



# St. Oscar Romero Parish

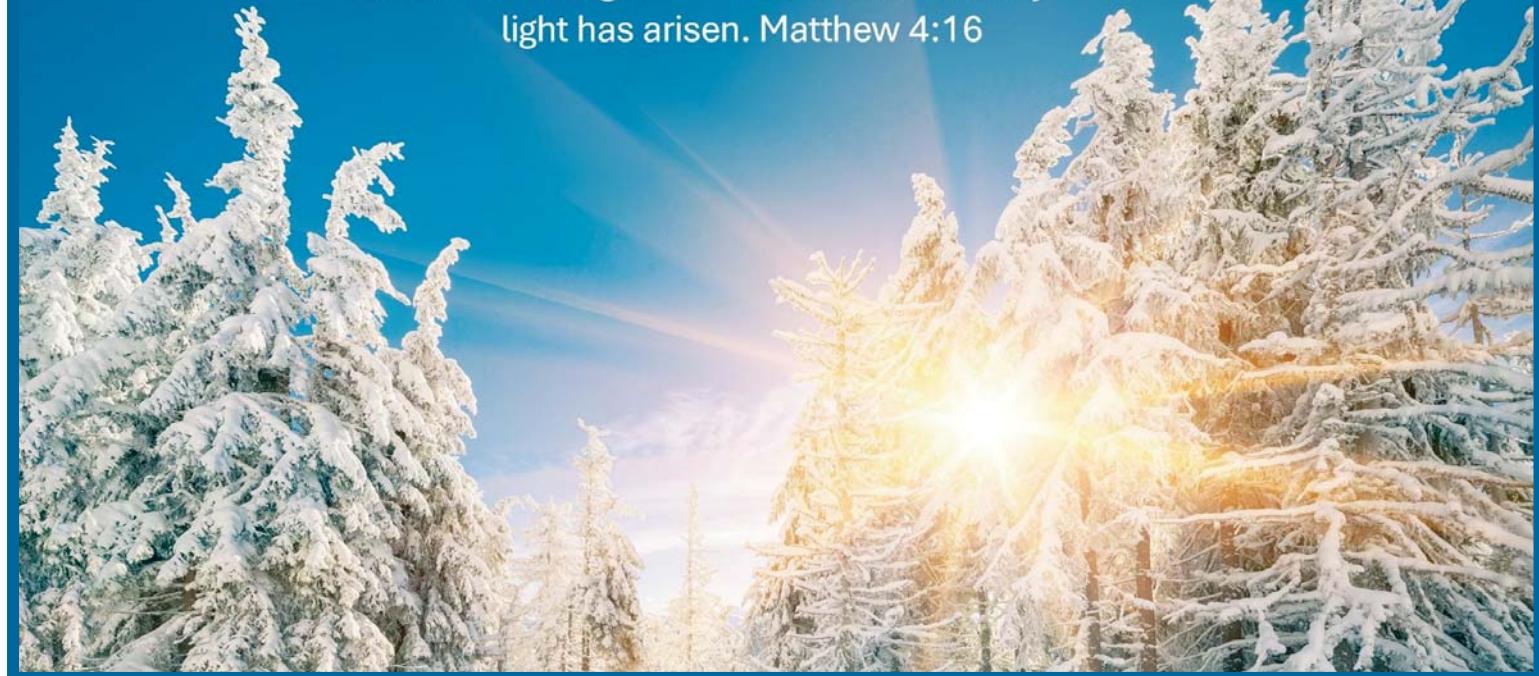
700 Washington Street, Canton, MA 02021 | Website: [www.cantoncatholic.org](http://www.cantoncatholic.org)

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



## 3<sup>RD</sup> SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

The people who sit in darkness have seen a great light,  
on those dwelling in a land overshadowed by death  
light has arisen. Matthew 4:16



### 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."*



### Dear Friends,

After we have prayed the Lord's Prayer, and before the Lamb of God, the priest's prayer includes, "Look not on our sins, but on the faith of your Church, and graciously grant her peace and *unity in accordance with your will*." In this weekend's second reading, from his First Letter to the Corinthians, St. Paul condemns division and calls us to be, "United in the same mind and in the same purpose."

While recently reading Garry Wills' history of American Christianity, **Head and Heart**, I was surprised by the near constant battles waged in American Protestantism. Validating St. Paul's

argument, from the days of the Puritans and the Congregationalists, through the Great Awakenings, and continuing through the emergence of Evangelicals and Pentecostals, denominations seemed to be continually in dispute. Many of America's indigenous denominations were founded because of disagreements. Acrimony undermines unity and leads to division. St. Paul's advice is to concentrate on what unites, not divides, us.

Let us remember Paul's teaching as we pray at every Mass for peace and unity in accordance with divine will.

Yours in Christ,

**Fr. Tom**

### *The Lord Is My Light and My Salvation*

Today's psalm reminds us that God's presence is our steady light, especially when fear or uncertainty presses in. The psalmist's one desire — to dwell with the Lord and gaze on His loveliness — invites us to pause and remember where our true refuge lies.

Even when answers are slow to come, we're encouraged to wait with courage, trusting that we will see the Lord's goodness in the land of the living. May this promise strengthen our hearts in the week ahead.

*"Wait for the Lord with courage..."*



## Forming a Missionary Heart: A Pre-Lenten Invitation for Families



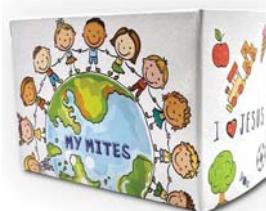
Our parish is blessed to welcome **Daria Braithwaite** from the **Missionary Childhood Association (MCA)** for a special pre-Lenten event designed to help children and families grow in a spirit of generosity and compassion.

Daria will share with our students and families the importance of giving with love, making simple sacrifices, and finding everyday ways to help others in need. Each child will receive a mite box to use throughout Lent as a prayerful way to support children around the world.

With the beautiful motto "**Children Helping Children**," MCA encourages young people to become Stationary Missionaries—missionaries who bring Christ's love to others right from home.

### Mite Boxes During Lent

- Families are invited to collect spare change throughout the season
- Filled boxes will be returned to support MCA's mission work
- Donations provide spiritual and material aid to children in mission territories worldwide



### Event Details

- **February 1** — After the 10:00 AM Mass in the Parish Center
- **February 2 & 3** — During class time, 4:30–5:30 PM in the church

All families are warmly encouraged to attend with their children as we prepare for Lent with hearts open to prayer, sacrifice, and service.

May our small acts of love this Lent shine brightly for children in need around the world.

**“Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.” Matthew 25:40**

## An Invitation to Healing and Hope

The **Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick** is one of the Church's most tender expressions of God's mercy. Through this sacrament, Christ offers comfort, peace, and spiritual strength to those who are seriously ill, facing the challenges of aging, or carrying heavy burdens of body or spirit. Rooted in the healing ministry of Jesus, it reminds us that no one suffers alone—God draws near in our moments of weakness, bringing grace, courage, and hope. Together with the **Sacrament of Reconciliation**, it stands among the Church's beautiful sacraments of healing.

Do you know someone who could be lifted by prayers for healing and hope? All who are sick or struggling, along with their loved ones, caregivers, and healthcare professionals, are warmly invited to join us at the **4:00 pm Mass on Saturday, February 7**.

During this liturgy, we will pray for all who seek healing in mind, body, or spirit, and the **Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick** will be offered following the Homily.

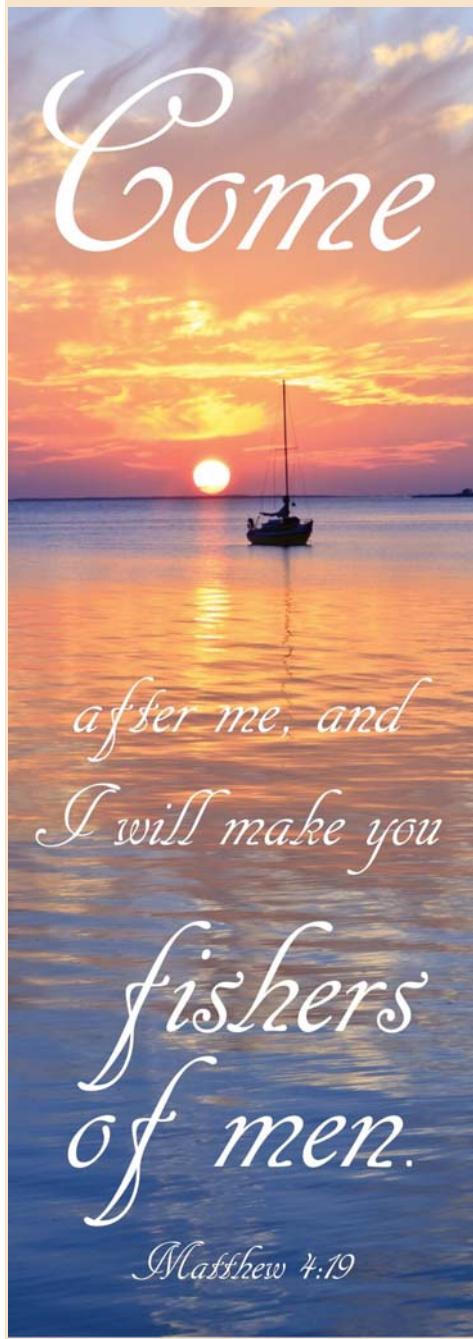
May this be a moment of grace for all who long for God's healing touch.



**“He heals the brokenhearted and binds up their wounds.”**

*Psalm 147:3*

## Reflection: A Light That Calls Us Forward



Matthew's Gospel this week opens with a moment of deep uncertainty: John the Baptist has been arrested, and the shadow of fear hangs over the people. Yet into that darkness, Jesus steps quietly but deliberately into Galilee—the very place Isaiah foretold would see a great light. It is a reminder that God's response to human suffering is not distance, but nearness. When the world feels overshadowed, Christ moves closer.

What Jesus does next is striking. He doesn't begin with grand speeches or dramatic signs. He begins by calling ordinary people—fishermen at their daily work. Simon Peter and Andrew, James and John are not scholars, leaders, or influencers. They are simply men who know how to mend nets, endure long nights, and trust the rhythm of the sea. Jesus sees them, calls them, and invites them into a mission far larger than anything they could imagine.

Their response is immediate. Not because they fully understood, but because something in Jesus' voice awakened hope. The same light that rose over Galilee rose in their hearts.

This Gospel reminds us that discipleship begins right where we are. Jesus walks into the ordinary spaces of our lives—our routines, our responsibilities, our quiet worries—and speaks the same invitation: *"Come after me."* He doesn't wait for us to be perfect or prepared. He simply asks us to trust the light we've seen.

And when we follow, even imperfectly, we become part of His work of healing the world. The Gospel ends with Jesus teaching, proclaiming, and curing every disease and illness. His ministry is one of restoration—and He chooses us to share in it.

As a parish community, we are called to be that light for one another: to notice who is sitting in darkness, to offer compassion where there is hurt, and to step forward when Christ's voice stirs something new within us.

## St. Mary Cemetery Columbarium Niche Information

For those who may be new to our parish or unfamiliar with **St. Mary Cemetery**, we are blessed to have a beautiful granite columbarium—a serene and dignified place for the interment of ashes. We have several available niches to choose from in all three of our units.

If you are interested in learning more about a cremation burial or our columbarium, please contact Barbara on 781-828-0090 ext. 311.



## 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.

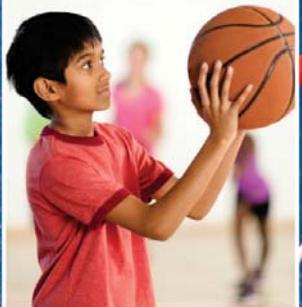
## BTINGO



### 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 on a future date, 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)

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*"Freely you have received; freely give."*

Matthew 10:8

ParishSOFT

## 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*[olosen-viola@cantoncatholic.org](mailto:olosen-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

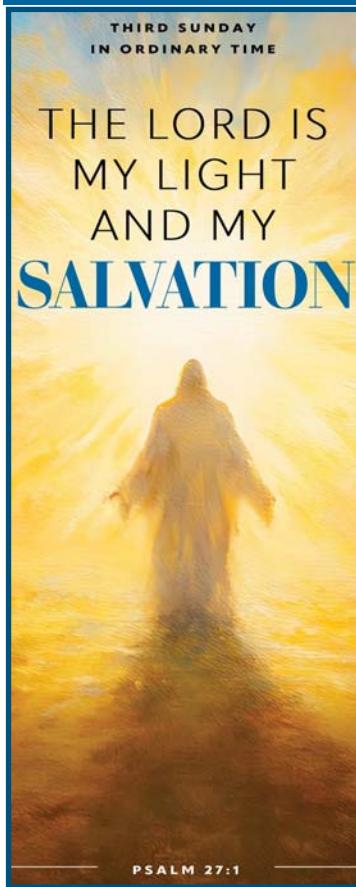
*Administrative Assistant*[dora.foster@sjscanton.org](mailto:dora.foster@sjscanton.org)

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 24

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

## Sunday, January 25

8:00am~  
10:00am~William Pugliese, Memorial  
12:00pm~Merico "Mac" Gava, Memorial  
5:00pm~

## Monday, January 26

9:00am~David McNeil, Month's Mind

## Tuesday, January 27

9:00am~Frances Swinamer, Memorial

## Wednesday, January 28

9:00am~

## Thursday, January 29

9:00am~Thomas Kelly, Memorial

## Friday, January 30

9:00am~

## Saturday, January 31

9:00am~  
4:00pm~Harry Perreault, Memorial

## Sunday, February 1

8:00am~  
10:00am~Carmela Avino, Memorial  
12:00pm~  
5:00pm~

## Prayers and Sympathy

David Thomas

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[Facebook.com/cantoncatholic](https://www.facebook.com/cantoncatholic)[Instagram.com/cantoncatholic](https://www.instagram.com/cantoncatholic)To request a Mass Intention,  
please call 781-828-0090Bulletin Submissions are due by noon on Monday  
[bulletin@cantoncatholic.org](mailto:bulletin@cantoncatholic.org)



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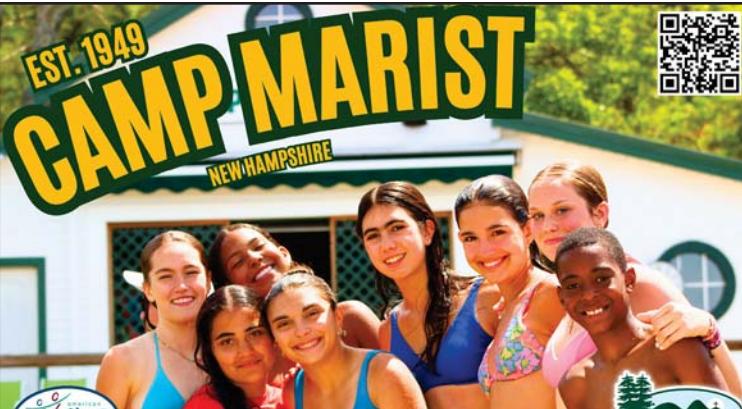
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