

SAINT MICHAEL PARISH

A ROMAN CATHOLIC COMMUNITY IN THE DIOCESE OF YOUNGSTOWN



LITURGICAL SCHEDULE

Saturday Vigil Mass	4:00pm
Sunday Mass	9:00am & 11:30am
Weekday Mass	8:00am (Monday–Thursday)
Holy Day Mass	12:15pm & 6:00pm
Reconciliation	3:00pm (Saturday)

PARISH STAFF

Very Reverend John-Michael Lavelle, D.Min., *Pastor*

Daniel LaPolla, *Seminarian Intern*

Marcy Fessler
Pastoral Associate

Katherine Garchar
Director of Music

Maxine Gordon
Administrative Assistant

Stephanie Howley
Business Manager

Audrey Geskey
Facilities Manager

Joe Serenko
Maintenance

SACRAMENTS AND CATECHESIS

To register your child(ren) for Youth Faith Formation (YFF), to inquire about the Order of Christian Initiation of Adults (OCIA), to begin the Annulment process, schedule a Baptism Prep session, or discuss the preparation and celebration of the Sacraments of Initiation: Baptism, First Eucharist (and Reconciliation), and Confirmation, please contact Marcy Fessler, our Pastoral Associate at 330-533-6839. Thank you.

PARISH INFORMATION

To register in the parish, begin planning for the Sacrament of Marriage, discuss a Mass of Christian Burial, request Letters of Suitability to serve as Godparents or Sponsors, or seek any other parish-related information, contact Maxine Gordon, our Administrative Assistant at 330-533-6839. Thank you.

OFFICE HOURS

Monday – Thursday: 8:30am – 4:00pm
Closed on Friday

CONTACT US

300 North Broad Street, Canfield, OH 44406
Tele: 330-533-6839 Fax: 330-702-1504
Email: info@saintmichaelparish.net
Web Page: www.stmichaelcanfield.org

MISSION STATEMENT

We are a faith community of Roman Catholic Christians dedicated to lovingly extending the mission and ministry of Our Lord, Jesus Christ, through Word, Sacrament, and Christian Service to the People of God, both in our parish and the surrounding areas, all to the Glory of God!

PARISH HALL & FAMILY LIFE CENTER RENTALS

Parishioners: please call Audrey Geskey at 330-533-3181

**Monday, February 23****Saint Polycarp**

8:00am – John Cummings

Tuesday, February 24

8:00am – Chuck Swindler

Wednesday, February 25

8:00am – Jack Willison

Thursday, February 26

8:00am – Michael Stefko

Friday, February 27**Saint Gregory of Narek**

8:00am – Mass

8:30am – Stations of the Cross

Saturday, February 28**Vigil – The Second Sunday of Lent**

4:00pm – The People of the Parish

Sunday, March 1**The Second Sunday of Lent**

9:00am – The Sacred Heart Society

11:30am – Tony Peluso

THE CHAIR OF SAINT PETER

The feast of the Chair of Saint Peter has nothing to do with a piece of furniture. The “chair” symbolizes the authority of Saint Peter and his successors who have served the Church of Jesus Christ as the Bishop of Rome (the Pope). As a matter of fact, in Rome’s Saint Peter’s Basilica, there is a chair, enshrined in the sumptuous Altar of the Chair of Saint Peter by the great architect Bernini, but it is a symbol representing the 2,000-year-old papacy and unity the Pope continues to bring to Catholics around the world. Without such unity the Church would splinter into numerous sects and divisions.

So, every year on February 22, the Church celebrates the continuing role of the Pope, the Vicar of Christ, beginning with Saint Peter. The use of the term chair in the feast day comes from the Latin term cathedra, meaning the seat of government. But how did such a feast day ever get started? We need to go back to the time of Jesus for the answer.

Following the Resurrection, Jesus confirms Peter’s primacy over the other apostles as well as authority over His Church. He gives Peter the keys to the kingdom, telling him: to “Feed my lambs.... Feed my sheep” (see Jn 21:15-17). This authority, this responsibility given to Peter, is meant to be passed

on to each of his successors. Jesus did not intend for the Church to end with Peter.

Saint Peter takes on the role assigned by Christ beginning in the Upper Room. Pope Benedict XVI writes in his book “Holiness is Always in Season” (Ignatius Press, 2011): “So what was the ‘Chair’ of Saint Peter? Chosen by Christ as the ‘rock’ on which to build the Church (cf. Mt 16:18), he began his ministry in Jerusalem, after the Ascension of the Lord and Pentecost. The Church’s first ‘seat’ was the Upper Room, and it is likely that a special place was reserved for Simon Peter in that room where Mary, Mother of Jesus, also prayed with the disciples” (p. 65).

Even before Pentecost, Peter orchestrated the selection of Matthias to replace Judas, which was the first apostolic succession (see Acts 1:15-26). Peter preached on that day of Pentecost and was so inspirational that 3,000 people were baptized after listening to him (Acts 2:41). He was the first apostle to be given the grace to perform a miracle; curing the lame man at “the Beautiful gate” (Acts 3:1-10). King Herod Agrippa had Peter arrested and shackled in prison between two guards, but an “angel of the Lord” saved him (Acts 12:1-10). Peter’s decisive speech at the Council of Jerusalem in A.D. 50 resolved the debate there (Acts 15:6-12). That he was singled out for a special role among all the apostles is undisputable.

On this feast day, the universal Church acknowledges that Saint Peter was the first pope and that his mission continues through the Holy Father today. Simply stated, that mission is to care for the people of God; to carry on the customs, rituals, teachings and truths of Jesus; and to uphold the unity of His Church. Moreover, the Church proclaims that the authority given to Saint Peter by Our Lord has been handed down to Peter’s successors for the past 2,000 years.

As we observe this celebration of Saint Peter and the Papacy, let us also continue to pray for our Holy Father, Pope Leo. Strengthen his heart to shepherd his people with compassion, and guide his words to inspire unity, peace, and faith across the world.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS

On the remaining Fridays of Lent (**February 27, March 6, 13, 20, and 27**), Mass will be held at 8:00am followed by Stations of the Cross at 8:30. Please plan on making this part of your Lenten Journey.



THIS WEEK IN OUR PARISH

Monday, February 23

No events scheduled

Tuesday, February 24

11:00am – Patriotic Rosary
6:00pm – OCIA

Wednesday, February 25

8:20 -9:00am – Adoration
7:00pm – Lenten Devotion
Holy Hour with a Reflection on Prayer

Thursday, February 26

8:30am – Bible Study
10:00am – Scripture

Friday, February 27

Parish Office Closed
7:30pm – AA Meeting

Saturday, February 28

3:00pm – Reconciliation

Sunday, March 1

9:00am – Children’s Liturgy of the Word
10:05 – 11:20 – YFF
2:00 – 3:30 – Confirmation Class

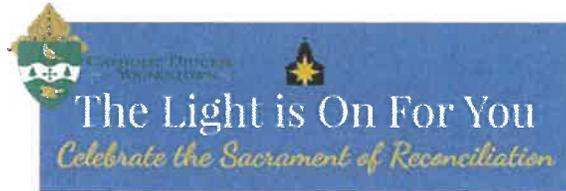


ANNUAL DIOCESAN APPEAL

One in Hope, One in Mission

We are beginning our **Annual Diocesan Appeal: One in Hope, One in Mission**. Many of you have generously donated to the Appeal last year and should have received a personalized packet from Bishop Bonnar in the mail. There are additional brochures and pledge cards in the pews. The Annual Diocesan Appeal is the major solicitation in support of Catholic Charities and the Ministries of the Diocese, seeking to raise \$4,000,000 throughout our 63 parishes in the diocese. Last year, our parish collectively raised **\$150,000**. I am eternally grateful to everyone who made a gift last year. Our parish goal this year is **\$100,100** (our goal is in direct relationship with a percentage of our annual offertory, making it obtainable). I am asking everyone to prayerfully consider making a gift to the 2026 Annual Appeal. If we were able to add additional parishioners to the list of generous donors this year, the difference that could mean to our brothers and sisters in need in the area would be amazing.

I ask that you keep everyone served by the Appeal in prayer and open your heart and mind to the work of the Appeal, Thank you.



On **Wednesday, March 4, 2026**, our parish and parishes throughout the Diocese of Youngstown will offer an *“Evening of Reconciliation.”* During this time the Sacrament of Reconciliation will be available as a sign for all to embrace and live God’s mercy and love more completely. Plan to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation as part of your Lenten journey on March 4, 2026.

Readings for March 1, 2026

Second Sunday of Lent

Genesis 12:1-4a
2 Timothy 1:8b-10
Matthew 17:1-9

LENTEN DEVOTIONS
WEDNESDAY – 7:00pm

A weekly opportunity for prayer and reflection.

February 25 – Holy Hour with a reflection on Prayer

March 4 – “Light is On” Penance Service

March 11 – Holy Hour with a reflection of Fasting

March 18 – Holy Hour with a reflection on Almsgiving

March 25 – Annunciation/Stations of the Cross

PLEASE PRAY FOR THOSE WHO ARE ILL

Dante DeAngelo	Dale Hynes	Shirley Morvay
James Dunn, Sr.	Bridget Dunn Leonard	Janice Rovnak
Jim Fisher	Patricia Lesho	Charles Slivkoff
Marilyn Fisher	Barbara Dunn Lowe	Caroline Zeigler
John Hahn		

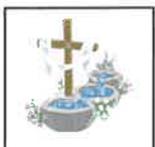
Welcome our Newly Baptized

Lucille Ann Duda

Daughter of Anna & Donald Duda

Mylan J. Rich

Son of Kendal & Dominic Rich



2026 DIOCESAN APPEAL PRAYER

HEAVENLY FATHER, as we journey together as pilgrims of hope, we give thanks for the many blessings you have bestowed upon the Diocese of Youngstown. Guide us as we walk in faith, and strengthen our hearts to share generously for the work of the Church. Through our support of the Annual Diocesan Appeal, may we help bring the light of Christ to those in need, fostering hope and healing in our communities. Bless all who give and inspire us to be living signs of Your love, as we continue our shared pilgrimage toward Your kingdom. We ask this through Christ, our Lord. AMEN.

CLEAN UP YOUR ACT FOR LENT

We are collecting personal hygiene and household cleaning items for those in need throughout our community. Any items may be placed in the bins located at the entrances of the Church. All items will then be distributed through Catholic Charities.



Thank you in advance for your kindness and generosity.

Parish Support

February 15, 2026

Amount Received	\$ 13,389.00
Amount Budgeted	\$ 15,000.00
Surplus/ (Deficit)	(\$ 1,611.00)
YTD Received	\$487,905.12
YTD Budget	\$465,000.00
YTD Surplus (Deficit)	\$ 22,905.12



Thank you for your continued support of our parish and all our ministries! God Bless.

MILITARY LIST



Abby Cruz – Navy Pilot
Ryan Cruz – Captain, Marine Corp.
Colonel Gerald Nunziato
Lt. William “Bill” Sweeney”, Battalion Surgeon, 6 th Marines, US Navy
Capt. Lisa Sukenaga - Army

From Daniel LaPolla, Seminarian

For the month of February, I have chosen to share about the life and charism of Saint PETER DAMIEN- Religious & Doctor of the Church.

Saint PETER DAMIAN was born in Ravenna, Italy and was orphaned at a very young age. He was cared for by an uncle, the archpriest of Ravenna, who educated him. As a student, he desired his body and soul to be holy and disciplined through fasting, vigilant prayers into the night and the wearing of a hair shirt (a garment woven of coarse animal hair) under his regular clothes. He had a deep love for the poor, ready to give alms and serve them at his own dinner table.

While considering religious life and after listening to two monks, Damien joined their community. As a monk, Damien lived in a cell and dedicated his life to prayer, reading and Scripture. By the unanimous decision of the community, Damien was ordered to be the next leader of the community, although he was extremely reluctant. However, as abbot, Damien led his brothers with wisdom and humility.

He was made a bishop by Pope Stephen IX who sought Damien’s counsel on ecclesial government matters. Damien constantly sought permission to step down but was denied, until the next pope, Alexander II, allowed it on the condition that he would employ Damien’s assistance important matters and in resolving a case of divorce and excommunication.

During his dispensation, Damien took the opportunity to live life as a simple monk and wrote many works on morality and discipline. He exhorted clerics and monks to live radically holy lives, preserving the gifts of virtue handed down by their forefathers. When assisting penitents, he often treated them with mildness and indulgence where charity and prudence was needed. Even in his old age, Damien never lost his spirit of vigilance and devotion to God, willing to do little tasks in between work and prayer in order to avoid the sin of sloth. Damien died of illness on February 22, 1072, surrounded by brother monks in prayer.

The charism Saint Damien teaches us is that a life of holiness is linked to obedience. He lived a life of obedience to God through the circumstances of his life. He was resistant to appointments of leadership but once he said ‘yes’ good fruits were born. The Lord used Damien’s personal holiness to season and preserve the flock under his care, producing saints and reconciling divided members. Let us ask for every grace needed to take on and fulfill the duties the Lord has given us in humble obedience, in order for the Kingdom to reign in all times and places.

Saint Peter Damien Pray for us!



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GUIDELINE FOR BAPTISM AND CONFIRMATION SPONSORS

It is an honor to be asked to be a sponsor (godparent) for Baptism or Confirmation. It means that you are seen as someone who is practicing their faith and living a life that reflects the teachings of the Catholic faith. Sponsors need to be:

1. Registered in a parish.
(adult children, 25 years old, need to be registered independently)
2. Attending Mass regularly at their parish of registration.
3. If married, a valid marriage recognized by the Catholic Church.
4. Forming their children in the faith.
(religious education or Catholic School)

You will be asked to submit a letter of eligibility as a sponsor, signed by the pastor of your current parish. These are universal norms for the Catholic faith, found in Canon Law (nos. 872-874).

CLOSING OF ROAD

The City of Canfield came to us and informed us that the road on Glenview Drive to our parish will be closed due to culvert replacement. At this time, we are not sure how long the road will be closed.

Thank you for understanding.

2025 TAX STATEMENTS

To obtain a 2025 statement, please call the parish office (330-533-6839) and it will be ready in two days. **Statements will not be done while you wait.**



HANDEL'S PINT CARDS

Everybody Loves Handel's Ice Cream!

We have a new supply of Handel's pint cards that are good through January 2027.

The cost is **\$6.75 per card**. A portion of the proceeds from the purchase of the card is donated back to Saint Michael Parish.



SONG BOOK SPONSORSHIP

If you would like to sponsor a book in memory or honor of someone, please fill in the form below. The opening announcements will ask everyone to first turn to the front cover of the book and if there is a name in memory or honor, please keep that person in prayer throughout the Mass. The cost of sponsorship is \$20 each. Thank you for your generosity and remembering our loved ones in prayerful song.

Song Book Sponsorship

Name – circle one: Memory Honor

Name – circle one: Memory Honor

Name – circle one: Memory Honor

Your Name _____

Amount enclosed: _____ (# of books x \$20)

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