

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

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
Friday: 8:30am – 3:00pm

CONTACT US

300 North Broad Street, Canfield, OH 44406
Tele: 330-533-6839 Fax: 330-702-0432
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, March 31**

8:00am – Kimerly Ann Carney

Tuesday, April 1**The Annunciation of the Lord**

8:00am – John L. Penza

Wednesday, April 2**Saint Francis of Paola, Hermit**

8:00am – Joel & Mary Ellen Spiker

Thursday, April 3

8:00am – Marretta LaGuardia & Richard Inhouse

Friday, April 4**Saint Isidore**

8:00am – Mass

8:30am – Stations of the Cross

Saturday, April 5**Vigil – The Fifth Sunday of Lent**

3:00pm – Reconciliation

4:00pm – Gwen Majernik

Sunday, April 6**The Fifth Sunday of Lent**

9:00am – Betty Stanko

11:30am – The People of the Parish

LAETARE SUNDAY

Today is the halfway mark of the Sundays of Lent. This Sunday is known as **Laetare Sunday** for the first word of the Introit or Entrance Antiphon *laetare* (rejoice). As we rejoice in God's invitation of mercy this year, our Gospel is the story of the Prodigal Son. There are three important lessons to learn from this powerful parable.

I. God's timing is the best

The prodigal son went into problems because he demanded his own portion of money and wealth from his father before the appropriate time. He could have waited for the right time to receive what is due him. Today, maybe you are asking God for so many things and have not received any answers, but don't worry for God knows the appropriate moment to fulfill your heartfelt prayer and respond to you. The prodigal son landed into problems because he wanted the right thing at the wrong time. It was not the due time for him to receive that wealth even though it rightfully belonged to him as the heir of his father, he needed to be trained to handle the things that belong to him.

2. God loves you no matter what

The love of God is unconditional and He will always love us no matter what. It doesn't matter how far you have gone in sin, or how bad your life might be today. You need to know that God loves you just the way you are. This is why He sent His only begotten Son to die on the cross so that we may receive salvation. When you understand the love of God for your life, it will help you always turn toward Him in any situation. The prodigal son decided to go back to his father to apologize and ask for a job, but his father threw a welcome party to celebrate his lost son who returned home. This shows us the love of the father towards us all. God is waiting to receive each one of us with open arms to show us how much He loves us. He loves us and wants to restore whatever we have lost in our lives, just as the prodigal son was received in love and restored.

3. We are heirs of the kingdom of God

In the parable of the prodigal son, the good son became angry with his father for welcoming the prodigal son after he has spent all his money and wealth. He said, "but father I have been here with you for all these years, working hard and earning a lot for the family but you have not thrown any party for me, neither have you given me any money to spend." (Luke 15:11–32.) The father answered and said "Son you never ask me of anything. Whatever I have is yours." This statement gives us an insight into who we are. We are the heirs of the kingdom of God the Father through His son Jesus who died for us and bring us into oneness with God. What He has belongs to us also. We are part of His kingdom and can ask Him whatever we need that is good.

RECONCILIATION

There will be a Penance Service at Saint James Parish, 50 Rosemont Road, North Jackson, on Thursday, April 3 at 7:00pm.

The last opportunity for individual confession at Saint Michael Parish before Holy Week & Easter will be on Saturday, April 5 at 3:00.

LENTEN PROGRAM

The Lenten program entitled "*There's Power in the Word*" (Gospel of Saint Luke) will continue at **6:30pm in the church on Wednesday, April 2 and April 9th** facilitated by Barb Spencer. Each session is self-contained and will begin with prayer. Please bring your Bible with you.





ANNUAL DIOCESAN APPEAL

One in Hope, One in Mission

In the Prodigal Son, one of Jesus' most well-known parables, the errant son represents us, and the gracious father is God. But let's shift the focus from the son to the father. What is important isn't that the son is a sinner. That's a given; humans are innately flawed. What is notable is the father's reaction to his sinning son. He ignores the infraction and welcomes him not only with open arms but throws him a feast to celebrate his return.

This is how big God's love is for us. No matter what, He loves us. His love isn't contingent on how sorry we are when we mess up or even if our contrition is genuine. The son in today's Gospel does show remorse, but it seems mostly fueled by his empty stomach: "How many of my father's hired workers have more than enough food to eat, but here am I, dying from hunger. I shall get up and go to my father" No, God's love for us does not depend on us. It only derives from God's unconditional and abundant love for us, His children. What an incredible gift!

Let us recommit to loving our own loved ones like God does. And let's take it a step further, following Jesus' new commandment to "love one another" (John: 13:34) by prayerfully considering supporting the Annual Diocesan Appeal, which brings God's infinite love to those in need.

Born to Eternal Life

Ralph Moretti
Lucille Vecchiarella



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 overwhelming kindness and generosity.



THIS WEEK IN OUR PARISH

Monday, March 31

9:00am – Fitness Fun
6:30pm - OCIA

Tuesday, April 1

11:00am – Patriotic Rosary

Wednesday, April 2

8:20 – 9:00am -- Adoration
9:00am – Fitness Fun
6:30pm – Lenten Reflections

Thursday, April 3

8:30am – Bible Study
8:30am – Scripture Sharing

Friday, April 4

9:00am – Fitness
4:00-6:30pm – Fish Fry
7:30pm – AA Meeting

Saturday, April 5

3:15pm - Rosary

Sunday, April 6

10:05 – 11:20am – Youth Faith Formation
2:00 – 3:30pm – Confirmation Class & Rehearsal



Parish Support

March 23, 2025

Amount Received	\$ 10,627.00
Amount Budgeted	\$ 15,000.00
Surplus/ (Deficit)	(\$ 4,373.00)
YTD Received	\$574,056.31
YTD Budget	\$570,000.00
YTD Surplus (Deficit)	\$ 4,056.31



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



Thank you to everyone who supported our National Honor Society Project, "Step Into A New Year". With your generous donations of money and shoes we were able to collect a total of over 200 pairs of new tennis shoes to donate to local children in Kindergarten – 12th Grade.

Thank you so much for your overwhelming generosity and support!!

Lauren Smallwood and
Jenna Wilkeson

25th, 40th, 50th and over Wedding Anniversary Celebration

The Diocese of Youngstown is sponsoring a **Wedding Anniversary Celebration** on **Sunday, May 18, at 2:00pm at the Cathedral of Saint Columba in Youngstown**, honoring couples observing their 25th, 40th, 50th and over wedding anniversaries in 2025.

The Wedding Anniversary Celebration will include Mass with the Most Reverend David J. Bonnar, Bishop of Youngstown, with the blessing of couples celebrating significant anniversaries. Each couple will receive a personalized certificate. Following the Mass, there will be a reception for the couples and their families in the parish hall.

You must make advanced reservations for this event by contacting your parish office and obtaining your pastor's signature before April 25, 2025.

Readings for April 6, 2025

Fifth Sunday of Lent

Isaiah 4:16-21

Philippians 3:8-14

John 8:1-11

PLEASE PRAY FOR THOSE WHO ARE ILL

Debbie Cancio	Jay Gettemy	Barbara Dunn Lowe
Mindy Cline	John Hahn	Shirley Morvay
Dante DeAngelo	Dale Hynes	Theresa Morvay
James Dunn, Sr.	Christopher King	Bill Myers
Arlene Dyman	Jack LeBrun	Janice Rovnak
Jim Fisher	Bridget Dunn Leonard	Jack Slifka
Marilyn Fisher	Patricia Lesho	Caroline Zeigler
Dorothy Furden		

If you would like a name on the 2025 prayer list, please call the parish office at 330-533-6839.

CAN YOU GIVE GREEN EGGS AND HAM?

Our local Soup Kitchens/Dining Halls are in need of some assistance for their Easter meals. We are hoping that once again, Saint Michael Parish would be in the forefront of this project.

Please bring packaged hams, colored eggs, etc. that would be a part of an Easter meal to the Parish Hall on Tuesday, April 15, 2025, between 10:00 AM and 3:00 PM.

We will be sorting and distributing the food to our traditional 3 Soup Kitchens. They will be serving Holy Thursday afternoon.

If you have any questions, please call the parish office at 330-533-6839.

For individual prayer during Lent the church will be available Monday through Friday during regular office hours. Please use the door closest to the office, push the button and wait for the door to open.



MILITARY LIST

Abby Cruz – Navy Pilot
Ryan Cruz – Captain, Marine Corp.
Philip McLaughlin - USMC
Colonel Gerald Nunziato



SAINT MICHAEL PARISH



DINE IN or TAKE OUT

Only 2 weeks left!!!

Friday –April 4 and April 11

**4:00pm – 6:30pm in the
Family Life Center**

dinners include choice of:

**Fried or Baked Fish
with one side – choose either:
Macaroni & Cheese
or French Fries**

**All meals include coleslaw and dessert
*beverages for dine in only***

Cost of each meal - \$15

*We are always in need of desserts! If you are able to donate a dessert, please drop it off at the Family Life Center on Thursday from 8:30 – 4:00 or anytime on Friday after 8:30am.
Thank you.*



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Canfield, Ohio 44406
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VOICE OF HOPE AWARDS DINNER

Annually, the Diocese of Youngtown and Catholic Charities holds a major gathering entitled The Voice of Hope. At the dinner, there are various groups honored as Voices of Hope. In 2004, Saint Michael Parish, Canfield was honored and in 2009, Father Lavelle was honored. This year, in addition to Mercy Health Foundation – Mahoning Valley, Saint Michael and Father Lavelle are receiving the honor again (a rare second awarding). The event is **Thursday, May 1st at the Eastwood Event Center in Niles**. The doors open at 5:00pm and the cost is \$100.00 per person. Saint Michael Parish has reserved a few tables for \$80 per person. If interested, please contact the parish office. Thank you.



Archangel Derby at Saint Michael Racetrack

Spring Night at the Races

Friday, May 2, 2025, in the Family Life Center

Doors open at 6:30 – Races begin at 7:15pm

The event is a BYO – BFF – Bring your own Bottle, Food & Fun!

The parish provides snacks (chips & popcorn & the mixes) *You provide the food and drinks to share at your table.*

Admission is \$15 per person. Tables of eight [8] can be reserved in advance – all others will be open seating.

To sponsor a horse (\$25 each), please contact the parish office or complete the portion below and return it to the office or in the offertory basket. To sponsor a race (\$250) please call the parish office at 330-533-6839. Race sponsors get their name or business logo in the program along with 2 admission tickets.

Night at the Races Sponsorship Form - \$25 per horse

Horse Name _____ Your Name _____

Horse Name _____ Your Name _____

Horse Name _____ Your Name _____

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For information, or interested in joining?
Contact Paul Witkowski. 330-720-0715
pwitkowski@zoominternet.net
Visit our website: www.kofccanfield.org



Mark L. Billy, DDS – Parishioner
Craig A. Wagley, DDS, MD
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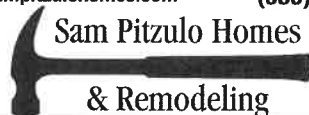
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