

DECEMBER 7, 2025



SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

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: Monday & Wednesday 8 am - 3:30 pm, Thursday 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

“REPENT, FOR THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN IS AT HAND!”

MATTHEW 3:2



Pastoral Council: David Brann, Leslie Debach, Ray Harrington
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, December 6 Advent Weekday

VIGIL: SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

4:00 pm, Canton † Pro Populo

Sunday, December 7 SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

8:00 am, Ralston † Lester Kulp (Dan & Betsy Clark)

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

11:15 am, Troy † Helen Pierchorowicz

(Mr. & Mrs. David Pierchorowicz)

2:00 pm, Canton - Advent Penance Service

Monday, December 8 IMMACULATE CONCEPTION OF
THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

7:00 am, Rectory † Robert Fleury (Christina Fleury)

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

Tuesday, December 9 Advent Weekday

5:30 pm, Troy † Larry Kieslor

(The Bradford & Hamburger Families)

Wednesday, December 10 Advent Weekday

5:30 pm, Canton † Deceased members of Knights of
Columbus Council #5517 (K of C Council #5517)

6:00 pm, Rosary

Thursday, December 11 Advent Weekday

No Mass

Friday, December 12 OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE

7:00 am, Rectory † Richard Knecht

(The Bradford & Hamburger Family)

Saturday, December 13 Saint Lucy, Virgin, Martyr

VIGIL: THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

4:00 pm, Canton † Joe Spencer (Jeff & Beth Cole)

Sunday, December 14 THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

8:00 am, Ralston † Pro Populo

9:30 am, Canton † Mr. & Mrs. William Madigan

(Gerald & Joy Brann)

11:15 am, Troy † Michael & Ann Polly (Shirley Grantier)

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 for the repose of the soul of Gerald Brann
by his friends from Vickery Funeral Home.

*Sanctuary lamp intentions may be
requested by contacting the parish office.*

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



SAINT MICHAEL'S PARISH OFFERINGS November 24 - 30, 2025

Weekly Offerings: 2,464.00

Electronic Offerings: 1,430.00

Other Parish Income: 36.50

Total Parish Income: 3,930.50

Average weekly expenses: 4,868.51

Difference: (938.01)

Thank you for your continued support.



FROM FATHER JOE'S DESK

**INTERESTED IN BECOMING CATHOLIC,
OR REFRESHING YOUR MEMORY?**



The Order of Christian Initiation
of Adults (OCIA) is the way for
adults to receive the Sacraments of
Initiation. We are currently in the inquiry phase. It's
culmination is the inquirer's decision to enter the cate-
chumenate, the period of formal preparation for entrance
into full membership in the Catholic Church. The next
session of the OCIA will be Monday, December 15th at
7 pm in the rectory.

Retirement Fund for Religious

Please give to
those who have
given a lifetime.



A lifetime of service deserves care in return.
"Thanks to your generosity, we can provide the very best
care to the sisters in our community," says Sister M.
Stephanie Belgeri, 73, of the Sisters of St. Francis of the
Martyr St. George in Alton, Illinois. Donations to the
RETIREMENT FUND FOR RELIGIOUS provide housing,
medical assistance, and essential support for thousands
of aging religious. Please consider giving next week.

Envelopes are by the bulletins.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION CHRISTMAS PROGRAM

The CCD and Confirmation students invite you to their
ANNUAL CHRISTMAS PROGRAM immediately following
the 9:30 am Mass on Sunday, December 21st, and to the
CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PARTY during Fellowship in the
church hall. There is a sign-up sheet in the narthex
(vestibule) of Saint Michael Church for all children
planning to attend the Children's Christmas Party.

SAINT MICHAEL PARISH PRAYER LIST

Barby, John & Peggy Adams, Roberta Arnold,
Karl Barton, Cassi Blaney, Joseph Blaszc, Mary Blaszc,
Gus Branish, Betty Brown, Dennis Clarke, Grace Cott,
Anthony DeMarco, Kiran Dhawan, Philip Doud,
Dorland & Carlene Eck, Colleen Eklund, Leon English,
Wayne Ettinger, Misty Frame, Theresa Gentile,
Douglas Greene, Melissa Gowan, William Hall,
Hamburger Family Special Intention, Barb Hinman,
Maryllis Hughes, Victoria Johnson, Bob Jones,
Emily Jones, Lauren Kreager, David Kule, Jo Kule,
Judy Lepper, Bob Lutz, Joyce Maloney,
David Martinez, 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, Giselle Phillips, Brittany Romaine,
Elizabeth Ross, Joan Ross, Pat Rushin,
Cristy Schmelzle, Ahmed Hassa Sharief,
Anthony Shipula, Christine Shipula, Bev Smith,
Elaine Strange, Wayne Strange, 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.

December 2025

St. Michael Parish

One Minute Meditations

St. Lucy

St. Lucy was born into 4th century pagan Syracuse, Sicily, and is one of the most famous martyrs of the early Church. Her family arranged for her to marry a pagan, but since she had consecrated her virginity to Christ, St. Lucy refused him. Offended, he betrayed her to the authorities for her Faith. She was questioned and tortured, but all attempts to discourage her failed. She was finally executed. She is the patron saint against eye problems.

The three comings of Christ

This season of Advent, we celebrate the three comings of Christ: in glory at the end of time, in time when He was born in Bethlehem, and His coming in our own lives and hearts. Advent is a time of "busy stillness," of preparing and waiting, like Mary certainly did, for the arrival of the Savior. This Christmas, let's renew our "Yes" to God's request to dwell in our hearts and be "born" in the daily living of our lives.

"The King comes as a helpless infant, born of insignificant parents in a small town of a distant outpost of the Roman Empire. He will conquer through the finally irresistible power of love, the same power with which he made the universe." Most Reverend Robert E. Barron

Find peace before Christmas by slowing down

The busyness leading up to Christmas can be exhausting, but the Advent season holds a better path. It's a time to breathe, reset, and prepare our hearts for the coming of the King. Advent is a built-in gift, a chance to slow the pace and lift our eyes to what matters most.

Renew a sense of the holy: Advent is a chance to wake up the soul. When we lean into our Faith with intention, the season stops feeling rushed and starts feeling radiant. Light the Advent Wreath and let its glow steady your heart. Go to Confession and feel the weight lift as mercy takes over. Spend a few quiet minutes before Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament and let His presence ground you. Pray the Joyful Mysteries, the "Christmas mysteries" that still speak powerfully to our lives today.

Tune out the noise: Advent becomes richer when we clear space for God to speak. The world buzzes with distractions, but your soul needs room to breathe. Build small pockets of

silence into your day and let stillness sharpen your awareness of God's presence. Reach for a spiritual book instead of a scroll through your feed. Cut back on the constant stream of news that crowds the mind. When the noise quiets, the Holy Spirit has space

"Behold, a virgin will be with child and bear a son, and she will call His name Immanuel" (Isaiah 7:14).

to guide, steady, and renew you.

Streamline and prioritize: Choose what draws you closer to Christ. When your heart is ordered toward what matters, even the cooking, decorating, singing, and gift-giving gain a deeper beauty. You may decide to attend fewer events, keep the décor simple, or choose more modest gifts. Far from taking away joy, this clears space for it. You move through the season with more peace, more purpose, and a heart in step with Jesus.

Why Do Catholics Do That?

Every Christmas, we remember that Jesus, the Son of God, took on our humanity without losing His divinity. It is a mystery, yet we hold it with confidence because God, who is Truth, has revealed it.

During His earthly life, Jesus spoke and acted with divine authority. He

Why do Catholics believe Jesus is God?

said, *"The Father and I are one"* (John 10:30). He forgave sins, clarified the Law, and worked miracles. His Resurrection stands as the clearest confirmation of His identity, showing that His claim to be God was real. As man, He could suffer and die. As God, He rose and conquered death.

The most meaningful gifts of Christmas aren't wrapped

We know that the most valuable gifts are often the ones we cannot wrap. Alongside whatever you give your loved ones this year, do not let Christmas pass without offering these gifts as well:

Your time: Being present with the people we love is one of the simplest and strongest ways to show care. A short visit, an unhurried coffee, or an evening without phones can mean more than any item we put under a tree. When we give someone our attention, we affirm their worth.

Your forgiveness: Forgiveness does not excuse the hurt. It frees you from the weight of anger and resentment. It

also gives the other person room to grow and seek healing. Letting go is often the first step toward real peace. In many ways, forgiveness is a gift you give yourself.

Your gratitude: Giving thanks to God at Christmas is more than a warm sentiment. It is a heartfelt response to the depth of His love.

Look at the Crucifix, the Nativity, or the Eucharist and consider the humility behind such a gift. Our gratitude matters to God (see Luke 17:17-18). So after attending Mass on Christmas Day, take a moment to say, "Thank you." It is a small act that carries real meaning.

from Scripture

Matthew 2:13-15, 19-23, Obedience is trust in action

By the time Mary gave birth to Jesus, Saint Joseph had already formed a habit of steady obedience to God. So when the angel spoke to him in a dream and instructed him to flee to Egypt, Joseph acted without delay. He trusted that God would care for him and for the family entrusted to him.

This trust is even more striking when we consider the circumstances of Jesus' birth. Mary and Joseph had traveled from Nazareth to Bethlehem during the final stages of her pregnancy. Whether by foot or by donkey, the trip would have been long, uncomfortable, and

exhausting. When they finally arrived, they found no suitable place to stay and settled among animals. Soon after, they faced the threat against Jesus' life and fled to Egypt, living for years in a foreign land without the support of relatives or friends. Through every hardship, Joseph relied on God to protect his family.

The Holy Family was perfect in love, yet not spared from difficulty. Mary and Joseph met each challenge with faith and allowed God's Word to guide them. We can follow the same path.

Q & A Why is it said that Mass brings us closer to God than anything else?

At every Mass, Jesus is really and truly present in the Eucharist in His Body, Blood, Soul, and Divinity (*Catechism of the Catholic Church*, 1374). In this moment, the Sacrifice of Christ is made present to us in a mysterious but real way. His self-giving is the greatest act of love, and our participation at Mass is our strongest response, our way of saying, "I love you, too."

Worshipping together also strengthens our faith in the God who is everywhere yet unseen. Faith grows in community. It grows through the physical actions of the Mass as well. When we sit, stand, bow, and kneel, we express with our bodies what we believe in our hearts.

Finally, the Real Presence of Jesus on the altar draws us into a closeness to God that we cannot find anywhere else in this life. Nowhere do we meet Him more directly than when He feeds us with His very life. In the Eucharist, He is as present to us as He was to Mary and Joseph in Bethlehem and to His apostles in the Upper Room.

Feasts & Celebrations

December 6 – St. Nicholas of Myra (4th century). St. Nicholas had a very generous heart and always gave to the poor. He is credited with saving three girls from being sold to pay their father's debt. St. Nicholas is also the patron saint of children.

December 8 – Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary. We commemorate that Mary was conceived in St. Anne's womb without original sin, preparing Mary to be the Mother of God. Though given to Mary, this special grace was for our sake. Pope Pius IX declared this doctrine in 1854. This year, it's considered a holy day of obligation.

December 9 – St. Juan Diego (1548). St. Juan Diego was visited by Our Lady at Tepeyac Hill, Mexico. She requested a chapel be built and sent him with roses to the bishop as a sign. When St. Juan emptied the roses before the bishop, his cloak retained the image of the Blessed Mother.

December 29 – St. Thomas Becket (1170). Thomas enjoyed power and riches as a close friend of England's King Henry II, who appointed him chancellor of England. In 1162, King Henry had St. Thomas named Archbishop of Canterbury. St. Thomas refused to allow the King to regulate Church matters and was exiled. He fled to France for safety. Thomas returned to England and was martyred.

Our Mission

To provide practical ideas that promote faithful Catholic living.

Success Publishing & Media, LLC
Publishers of *Growing in Faith™* and *Partners in Faith™*
(540)662-7844 (540)662-7847 fax
<http://www.infaithpublishing.com>
(Unless noted Bible quotes and references are from the Revised Standard Version and the New American Bible - Revised)



POPE LEO XIV
DECEMBER PRAYER INTENTION
 FOR CHRISTIANS IN AREAS OF CONFLICT
 Let us pray that Christians living in areas of war or conflict, especially in the Middle East, might be seeds of peace, reconciliation, and hope.



PREPARE THE WAY OF THE LORD

Preparing for the Lord's coming isn't only about our own hearts - it's also about making a way for His love to reach those in need. Through the Catholic Ministries Appeal, our Diocese is able to comfort God's people by feeding the hungry, caring for the sick and elderly, and forming future leaders in the faith.

Donate today at: AnnualAppeal.org

As of November 29, we have reached 68% of our \$20,283 parish goal. \$13,720 has been donated or pledged by 43 donors, which makes our current participation rate 16%. Thank you to everyone who has contributed, both financially and with your prayers. The appeal ends 12/30/25.

DECEMBER 8 - 14, 2025 READINGS
Mon: Gn 3:9-15, 20 Ps 98:1-4 Eph 1:3-6, 11-12 Lk 1:26-38
Tues: Is 40:1-11 Ps 96:1-3, 10ac, 11-13 Mt 18:12-14
Wed: Is 40:25-31 Ps 103:1-4, 8, 10 Mt 11:28-30
Thurs: Is 41:13-20 Ps 145:1, 9-13ab Mt 11:11-15
Fri: Zec 2:14-17 or Rv 11:19a; 12:1-6a, 10ab (Ps) Jdt 13:18bc, 19 Lk 1:26-38 or Lk 1:39-47
Sat: Sir 48:1-4, 9-11 Ps 80:2ac, 3b, 15-16, 18-19 Mt 17:9a, 10-13
Sun: Is 35:1-6a, 10 Ps 146:6-10 Jas 5:7-10 Mt 11:2-11

ADVENT PENANCE SERVICES

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 7, 2025

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

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 14, 2025

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

THIS WEEK ON **formed**, WEEK OF DECEMBER 7, 2025

WHAT IS THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION?

Join Drs Tim Gray and John Sehorn as they examine Mary under her title of the Immaculate Conception. This dogma of the Catholic faith, promulgated in 1854 by Pope Pius IX, speaks of Mary's conception and what it means to the Church.

GUADALUPE: THE MIRACLE AND THE MESSAGE

Enjoy this film narrated by Jim Caviezel that walks us through our Mother's miraculous appearance to Juan Diego, an encounter that has influenced the conversion of millions of people.

OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE AND SAINT JUAN DIEGO
 CATHOLIC SAINTS

Dr. Ben Akers sits down with Dr. James Prothro to discuss Mary's apparition to Saint Juan Diego on Tepayac hill under the title of Our Lady of Guadalupe.

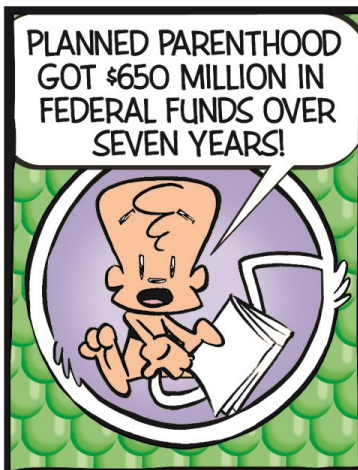
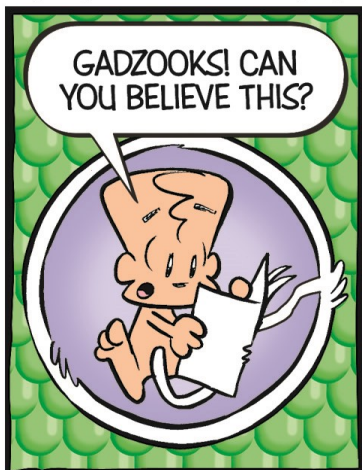
Set up your free account by visiting formed.org/signup.

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



Knights of Columbus Council #5517

Meetings are the second Wednesday of the Month at 7:15 pm in Saint Michael's Hall. New members are always welcome. Join online here:



HRB
Hawthorn Ridge Builders, LLC
Paul Hamburger
4423 Leona Road
Columbia Crossroads, PA 16914
Phone/Fax: 570-297-4711
Email: hawthornridge@gmail.com
PA030014
St. Michael Parish member

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

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

Hopegate
Pregnancy & Parenting Support Centers
116 WALNUT STREET, ATHENS, PA 18810
26 WEST MAIN STREET, CANTON, PA 17724
13 STATE STREET, TOWANDA, PA 18848
FIRST LOOK PREGNANCY CENTER - LIMITED
ULTRASOUND: 209 WEST LOCKHART STREET, SAYRE, PA 18840
FREE PREGNANCY TESTS
(570) 721-2936 OR DIRECTOR@HOPEGATECENTERS.COM
WWW.HOPEGATECENTERS.COM

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

In loving memory of
John & Pauline
and
James Paul Pazzaglia



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



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

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

Trinity Family Health Care
Paul J. Hamburger, B.S., D.C., C.F.M.P.
Doctor of Chiropractic
18109 Route 14, Troy, PA 16947
570-297-0471 - 272-203-1246 (Fax)
St. Michael Parish member

CA Thrush INSURANCE AGENCY
Agency Owner: Martin Watson
465 Reuter Boulevard
Towanda, Pennsylvania 18848
(570) 265-7300
insurance@thrushagency.com
Specializing in car, home, life, business, and farm insurance

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.*

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

tributes of life
Gerald W. Vickery, Jr.
Funeral & Cremation Services, Inc.
1093 West Main Street, Troy, PA 16947
vickeryfh.com
Daniel Gilliland, Supervisor

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

SAINT MICHAEL'S ALTAR & ROSARY SOCIETY
Saint 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
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

JENNINGS COAL SALES
Canton, Pa
570.673.4125
RICE • BUCKWHEAT • PEANUT
• CHESTNUT • STOVE
(ALL SIZES AVAILABLE IN BULK OR BAGGED)
Keystoker Stoves
SALES, PARTS & SERVICE

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

SAINT MICHAEL'S CEMETERY ASSOCIATION
Call or email for information
Jim Ross, Chairperson
(570) 651-0489
huckleberrycow@yahoo.com

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

GMFIC
(Since 1877)

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

WYALUSING WYXOX