



St. Oscar Romero Parish

700 Washington Street, Canton, MA 02021 | Website: www.cantoncatholic.org

Parish Office: 781-828-0090 | Email: welcome@cantoncatholic.org



20TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Jesus said to his disciples: "I have come to set the earth on fire,
and how I wish it were already blazing!"

Luke 12:49

Mass Schedule

Daily Mass ~ Monday-Saturday 9:00am,
preceded by **Daily Rosary** at 8:30am

Weekend Masses ~ Saturdays 4:00pm
Sundays 8:00am 10:00am 12:00pm & 5:00pm

~ **Church Open for Prayer** ~
Monday-Friday 10:00am-3:00pm

Bereavement Support Ministry ~ For support, please
Contact Deacon Dan Nelson at dcn785@aol.com

Staff Directory ~ Find our staff directory on page 6.

Parish Prayer Wall ~ Submit your prayer requests on
our parish website.

Parish Newsletter ~ Visit parish website to subscribe.

St. Mary's Cemetery ~ For inquiries, please contact
Barbara McKenney at 781-828-0090 x 311.

Sacramental and Devotional Life

Anointing of the Sick ~ Contact the parish office.

Baptism ~ Twice a month, 2nd and 4th Sundays.
To register, visit www.cantoncatholic.org and click on
Sacraments. Contact: Barbara McKenney (781) 828-0090.

Marriage ~ Arrangements should be made six months
in advance. Contact the parish office.

Reconciliation ~ Saturdays at 3:15pm before the 4:00pm
Mass

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament ~
Tuesdays 9:30-10:30am

Bible Study ~ Mondays at 9:45am in the Lower church
Hall. Contact: wwhite9999@aol.com or 617-699-8032

Catholic Men of Canton ~ 2nd Saturday of the month
8:00-9:30am in the Lower Church Hall or via a zoom link
option. Email jptjr2@gmail.com for more information.



*"Let us not tire of preaching love;
It is the force that will overcome the world."*

Dear Friends,

I was beginning to think that any project undertaken develops complications. I am happy to report that the recent resurfacing of the parking lot was completed on time, on budget, and without a glitch. The original lot was 63 years old, so the parish won't have to worry about it for a long time.

We are approaching Father Patrick's final weeks here in Canton. A collection to support his mission, St. Thomas Aquinas Parish, in the Congo, will be taken up next weekend. Father will speak to us at all Masses this weekend.

I look forward to seeing everyone at the cookout on Sunday. Don't forget the one-time change in the Mass schedule.

Yours in Christ,
Fr. Tom

STEP INTO LOVE



**Summer shoes
for the children
of the Congo**

Drop off by August 24th!

Step Into Love: Summer Shoes for the Children of the Congo

The sun is shining, the days are long, and summer is in full swing here. As you and your children enjoy the freedom of warmer weather, many children in the Congo are walking barefoot on rocky paths and hot, dusty ground. Imagine their joy and relief with the simple gift of a pair of sandals or flip-flops.

We are partnering with Fr. Patrick to send two overflowing suitcases of children's shoes back to his home in the Congo. The gift of shoes is more than just footwear; it's a step toward comfort, health, and dignity for a child.

Here's how you can help:

Drop off new children's summer shoes in the designated suitcases located at the church entrance on or before **August 24**. Our goal is to fill both suitcases to the brim!

If our generosity overflows (and we hope it will!), our parish Youth Group will take the excess to families at a local organization they serve. This way, every donated pair of shoes will bring a smile to a child's face, whether here or in the Congo. Let's send Father off bursting with blessings!

Thank you for your support!



Fr. Patrick Mpete—St. Thomas Aquinas “Mother Church” in the Congo.

From Our Parish to Yours: Growing Together in Christ

A Growing Faith Community

Our parish is only five years old, yet already overflowing with joy and faith. From our small “Mother Church,” we serve **13 outstations**—humble chapels made from mud, thatch, and sticks — spread across more than **1,000 square miles**. Some are 100 miles away, reached only by motorbike on rough dirt roads.

Life in Our Parish

Most of our people are subsistence farmers, earning



Parishioners gather at our “Mother Church.”

less than \$50 a month. Though they cannot give financially, they give generously of their time, coming together every Friday to work on a small parish farm. The harvest from this land supports all our ministries.

Our Mother Church is modest — about 1,200

square feet — with **no windows, lighting, or sound system**. Yet it is alive with prayer, song, and the presence of Christ, and our community grows each week.

How You Can Help

I dream of making our Mother Church a more welcoming place of worship for our growing family of faith. I humbly ask for your prayers and, if possible,

your financial support. Your generosity will help us improve our church and continue bringing the Gospel to the most remote corners of our region.

May God bless you for your kindness and for sharing in our mission.

*Father Patrick Mpete, Pastor,
St. Thomas Aquinas Parish, Congo*

Email: ebalos952@gmail.com

Local Cell (through August 2025): 617 885 6126

International Cell and WhatsApp: +243 977 662 654



Eucharistic Procession

Help Support Fr. Patrick’s Mission in the Congo Special Collection – Weekend of August 23–24

Next weekend, we will take up a special collection to help Fr. Patrick Mpete bring hope and support to his parish, St. Thomas Aquinas, in the Congo. Your generosity will directly assist their faith community in meeting both spiritual and practical needs.

Ways to Give:

By Check or Charitable Trust:

Make checks payable to: St. Oscar Romero Parish. In the memo line, write: *Fr. Patrick Mpete (St. Thomas Aquinas)*

By Credit Card: Visit cantoncatholic.org

and click on Online Giving or Scan QR Code.



*Together, we can make a meaningful difference in
the lives of our brothers and sisters in Christ.*

United in Love, Even When It's Hard

Families long for unity—shared meals, laughter, holiday traditions, attending Mass together, and the comforting rhythm of being present for one another. These moments knit us together, creating bonds that are deep and life-giving. Nobody enjoys the pain of discord in family life. That's why Jesus' words in this Sunday's Gospel (Luke 12:49-53) can feel unsettling: *"I have come to bring division."*

At first, it sounds as though Jesus wants to pull families apart. But if we listen closely, His message is not about tearing down love—it's about calling us to a love rooted in truth, courage, and the will of God. Sometimes, that means making choices that are unpopular, even with those closest to us.

Parents know this well. There are times when you must say "no" or set limits, not to divide the family, but to lead your children toward what is right and good. In the moment, these decisions may feel like they create distance. But in the long run, they build a stronger, more united family—one grounded in God's truth.

Our children, too, will face moments when they must choose between fitting in with friends or standing for what is right. This can be hard and lonely. But Jesus promises that His Spirit is with us. The Holy Spirit gives the gift of *fortitude*—courage to do the right thing even when it's not popular.

This week, talk as a family about the choices you each make for the sake of unity and truth. Share how you support one another in those choices, even when they're hard. And then, pray together—asking the Holy Spirit to fill your hearts with courage, wisdom, and love.

May we be families united in Christ, strong enough to choose what is right, and tender enough to love each other through every challenge.



Crowned in Love: The Queenship of Mary



This **Friday, August 22**, the Church celebrates the beautiful feast of the **Queenship of the Blessed Virgin Mary**. Just one week after we honor Mary's Assumption into Heaven, we now rejoice in her coronation as Queen

of Heaven and Earth. This feast reminds us that Mary's greatness does not come from power or riches, but from her humble "yes" to God, her faithfulness to His plan, and her unceasing love for her Son, Jesus.

Mary's queenship is not distant or untouchable—it is tender, motherly, and close to each of us. Like any good queen, she intercedes for her people, guiding us toward her Son and protecting us along the way. She reigns with compassion, listens with understanding, and loves with a mother's heart.

On this feast, let us renew our trust in Mary's intercession. Let us turn to her in our joys and sorrows, confident that she brings our needs before the throne of her Son. And let us remember that to honor Mary as our Queen is to follow her example of humility, service, and unwavering faith.

"Hail, Holy Queen, Mother of mercy, our life, our sweetness, and our hope..." May her crown remind us of the crown of glory that awaits all who love and serve the Lord.

Faith Formation Registration

Now Open: Faith Formation Registration for 2025–2026



Registration for the 2025–2026 Faith Formation year is now open! All returning families have received registration details via email, and new families are warmly invited to join our parish program.

Registering early ensures we can plan for class sizes, materials, and volunteer support—allowing us to offer a rich, faith-filled experience for every child. Faith Formation is essential in helping our young people grow in their relationship with Christ and deepen their understanding of the Catholic faith.

We look forward to welcoming your family!

Grades 1-6 Erin Sullivan erin@cantoncatholic.org

Grades 7-High School Confirmation Program Nancy Cunniff
ncunniff@cantoncatholic.org

To register or learn more, please visit: www.cantoncatholic.org



Hear Every Word at Mass with ListenWiFi



We're excited to introduce **ListenWiFi**, a simple way to hear every word of Mass clearly—right from your own smartphone, hearing aids, or any Bluetooth-compatible device. Whether you're in the back pew or near the front, ListenWiFi streams high-quality church audio straight to you.

How to Use ListenWiFi:

1. Download the *ListenWiFi* app from the Apple App Store or Google Play.
2. Connect to **St. John's Guest** Wi-Fi in your device's settings.
3. Enter the Wi-Fi password: **StOscars**
4. Open the app and listen through your headphones, earbuds, or Bluetooth hearing aid.

For help, go to info@listentech.com, or call the parish office at 781-828-0090 x311.

We are pleased to provide this helpful resource to make Mass more accessible for everyone in our parish family!

"I Thirst for the Salvation of Souls"



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Parish Directory

OFFICE (M-TH 9am-4pm) | Phone: 781-828-0090 x311 General Inquiries | Fax: 781-828-2520

CLERGY

Rev. Thomas S. Rafferty, x209
Pastor
tsrafferty@cantoncatholic.org

Rev. Jeremy Wagner, x322
Parochial Vicar
jwagner@cantoncatholic.org

Deacon Daniel C. Nelson,
THM, D. Min. x325
Spiritual Director
dcn785@aol.com

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 parish family and we
 are grateful for your
 support. Scan the QR
 code to give today.
*"Freely you have
 received: freely give."*
 Matthew 10:8



PARISH STAFF

Nancy T. Cunniff x203 781-828-5130
*Confirmation, Religious Education
 7-10 & Parish Communications*
ncunniff@cantoncatholic.org

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 Cemetery & Sacramental Inquiries*
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 & Religious Education 1-6*
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Maria White x216
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 Adult Choirs*
mwhite@cantoncatholic.org

PARISH SCHOOL

Chris Flieger, Ed.D.
Principal
chris.flieger@sjscanton.org

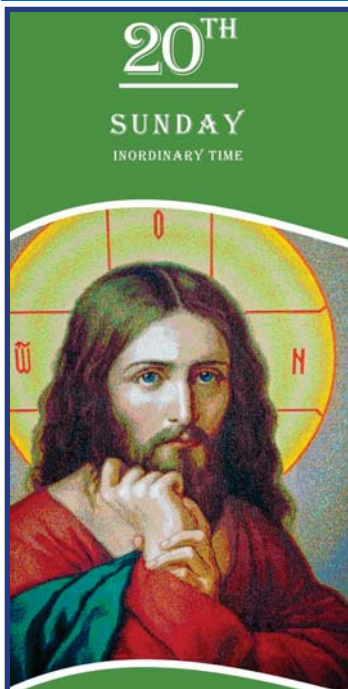
Anne Guerini x315
School Finance Office

Dora Foster
Administrative Assistant
dora.foster@sjscanton.org

St. John School
 781-828-2130 www.sjscanton.org

SOCIETY OF ST. VINCENT DE PAUL For assistance, call 781-828-0090 and leave your contact information.

Mass Intentions for the Week



Let us rid ourselves of every
 burden and sin that clings to us
 and persevere in running the
 race that lies before us while
 keeping our eyes fixed on
 Jesus, the leader and perfecter
 of faith. Hebrews 12:1-2

Saturday, August 16

9:00am~
 4:00pm~Special Intention

Sunday, August 17

8:00am~
 11:00am~Virginia Bisnaw, Memorial
 5:00pm~Robert & Ellen Barrett,
 Memorial

Monday, August 18

9:00am~Carol A. Miller, Memorial

Tuesday, August 19

9:00am~John Connolly, Memorial

Wednesday, August 20

9:00am~Patricia "Pat" Ward, Memorial

Thursday, August 21

9:00am~Nicholas West, Blessings

Friday, August 22

9:00am~Andrea West, Blessings

Saturday, August 23

9:00am~
 4:00pm~John McCarthy, Sr., John
 McCarthy, Jr. & Billy Cravens, Memorial

Sunday, August 24

8:00am~
 10:00am~Agnes & Teddy Mikulewicz,
 Memorial
 12:00pm~John McCarthy, Memorial
 5:00pm~Zmiejko & Megis Families,
 Special Intention

Prayers and Sympathy

Charles Armando, Jane Falls



Please remember in your prayers
 all those who have entered into eternal life.

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To request a Mass Intention,
 please call 781-828-0090

Bulletin Submissions are due by noon on Monday
bulletin@cantoncatholic.org



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"Jesus Wept." John 11:35

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