

DECEMBER 21, 2025



## FOURTH 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](mailto:office@stmichaelscanton.com)

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



**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 20** Late Advent Weekday

VIGIL: FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

4:00 pm, Canton † Phil Gasowski (Peggy & Family)

**Sunday, December 21** FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

8:00 am, Ralston † Pro Populo

9:30 am, Canton † James Brann (Gerald & Joy Brann)

11:15 am, Troy † Joseph Pierchorowicz  
(Mr. & Mrs. David Pierchorowicz)

**Monday, December 22** Late Advent Weekday

7:00 am, Rectory † James DeForte (Clorinda Lynch)

**Tuesday, December 23** Late Advent Weekday

5:30 pm, Troy † Joseph Hamburger  
(The Bradford & Hamburger Families)

**Wednesday, December 24** Late Advent Weekday

VIGIL: THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD

3:30 pm, Canton - Christmas Music

4:00 pm, Canton † Christmas Mass Envelope Intentions

7:00 pm, Ralston † Christmas Mass Envelope Intentions

**Thursday, December 25** THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD

12:00 am, Troy † Christmas Mass Envelope Intentions

9:30 am, Canton † Pro Populo

**Friday, Dec 26** SAINT STEVEN, THE FIRST MARTYR  
**NO MASS**

**Sat, Dec 27** SAINT JOHN, APOSTLE AND EVANGELIST

VIGIL: THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY & JOSEPH

4:00 pm, Canton † Richard Ross (Family)

**Sunday, December 28** THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS,

8:00 am, Ralston † Pro Populo MARY & JOSEPH

9:30 am, Canton † Theresa Kingsley (George Kingsley)

11:15 am, Troy † Kent King  
(The Bradford & Hamburger Families)

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 all parents awaiting the birth of their child to look to the Blessed Mother and Saint Joseph and follow their example of cherishing and protecting human life.

*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 December 9 - 14, 2025

Weekly Offerings:	2,462.00
Electronic Offerings:	525.00
Other Parish Income:	166.51
Total Parish Income:	3,153.51
Average weekly expenses:	4,868.51
Difference:	(1,715.00)
Religious Retirement Fund:	478.00
Care & Education of Priests:	90.00

*Thank you for your continued support.*

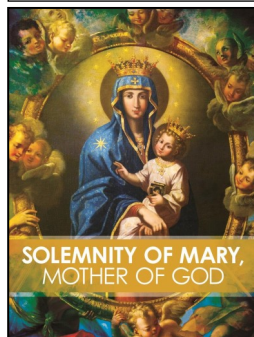
## FROM FATHER JOE'S DESK

**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 catechumenate, the period of formal preparation for entrance into full membership in the Catholic Church. The next session of the OCIA will be Monday, January 5th at 7:00 pm in the rectory.



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



A Holy Day of Obligation  
Saint Michael Parish's  
Mass Schedule

Wednesday, December 31, 2025

Vigil Mass: 5:30 pm,  
St. John Nepomucene Church, Troy

Thursday, January 1, 2026

Holy Day Mass: 8:00 am  
St. Michael Church, Canton

### 2026 CALENDARS NOW AVAILABLE

Calendars are available as you leave Mass this weekend. Thank you to Jim Gergel for sponsoring the parish calendars again this year in memory of his beloved wife, Carol Ann Gergel. When you look at your calendar, consider saying a short prayer for the repose of Carol's soul and for the souls of your own deceased loved ones.

### SAINT MICHAEL PARISH PRAYER LIST

Barby, John & Peggy Adams, Roberta Arnold, Karl Barton, John Bilbrey, Cassi Blaney, Joseph Blaszc, Mary Blaszc, Gus Branish, Betty Brown, Dennis Clarke, Ezra Cole, 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, Barb Hinman, Maryllis Hughes, Victoria Johnson, 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, Roger Rossi, Pat Rushin, Cristy Schmelzle, Marilyn Scott, Ahmed Hassa Sharief, Anthony Shipula, Christine Shipula, Bev Smith, Elaine Strange, Wayne Strange, Alyssa Van Zile, Elias Vroman, 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.*



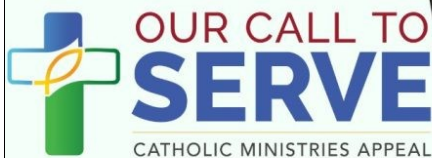


**POPE LEO XIV  
DECEMBER PRAYER INTENTION**

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.

“The Catholic Ministries Appeal is vital to seminarian formation and the formation of good and holy priests ... Words cannot express how grateful we are.”

-Father Thomas Dzwonczyk  
Newly Ordained Priest



Your gift to the Catholic Ministries Appeal helps ensure our seminarians are formed well and become holy men with a love for Jesus Christ.

Support the 2025 Appeal at [AnnualAppeal.org](http://AnnualAppeal.org)

As of December 13, we have reached 69% of our \$20,283 parish goal. \$14,065 has been donated or pledged by 49 donors, which makes our current participation rate 18%. Thank you to everyone who has contributed, both financially and with your prayers. The appeal ends 12/30/25.



**DECEMBER 22 - 28, 2025 READINGS**

**Mon:** 1 Sm 1:24-28 (Ps) 1 Sm 2:1, 4-8d Lk 1:46-56

**Tues:** Mal 3:1-4, 23-24 Ps 25:4-5b, 8-10, 14

Lk 1:57-66

**Wed:** 2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16 Ps 89:2-5, 27, 29

Lk 1:67-79

CHRISTMAS EVE

Is 62:1-5 Ps 89:4-5, 16-17, 29 Acts 13:16-17, 22-25

Mt 1:1-25

**THURS:** CHRISTMAS DAY

Night: Is 9:1-6 Ps 96:1-3, 11-13 Ti 3:11-14 Lk 2:1-14

Dawn: Is 62:11-12 Ps 97:1, 6, 11-12 Ti 3:4-7

Lk 2:15-20

Day: Is 52:7-10 Ps 98:1-6 Heb 1:1-6 Jn 1:1-18

**Fri:** Acts 6:8-10; 7:54-59 Ps 31:3cd-4, 6, 8ab, 16bc-17

Mt 10:17-22

**Sat:** 1 Jn 1:1-4 Ps 97:1-2, 5-6, 11-12 Jn 20:1a, 2-8

**Sun:** Sir 3:2-6, 12-14 Ps 128:1-5 Col 3:12-21

Mt 2:13-15, 19-23

**THIS WEEK ON *formed*, WEEK OF DECEMBER 21, 2025**

THE STORY OF CHRISTMAS

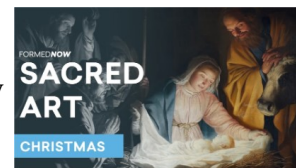
BENJAMIN CELLO CHRISTMAS SPECIAL

In this special hour-long television event, Benjamin Cello and his friends see a spectacular shadow puppet retelling of "The Story of Christmas" by Brother Joseph and "The Shadow of His Wings" puppet theater.



CHRISTMAS | SACRED ART

Dr. Ben Akers and Taylor Kemp look at the painting Adoration of the Shepherds by Gerard van Honthorst to celebrate the Nativity of our Lord.



WHAT CATHOLICS BELIEVE ABOUT CHRISTMAS:

TRADITIONS, SANTA CLAUS & THE 12 DAYS

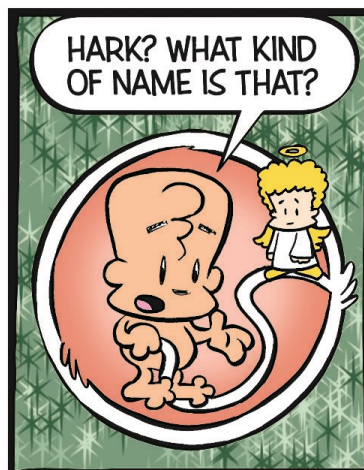
Dr. Michael Barber answers some of the Internet's most popular questions about Christmas.

Set up your free account by visiting [formed.org/signup](http://formed.org/signup).

Use zip code 17724 to find our parish.

**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:



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and  
**James Paul Pazzaglia**



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**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  
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Call or email for information  
Jim Ross, Chairperson  
(570) 651-0489  
huckleberrycow@yahoo.com

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

