

**AUGUST 9, 2026**



**19TH 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 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. (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, John Ciribassi, Leslie Debach, Ray Harrington, 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, August 8** Saint Dominic, Priest  
VIGIL: 19TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME  
4:00 pm, Canton † Jerome Wynne (Bob & Diane Jones)

**Sunday, August 9** 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 † Carol Toomey (Joe & Dee Burkhart)

**Monday, August 10** Saint Lawrence, Deacon, Martyr  
7:00 am, Rectory † Theresa McCormick  
(Jim & Shirley Brenchley)

**Tuesday, August 11** Saint Clare, Virgin  
5:30 pm, Troy † Carol Toomey (Josh & Kelly Allen)

**Wednesday, August 12** Weekday  
5:30 pm, Canton † Deceased members of Knights of  
Columbus Council #5517 (K of C Council #5517)  
6:00 pm, Rosary

**Thursday, August 13** Weekday  
No Mass

**Fri, August 14** Saint Maximilian Kolbe, Priest, Martyr  
7:00 am, Rectory † Forrest "Wayne" Geisler  
(Saint Michael Altar & Rosary Society)

**Saturday, August 15** THE ASSUMPTION OF THE  
BLESSED VIRGIN MARY  
VIGIL: 20TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME  
4:00 pm, Canton † Pro Populo

**Sunday, August 16** 20TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME  
8:00 am, Ralston † Tina Brant (The Camping Family)  
9:30 am, Canton † David Snell (Pat Pepper)  
11:15 am, Troy † Shirley DePalma (Jayne Cleveland)

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 Canonization of  
Blessed Father Michael McGivney  
by Knights of Columbus Council #5517  
*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 July 27 - August 2, 2026

|                              |                 |
|------------------------------|-----------------|
| Weekly Offerings:            | 4,436.00        |
| Electronic Offerings:        | 1,405.00        |
| Other Parish Income:         | 233.50          |
| <b>Total Parish Income:</b>  | <b>6,074.50</b> |
| Average weekly expenses:     | 4,868.51        |
| Difference:                  | 1,205.99        |
| Care & Education of Priests: | 532.00          |



*Thank you for your continued support.*

## St. Michael the Archangel MOTORCYCLE RALLY



**Saturday August 29th • 8 AM**

107 N. Washington St. Canton, Pa.

Supporting the outreach of  
St. Michael's Catholic Parish.

Check-in begins at 7:00 am, breakfast at  
8:00 am, and kickstands up at 9:00 am. The  
approximately 80 miles, paved route ends at  
The American Legion, Troy, PA for lunch  
at 1:00 pm followed by "Show Me the Money" (a bingo-  
like card game). **Online Registration is OPEN through  
August 15th** - \$35 for a solo rider. Add a passenger for  
just \$10. Meals are included with registration.



Day of event registration will be \$45 for a solo rider  
and \$60 for a rider with a passenger (meals included) -  
cash or credit card due at registration.

Scan the QR code for more details and to register!

### SAINT MICHAEL PARISH PRAYER LIST

Barby, John & Peggy Adams, Roberta Arnold,  
Karl Barton, John Bilbrey, Cassi Blaney, Joseph Blaszc,  
Mary Blaszc, Boyd Bradford, Gus Branish, Betty Brown,  
Dennis Clarke, Ezra Cole, Grace Cott, 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, David Kule,  
Jo Kule, Judy Lepper, Bob Lutz, Jim Maloney,  
Joyce Maloney, David Martinez, Tom McBlane,  
Linda McFadden, Ed "Buster" Merritt,  
Diego Fernández Castaño Morales, Delina Morgan,  
Mary Nybeck, Pamela Porter O'Brien, John O'Brien,  
Leo Parchesky, Ramona Parker, Gary Paquette,  
Lori Pellegrini, Giselle Phillips, Elizabeth Ross,  
Joan Ross, Pat Rushin, Cristy Schmelzle,  
Jean Schoonover, Marilyn Scott, Ahmed Hassa Sharief,  
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.*





Discovering **hope** and **joy** in the Catholic faith.

August 2026

St. Michael Parish

## One Minute Meditations

### St. Bernard of Clairvaux

Although born into wealth, St. Bernard desired a life of simplicity, holiness, and austerity. Born in 1090 in Fontaines, France, he entered the monastery at Cîteaux in his twenties, followed by most of his family. Recognizing his holiness and noting the overcrowding of the monastery, the abbot sent St. Bernard to establish a new monastery in Clairvaux. St. Bernard went on to found monasteries for nuns, worked for the Holy See, and preached the Second Crusade.

### More than the mission

No matter our age, we all need to hear these words: "I love you without measure." At the Transfiguration, the Father declared of Jesus, *"This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased"* (Matthew 17:5). He means those words for us as well. Before all else, we are God's beloved children.

Significantly, the Father speaks these words before Jesus goes to the Cross, before His saving mission is complete. We often reverse that order, allowing our identity to depend on our accomplishments or faithfulness. We assume God will love us once we have fulfilled our mission. But the Gospel reveals the opposite. God's love is not earned but freely **given**. Our mission flows from our identity, not the other way around.

*"For I have redeemed you; I have called you by name, you are mine"* (Isaiah 43:1).

## Be Like Christ. Love Like Christ.

What does it mean to "be like Christ" in the context of our everyday lives? The key is to love as He loves. Here are five practical ways to love like Jesus.

**Learn His pattern.** The Gospels show us how Jesus responded to the sick, the brokenhearted, the marginalized, and even His enemies. Scripture provides the pattern, while prayer and the Sacraments provide the grace to live it. The more we immerse ourselves in Christ's life, the more naturally His way of loving becomes our own.

**Cultivate His heart.** Jesus describes Himself as *"gentle and humble of heart"* (Matthew 11:29). His humility comes from His complete obedience to the Father's will. His gentleness is strength under perfect self-control, expressed in His patience, mercy, and compassion, even toward those who rejected Him. As we imitate His way of love, our own hearts are slowly transformed as His.

**Show genuine interest.** Jesus often asked open-ended questions, not because He lacked the answers, but to draw people out. *"What do you seek?"* (John 1:38). *"What are you discussing*

*with each other?"* (Luke 24:17) Genuine love begins with genuine interest. Asking thoughtful questions communicates that people are seen, heard, and valued.

**Choose the charitable interpretation.** St. Theresa Margaret of the Sacred Heart wrote, "If the actions of our neighbors have a hundred sides, we ought always to look at them on the best side." Love resists rushing to judgment and gives others the benefit of the doubt, creating space for understanding rather than

*"Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls"* (Matthew 11:29).

suspicion.

**Always act out of love.** St. Paul exhorts us, *"Whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do everything for the glory of God"* (1 Corinthians 10:31). Jesus lived every moment in perfect love for His Father and for us. Love was not merely one aspect of His life; it was the motive behind everything He did. Following Christ means allowing love to shape not only our greatest sacrifices but also our smallest daily actions.

### Why Do Catholics Do That?

### Why do Catholics pray formula prayers?

Formula prayers are not a substitute for personal prayer but a time-tested way of entering into it and deepening it. When the disciples asked Jesus how to pray, He gave them the Our Father (Matthew 6:9-13; Luke 11:2-4), a prayer to be prayed repeatedly. Scripture also contains many communal prayers, especially the Psalms, which

served as Israel's prayer book and remain the Church's today. By praying these inspired words, Catholics join generations of believers in worship. Whether at Mass or beside a hospital bed, formula prayers unite the faithful, expressing not only personal devotion but also the shared faith of the whole Church.

# What to do when you don't feel like praying

Not feeling like praying is something even faithful Christians experience. In fact, seasons of dryness can be a normal part of spiritual growth. While they may have different causes, they do not necessarily mean something is wrong. Here are three ways to respond:

**Pray about not wanting to pray.** Bring your reluctance to God. You don't have to overcome your feelings before coming to Him. Honest prayer is still prayer, and God meets you with love exactly where you are.

**Keep it simple.** We value brief messages from those we love: "I love you," "Good luck today," or "Thinking of you."

Prayer can be that simple. The goal is relationship, not length. A heartfelt "God, help me," "Jesus, I trust in You," or "Come, Holy Spirit" is enough.

**Choose presence over performance.** Approach prayer the way you would spending time with a close friend. We don't cancel plans with someone we love simply because we're tired.

In the same way, keep showing up. God delights in your company (Proverbs 8:31). He is not looking for a perfect performance but for a heart that continues to seek Him, even when prayer feels dry or difficult.

## from Scripture

### Matthew 16:21-27, God's ways are not our ways

At first glance, this passage seems like bad news. Jesus predicts His own death, a revelation that must have stunned the disciples. They had just come to recognize Him as the long-awaited Messiah. Instead of leading a triumphant victory over Rome, Jesus spoke of suffering, rejection, and execution. To them, it looked like failure, not triumph.

Peter responded as many of us do when faced with suffering: he resisted the Cross. He wanted Jesus to avoid it and was sharply rebuked. Yet had Jesus turned aside, we would have remained

in our sins, separated from God. Instead, He freely embraced the Cross. He chose us. From the perspective of the Resurrection, what appeared to be defeat was in fact Christ's decisive victory over sin and death.

God desires our happiness, not merely our temporary comfort. He desires our eternal joy. The Christian life is not about avoiding the crosses God permits but embracing them with trust, as Jesus did. And we never carry them alone. Christ walks beside us, bearing the heavier end of every cross.

## Q & A Can the Pope make mistakes if he's infallible?

Yes. The pope is human and, like anyone else, can make mistakes in his personal opinions, decisions, or everyday statements. Papal infallibility does not mean the pope is incapable of error. Rather, it means that, under specific conditions, the Holy Spirit preserves him from definitively teaching error in matters of faith and morals (*Catechism of the Catholic Church*, 891).

Papal infallibility applies only when the pope is:

**Defining a doctrine of faith or morals.** The teaching must concern divine revelation or truths closely connected to it. It does not apply to scientific claims, political views, interviews, homilies, or personal opinions. For example, in 1950, Pope Pius XII infallibly defined the dogma of Mary's Assumption into heaven.

**Speaking ex cathedra** ("from the chair"). The pope must speak in his official capacity as the successor of St. Peter and clearly intend to proclaim a doctrine that is binding on the entire Church. In *Munificentissimus Deus*, Pope Pius XII explicitly invoked his apostolic authority to "pronounce, declare, and define" the Assumption as a divinely revealed dogma.

## Feasts & Celebrations

**August 7—St. Cajetan (1547).** St. Cajetan was born in Italy to a noble family. He went on to study civil and canon (Church) law at the University of Padua. He worked to reform the Church by founding the Theatines, a religious order modeled on the teachings of the Apostles.

**August 9—St. Edith Stein (1942).** Formerly Jewish, she was an atheist intellectual in Germany. After studying St. Teresa of Ávila, she converted to Catholicism, and became a Carmelite nun. Although her order tried to shelter her from the Nazis, she was taken to and executed at Auschwitz.

**August 15—The Assumption of Mary.** Declared a dogma of faith in 1950 by Pope Pius XII, the Assumption celebrates Mary's being taken up into Heaven body and soul at the end of her life. This feast highlights the Church's respect for the dignity of the body in view of our future resurrection. Note: This year, it is not a holy day of obligation.

**August 24—St. Bartholomew (First Century).** One of the Twelve Apostles and the son of Tolomai, Bartholomew is thought by some scholars to be the apostle, Nathanael, who went with Philip to see Jesus. After Jesus's Ascension, Nathanael spread Christianity to India and in Armenia, where he was martyred. He is the patron saint of Armenia and Belgium.

## Our Mission

To provide practical ideas that promote faithful Catholic living.  
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**POPE LEO XIV**  
**AUGUST PRAYER INTENTION**  
 FOR EVANGELIZATION IN THE CITY: Let us pray that in large cities often marked by anonymity and loneliness we find new ways to proclaim the Gospel, discovering creative paths to build community.

### NEWS FROM THE KNIGHTS

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



This Sunday, August 9th, the 9:30 am Mass is 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.

### THE ASSUMPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

In 2026, The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary falls on a Saturday, so it is not a Holy Day of Obligation this year. However, we can still take this opportunity to celebrate our Blessed Mother and learn more about her role in Salvation History.

THE BIBLE AND THE VIRGIN MARY is a 14 episode series available on FORMED. It is based on the work of Dr. Scott Hahn and presented by Matthew Leonard. One of the episodes is titled THE ASSUMPTION. The entire series can be found on FORMED here:

<https://app.formed.org/app/collections/115550>



THE BIBLE  
 and the  
 VIRGIN MARY  
 JOURNEY THROUGH SCRIPTURE

### RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

CCD registration for the '26-'27 school year is open now through September 6, 2026 and can be completed online at [stmichaelscanton.com/religious-education/ccd/](http://stmichaelscanton.com/religious-education/ccd/) or by paper copy in the back of all 3 churches.

CCD 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.

### AUGUST 10 - 16, 2026 READINGS

**Mon:** 2 Cor 9:6-10 Ps 112:1-2, 5-9 Jn 12:24-26

**Tues:** Ez 2:8—3:4 Ps 119:14, 24, 72, 103, 111, 131  
 Mt 18:1-5, 10, 12-14

**Wed:** Ez 9:1-7; 10:18-22 Ps 113:1-6 Mt 18:15-20

**Thurs:** Ez 12:1-12 Ps 78:56-59, 61-62 Mt 18:21—19:1

**Fri:** Ez 16:1-15, 60, 63 or 16:59-63  
 (Ps) Is 12:2-3, 4bcd, 5-6 Mt 19:3-12

**Sat:** Rv 11:19a; 12:1-6a, 10ab Ps 45:10-12, 16  
 1 Cor 15:20-27 Lk 1:39-56

**Sun:** Is 56:1, 6-7 Ps 67:2-3, 5-6, 8  
 Rom 11:13-15, 29-32 Mt 15:21-25

### THIS WEEK ON FORMED, WEEK OF AUGUST 9, 2026

#### TRIUMPH OF THE HEART

In the harrowing confines of Auschwitz's starvation cell, Catholic priest St. Maximilian Kolbe volunteers to die in place of another prisoner, joining nine others condemned by the Nazis.



#### THE NEW EVE | LECTIO: MARY | EPISODE 1

The Book of Genesis begins with the story of Adam and Eve, whose sin of disobedience breaks their relationship with God. God does not abandon his people, but gradually prepares them for the coming of his Son, Jesus Christ. Jesus, the promised "seed" of Genesis 3:15 is the "New Adam," and his mother, the promised "woman," is the "New Eve."



#### CLARE AND FRANCIS

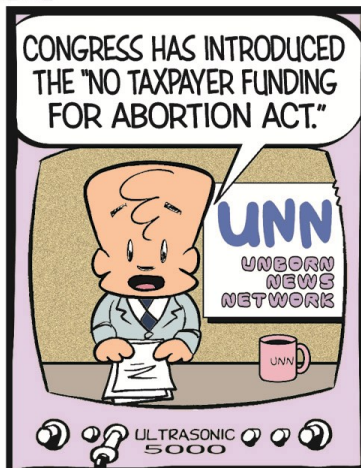
This outstanding movie is unique among films about St. Francis because of the historical accuracy of the story and its authentic spirit of joy and piety so characteristic of Francis, as well as the major role played by Clare. Both founded major religious orders, and together they inspired many to follow their radical call to live the Gospel.



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*  
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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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