

# THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD - JANUARY 4, 2026



**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, January 3** Christmas Weekday

VIGIL: THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

4:00 pm, Canton † Jerome Wynne (The Skipper Family)

**Sunday, January 4** THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

8:00 am, Ralston † Pro Populo

9:30 am, Canton † Robert Shanley (Jerry & Joy Brann)

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

**Monday, January 5** Saint John Neumann, Bishop

7:00 am, Rectory † Mike Rushin (John & Pat Rushin)

**Tuesday, January 6** Christmas Weekday

5:30 pm, Troy † Audrey & Steve O'Kula

(The Bradford & Hamburger Families)

**Wednesday, January 7** Christmas Weekday

5:30 pm, Canton † Mark Kingsley (The Family)

**Thursday, January 8** Christmas Weekday

No Mass

**Friday, January 9** Christmas Weekday

7:00 am, Rectory † Hazel Dalton (The Dalton Family)

**Saturday, January 10** Christmas Weekday

VIGIL: THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD

4:00 pm, Canton † Jerome Wynne (The Skipper Family)

**Sunday, January 11** THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD

8:00 am, Ralston † Pro Populo

9:30 am, Canton † Isabelle Loftus & Dorothy Ferretti  
(Families)

11:15 am, Troy † Peggy Young

(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 this week, on this Solemnity of the Epiphany, that we may be given the grace to always see in others the face of Christ our Savior.

*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 am on Thursdays in St. Michael's Church.  
All are invited to participate.



### SAINT MICHAEL'S PARISH OFFERINGS December 22 - 28, 2025

Weekly Offerings:	2,432.00
Christmas Offerings:	3,734.00
Electronic Offerings:	525.00
Other Parish Income:	354.50
 Total Parish Income:	7,045.50
Average weekly expenses:	4,868.51
Difference:	2,176.99
Christmas Mass Intentions offerings:	377.00
Care & Education of Priests:	1.00

*Thank you for your continued support.*



# ST. MICHAEL CATHOLIC PARISH

(covering worship sites in Ralston, Canton & Troy)

Reverend Joseph P. Kutch, MA, Pastor  
106 N. Washington Street, Canton, PA 17724

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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

### 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. The next session of the OCIA will be Monday, January 5th at 7 pm in the rectory.

*Thank you to everyone who gave me Christmas cards and gifts. Thank you to the music ministry, especially those at the Christmas Vigil Mass in Saint Michael's Church.*



### RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

*Thank you to everyone who made the St. Michael's Religious Education Christmas Play and the Children's Christmas Party such a blessing for those who could attend. Please continue to pray for our CCD and Confirmation students.*

### SAINT MICHAEL PARISH PRAYER LIST

Barby, John & Peggy Adams, Roberta Arnold,  
Karl Barton, John Bilbrey, Cassi Blaney, Joseph Blaszczyk, Mary Blaszczyk, 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.*

# Saint Michal Parish

## 2025 Christmas Mass Intentions

††† Deceased members of the Asbury, Cochrane, Schram, Westrick, and Zaleski Families by the Asbury Family.

††† Mr. & Mrs. Joe Szczech, Mr. & Mrs. Wallace Bell, Mr. Patricia Bell, and Mr. Joey Szczech by Mr. & Mrs. Timothy Bell.

††† Julie Elizabeth Hamburger by Matt & Anna Bradford.

††† Lawrence & Veronica Doud by Mr. & Mrs. Gordon Calkins.

††† William and Bonita Spencer, Monty and Kathleen Spencer, Christine Vroman, Evelyn Terry, Anthony and Margaret Acresti, Michael and Nancy Acresti, Louis and Rose Acresti, Herman and Kathryn Kilburn, Walter and Geraldine Spencer, Robert, Joseph and Thomas Spencer, Nancy and William Wright, Lois and Kevin Rook, Allan Cole, Skip and Darlene Cole, Gary and Claudia Blaney, Lisa Mosser, Martin and Mark Kaczmarek, Janet Fulciniti. by Jeff & Beth Cole.

††† Bill & Millie Colton by Mr. & Mrs. James Colton.

††† The Deeghan, Lenzes and Cummings Families by Patricia Deeghan.

††† Carol Ann Gergel by James R. Gergel.

††† Carol Ann Gergel and our grandparents by Thomas & Nanette Gergel.

††† The Bradford, Hamburger, King, and Kuhn Families by Dr. Paul Hamburger.

††† Private intention by Mr. Will Hawrylo.

††† For a healthy grandson - Antero Fernando De Cunha by Mrs. Diane Hedrick.

††† Gene & Mary McMahon, Frank & Joey Herman and Ken Riordan by Mr. & Mrs. Michael Herman.

††† Alan Kelley, and deceased members of the Shon Family by Mrs. Terri Kelley.

††† Theresa Kathleen Kingsley, and Mark H. Kingsley by Mr. & Mrs. George Kingsley.

††† Special intentions by Walburga Koval.

††† Private intentions by Patrick & Marcia McConnell.

††† Lucille Chagnon, and Marion Mulno by Mr. & Mrs. John Mulno.

††† Mr. & Mrs. William O’Gara, Marie Shivers, and Mr. & Mrs. Thomas J. O’Gara Mrs. by Thomas & Celeste O’Gara.

††† Joy, Douglas, and David Snell; June & Rancy Pepper; and all family members by Mrs. Rancy Pepper.

††† The Martínez and Pierchorowicz Families by Mr. & Mrs. David E. Pierchorowicz.

††† Mr. & Mrs. Robert Stolarski, and Rev. & Mrs. Adam Polcrack by Mrs. Jane Polcrack.

††† Mr. Joseph & Mrs. Josephine Szczech, Joes Szczech, Bill & Beverly Ayres, Babs Morris, Don Wilber, and Eugene Fletcher by Barbara Szczech.

††† Jerome Wynne, Jeff Wynne, and Alyssa Owens by Mr. Joseph Wynne, II.



# Saint Michael Parish

## 2025 Christmas Flower Intentions

- ††† Deceased members of the Asbury, Cochrane, Schram, Westrick, and Zaleski Families by the Asbury Family.
- ††† Private intentions by Mr. David Beahm.
- ††† Mr. & Mrs. Joe Szczech, Mr. & Mrs. Wallace Bell, Mrs. Patricia Bell, Mr. Joey Szczech, and Mr. Don Wilber by Mr. & Mrs. Timothy Bell.
- ††† Private intentions by Mrs. Gerald Brann.
- ††† James & Shirley Brenchley by Mr. & Mrs. John Brenchley.
- ††† Lawrence & Veronica Doud by Mr. & Mrs. Gordon Calkins.
- ††† The Clark & Mansuy Families Mr. & Mrs. Daniel Clark.
- ††† Nicholas & Florence DePalma, Nicky & Robert DePalma, deceased family and friends of the Capaldi, DePalma, and Cleveland families by Mrs. Burton Cleveland.
- ††† Bill & Millie Colton by Mr. & Mrs. James Colton.
- ††† Deceased family members by Mr. & Mrs. Charles Debach Jr.
- ††† Special intention by Patricia Deeghan.
- ††† Carol Ann Gergel, the Gergel Family, and the Yankus Family by James R. Gergel.
- ††† Carol Ann Gergel and our grandparents by Thomas & Nanette Gergel.
- ††† Albert Davis, Joseph Hamburger, Violet Davis, and Josephine Hamburger by Dr. Paul Hamburger.
- ††† Private intentions by Mr. Will Hawrylo.
- ††† Private intentions by Mrs. Diane Hedrick.
- ††† Gene & Mary McMahon, Frank & Joey Herman, and Ken Riordan by Mr. & Mrs. Michael Herman.
- ††† Theresa Kathleen Kingsley, and Mark Kingsley by Mr. George Kingsley.
- ††† Special intention by Walburga Koval.
- ††† William Wolfe, and Tom & Linda McConnell by Patrick & Marcia McConnell.
- ††† Deceased members of the Mulno & Chagnon Families by Mr. & Mrs. John Mulno.
- ††† Mr. & Mrs. Thoms J. O’Gara, Mr. & Mrs. William F. O’Gara, and Mrs. Marie Shivers by Thomas & Celeste O’Gara.
- ††† John & Elizabeth Bruno, Tom & MaryAnn DelJanovan, and Helen Lougher by Carole Parker.
- ††† Joseph & Helen Pierchorowicz, William Thacker, and the Martínez Family by Mr. & Mrs. David E. Pierchorowicz.
- ††† Private intentions by Mrs. Jane Polcrack.
- ††† Private intentions by Mr. & Mrs. Gary Polly.
- ††† Mr. & Mrs. Edward M. Scholtz, and Bob Grantier by Mr. & Mrs. David Scholtz.
- ††† Private intentions by Mr. & Mrs. Shrodo.
- ††† Joseph & Josephine Szczech, Joey Szczech, Bill & Beverly Ayers, Babs Morris, Don Wilber, and Eugene Fletcher by Barbara Szczech.
- ††† Ryder, Bryce, and Xander by Mrs. Sherry Vargson.
- ††† Walter V. Eck, Joy Eck, Ronald & Suzanne Sander, and George Faulkner by Sarah Watson.
- ††† Mr. & Mrs. Joseph Szczech, Dona Wilber, and Joey Szczech by Mr. & Mrs. Joseph Weed.
- ††† Don Wilber, Joseph Szczech, and Josephine Szczech by Mrs. Louise Wilber.
- ††† Mary Hardy by Jeanine Wynne.
- ††† Jeffery and Jerome Wynne by Mrs. Jerome Wynne.
- ††† Deceased members of the Wynne Family by Mr. Joseph Wynne II.
- ††† Ann Wynne by June, Joe, and Jeannine Wynne.



# Growing in FAITH™

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January 2026

St. Michael Parish

## One Minute Meditations

### St. Genevieve of Paris

Born in 422, in Nanterre, France, St. Genevieve consecrated herself to God when she was fifteen. She became known for her charity and gift of prophecy. She predicted Paris would be spared from attack by the Huns and led the people in fasting and prayer. Paris was spared. When King Childeric and his son Clovis I conquered Paris, Genevieve convinced Childeric to release his captives. She became a trusted advisor to Clovis, who converted to Christianity.

### The Jesus Prayer

January is dedicated to the Most Holy Name of Jesus, reminding the faithful of the power and reverence due to His Name: *"At the name of Jesus every knee should bend, in heaven and on earth and under the earth"* (Phil 2:10). A fitting prayer for this month is the Jesus Prayer, long cherished in Eastern Catholic and Eastern Orthodox traditions: *"Lord Jesus Christ, Son of the living God, have mercy on me, a sinner."* Simple yet profound, this prayer can be repeated throughout the day. Prayed attentively, it deepens love and reverence for Christ, invokes His saving grace, and helps cultivate a steady spirit of prayer, humility, and interior peace.

*"The things that we love tell us what we are."* St. Thomas Aquinas

## Turning our hearts back to God

Converting our hearts back to God begins with an honest pause – not a dramatic moment, but a decision to look at our lives as they really are. What shapes our days? What gets our best energy, our first thoughts, our deepest trust? Whatever holds that place is, in practice, what we put first.

Putting God first starts with **intention**. We make room for Him by removing what crowds Him out. A few minutes of prayer before reaching for a phone. A short passage of Scripture read slowly instead of rushed. These small choices retrain the heart. They remind us to whom we belong.

Repentance is part of the return, but it is not about shame. It is about direction. To repent means to turn. We admit where we've drifted and choose a better path. God does not demand perfection before welcoming us back. He asks for honesty and willingness.

Trust follows close behind. Many of us profess trust in God but still rely

on our own control. Putting Him first means surrendering outcomes we cannot manage anyway. It means praying not only for help, but for guidance, even when the answer may change our plans.

Faith moves us to action. When we

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*"Do not let the past disturb you. Just leave everything in the Sacred Heart and begin again with joy."* St. Teresa of Calcutta

---

align our choices with God's teachings, our hearts follow. Faith leads to action. Forgiving when necessary. Serving when it is inconvenient. Giving when it feels risky. These actions reshape our priorities.

Community matters. Worship, shared prayer, and accountability keep our hearts oriented toward God when we are tempted to drift.

Turning back to God is rarely instantaneous. It is daily, deliberate, and deeply personal. Each step taken toward Him strengthens the heart's true center.

### Why Do Catholics Do That?

Blessing ourselves with holy water when entering a Catholic church recalls the ritual washings of the Old Testament, through which the Jews purified themselves before approaching God in the Temple. St. John the Baptist built on this tradition by using water as a sign of repentance and conversion.

### Why do Catholics bless themselves with holy water?

Today, this gesture reminds us of our Baptism and renews our commitment to live the Faith. As a sacramental, holy water disposes us to receive God's grace, strengthens us against temptation, and, with proper repentance, helps remit venial sins.



# New Year, new habits build change that lasts

Starting and maintaining New Year's resolutions can be difficult for the same reason cultivating virtue is difficult: both require forming new habits. Perseverance rarely comes from sheer willpower alone. Practical strategies, supported by grace, make growth more sustainable.

Begin with achievable goals. Set yourself up for early success by practicing self-denial in small, manageable ways. Learning to say no in minor matters builds the discipline needed to resist greater temptations later.

Replace, rather than simply remove. It is often easier to abandon an unhealthy habit when it is substituted with a better one. Just as swapping potato chips for pretzels can make dietary

changes more attainable, uprooting vice is aided by cultivating the opposing virtue. Greed is weakened by generosity.

Seek accountability. A trusted friend, exercise partner, or prayer companion can provide encouragement and consistency for change. Knowing someone is watching makes it more difficult to give up when motivation fades.

Above all, rely on grace. God invites us to call upon Him, especially in moments of weakness, often marked by anger or anxiety, fatigue, hunger, or sadness. In those moments, turn to the Holy Spirit for strength and consolation, trusting the Lord's promise: *"The Lord will fight for you; you have only to keep still"* (Exodus 14:14).

## from Scripture

### Matthew 4:12-23, Discipleship is the greatest adventure

This Gospel passage recounts the call of the first disciples. They may not have known Jesus personally at first, but they knew about Him through John the Baptist (John 1:35-42). Hearing the invitation to know Jesus better and follow Him closely, the men dropped what they were doing "at once" and left everything behind.

Under Christ's leadership, the disciples went on to do amazing deeds. They worked miracles, brought the Gospel to distant lands, won countless souls for Heaven, and suffered many

hardships, even martyrdom. The secret of their success was their relationship with Christ as their God, Savior, Teacher, and Friend who promised to be with them always (Matthew 28:20).

All of us are called to be saints – friends of God. Jesus Christ invites each of us, in particular, to know and follow Him. While few of us are called to leave everything behind, we can still offer everything we have to God's service. We can still give our "Yes." Pursuing authentic holiness isn't boring but a great adventure!

## Q & A Why is the feast of the Epiphany important?

The Feast of the Epiphany, celebrated this year on January 4, is important because it celebrates the public revelation of Jesus Christ as Savior of the whole world. The word epiphany means "manifestation" or "revealing."

Originally, the feast commemorated the visit of the Magi, wise men from the East, who followed the star to Bethlehem. In honoring the Magi, the Church proclaims that salvation is universal and that Gentiles are fully included in God's plan.

Traditionally, Epiphany also encompasses two other key moments of revelation: Jesus' Baptism in the Jordan and His first miracle at the wedding at Cana. At His Baptism, the Father's voice and the descent of the Holy Spirit reveal Jesus as God's Son. At Cana, Jesus manifests His divine power publicly for the first time. Together, these events reveal who Jesus truly is.

Epiphany calls us to respond as the Magi did: to seek Christ, to worship Him, and to offer Him our lives. It reminds us that faith is not meant to be hidden, but proclaimed.

## Feasts & Celebrations

January 1 – Solemnity of Mary, the Mother of God. When we celebrate this feast, we honor Mary, but also acknowledge Jesus as true God and true Man. Mary's title highlights God's humility, in that God chose to come to us through Mary, as a vulnerable newborn. This year, it is a holy day of obligation.

January 5 – St. John Neumann (1860). The first American bishop to be canonized was born in the present-day Czech Republic in 1811. St. John traveled to New York as a missionary before becoming bishop of Philadelphia. He built up the Catholic school system and established diocesan

schools. He also built more than 89 churches, several hospitals and orphanages.

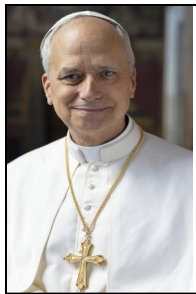
January 11 – The Baptism of the Lord (1st Century). Jesus began His public ministry by getting baptized by St. John the Baptist. Jesus was to be baptized to "*fulfill all righteousness*" (Matthew 3:15). This was also when God reveals Jesus as His "*beloved Son*" (Matthew 3:17).

January 13 – St. Hilary of Poitiers (367). St. Hilary converted to Christianity as a young man and was elected bishop around 350. St. Hilary spent most of his office battling the Arian heresy, which denied the Divinity of Christ. He was exiled to Phrygia. He spent his four-year exile writing and teaching against Arianism until the emperor begged him to return home.

### 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

### JANUARY PRAYER INTENTION

FOR PRAYER WITH THE WORD OF GOD  
Let us pray that praying with the Word of God be nourishment for our lives and a source of hope in our communities, helping us build a more fraternal and missionary Church.

***"They offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh"***

Matthew 2:11



As the Magi followed the star to encounter Christ, we are called to share His light with others. Through the Catholic Ministries Appeal, you support parish and social service programs, seminarians and Catholic school students.

**Make a gift today at [AnnualAppeal.org](http://AnnualAppeal.org)**

As of December 27th, we have reached 71% of our \$20,283 parish goal. \$14,415 has been donated or pledged by 51 donors, which makes our current participation rate 19%. Thank you to everyone who has contributed, both financially and with your prayers. The Appeal has been extended into 2026.



## JANUARY 5 - 11, 2026 READINGS

**Mon:** 1 Jn 3:22—4:6 Ps 2:7b-8, 10-12a Mt 4:12-17, 23-25  
**Tues:** 1 Jn 4:7-10 Ps 72:1-4, 7-8 Mk 6:34-44  
**Wed:** 1 Jn 4:11-18 Ps 72:1-2, 10, 12-13 Mk 6:45-52  
**Thurs:** 1 Jn 4:19—5:4 Ps 72:1-2, 14, 15bc, 17 Lk 4:14-22a  
**Fri:** 1 Jn 5:5-13 Ps 149:12-15, 19-20 Lk 5:12-16  
**Sat:** 1 Jn 5:14-21 Ps 149:1-6a, 9b Jn 3:22-30  
**Sun:** Is 42:1-4, 6-7 Ps 29:1-4, 3, 9-10 Acts 10:34-38 Mt 3:13-17

## THIS WEEK ON **formed**, WEEK OF JANUARY 4, 2026

### GOD'S DOORKEEPER

This week, we celebrate the memorial of a humble doorkeeper, St. André of Montreal. Learn how this man became a great saint through his small acts of love!



### THE THREE WISE MEN

Ms. Kim explains the Solemnity of the Epiphany and the importance of the wise men's gifts by teaching students how to draw the three magi. She challenges kids to do an act of kindness for someone, offering it as a gift to Jesus.



### EPIPHANY

Have you ever wondered what the Epiphany is? In this engaging episode of the True Meaning of Christmas, join Dr. Michael Barber to find out what the Epiphany is.

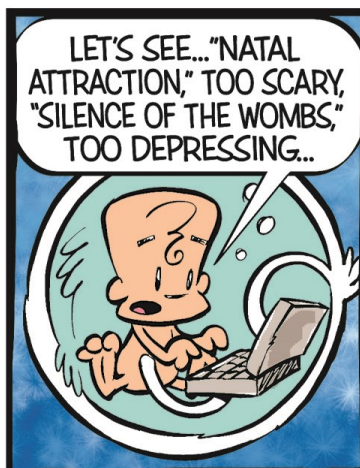


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## Umbert the Unborn

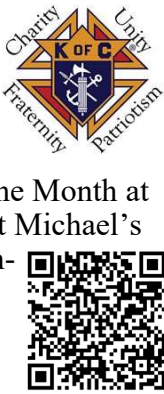
by Gary Cangemi





# 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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**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**  
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