

**APRIL 26, 2026**



# FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER 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: Mondays & Wednesdays 8 am - 3:30 pm, Thursdays 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. (2025/26)

(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

<b>Saturday, April 25</b>	SAINT MARK, EVANGELIST VIGIL: 4TH SUNDAY OF EASTER 4:00 pm, Canton † Pro Populo
<b>Sunday, April 26</b>	4TH SUNDAY OF EASTER 8:00 am, Ralston † Kathryn & Fred Fredo (The Family) 9:30 am, Canton † Gerald Brann (The Mulno Family) 11:15 am, Troy † Joey Szczech (Barb, Leona & Tim)
<b>Monday, April 27</b>	Easter Weekday 7:00 am, Rectory † Carol Ann Gergel (James Gergel)
<b>Tuesday, April 28</b>	Easter Weekday 5:30 pm, Troy † Nancy Barlouti
<b>Wednesday, April 29</b>	Saint Catherine of Siena, Virgin, Doctor of the Church 5:30 pm, Canton † Skip Cole (Jeff & Beth Cole) 6:00 pm, Holy Hour
<b>Thursday, April 30</b>	Easter Weekday No Mass
<b>First Friday, May 1</b>	Easter Weekday 7:00 am, Canton † Douglas Greene (St. Michael's A&R)
<b>Saturday, May 2</b>	Saint Athanasius, Bishop, Doctor of the Church VIGIL: 5TH SUNDAY OF EASTER 4:00 pm, Canton † Marcel Schiess (Susan Schiess)
<b>Sunday, May 3</b>	5TH SUNDAY OF EASTER 8:00 am, Ralston † Frances DePaola 9:30 am, Canton † Doug Greene (His Family) 11:15 am, Troy † Pro Populo

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 that Christ, through the grace of the Resurrection, will fill those tempted to end their lives with hope, belief in his love, and the assurance that their lives are worth living.

*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 April 13 - 19, 2026

Weekly Offerings:	3,114.25
Electronic Offerings:	525.00
Other Parish Income:	371.75
Total Parish Income:	4,011.00
Average weekly expenses:	4,868.51
Difference:	(857.51)
Care & Education of Priests:	51.00

*Thank you for your continued support.*

## RELIGIOUS EDUCATION NEWS

Congratulations to Eli Watson, who was presented with the Bishop's Youth Award on Sunday, March 22nd in Saint Peter's Cathedral, Scranton

The honor, presented annually since 1996, recognizes eighth- and twelfth-grade students who have demonstrated exceptional dedication to their Catholic faith through volunteer service in their parishes, schools, and communities.

Please pray for all of our students as we near the end of the school year. Especially for *Caleb Golembewski* and *Bo Ross*, who will receive First Holy Communion on Sunday, May 17th during the 9:30 am Mass in Saint Michael Church. A reception will follow in the church hall.

Pray also for our Confirmandi:

*Lana Bradford, Rory Herman, Amelia Pepper,  
Lael Smith; and Eli Waston.*

The Confirmation Mass is scheduled for 5:00 pm on Monday, May 18th in Ss. Peter & Paul Church, Towanda. A parish reception is scheduled following the 9:30 am Mass on Sunday, May 24th, Pentecost Sunday.

The very first novena ever prayed was by the Apostles in the upper room during the nine days between the Ascension of the Lord and the descent of the Holy Spirit on Pentecost Sunday. You are invited to follow their example and pray a *Novena to the Holy Spirit for the Seven Gifts* for our Confirmation students, beginning on Saturday, May 9th and concluding on the day of their Confirmation, Monday, May 24th. Booklets will be by the bulletins on Sunday, May 3rd.



### 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, Aldie Fitzwater, Misty Frame, Theresa Gentile, Melissa Gowan, William Hall, Peter Hamburger, Barb Hinman, Dot Hopkins, 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, Elizabeth Ross, Joan Ross, Pat Rushin, Cristy Schmelzle, Marilyn Scott, Ahmed Hassa Sharief, Anthony Shipula, Christine Shipula, Bev Smith, 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.*

*The following articles are reflections from five of the newest members of our parish family, who were fully received into the Catholic Church at this year's Easter Vigil:*

Joining a church community is often described as a "spiritual homecoming." Still, for many, it is a journey that involves a distinct transition from observer to participant. This is exactly how I felt after meeting my husband.

My journey began as I got to know my husband and his family, who all shared a deep connection to their faith. I remember attending services and being fascinated by the Eucharist, the simple beauty of the sign of the cross, and the heartfelt way they prayed before meals. It made me want to dive deeper, but after my husband and I got married, we moved to North Carolina for a business opportunity, and I had to put my desire to learn on hold.

Then came COVID, which turned life upside down. During those quieter days, I found myself curious about faith; I started reading my husband's Bible and whispering silent prayers during moments of solitude. Most of those prayers centered around one deeply personal wish: becoming pregnant. I stumbled upon a quote that resonated with me: "In our waiting, God is working." Those words became a comforting mantra as I navigated the ups and downs of trying to conceive. After two long years of waiting, we finally got the news we had been praying for. My faith felt stronger than ever, and I made a habit of thanking God every single day.

I started to push my luck a bit with my prayers. I found myself asking for a baby boy, but I always wrapped it up with, "But you know best, God. Just let this baby be healthy." I couldn't help but chuckle at myself for how silly I felt, but once again, God delivered; we welcomed a beautiful son into our lives.

The moment my son was born and baptized was surreal. I was flooded with emotions, and the responsibility of caring for a little one who depended on me for everything was both exhilarating and daunting. I poured all my energy into being a mom, often losing track of time. The years went by so much faster! It wasn't until after my brother-in-law's wedding that the idea of attending classes to deepen my faith resurfaced. I had momentarily forgotten how far I'd come. God had really worked wonders in my life. Wanting to grow in my faith alongside my sister-in-law, we decided to attend the classes together.

The first few sessions were a whirlwind. I absorbed so much new information, and I couldn't be more grateful for the handbooks, articles, and a brand-new Bible that helped guide me. As a visual learner who loves reading, those resources were a godsend (pun intended!). I'm naturally curious and had tons of questions, and I was surprised to find that none were dismissed or deemed silly. It built my confidence in many ways.

I got into a solid routine with the weekly classes and felt genuine connections forming with my classmates. But the weeks had flown by, and soon it was time for

Confession. Cue the music of impending doom. I can't lie, I was nervous! This is it, I'm going to be shunned for life. But when the moment actually came, it was nothing like I expected. After confessing, Father asked me what troubled me most and offered guidance on how to move forward.

Hearing the words of forgiveness washed over me like a wave, and I left that confessional feeling like I had shed a huge burden. I couldn't help but think of that quote from one of my favorite movies, *O Brother, Where Art Thou?*: "The preacher done washed away all my sins and transgressions. It's the straight and narrow from here on out. And heaven everlasting my reward! ... C'mon in, boys, the water is fine."

Before I knew it, it was time for "the big day". Walking into the church felt magical, like stepping into a transformative experience. Lighting my candle and then lighting one for a classmate felt significant; it was a moment of unity in faith. I was filled with an overwhelming sense of presence; of God, Jesus, and the Holy Spirit. Watching some of my classmates get baptized was one of the most emotional parts for me. I wanted to leap up and celebrate, dance, cry, and congratulate them all at once, but I settled for clapping and soaking it all in instead, as I didn't want to look crazy in front of the community I was about to join.

When the Chrism oil touched my forehead, it felt like a big wet kiss from God. Like a big welcome into His church. Then receiving the Eucharist felt like sharing the whole experience with Jesus. God has welcomed me in, and Jesus has seated me at His table. It was an overwhelming feeling of happiness. I had weight lifted from my shoulders, filling me with joy. Afterward, all that lingered was gratitude. I was thankful for every twist and turn that led me to that moment, thankful for forgiveness, and thankful for being truly accepted.

Now, as I continue to grow in my faith, I find that my prayers carry more meaning and intention. I read my Bible with a newfound purpose and even started a family prayer board that we update every couple of weeks. It's a fantastic way to keep us all connected to our faith. After years of standing on the sidelines, I've finally become an active participant in my spiritual journey, and it feels amazing.

Ashely Decristo

Saturday, April 4, 2026 was a night that will always hold a special place in my heart. Since August I have been wondering how I would feel on the night where I would receive my first Communion, and it was unlike anything I could have imagined. Starting off outside the church, watching the lighting of the fire and candle, proceeding inside, and being able to take in all the sights and sounds of the service made the entire service feel more personal.

Being surrounded by my family and close friends attending the service was heart-touching. To be able to look back and see their smiles showing how proud they

*(Continued on page 4)*

(Continued from page 3)

all were of the dedication I have been pouring into my faith since August made this experience even more rewarding. When it was finally time to present before the church and be Confirmed a feeling of joy and peace came over me. I knew at that moment this was exactly where I needed to be. Receiving the first Holy Communion was a moment of pure happiness. Finally, being able to receive the Body and Blood of our Lord brought a sense of strengthening my faith to a whole new level, bringing nothing but fulfillment. Afterwards, being shown support and care from the entire church was a perfect ending to a perfect evening. Knowing that I have a support system behind me in this journey that has only just begun warms my heart. I thank everyone for their support, guidance, and prayers throughout this amazing journey. God bless.

Nicole Decristo

I am writing to share my reflections on my journey through the OCIA process. Although I was raised Catholic and have been involved with the Mass intermittently throughout my life, this year has marked a significant turning point. For the first time, I truly feel I am moving beyond routine and into a true living and breathing covenant with the Creator. The liturgical milestones of this process were not mere ceremonies; they were the markers of my soul finally finding peace.

The Rite of Acceptance was a deeply personal experience for me and remains etched in my spirit. As Father Joe performed the Signing of the Senses, marking my eyes, ears, heart, hands, and feet with the Sign of the Cross, I felt an overwhelming sense of love and peace. It felt as though Jesus Himself was welcoming me into the Church.

Declaring my faith publicly and physically signing my name in the Book of the Elect was a powerful moment of surrender and commitment. It solidified my intention to follow Christ, a public declaration that I am no longer wandering but ready to follow where He leads.

As I arrived at the Easter Vigil, my heart was full of anticipation. The liturgy began in a way that mirrored my own spiritual walk. I watched the flame of the Easter candle being lit, a single light cutting through the darkness while standing in the quiet, shadowed church, waiting for our own candles to be lit, I felt the communal weight of our shared faith.

When it was time for my Baptism, my heart was pounding and my body began to tremble. When the waters finally washed over me, it felt like a total renewal, but I was still trembling.

It was the Holy Chrism that brought the ultimate stillness. As the oil was gently pressed against my forehead, its rich, sacred scent immediately soothed my soul, quieting the trembling. In that fragrance and touch, I felt the “seal” of the Holy Spirit. I felt tears of joy well up as the realization hit me, in that moment of grace, I reflected on how God had guided my steps to St. Michael’s Parish and it was as if Jesus Himself was sealing and

claiming me forever into His Church.... I was exactly where I was supposed to be.

To finally receive the Holy Eucharist—the True Body and Blood of Jesus Christ—is a moment I have longed for my entire life, perhaps without even realizing the depth of that spiritual hunger until I began walking the path of these ancient traditions. As I approached the altar, the years of “intermittent” faith fell away, replaced by the profound reality of Christ’s presence.

Through these classes and Rites, my relationship with the Church has evolved from a series of habits into a deliberate, heart-led devotion. I am deeply grateful for the guidance of my priest, the steady hand of my sponsor, and the warmth of the St. Michael’s community. The grace found in these sacred traditions has finally allowed me to build the spiritual foundation I have been longingly seeking.

It is difficult to capture the true magnitude of this spiritual awakening in words; how do you describe the feeling of a soul finally coming home? I can only say that I am forever changed and eternally grateful for this bridge back to God—who, I now realize, has been waiting for me all along.

Very Respectfully,  
Megan E. Regan

What did I feel the night of the Easter Vigil?

I felt all the emotions throughout the day, so many anxious thoughts about it, but once I got through the start of the service I felt relief. I am not sure why, but it feels very nice to feel relief. I am not sure if it is comfort in my new part of life, but I can’t feel any more happy than I was in that moment. That moment starts the next chapter for me and I am excited to see where I’ll go in the process of bettering myself through the Holy Spirit, and accepting Him in my daily life gives me the relief of knowing someone is there.

Sincerely,  
Max Colton

I knew I had wanted to be baptized after being raised without God. I found this to be very helpful and supportive in leading me to my Baptism and Confirmation. I felt as though I had found my faith family.

Mark Huffsmith

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**GRADUATION MASS & CELEBRATION**

If you or a close family member will be graduating high school, college, or trade school this year, please contact the parish office ASAP. The day and time will be scheduled shortly.





### POPE LEO XIV

#### MAY PRAYER INTENTION

THAT EVERYONE MIGHT HAVE FOOD  
Let us pray that everyone, from large producers to small consumers, be committed to avoid wasting food, and to ensure that everyone has access to quality food.

## St. Michael the Archangel MOTORCYCLE RALLY



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### 2026 WEDDING ANNIVERSARY MASS

His Excellency, the Most Reverend Joseph C. Bambera, D.D., J.C.L., Bishop of Scranton, and the Office for Parish Life wish to invite couples celebrating their 10th, 25th, 40th or 50th wedding anniversary in 2026 to a Diocesan Wedding Anniversary Mass on Sunday, June 28th, 2026. The event includes a 2:30 PM Mass at the Cathedral of Saint Peter followed by a light reception.

The registration deadline for this event is Sunday, June 7th, 2026. To register, please scan the QR code, visit [www.dioceseofscranton.org](http://www.dioceseofscranton.org), or contact Bridget Maille at (570) 207-2213 x 1133 or



### APRIL 27 - MAY 3, 2026 READINGS

**Mon:** Acts 11:1-18 Pss 42:2-3; 43:3-4 Jn 10L11-18

**Tues:** Acts 11:19-26 Ps 87:1b-7 Jn 10:22-30

**Wed:** Acts 12:24—13:5 Ps 67:2-3, 5-6, 8 Jn 12:44-50

**Thurs:** Acts 13:13-25 Ps 89:2-3, 21-22, 25, 27  
Jn 13:16-20

**Fri:** Acts 13:26-33 Ps 2:6-11b Jn 14:1-6

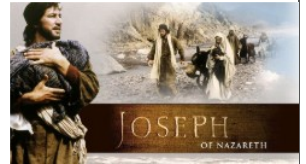
**Sat:** Acts 13:44-52 Ps 98:1-4 Jn 14:7-14

**Sun:** Acts 6:1-7 Ps 33:1-2, 4-5, 18-19 1 Pt 2:4-9  
Jn 14:1-12

### THIS WEEK ON FORMED, WEEK OF APRIL 26, 2026

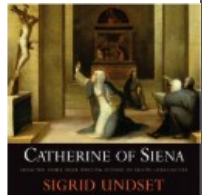
#### JOSEPH OF NAZARETH

Celebrate the feast of Christ's foster father with even more joy and respect this year by watching a movie about him! Enter into the life of this great saint through the movie Joseph of Nazareth!



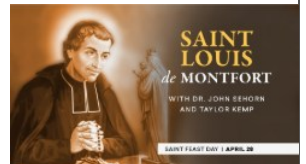
#### CATHERINE OF SIENA

Sigrid Undset's Catherine of Siena is critically acclaimed as one of the best biographies of this well-known and amazing fourteenth-century saint.



#### ST. LOUIS DE MONTFORT | CATHOLIC SAINTS

Dr. John Sehorn joins Taylor Kemp to discuss the life of St. Louis de Montfort. Born in western France, St. Louis had a great love for Mary and the Rosary. His work True Devotion to Mary helps Catholics grow in their relationship with Jesus through his Mother, Mary.

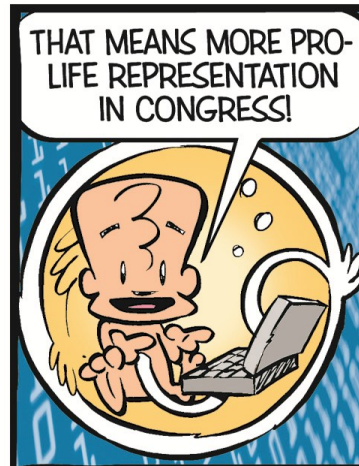
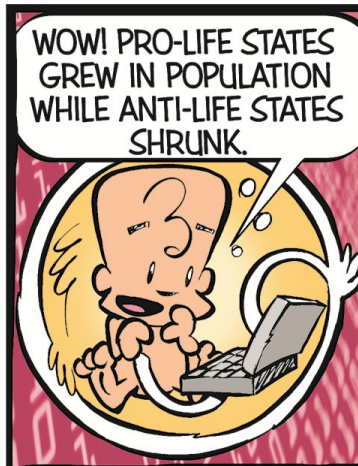
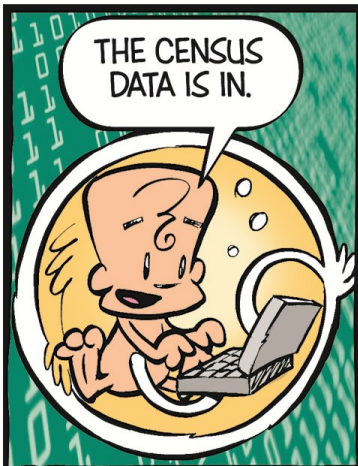


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## Umbert the Unborn

by Gary Cangemi





**Knights of Columbus Council #5517**  
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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.





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