



St. Oscar Romero Parish

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

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



"This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased."

Matthew 3:17

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,

This weekend, we celebrate the Baptism of the Lord. This is the closing Sunday of the Christmas Season on the Church's calendar. I'm grateful for this celebration because we get to keep the Christmas trees and flowers in the sanctuary for an extra week after Epiphany!

On **Monday, January 26**, our parish and school will welcome Archbishop Henning to Canton. He will celebrate the 9:00 am Mass as we launch **Catholic Schools Week in our Archdiocese**. Students from St. John the Evangelist School will proclaim the Readings and serve at Mass, and our School Choir will sing. All parishioners are, of course, welcome to attend the Mass. Please recognize that the center pews will be reserved for the school community, as is our practice on First Fridays and Holy Days.

Yours in Christ,
Fr. Tom

First Reconciliation: A Moment of Grace for Our Parish Children

On **Saturday, January 10**, our second graders celebrated the Sacrament of Reconciliation for the very first time as part of their preparation for receiving First Holy Communion this spring. It was a beautiful morning of grace, joy, and quiet courage as our children experienced God's mercy in such a tender and personal way.

We are grateful to their families and catechists who have been guiding them with such love and patience. Moments like these remind us that the seeds of faith grow best when they are nurtured by a whole community.



Please continue to keep these young children in your prayers in the weeks ahead. May the peace they encountered in this sacrament stay with them, and may they always know the gentle, forgiving love of Jesus who welcomes each of us with open arms.

Reflection: Beloved in the Waters

The Baptism of the Lord draws us to the banks of the Jordan, where something astonishing happens in the most ordinary of places. Jesus—sinless, holy, the very Son of God—steps into the muddy water and stands shoulder to shoulder with sinners. He asks for a baptism He does not need, choosing solidarity over separation, humility over honor.

John hesitates, sensing the reversal. *“I need to be baptized by you...”* Yet Jesus gently insists: *“Allow it now.”* In that simple phrase, we glimpse the heart of God—patient, self-giving, willing to enter our human story not from above but from within.

When Jesus rises from the water, the heavens open. The Spirit descends like a dove. And the Father’s voice breaks through the ordinary sounds of the riverbank: **“This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased.”**

This moment is not only a revelation of who Jesus is—it is a revelation of who we are. In our own baptism, God speaks a similar word over each of us: *You are my beloved. I delight in you.* Not because we have earned it, not because we are perfect, but because God’s love always moves first.

As we begin a new year of faith together, this Gospel invites us to remember our identity. Before any task, title, or responsibility, we belong to God. We are held in love. We are called to reflect Christ’s humility—entering the “waters” of daily life with compassion, patience, and a willingness to walk with one another.

May this feast renew in us the grace of our baptism: the courage to follow Christ, the openness to the Spirit’s gentle prompting, and the deep peace of knowing we are God’s beloved.



Returning to Ordinary Time: Growing in the Quiet Seasons

As we conclude the joyful celebrations of Christmas and the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord, next week the Church will gently lead us back into **Ordinary Time**—a season marked not by festivity, but by steady, faithful growth. You'll notice that our vestments and sanctuary linens will return to **green**, the color of life, hope, and spiritual renewal. Green reminds us that grace is always at work, even in the quieter rhythms of daily life.

The Church's **liturgical year** is a beautiful journey through the mysteries of Christ's life—His birth, His passion, His resurrection, and the outpouring of the Spirit. But most of Jesus' earthly life was lived in the ordinary: walking dusty roads, teaching, healing, sharing meals, and meeting people where they were. Ordinary Time invites us to do the same.

This season is not "ordinary" in the sense of unimportant. Rather, it comes from the word *ordinal*—meaning "counted." These are the counted weeks in which we walk with Jesus through His public ministry, listening to His teachings and watching how He loves.

Ordinary Time is our reminder that holiness grows slowly, quietly, and faithfully. It blossoms in the everyday moments—acts of kindness, patience with one another, time spent in prayer, and the simple decision to follow Christ a little more closely each day.

As we enter this season, may the green that surrounds our worship space encourage us to open our hearts to new growth, deeper discipleship, and the gentle work of God unfolding in the ordinary days ahead.

Reflection Question: Where might God be inviting me to grow—quietly and steadily—during this season of Ordinary Time? Consider one small, simple practice that could help you draw closer to Christ in the rhythm of daily life.

How Can Families Live This Season?

- Pray together at meals or bedtime, even briefly.
- Notice God's presence in simple daily moments—kindness, patience, forgiveness.
- Read a Sunday Gospel as a family and share one thing that stands out.
- Choose one small act of love each week—helping a neighbor, writing a note, or offering a quiet prayer for someone in need.

Ordinary Time teaches us that holiness grows not only in big celebrations, but in the ordinary moments of family life—the car rides, the homework battles, the shared meals, and the quiet evenings at home.



Ordinary Time

If we look closely we will be able to find God
in the ordinary of our lives

Finding Support After the Holidays



The weeks following the holidays can be especially difficult for those carrying the weight of loss. In these tender moments, having a caring community beside you can offer comfort, strength, and a renewed sense of hope. Our parish **Bereavement Ministry, led by Deacon Dan Nelson**, a trained grief counselor, is here to walk compassionately with anyone who is grieving. This ministry provides a safe, welcoming space for sharing, healing, and finding peace at your own pace.

If you or someone you know would like to learn more, please reach out at 781-828-0090 x311 or bmckenney@cantoncatholic.org.

We encourage you to share this invitation with anyone who may find comfort in the gentle support of this ministry. Together, as a parish family, we can help one another discover hope in the midst of sorrow.

Lift Your Prayers, Share Your Hope

The Bible reminds us that whenever we carry a need—whether physical, emotional, or spiritual—we are invited to bring it before God in prayer, trusting that He hears us with love. None of us is meant to walk through life's burdens alone. As a parish family, we are called to lift one another up, to intercede for one another, and to surround one another with the quiet strength of prayer.

Our **Digital Prayer Wall**, found on the parish website, is a simple yet powerful way to share your intentions with our community. It is more than just a virtual posting board; it's a tool that brings people closer to God and each other. When you submit a prayer, you are placing your hope before God *and* allowing your parish family to join you in that prayer. It becomes a living expression of our faith—hearts united, voices raised together, even when we cannot gather in person.

Every intention submitted to the Prayer Wall is remembered with care, and **all Prayer Wall intentions are prayed for at every weekend Mass**. In this way, your needs are held not only by individuals who visit the Prayer Wall, but by the entire worshipping community gathered around the altar.

This ministry is especially meaningful for those who may feel unseen or alone. Every intention posted is held gently by fellow parishioners who pause, read, and pray. Together, we form a circle of compassion, reminding each person that they are remembered, valued, and supported.

If there is anything in your life for which you seek God's help, we would be honored to pray with you. To submit your prayer, visit the **Parish Information** tab at www.cantoncatholic.org and select **Prayer Wall Requests** from the drop down menu.

May our shared prayers draw us closer to God and to one another, strengthening our parish family in faith and love.



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

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"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 x316

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

BAPTISM OF THE LORD

Saturday, January 10

9:00am~

4:00pm~Janice Hughes, Memorial

Sunday, January 11

8:00am~Sabato Americo Ferrara, Memorial

10:00am~David A. Cameron, Memorial

12:00pm~

5:00pm~Robert Hampe, Jr., Memorial

Monday, January 12

9:00am~Robert Dolan and Baby Cole Dolan-McFadden, Memorial

Tuesday, January 13

9:00am~Special Intention

Wednesday, January 14

9:00am~Paul Carroll, Month's Mind

Thursday, January 15

9:00am~Roger Lee, Memorial

Friday, January 16

9:00am~

Saturday, January 17

9:00am~Carmela Alvino, Months Mind

4:00pm~Michael Cunningham, Memorial

Sunday, January 18

8:00am~

10:00am~Tony Pate, Memorial

12:00pm~James Kelly, Memorial

5:00pm~

Prayers and Sympathy



Kathleen Gibson
Jane McDaid
Elsie Rosado

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

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And a voice came from the heavens,
saying, "This is my beloved Son,
with whom I am well pleased."

Matthew 3:17

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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