



# St. Oscar Romero Parish

700 Washington Street, Canton, MA 02021 | Website: [www.cantoncatholic.org](http://www.cantoncatholic.org)

Parish Office: 781-828-0090 | Email: [welcome@cantoncatholic.org](mailto:welcome@cantoncatholic.org)



## BEHOLD THE Lamb of God

Who Takes Away the Sin of the World

John 1:29

### 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](mailto: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](http://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](mailto: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](mailto:jptjr2@gmail.com) for more information.



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

The Parish Office is closed on **Monday, January 19** in observance of the **Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday**.

*Dear Friends,*



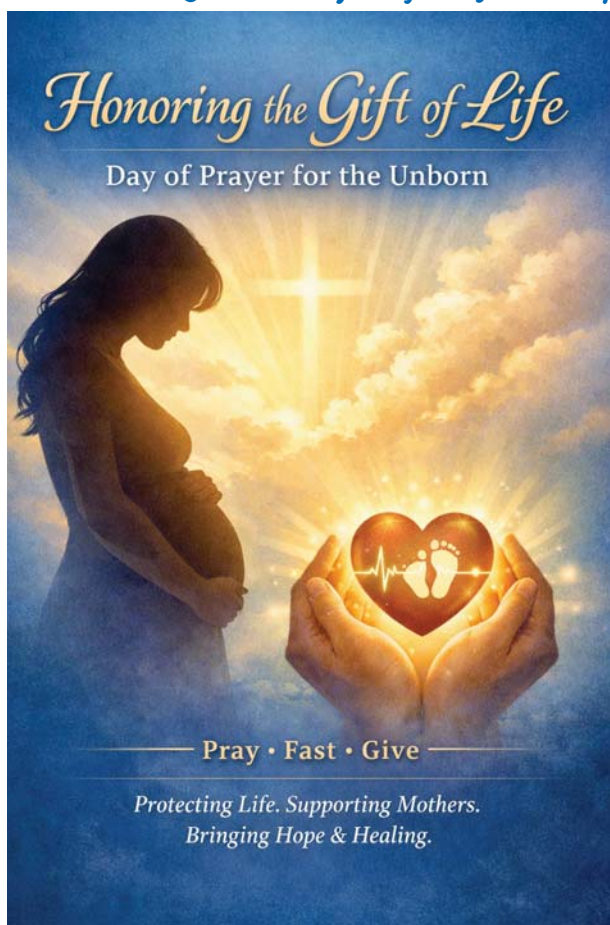
**Catholic Schools**  
United in Faith and Community

A week from **Monday, January 26**, the Boston Archdiocese's commemoration of Catholic Schools Week begins with a Mass, celebrated by Archbishop Henning, in our church! The St. John the Evangelist School community is obviously excited to welcome our new Archbishop. The School Choir will sing, and students will proclaim the readings and serve at the altar.

Our vibrant Catholic school is a great blessing to our parish. Our students consistently score at the very top in national assessment tests. Importantly, our committed faculty instill Catholic values at every level of engagement. St. John School graduates are actively recruited by the area's top High Schools because they are so well prepared to master challenging curricula. They exemplify our school motto, *"Strive for excellence and pursue Jesus."*

Yours in Christ,  
*Fr. Tom*

### *Honoring the Gift of Life: Day of Prayer for the Unborn—January 22*



On **January 22**, the Church in the United States observes the **Day of Prayer for the Legal Protection of Unborn Children**, marking the anniversary of the 1973 Supreme Court decision that legalized abortion nationwide. While recent rulings have shifted the legal landscape, the protection of life remains a vital cause for prayer, penance, and advocacy.

We are called to reflect on the dignity of every human life, created in God's image, and to respond with love and support for mothers and families. At Mass, we give thanks to God for the gift of human life. Scripture reminds us that every person is created in God's image, lovingly knit together in the womb, and endowed with a dignity that must always be protected. The Gospel of the Visitation shows the joy that greets new life, as John the Baptist leaps in Elizabeth's womb at the presence of Jesus.

On this day, we offer prayer, fasting, and acts of charity. Let us also pray for healing for those affected by abortion and re-commit ourselves to supporting all expectant mothers with compassion and care.



*Responsorial Psalm:**Here am I, Lord; I come to do your will.*

There is a quiet courage in this week's psalm—a courage born not from strength or certainty, but from waiting. "I have waited, waited for the Lord..." The psalmist speaks for every heart that has ever cried out in fear, confusion, or longing. And then comes the tender response: God bends low. God stoops toward us. God listens.

This is the mystery of our faith: the Lord of heaven leans close enough to hear the trembling whisper of a single soul. And when God answers, something within us changes. A new song rises—not because our circumstances are suddenly perfect, but because we discover again that we are not alone.

The psalm reminds us that what God desires most is not our perfection or our performance, but our openness. "Ears open to obedience you gave me." God wants hearts willing to listen, to trust, to say with humility and hope, "Behold, I come." True discipleship begins not with grand gestures, but with the simple offering of ourselves—our

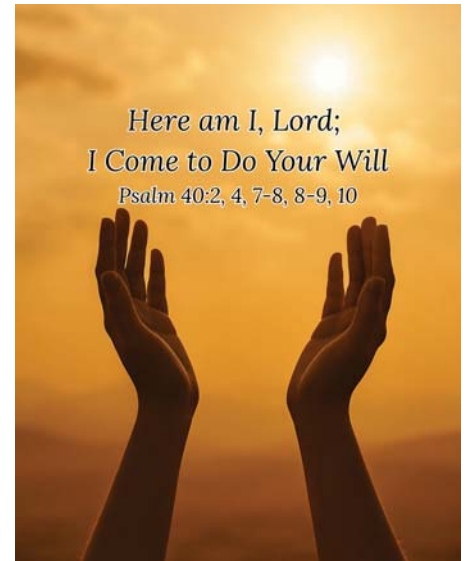
time, our attention, our willingness to follow where God leads.

To do God's will is not a burden; it is a delight written deep within us.

When we allow God's law of love to take root in our hearts, our lives become a quiet proclamation of God's goodness.

Like the psalmist, we find ourselves unable to keep silent. We speak justice. We live mercy. We become witnesses of God's faithfulness in the "vast assembly" of our daily lives.

This week, may we echo the refrain with sincerity and trust: Here am I, Lord; I come to do your will. May our waiting be patient, our listening be open, and our hearts be ready for the new song God longs to place within us.

*Sacrament of Baptism ~ We Welcome You With Great Joy!*

Fr. Rafferty with Celine Goodwin family



## *Behold, the Lamb of God*

This week's Gospel invites us into a moment of revelation—one that unfolds not with fanfare, but with quiet certainty. John the Baptist, long the voice crying out in the wilderness, sees Jesus approaching and speaks the words that have echoed through centuries: **"Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world."**

It's a declaration of awe, of recognition, of surrender. John doesn't claim credit or understanding. Twice he says, *"I did not know him."* And yet, through obedience and trust, he becomes the one who points others to Christ. His mission was not to be the light, but to prepare hearts to receive it.

There's something deeply pastoral in John's humility. He listens. He watches. He allows God's plan to unfold beyond his own expectations. And when the Spirit descends like a dove and remains upon Jesus, John knows: ***This is the One. This is the Son of God.***

In our own lives, we may not always recognize Christ at first glance. We may feel uncertain, un-

worthy, or unsure of our role. But like John, we are invited to be witnesses—to prepare the way, to speak truth, to point others toward the Lamb of God who brings healing, mercy, and peace.

This Gospel reminds us that revelation often comes through quiet faithfulness. Through listening. Through waiting. Through the Spirit's gentle movement in our hearts.

May we, like John, have the courage to say: ***"Now I have seen and testified..."*** And may our lives reflect the grace of the One who comes to take away the sin of the world—not with judgment, but with love.

Even now, Christ walks toward us—quietly, steadily, lovingly. We may not always recognize Him at first, but the Spirit helps us see. And when we do, something within us shifts, softens, awakens.

May this be a week of renewed openness — a time to notice Christ approaching, to welcome the Spirit's gentle prompting, and to offer our own simple, faithful "yes."





## Finding Support After the Holidays

The weeks after the holidays can be especially tender for those carrying the weight of loss. Our parish Bereavement Ministry, led by Deacon Dan Nelson, offers compassionate support and a safe, welcoming space for anyone who is grieving — a place to share, to heal, and to find peace at your own pace.



To learn more, please contact 781-828-0090 x311 or [bmckenney@cantoncatholic.org](mailto:bmckenney@cantoncatholic.org).

Please share this invitation with anyone who may find comfort in this gentle ministry. As a parish family, we walk together toward hope in the midst of sorrow.

## BINGO



### Senior Citizen Bingo

Sunday, January 25 | 3:00—5:00 pm

Parish Center

Hosted by Youth Ministry

## FREE THROW CONTEST



**FEBRUARY 1, 2026 | 2:00pm**  
SPONSORED BY THE KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

## Aim High, Have Fun!

We're delighted to welcome all boys and girls ages 9–14 to take part in this year's Knights of Columbus Free Throw Competition—a fun, spirited afternoon that brings our young athletes together in friendly challenge and community joy.

Join us on **Sunday, February 1 at 2:00 p.m. in the St. John School Gym**. Registration begins at 1:30 p.m., so come a little early, get settled, and warm up those shooting arms.

Participants will have the chance to shine on the court, and the winners will move on to a regional tournament immediately afterward, an exciting opportunity to keep the momentum going.

If you have any questions or would like more details, please reach out to **Chuck Sullivan at 339-987-9099**. We'd love to see many of our parish families cheering on these young athletes and celebrating their efforts.

## 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](mailto:tsrafferty@cantoncatholic.org)

**Rev. Jeremy Wagner, x322**

*Parochial Vicar*

[jwagner@cantoncatholic.org](mailto:jwagner@cantoncatholic.org)

**Deacon Daniel C. Nelson,**

**THM, D. Min. x325**

*Spiritual Director*

[dcn785@aol.com](mailto:dcn785@aol.com)

### NEW QR CODE



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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](mailto:ncunniff@cantoncatholic.org)

**Lorraine Olsen-Viola x316**

*Offertory, Donations & Online Giving*

[lolsen-viola@cantoncatholic.org](mailto:lolsen-viola@cantoncatholic.org)

**Mike Mahan x304 or 617-460-2800**

*Youth Ministry & Outreach Programs*

[mike@cantoncatholic.org](mailto:mike@cantoncatholic.org)

**Barbara McKenney x311**

*Ministry Coordinator, St. Mary*

*Cemetery & Sacramental Inquiries*

[bmckenney@cantoncatholic.org](mailto:bmckenney@cantoncatholic.org)

**Erin Sullivan x305 781-828-5130**

*First Communion, First Reconciliation*

*& Religious Education 1-6*

[erin@cantoncatholic.org](mailto:erin@cantoncatholic.org)

**Maggie Rubenacker x312**

*Finance, Operations & HR*

[mrubenacker@cantoncatholic.org](mailto:mrubenacker@cantoncatholic.org)

**Maria White x216**

*Music Ministry: Youth, Junior &*

*Adult Choirs*

[mwhite@cantoncatholic.org](mailto:mwhite@cantoncatholic.org)

### PARISH SCHOOL

**Chris Flieger, Ed.D.**

*Principal*

[chris.flieger@sjscanton.org](mailto:chris.flieger@sjscanton.org)

**Anne Guerini x315**

*School Finance Office*

**Dora Foster**

*Administrative Assistant*

[dora.foster@sjscanton.org](mailto:dora.foster@sjscanton.org)

**St. John School**

781-828-2130 [www.sjscanton.org](http://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 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 & Molly Keenan, Memorial  
5:00pm~

### Monday, January 19

9:00am~Robert Hampe, Jr., Memorial

### Tuesday, January 20

9:00am~Mary Kilday, Memorial

### Wednesday, January 21

9:00am~Kathleen Ann Sullivan, Healing Intention

### Thursday, January 22

9:00am~John & Patty Ann Livorsi, Healing Intention

### Friday, January 23

9:00am~Jack Cash, Memorial

### Saturday, January 24

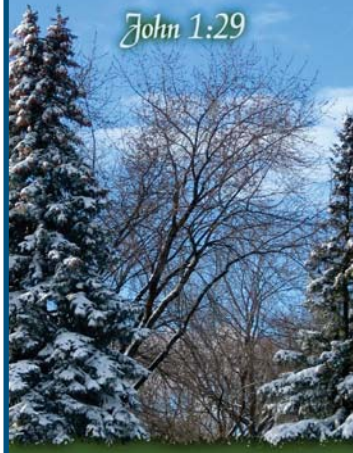
9:00am~Ann Weeks, Memorial  
4:00pm~Ann Citrano, Memorial

### Sunday, January 25

8:00am~  
10:00am~William Pugliese, Memorial  
12:00pm~  
5:00pm~

**Behold,**  
*the Lamb of God,  
who takes away the  
sin of the world.*

John 1:29



### Prayers and Sympathy



**Catherine Bradley  
Robert Corrigan  
Joan Courteau  
Deborah Masciarelli**

*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](mailto:bulletin@cantoncatholic.org)*





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