



St. Oscar Romero Parish

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

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



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
*Family Mass

~ **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 requests on 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.

Hearing Assistance: ListenWIFI App (StOscars)

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,

Christmas blessings and Happy New Year! Our celebration of the Christmas season continues with this feast of the Epiphany. It is theologically significant because it makes clear that the newborn Messiah entered the world to offer salvation to all men and women. The Magi, who set out to encounter the Christ Child. This is why most artwork depicts them as representing different races and ethnicities.

Be sure to bring home a parish 2026 calendar before they are gone. In addition to providing a handy reference for the dates of the coming year's feasts and holy days, the photos chronicle many of the events and activities of our vibrant parish.



Yours in Christ,
Fr. Tom

Advent and Christmas—A Season of Shared Blessings

This Advent and Christmas, our parish truly shone with extraordinary generosity. Together, we reached neighbors near and far with compassion, joy, and the radiant light of Christ. We are deeply grateful for the many ways you opened your hearts and hands to others. Here is a glimpse of the grace you helped bring to life:

- **Giving Tree:** Parishioners donated dozens of beautifully wrapped gifts and gift cards for families in need, helping ensure that children and parents facing hardship experienced the warmth and joy of Christmas morning.
- **St. Vincent de Paul Annual Collection:** Your generous financial support enables our St. Vincent de Paul ministry to continue providing emergency assistance, food, and hope to local households during times of difficulty.

- **Gift Bags for the Hellenic Nursing Home and Our Homebound Parishioners:** More than 100 gift bags—filled with blankets, warm socks, lotions, and other comforting items—were lovingly prepared. Our Youth Group delivered them with joy, singing Christmas carols and sharing smiles, conversation, and companionship.

- **Christmas Cards for Cornerstone and Brightview:** Hundreds of handwritten cards, filled with encouragement and holiday cheer, were created and delivered to seniors in local assisted living communities.

This beautiful outpouring of kindness reflects the heart of our parish—a community that recognizes Christ in every person and responds with love. Thank you for being a light during this holy season. May the blessings you have shared return to you abundantly in the coming year.



2026 Epiphany Chalk Blessing

For the 2026 Epiphany chalk blessing, you write 20 + C + M + B + 26 above your front door using chalk, symbolizing the Magi (Caspar, Melchior, Balthazar) and the Latin *"Christus Mansionem Benedicat"* (May Christ bless this house), a tradition inviting God's presence and protection for the new year.

How to Do It

- Gather at your front door. Invite everyone in the household to come together — little ones can help hold the chalk.
- Make the chalk marking above the door, write: **20 + C + M + B + 26** (The numbers are the new year. The letters remind us of the Magi and mean “May Christ bless this home.”)
- Say a short prayer together. Something simple is perfect: *“Lord Jesus, bless our home and all who enter.* Fill us with your light and peace this year.”
- Trace a small cross over the blessing. This is a sign that your home belongs to Christ and is a place of welcome.
- Share one hope for the new year. Each person can name something they pray for — kindness, courage, peace, or gratitude.

Meaning of the Blessing

It's a prayer for Christ's blessing and presence in your home for the entire year. It marks your home as a Christian dwelling, inviting peace, healing, and God's grace.



THE CHALKING OF
THE DOORS
20+C+M+B+26

Guided by a Quiet Light

The Feast of the Epiphany invites us to pause and marvel at the God who reveals Himself not with fanfare, but with a star. The Magi were not insiders, scholars of the Law, or people who “should have known.” They were seekers—people who allowed themselves to be guided by a light they did not fully understand. And that is often how grace works in our own lives.



Epiphany reminds us that God's presence is not confined to the familiar. Christ is revealed in unexpected people, unexpected places, and unexpected moments. The Magi teach us that faith is not simply about believing; it is about moving—taking the next step, even when the road is long, uncertain, or unfamiliar.

Their gifts—**gold, frankincense, and myrrh**—were not just treasures. They were signs of recognition: We see who you are. Each of us carries our own unique gifts: compassion, patience, generosity, creativity, and courage. Epiphany asks us to consider how we might lay these gifts before Christ in the year ahead, not out of obligation, but out of love.

And perhaps the most beautiful detail: after encountering Jesus, the Magi *“returned home by another way.”* An encounter with Christ always changes our direction. It doesn't necessarily change our circumstances, but it changes us—our priorities, our vision, our sense of purpose.

As we celebrate Epiphany, may we allow ourselves to be guided by God's quiet light. May we notice the small revelations of His presence in our daily lives. And may we, like the Magi, have the courage to take the next step on the journey, trusting that the One we seek is already seeking us.

Gift Bag Project: Sharing Warmth and Care

This Advent, our parish once again witnessed the quiet power of generosity. Through the Gift Bag project, parishioners filled 100 beautifully prepared bags for the residents of the Hellenic Nursing Home and homebound parishioners, each one packed with blankets and warm socks, hand cream and lotions, and other small comforts that speak volumes. These simple items become something much more when offered with love: a reminder that every person is seen, valued, and held in prayer.

The delivery itself was a moment of grace. Members of our Youth Group personally brought the bags to the nursing home, representing our whole parish community with joy and reverence. Their presence—smiling, respectful, and eager to serve—was as much a gift as the bags themselves. It was a living example of faith passed on through action.

Thank you to everyone who donated, assembled, organized, and prayed over this project. Together, we extended Christ's light to our neighbors in a tangible way. May the warmth shared through these gifts continue to ripple outward, reminding us that small acts of kindness can brighten even the coldest days.



Where is God inviting you to “go by another way” this year?



The Gospel tells us that the Magi didn't return the same way they came. After encountering Christ, they chose a new path. What habits, relationships, or routines might God be gently asking you to reconsider? What new direction, however small, might lead you closer to peace, purpose, or deeper faith?

Take a moment this week to reflect:

- What star am I following?
- What might I need to leave behind?
- What new path is opening before me?

December Luncheon

The Canton Catholic Women's Club gathered recently for a wonderful luncheon filled with fellowship and inspiration. Guest speaker **George Manoogian** shared powerful stories from his years teaching public speaking in **five Massachusetts prisons**, offering a moving glimpse into the lives of those seeking hope and new beginnings.

Members enjoyed a delicious lunch together, followed by a fun selection of **raffle prizes** that added to the joy of the afternoon. It was a meaningful and uplifting time for all who attended.



Blessings for Your Generosity

Our St. Vincent de Paul Society extends heartfelt thanks for your generosity during our December collection. Because of your kindness, neighbors in need within our own Canton community receive direct and meaningful assistance.

Our volunteers continue to be very active, responding daily to individuals and families seeking help. If you were unable to give in December but feel called to support this ministry, donations may be placed in the St. Vincent de Paul collection boxes in the narthex or in the weekly offertory basket (checks made payable to the St. Vincent de Paul Society).

Thank you for sharing Christ's love with those who need it most.



**SOCIETY OF
ST. VINCENT
de PAUL**

New Year, New Hope – Give the Gift of Life

As we begin a new year, let's carry forward the spirit of generosity and care. The **Knights of Columbus** are sponsoring a **Blood Drive** on **Thursday, January 8, from 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.** in the **Community Room at the Canton Library**. January is National Blood Door Month!

What better way to start the year than by giving the gift of life? Your donation can bring hope and healing to someone in need.

To schedule your appointment, simply scan the QR code in this bulletin or visit redcrossblood.org/give.html/find-drive and enter Sponsor Code "CantonKofC."



Together, let's make 2026 a year of compassion and community.



**Canterbury Community
Blood Drive
Knights of Columbus**

Canton Library Community Room
786 Washington Street
Canton, MA 02021

**January 8, 2026
11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.**



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.orgDeacon Daniel C. Nelson,
THM, D. Min. x325

Spiritual Director

dcn785@aol.com

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

NEW QR CODE



ParishSOFT

PARISH STAFF

Nancy T. Cunniff x203 781-828-5130

*Confirmation, Religious Education
7-10 & Parish Communications*
ncunniff@cantoncatholic.org

Lorraine Olsen-Viola x316

Offertory, Donations & Online Giving
olsen-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, January 3

9:00am~
4:00pm~Warner Lund, Memorial

Sunday, January 4

8:00am~Ida Emde, Month's Mind
10:00am~Scott Michael Herr, Memorial
12:00pm~William Burke, Memorial
5:00pm~

Monday, January 5

9:00am~Michael Cunningham,
Birthday Remembrance

Tuesday, January 6

9:00am~Bernardo Sanchez, Memorial

Wednesday, January 7

9:00am~

Thursday, January 8

9:00am~

Friday, January 9

9:00am~

Saturday, January 10

9:00am~
4:00pm~Janice Hughes, Memorial

Sunday, January 4

8:00am~Sabato Americo Ferrara, Memorial
10:00am~David A. Cameron, Memorial
12:00pm~
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
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