



St. Oscar Romero Parish

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

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



TWENTY-SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

HUMBLE YOURSELF



AND YOU WILL FIND FAVOR WITH GOD

SIRACH 3:18

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,

Happy Labor Day! We extend our prayer-filled best wishes to all who are returning to school. In a special way, we think of those commencing new chapters in their education journeys, such as those beginning High School or College.

While holidays are intended to be times of respite, it is good to recall the nature of this particular holiday. Our new Holy Father, Pope Leo XIV, acknowledges that a reason he chose Leo for his name was his admiration for the last Pope Leo. (Leo XIII 1878 – 1903) Leo XIII did much to promote Catholic Social Teaching. His 1891 landmark encyclical *Rerum Novarum* addressed the rights of workers and called for just remuneration and safe conditions for those who labor. Recently, Deacon Dan gave me a copy. It's been almost thirty years since I last read it as a seminarian. While many of the circumstances confronting workers today have changed, its underlying thesis holds up well 134 years later.

Thank you for your generosity to Father Patrick and his mission. Next week, we will share the results of the special collection.

Yours in Christ,
Fr. Tom

Sacrament of Baptism



Left to right Layla Pestana, Fr. Jeremy and Anna Galvin

Sharing Christ's Love Through Giving



As a parish family, we are always seeking ways to care for those in need and to live out the call of Jesus to *"love one another as I have loved you"* (John 13:34). While we no longer operate a food pantry here at St. Oscar Romero Parish, we are deeply grateful for your generous spirit and desire to help our neighbors.

The Canton Food Pantry continues to serve many individuals and families right here in our community, and they are always in need of non-perishable food items. Your donations—whether a few cans, a bag of groceries, or a regular contribution—truly make a difference in providing nourishment, comfort, and hope.

We kindly ask that you do not leave donations at the entrances of the church, as we do not have the means to collect and deliver them. Instead, please bring your donations directly to the Canton Food Pantry, where they can be received and distributed with care.

Thank you for the many ways you show the love of Christ through your generosity, compassion, and commitment to helping those in need.

Together, we are building a stronger community rooted in faith, hope, and love.

A Message of Gratitude

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

As I prepare to leave Canton on this final day of my stay at St. Oscar Romero Parish, my heart is overflowing with gratitude and joy. From the very



first moment, you welcomed me with such warmth and genuine love. You embraced me as a true brother in Christ, and I return to the Democratic Republic of Congo carrying with me a deep and lasting impression of your parish family.

I am especially thankful for your generous

financial support of my mission in Congo. Your solidarity gives us strength and hope, and I pray that this partnership continues to grow. Please keep us in your prayers, as you will surely remain in ours.

My heart was also deeply touched by the beautiful gift of sandals and shoes you sent for the chil-

dren in Congo. This act of love will bring great joy to their hearts, and they will carry you in their prayers with profound gratitude.

I would also like to give special thanks to Father Tom, who cared for me with the kindness of a father, showing me so many wonderful places, and to Father Jeremy, my dear brother in Christ.

From now on, St. Oscar Romero Parish in Canton and St. Thomas Aquinas Parish in Congo are joined as family. We look to you for your continued moral, spiritual, material, and financial support, so that our young parish may grow and flourish. Please remember St. Thomas Aquinas Parish and the children of our rural community who rely so much on your generosity and love.

Finally, I entrust each of you to God's abundant blessings. May He fill your lives with grace, grant you every blessing you need, and return to you a hundredfold all that you have so lovingly given for the good of His children.

With heartfelt gratitude and affection in Christ,

Fr. Patrick MPETE, SMA

Tel: +243 977 662 654 (whatsApp)

Email: ebalos952@gmail.com



ParishSOFT

Growing in Grace Giving with Joy: A New Way to Give with ParishSOFT.

Online Giving Change Beginning September 1, 2025

St. Oscar Romero Parish is changing its online giving and registration software to ParishSOFT Managed Giving, which is automatically linked to ParishSOFT, where all parishioner donations are recorded for each parishioner family.

This change signifies a more customer-friendly application for our parishioners and the automation of functions for our administrative support teams. We have researched other applications, what best practices parishes are following, and interviewed other parishes regarding this switch to an upgraded online giving application. We are confident that this choice will result in greater financial transparency, less posting errors, and more accurate reporting.

Additionally, the system is easy to use, provides online giving options, and results in less back-office support.

If you currently have an online giving account with OSV (Our Sunday Visitor), please note that these accounts will automatically close on **September 30, 2025**. If you prefer, you may also choose to close your account before that date.

We are excited to share that parishioners may begin at any time to enroll in ParishSOFT Giving, our new online giving platform. There is no charge to register. When registering, **please include your email address**. There are three easy ways to get started:

1. Visit our parish website and follow the link for step-by-step online giving instructions.
2. Scan the QR code included in this bulletin and also located on the posters in the entrance of the church.
3. Call the ParishSOFT Giving support hotline for personal assistance at (866)-930-4774.



Online giving is easy to do. It encourages all of us to allocate a percentage of our income to the charity of our parish, which is an expression of our gratitude to God for the blessings He has given us. Consistent giving allows us as a parish to better plan and budget. Your generosity helps the church with a predictable and steady cash flow. Your information is always protected as each transaction is secure, and donations are automatically transferred to your parish's account. It also eliminates the need for envelopes and provides various options for second collections as well. You will have direct access to an online annual statement that details your online giving and simplifies your taxes.

Labor Day: The Dignity of Work and the Rights of Workers

As we celebrate **Labor Day**, we remember that work is more than simply earning a living — it is a way of participating in God's ongoing creation. The Church teaches that all labor has dignity because every worker is a child of God. Work is meant to support families, foster community, and contribute to the common good.

Catholic Social Teaching reminds us:

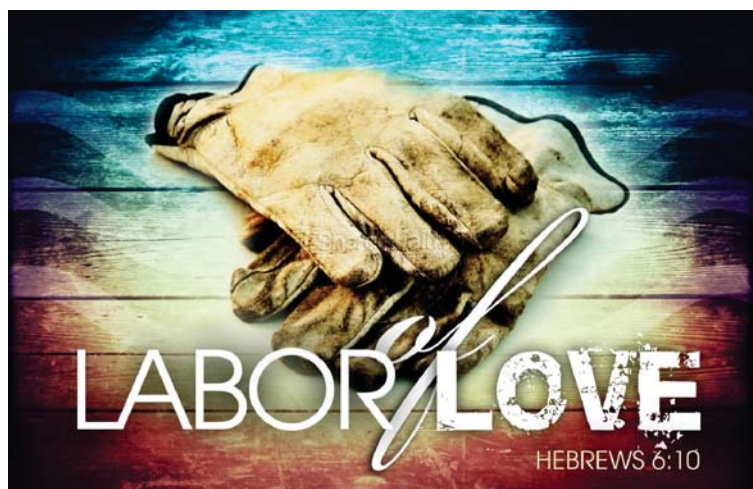
- Work is for the person, not the person for work.
- Every worker deserves fair wages, safe conditions, and respect.
- We are called to stand in solidarity with those who labor under unjust conditions or are denied the dignity of meaningful work.

On this holiday, let us give thanks for the blessings of work and pray for those who struggle with unemployment, underemployment, or unsafe working conditions.

Prayer for Labor Day

Loving God, You are the source of all human work and creativity. Bless the labor of our hands and minds. Grant justice and fairness to all workers, protect those without employment, and help us to build an economy that serves people with dignity and compassion. May our work always reflect Your love and contribute to the flourishing of all.

We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.



Faith Formation Registration Deadline

Please remember to register your children for Faith Formation classes before the deadline on **September 8.**



To register visit the parish website at cantoncatholic.org

Teachers are needed as follows:

Grades 6 & 8 – Monday afternoon

Grades 3, 4, 5, 6 & 8 – Tuesday afternoon

We look forward to welcoming your family!

Peace with Creation: Renewing Our Calling through Justice and Hope

From **September 1 through October 4**, we observe the **Season of Creation**—a sacred time of prayer, reflection, and action for our shared home. This year's theme, "**Peace with Creation**," invites us to embody a vision of harmony rooted in justice, healing, and hope.

Guided by the prophet Isaiah's poignant words in **Isaiah 32:14–18**, we see how violence and broken relationships devastate the world's beauty and vitality. Yet, the promise endures: when justice is restored, Creation itself may find peace.

The **symbol of the Garden of Peace**—a dove bearing an olive branch—evokes God's ancient promise, reminding us of renewal and reconciliation. Let this image guide our prayers and actions as we seek to restore right relationships with each other and with the Earth.

May this Season of Creation be a time of renewed awareness, deeper faith, and bold love—for Creation, for justice, and for one another.



Garden of Peace
Isaiah 32:14-18

**PEACE
WITH CREATION**
SEASON OF CREATION 2025

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

NEW QR CODE



ParishSOFT

Your generosity strengthens our 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

Lorraine Olsen-Viola

Offertory, Donations & Online Giving

lolsen-viola@cantoncatholic.org

Mike Mahan x304 or 617-460-2800

Youth Ministry & Outreach Programs

mike@cantoncatholic.org

Barbara McKenney x311

Ministry Coordinator, St. Mary

Cemetery & Sacramental Inquiries

bmckenney@cantoncatholic.org

Erin Sullivan x305 781-828-5130

First Communion, First Reconciliation

& Religious Education 1-6

erin@cantoncatholic.org

Maggie Rubenacker x312

Finance, Operations & HR

mrubenacker@cantoncatholic.org

Maria White x216

Music Ministry: Youth, Junior &

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

Saturday, August 30

9:00am~Jack Murphy, Living Intention

4:00pm~Mike Mezzano, Memorial

Sunday, August 31

8:00am~People of our Parish

10:00am~

12:00pm~Frederick & Mary McCabe, Memorial

5:00pm~

Monday, September 1

9:00am~

Tuesday, September 2

9:00am~Sexton Family, Memorial

Wednesday, September 3

9:00am~Special Intention

Thursday, September 4

9:00am~Peter J. Brennan, Jr., Memorial

Friday, September 5

9:00am~St. John School Families

Saturday, September 6

9:00am~Charles & Frances Lenhart, Memorial

4:00pm~Margaret Germain, Memorial

Sunday, September 7

8:00am~

10:00am~Francisco Andrade, Memorial

12:00pm~Augustin Iglesias, Memorial

5:00pm~

Prayers and Sympathy



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

22ND SUNDAY
IN ORDINARY TIME

"When you hold a banquet, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, the blind; blessed indeed will you be because of their inability to repay you."

Luke 14:13-14



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