

SEPTEMBER 6, 2026



23RD 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

website: www.stmichaelscanton.com

Summer Office Hours: Mondays & Wednesdays 8 am - 3:30 pm



Anointing of the Sick

All who are seriously ill, hospitalized, or having surgery can receive this sacrament. Contact the parish office to request this sacrament.

Baptism

All parents must attend a baptismal preparation meeting prior to the Baptism.

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

St. Michael's Church: 6 - 7 pm Mass
on Wednesdays and First Fridays
after 7 am Mass until 7 pm.

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 held on
Sundays from September until May
8:15 - 9:15 am, St. Michael's 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, September 5 Weekday

VIGIL: 23RD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

4:00 pm, Canton † Betty Morse (Bob & Diane Jones)

Sunday, September 6 23RD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

8:00 am, Ralston † Betsy Lynch (Clorinda Lynch)

9:30 am, Canton † Jefferey Jerome Wynne (His Family)

11:15 am, Troy † Pro Populo

Monday, September 7 Weekday

7:00 am, Rectory † Marie O'Hara (John & Pat Rushin)

Tuesday, September 8 THE NATIVITY OF THE
BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

5:30 pm, Troy † Mary Ann Bubniak (Donna Hazelton)

Wednesday, September 9 Saint Peter Claver, Priest

5:30 pm, Canton † Deceased members of Knights of

Columbus Council #5517 (K of C Council #5517)

6:00 pm, Rosary

Thursday, September 10 Weekday

No Mass

Friday, September 11 Weekday

7:00 am, Rectory † Carol Toomey

(Frank & Karen DeAngelis)

Saturday, September 12 Weekday

VIGIL: 24TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

4:00 pm, Canton † For the conversion and protection of
all of our loved ones (Christina Fleury)

Sunday, Sept 13 24TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

8:00 am, Ralston † Tina Grant (The Camping Family)

9:30 am, Canton † Mark Kingsley (The 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 for all who are forgotten or cast off,
especially the unborn, the poor, the sick, and the
aged to be treated according to the dignity with
which God created them.

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 August 24 - 30, 2026

Weekly Offerings: 2,663.00

Electronic Offerings: 525.00

Motorcycle Rally Net Proceeds: 1,322.31

Other Parish Income: 29.50



Total Parish Income: 4,539.81

Average weekly expenses: 4,868.51

Difference: (328.70)

Care & Education of Priests: 27.00

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 non-
Catholics to enter into full communion with the Roman
Catholic Church and for Catholics who have not been
fully initiated to receive Holy Communion and/or Con-
firmation. OCIA begins with the inquiry phase, formally
known as the Period of Evangelization and Precatechu-
menate, which lasts for at least 6 weeks. For more infor-
mation or to register, please call Father Joe at 570-673-
5253. The first day of OCIA will be announced soon.



ROSARY RALLY

Saint Michael's Altar & Rosary Society is hosting a
ROSARY RALLY on Thursday, September 17th at 10:00
am in Saint Michael's followed by a light luncheon.

*"The Rosary will be a very powerful armor against hell;
it will destroy vice, deliver from sin and dispel heresy."*

Our Lady to Saint Dominic

6TH ANNUAL PA MARCH FOR LIFE

When: Monday, September 21st

Where: At the State Capitol in Harrisburg, PA

Why: To speak up for the unborn to end abortion on
demand

Buses are available at no charge, however reservations
must be made. Sign up sheets are by the bulletins or call
or text 570-772-6524.

Buses will leave from:

6:30 am: Valley Shopping Plaza, Sayre

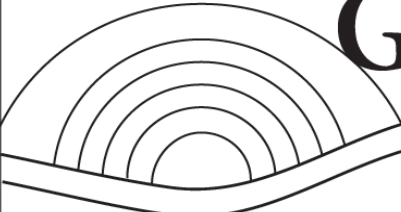
6:45 am: Grace Christian Academy, Ulster

7:30 am: Bradford Towne Center behind McDonald's,
Wysox

8:00 am: Dushore - if needed

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,
Dan Clark, Dennis Clarke, Ezra Cole, Grace Cott,
Violet Davis, 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, Paula Horton,
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



Growing in FAITH™

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

September 2026

St. Michael Parish



One Minute Meditations

St. Hildegard of Bingen

Born in 11th-century Germany to a noble family, St. Hildegard of Bingen experienced mystical visions from childhood, which she eventually embraced as a call to serve God and the Church. A Benedictine nun and later abbess, she became an influential spiritual leader, composer, writer, and scholar of the natural world. Popes, clergy, and political leaders sought her counsel. Recognized for the enduring depth of her theological writings, she is one of four women named Doctors of the Church.

Stay anchored in the storm

A change of seasons often brings new routines, shifting schedules, and unexpected demands. When plans change before lunch, an urgent project lands on your desk, or your to-do list grows faster than you can manage, pause. Remember that our lives, our future, our peace, and our hope rest securely in the hands of the One who calmed the storm.

"God is the friend of silence...The more we receive in silent prayer, the more we can give in our active life. We need silence to be able to touch souls. The essential thing is not what we say, but what God says to us and through us." – Mother Teresa of Calcutta

Living the Faith, sharing the Light

Jesus tells us to be the salt of the earth and the light of the world (Matthew 5:13-15). These images show two aspects of living our faith: preserving the distinctiveness of our faith and making that faith visible in our actions. Both communicate God's love.

Keep the flavor: In the ancient world, salt preserved what was valuable and gave food its flavor. Jesus warns that salt can lose its distinctiveness. Our faith can, too, when distraction, compromise, or indifference weakens our relationship with Him. Prayer is not another obligation to complete. It is time invested in the relationship that gives everything else its meaning.

Light the lamp: Faith is meant to illuminate, offering direction, warmth, and hope. But like a lamp, faith needs fuel. Through the Mass and the sacraments, we are continually renewed in Christ and strengthened by His grace. Nourished by Him, we are called to carry His light beyond the church and into our homes, workplaces, parishes, and communities through lives of

compassion, courage, and service.

Share your gifts: God gives each of us different strengths. It can be tempting to keep these gifts to ourselves, yet true humility isn't hiding our gifts but using them to glorify God and serve the Church.

Serve in mercy: The Works of Mercy make our faith concrete. When we are attentively present to those lonely

"Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven" (Matthew 5:16).

("hungry") for love, support our parish's charitable outreach, or choose goodness over retaliation, we reflect God's love in personal, immediate, and practical ways.

Remember your first love: God calls us to live in His love, and to share it with others. Living in God's love is the secret to preserving the faith and living it well. Our starting and ending point is always God's love for us.



Why Do Catholics Do That?

What is the Confiteor?

The Confiteor is a prayer of repentance we offer at the beginning of Mass to acknowledge our sins and ask for God's mercy. The word Confiteor means "I confess," reflecting the prayer's opening words: "I confess to almighty God." As we say "through my fault," we strike

our breasts as a physical expression of sorrow and responsibility for our sins. This gesture reminds us that we worship God with both body and soul and helps prepare our hearts to participate more fully in the Eucharist.

Look closely; God is at work

We often expect God to work through dramatic signs or unmistakable miracles. Yet His providence frequently unfolds quietly and gradually. Pope Leo points to Jesus' parables of the Kingdom (Matthew 13:24-43) as an answer to an enduring question: Where is God, and how is He at work?

God's providence is constant, even when hidden: When events do not unfold as we hoped, we can assume God is absent or inactive. Jesus' parables invite us to trust that He is always at work, especially when His purposes are not immediately visible.

God works through what is small and ordinary: "God favors smallness, a sign of his discreet love, by which he

leaves us free to accept or reject him." For Pope Leo, wheat growing among weeds, yeast leavening dough, and a tiny mustard seed reveal a Kingdom that often advances quietly, patiently, and steadily.

We are called to imitate God: "God's way with us must also become the way in which we live." Building the Kingdom rarely requires extraordinary gestures. It begins with patience in difficulty, resisting rash judgment, fulfilling our responsibilities faithfully, and choosing love when it costs us. These ordinary acts become seeds through which God's Kingdom takes root and grows.

from Scripture

Matthew 21:28-32, The "yes" that matters

In this Gospel passage, Jesus tells of a father who asks his two sons to work in his vineyard. The first refuses but later repents and goes; the second readily agrees but fails to act. Jesus' point is clear: doing the Father's will matters more than merely professing obedience.

The parable challenges the religious complacency of the Pharisees, whose outward observance did not always reflect a heart open to God. By contrast, tax collectors and public sinners, though once far from God, responded to His mercy with repentance and conversion. Their former "no" became a genuine "yes," demonstrated not simply in words

but in a changed way of life.

This distinction remains essential for Christian discipleship. Faith cannot be reduced to appearances, good intentions, or religious language. A sincere "yes" to God takes concrete form through obedience, charity, repentance, and fidelity to our responsibilities. The parable is therefore both a warning against empty profession and a message of profound hope: our past does not determine our future. Whenever we turn back to God, He receives us with the joy of the shepherd who recovers the lost sheep (Luke 15:4-7).

sufferings with the same steadfast love.

September 21 – St. Matthew the Evangelist (1st Century). Also known as Levi, he was a notorious tax collector (Mark 2:14). Working for the Romans would have made him unpopular but very rich. Yet St. Matthew left everything when Jesus called him. He wrote the Gospel according to Matthew, addressed to Jewish converts to Christianity.

September 26 – Saints Cosmas and Damian (c.303). These saints were Arab brothers who studied medicine in Syria and lived their Christian faith by treating people without charge. They were martyred for their faith. Even in heaven, they continued to care for the sick and poor, as healing miracles were attributed to their prayerful intercession.

Q & A How can I go to Confession after a long time away?

The Church encourages regular Confession (*Catechism of the Catholic Church*, 1458), but travel and changing routines can make good spiritual habits easy to neglect. If it has been a while, come home to Reconciliation. Like the father in the Parable of the Prodigal Son, God waits to welcome, forgive, and restore us.

Prepare your heart: An examination of conscience is more than listing failures. Consider where you have fallen short in loving God and your neighbor. Recognizing what sin has damaged helps begin the work of repair.

The priest will help: Feeling nervous is normal. The priest can guide you through the Sacrament, offer counsel, and help you receive God's mercy with confidence.

Penance begins healing: Penance helps repair the harm caused by our sin and directs us toward conversion and renewed faithfulness.

Grace offers a new beginning: Confession does more than forgive the past. Through absolution, we are reconciled with God and strengthened by grace to resist sin, grow in virtue, and begin again with greater freedom and hope.

Feasts & Celebrations

September 4 – St. Rose of Viterbo (1251). Born to poor parents in Viterbo, Italy, Rose used her gift of preaching to catechize her village. Though very young, she also spoke out in support of the pope against the anti-papal Ghibellines. The Poor Clares refused to accept her but allowed her burial there. She died at age eighteen.

September 15 – Our Lady of Sorrows. In Luke 2:35, Simeon predicted Mary's sufferings would be a sword piercing her soul. In her sorrow, Mary stood at the foot of the Cross, dignified and fearless while others ran away. Today, we can look to her to accompany us in our

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
SEPTEMBER PRAYER INTENTION
 FOR THE CARE OF WATER

Let us pray for a just and sustainable management of water, a vital resource, so that everyone may have equal access to it.



NEWS FROM THE KNIGHTS
"STUFF THE BUS"



Knights of Columbus Council #5517 will be holding their school supply donations drive August 15th through September 6th.

ATTENTION GARDENERS!

Donation's of butternut squash for the (October 28th) Harvest Dinner would be much appreciated. Please Contact Jim Ross, 570-651-0489. Thank you.

MOTORCYCLE RALLY A SUCCESS!

Thank you to John Ciribassi and his team for a successful Motorcycle Rally on Saturday, August 29th. The weather, people, bikes, food and games were all fantastic! Over \$1,300 was raised for our parish!

BE A CATHOLIC MAN CONFERENCE

The 11th annual BE A CATHOLIC MAN CONFERENCE will take place October 10th at Holy Redeemer High School, Wilkes Barre. The theme is "JUST BE CATHOLIC". We have three great speakers: Bishop Joseph Coffey, John Martignoni, and Brian Holdsworth. More information and registration is available at www.BeACatholicMan.com or via the QR code.

Early bird \$30 - student \$15. Contact the parish office for an anonymous donor to pay your registration fee. Christus Vincit!



RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

CCD registration for the '26-'27 school year closes today, September 6, 2026. If you need to register late, email Sarah Watson at dre@stmichaelscanton.com.

CCD teachers and substitutes needed! Anyone interested in faith formation ministry, please contact Sarah Watson at dre@stmichaelscanton.com or 570-447-8799.

SEPTEMBER 7 - 13, 2026 READINGS

Mon: 1 Cor 5:1-8 Ps 5:5-6, 7, 12 Lk 6:6-11

Tues: Mi 5:1-4a or Rom 8:28-30 Ps 13:6abc Mt 1:1-16

Wed: 1 Cor 7:25-31 Ps 45:11-12, 14-17 Lk 6:20-26

Thurs: 1 Cor 8:1b-7, 11-13 Ps 139:1b-3, 13-14b, 23-24 Lk 6:27-38

Fri: 1 Cor 9:16-19, 22b-27 Ps 84:3-6, 12 Lk 6:39-42

Sat: 1 Cor 10:14-22 Ps 116:12-13, 17-18 Lk 6:43-49

Sun: Sir 27:30—28:7 Ps 103:1-4, 9-12 Rom 14:7-9 Mt 18:21-35

Congratulations to **Father Joe Kutch**, who celebrated his 38th anniversary of ordination on Thursday, September 3rd!

THIS WEEK ON FORMED, WEEK OF SEPTEMBER 6, 2026

WHAT CATHOLICS BELIEVE ABOUT MARY: IMMACULATE CONCEPTION, VIRGINITY & THE ROSARY

Join Dr. Edward Sri as he answers some of the internet's most asked questions about Mary.

WHO IS MARY?

Why do Catholics pray to Mary? How could she be a virgin if Jesus had brothers and sisters according to the Bible? Find out answers to these and more questions in this episode of What Catholics Believe.



MARY OF NAZARETH

What would it have been like to have known the Mother of God? Watch this beautiful film portraying the life of Mary in order to contemplate Mary's profound faith and the mysteries of her life. Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary In this episode, Dr. Tim Gray and Dr. John Sehorn discuss the birthday of the Blessed Virgin Mary.



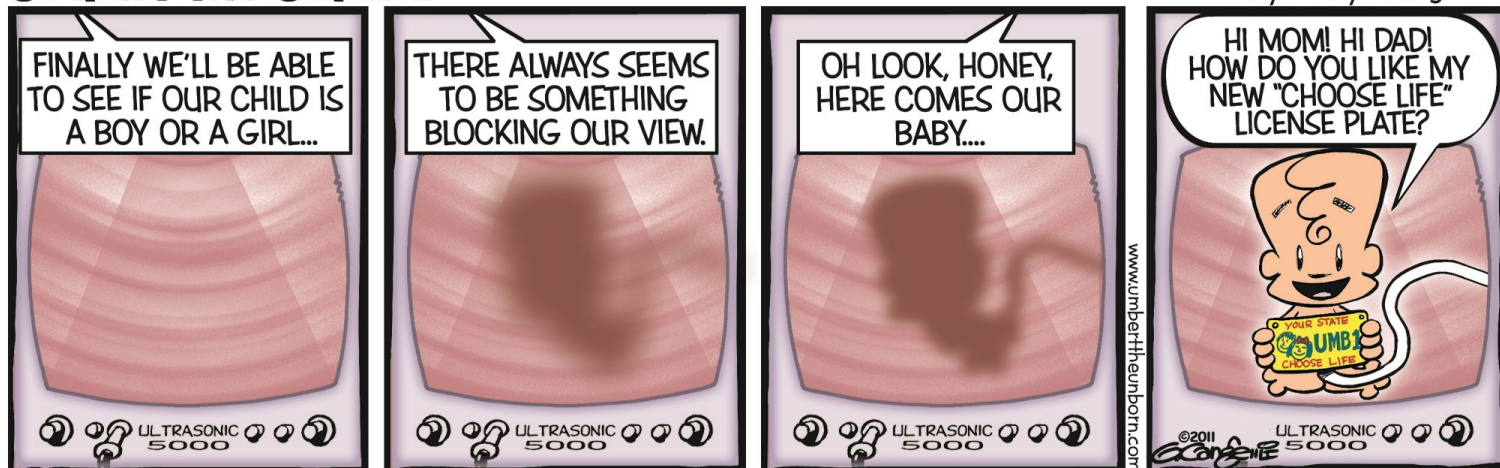
Set up your free account by visiting formed.org/signup.

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
& 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

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 • PEA
• CHESTNUT • STOVE
(ALL SIZES AVAILABLE IN BULK OR BAGGED)
Keystoker Stoves
SALES, PARTS & SERVICE

tributes of life
Gerald W. Vickery, Jr.
Funeral & Cremation Services, Inc.
1093 West Main Street, Troy, PA 16947
vickeryfh.com
Daniel Gilliland, Supervisor
Daniel Gilliland
Funeral Director
dgilliland@tributesoflife.com
p 570-297-3030
c 570-506-3665
f 570-297-4093

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

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

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

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

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