wilcox, 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.

August 2025

St. Michael Parish

## One Minute Meditations

### St. Clare of Assisi

Born to a noble family in Assisi, St. Clare was eighteen when St. Francis was invited to preach at the church of San Giorgio. She was so inspired, she renounced everything to serve God in poverty, penance, and simplicity. Others joined, forming the first Order of Poor Ladies (Poor Clares). St. Clare is most famous for protecting Assisi from invasion by displaying the Blessed Sacrament on the fortress walls, causing the enemy to flee in terror.

### The promise of the Assumption

This month, we celebrate Mary's Assumption, body and soul, into Heaven. What is often thought of as a "privilege" unique to Mary is actually a "preview" of what we are made for: endless joy, dwelling in the life and love of the Trinity, souls and bodies. It's another reminder that Catholicism isn't just about spiritual truths but concrete, physical, and tangible realities.

"I want to stress what I think that we...need more; the joy and delight in God which meet us in the Psalms...[The Jews] did not know that He offered them eternal joy; still less that He would die to win it for them. Yet they express a longing for Him, for His mere presence, which comes only to the best Christians" C.S. Lewis.

## The Saints and the secret to true happiness

The saints understood that real happiness is about knowing where to find peace, perspective, and joy—no matter what life brings. This month, we look at four saints who show us what it takes to live with true happiness.

**Simplicity – St. Francis of Assisi.** St. Francis gave up wealth and comfort to follow Christ completely. In doing so, he made space in his heart to receive everything from God with peace and joy. While most of us aren't called to material poverty, we can imitate his spiritual poverty—letting go of sin and distractions to focus more fully on our relationship with God.

**Trust and Love – St. Thérèse of Lisieux.** St. Thérèse's "Little Way" was built on doing small things with great love. Her "humble confidence" in God's mercy gave her strength through illness, loss, and interior suffering. Her path invites us to respond to life's challenges not with fear or striving, but with trust and consistent, simple acts of love.

**Holy Humor – St. Philip Neri.** St.

Philip Neri understood the spiritual power of joy. Known for his deep prayer life and playful spirit, he used humor to lift others out of gloom, deflate pride, and open hearts to God. He once shaved half his beard just to make

***"Thou dost show me the path of life; in thy presence there is fulness of joy, in thy right hand are pleasures evermore."***

**Psalm 16:11**

people laugh. His life reminds us that holiness isn't dour—joy, laughter, and reverence can all go hand-in-hand.

**Faithful Friendship – Blessed Pier Giorgio Frassati.** Blessed Pier Giorgio balanced an active social life with a deep love for the poor and for Christ. He surrounded himself with friends who shared his love for the faith, frequently inviting them to Mass and Eucharistic Adoration. Whether hiking mountains or visiting the sick, he lived with joy rooted in friendship—with others, and above all, with Jesus.

## Why Do Catholics Do That?

The Gospels contain many well-attested accounts of miracles, often witnessed by large crowds. It makes sense that the Creator of the natural order would occasionally suspend it to reveal His power. At the heart of our faith stands the greatest miracle of all—the Resurrection of Jesus Christ.

## Why do Catholics believe in miracles?

St. Paul wrote, *"If Christ has not been raised, then our proclamation has been in vain, and your faith has been in vain"* (1 Corinthians 15:14). God continues to work miracles today to bless those who experience them directly and to strengthen our trust in His providence, love, and divine presence.

# The Queen who leads us home

When Jesus entrusted Mary to St. John at the foot of the Cross (John 19:27), He gave us one of His greatest gifts: His own mother. In that moment, we were welcomed into His family. As Queen of Heaven, Mary blesses us in many ways. We look to her as:

**As Mother:** Jesus gave us the person closest to Him on earth to help draw us even closer to Him. He was not content simply to be our Savior—He wanted to be our Brother. Mary is not a barrier to Christ but a window into His heart. Through her, we come to know Him more intimately.

**As model:** Mary is also a model of faithful discipleship.

Though sinless, she had no supernatural powers or hidden knowledge. She rejoiced and suffered, worked and traveled, just as we do. Her life shows us how to remain faithful in the face of sorrow, uncertainty, and loss—and that perseverance in faith is always rewarded.

**As intercessor:** God does not need Mary's prayers or assistance to act on our behalf, yet He chooses to involve her in His work. Her intercession—like ours—finds its power in Christ's perfect prayer to the Father. As Queen, Mary is not passive in heaven; she actively cares for us, her children, with a mother's love.

## from Scripture

### Luke 14:1, 7-14, Humility is holy "self-forgetfulness"

Fewer things are more awkward than accepting an honor publicly—only to discover it wasn't meant for you. In this Gospel passage, Jesus offers a clear lesson: the safest way to "move up" in God's Kingdom is through humility.

In Jesus' time, a person's status at a banquet was reflected in how close they sat to the host. Like today, not everyone knew who had been invited. If you mistakenly sat too close, you could be asked—publicly—to move down. It was wiser to take a lower seat and be invited higher, if appropriate.

Humility is often misunderstood. It's

not weakness, self-doubt, or putting yourself down.

True humility is honest self-awareness—recognizing your flaws and limitations, but also your gifts, strengths, and constant need for God's grace. The humble person doesn't seek to be the center of attention. Instead, they reflect God's goodness and elevate others.

Jesus isn't giving us etiquette tips. He's showing us the posture of the heart that honors God, protects our soul, and prepares us for the only banquet that matters—the eternal one.

## Q & A What is a "rule of life" and why should I make one?

A rule of life is simply a structured way to integrate regular prayer into your day. It's a long-standing practice among priests, monks, and nuns—but it's not just for the consecrated. Everyone needs time each day to be with the One who loves us most. Your personal rule can be as simple or as detailed as you need; what matters is remaining faithful to the time you commit.

At first, the idea of a rule of life might seem intimidating. But in reality, most of us already follow one. Maybe we always wake up at the same time or never skip a morning jog. Prayer can—and should—become part of that rhythm. It's not just a duty; it's an investment that transforms us and blesses those around us.

In the *Introduction to the Devout Life*, St. Francis de Sales encourages us to "begin all prayers... in the presence of God." He emphasized the value of consistency—staying faithful to a few well-chosen prayers is more effective than rushing through many. If, during prayer, you feel God inviting you simply to rest in His love, don't worry about finishing every word. The goal is not to check boxes, but to draw close to Him.

## Feasts & Celebrations

**August 8 – St. Dominic de Guzman (1221).** Born to a noble family in Spain, St. Dominic studied to become an Augustinian canon regular, but left to preach against the widely popular but dangerous Albigensian heresy. He founded the Order of Preachers, or "Dominicans," who successfully defeated this heresy. He's also credited with receiving the Rosary from Our Lady and teaching it to others.

**August 15 - The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary (1950).** Declared a dogma of our faith by Pope Pius XII, the Assumption celebrates Mary being taken up into Heaven body and soul at

the end of her life. It is a Holy Day of Obligation this year.

**August 27 – St. Monica of Hippo (387).** St. Monica is best known for converting her wayward son and pagan husband by her patience, piety, and prayers. Her son, St. Augustine, became a great saint and Doctor of the Church.

**August 29 – The Beheading of St. John the Baptist (1st Century).** Today we recall the martyrdom of St. John the Baptist, whose mission was to prepare the Jews for Jesus' coming by calling them to repentance. He was arrested and executed for preaching the truth to powerful enemies. Caving into the pressure of his courtiers, King Herod permitted his niece's request – the head of John the Baptist on a platter.

### 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 LEO XIV AUGUST PRAYER INTENTION

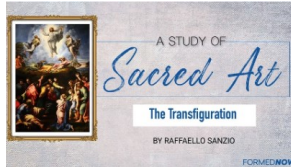
### FOR MUTUAL COEXISTENCE

Let us pray that societies where coexistence seems more difficult might not succumb to the temptation of confrontation for ethnic, political, religious, or ideological reasons.

## THIS WEEK ON **formed** WEEK OF AUGUST 3, 2025

### THE TRANSFIGURATION | SACRED ART

Dr. Ben Akers and Taylor Kemp sit down with Raffaello Sanzio's painting, "The Transfiguration," to discuss its theological meaning and how it can speak to us today.



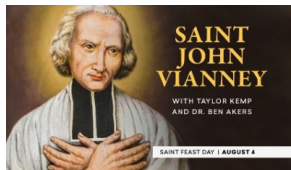
### EDITH STEIN: THE SEVENTH CHAMBER

This film is a moving, artistic portrayal of the life of Jewish philosopher, Catholic convert, and Carmelite martyr, Edith Stein. It powerfully captures the interior struggles of this extraordinary woman and her journey toward the Lord.



### SAINT JOHN VIANNEY | CATHOLIC SAINTS

Join Dr. Ben Akers and Taylor Kemp as they discuss St. John Vianney, the Cure d'Ars and patron saint of parish priests.



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### PARISH CENSUS

As of July 28th, we have 104 responses out of 269 registered families. Census forms are available by the bulletins, on the parish website at [stmichaelscanton.com/news/parish-census/](https://stmichaelscanton.com/news/parish-census/), or by using this QR code:



## AUGUST 4 - 10, 2025 READINGS

**Mon:** Nm 11:4b-15 Ps 81:12-17 Mt 14:13-21

**Tues:** Nm 12:1-13 Ps 51:1, 3-7, 12-13 Mt 14:22-36

**Wed:** Dn 7:9-10, 13-14 Ps 97:1-2, 5-6, 9 2 Pt 1:16-19  
Lk 9:28b-36

**Thurs:** Nm 20:1-13 Ps 95:1-2, 6-9 Mt 16:13-23

**Fri:** Dt 4:32-40 Ps 77:12-16, 21 Mt 16:24-28

**Sat:** Dt 6:4-13 Ps 18:2-4, 47, 51 Mt 17:14-20

**Sun:** Wis 18:6-93 Ps 33:1, 12, 18-22 Heb 11:1-2, 8-19  
Lk 12:32-48

## 2025-2026 CCD REGISTRATION IS NOW OPEN!

### TEACHERS AND SUBSTITUTES NEEDED!

Anyone interested in faith formation ministry, please contact Sarah Watson at [dre@stmichaelscanton.com](mailto:dre@stmichaelscanton.com) or 570-447-8799.

CCD registration is open through September 7. Register here: <https://stmichaelscanton.com/news/2025-2026-religious-education/> or by using the hard copies by the bulletins. Keep an eye on the bulletin for a Parents' Meeting to be scheduled in September.

Two consecutive years of religious education are needed for Sacramental Preparation. Children entering 1st & 7th grade should be enrolled in CCD. 2nd & 8th graders who are eligible for First Holy Communion and Confirmation, respectively.

## NEWS FROM THE KNIGHTS

### "STUFF THE BUS" UNDERWAY!!

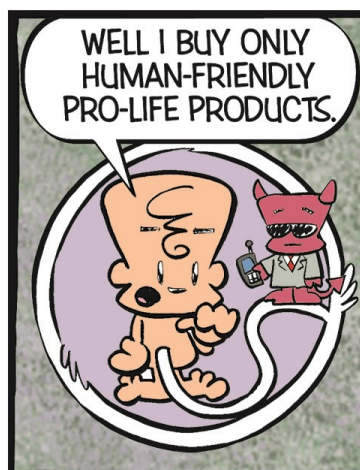
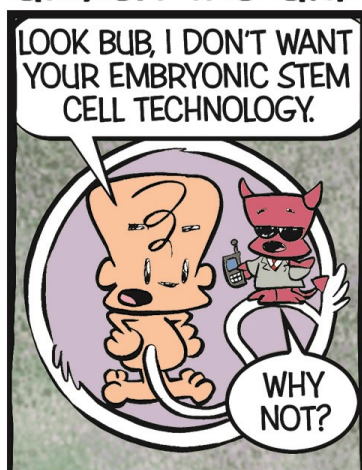
Our "Stuff the Bus" drive starts this weekend and runs throughout the month of August. We are collecting school supplies for less fortunate students. A collection bin is in the narthex of Saint Michael's Church.



In addition to school supplies, this year we are asking for donations of sweatpants or track pants for children aged kindergarten through fourth grade. There are a variety of reasons why a change of clothing may be needed for these ages.

## 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

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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

### BARRETT LAW OFFICES

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*Attorney and Counselor at Law*

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