



St. Oscar Romero Parish

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

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



4TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Rejoice and be glad,
for your reward will be great in heaven.

Matthew 5:12

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,

The snowstorm and cancelation of school meant that Archbishop Henning did not kick off Catholic Schools Week here in Canton. We are working with him to secure a new date, most likely in the spring, for him to visit our school.

Sunday's Gospel, from Matthew's account of the Sermon on the Mount (5:1-12), is one of the most popular and requested gospel passages. I would argue that it is often misunderstood. Its poetic composition can lead us to overlook its teaching. When Jesus affirms the poor, the meek, the

grieving, the merciful and the persecuted he upends social norms. Those of our era as much as of his. To make these Beatitudes real in our lives and beyond is a call to be countercultural.

This week, with all the hype and zeal over the Patriots' participation in the Super Bowl, let's remind ourselves that Jesus did not exalt the strong, the wealthy, or those who seek adulation. It was their opposites that he declared, "Blessed."

Yours in Christ,
Fr. Tom

Parish Lenten Retreat | March 9-12 Losing and Rediscovering God

A Parish Lenten Retreat for Those Seeking Renewal, Meaning, and Hope

This Lent, we welcome **Father Simeon Gallagher**, an internationally respected Capuchin retreat director known for his work with parishes, clergy, and communities around the world. He will guide us in reflecting on where we have encountered God—and where we may be longing to rediscover Him. Through Scripture, reflection, and shared prayer, we will explore faith as a living journey.

More details coming soon. Please save the dates:

Monday, March 9—Thursday March 12, four evenings from 7:00–8:30pm.

*Mark
YOUR
Calendar*

An Invitation to Healing and Hope



*"He heals the brokenhearted and
binds up their wounds."*

Psalm 147:3

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 **4:00pm 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.

Love Is Sweet! Valentine's Day Raffle

Show Your Love — and Support the CCWC!

This Valentine's Day, spread a little joy while supporting the Canton Catholic Women's Club (CCWC)! Take a chance on our Valentine's Day Raffle — a *lovely* way to give back and treat someone special.

Raffle Prizes

First Prize (Valued at \$150+):

A heart-shaped box filled with an assortment of Hilliard's Chocolates, a \$100 gift certificate to Elsie's Restaurant, Valentine's cards, a bottle of champagne, and elegant champagne glasses — the perfect recipe for a romantic celebration!

Second Prize:

A beautifully curated basket featuring pasta, sauce, a bottle of wine, gourmet candies and cookies, and cozy candlelight — ideal for a relaxed Valentine's evening at home.

Tickets

\$5 per ticket — 3 tickets for \$10

Tickets will be sold **after all Masses** 1/31-2/1 and 2/7-2/8 at the church entrance.

Drawing:

Winners will be drawn on **Wednesday, February 11**, following the **9:00am Mass**.

Thank you for showing your love and supporting the CCWC!



Warm Hearts, Steady Support: Try Online Giving this Winter

Consider Online Giving This Winter

As we move through the winter months, we are especially grateful for the continued generosity of our parishioners. Snowstorms, travel, and busy schedules can sometimes make it difficult to be at Mass each week — yet your support remains vital to the life of our parish.

Online Giving offers a simple, secure, and convenient way to make your weekly offertory contribution, even when you cannot be here in person. Setting up a recurring gift helps the parish maintain steady support for our ministries, outreach, and day-to-day operations throughout the winter season.

If you haven't already enrolled, we invite you to consider signing up for weekly Online Giving. It takes just a few minutes and makes a meaningful difference for our parish community. Thank you for your faithful generosity and for all the ways you help our parish thrive.



Please visit the parish website for online giving information, scan the QR Code, or contact Lorraine Olsen-Viola in the parish office at 781-828-0090 x316.

The Gentle Protection of Saint Blaise



The **Feast of Saint Blaise on February 3**, invites us to pause and remember that God's care reaches into the most ordinary and vulnerable

parts of our lives. The stories surrounding Blaise—some historical, some legendary—paint a picture of a shepherd who tended his people with compassion, courage, and unwavering trust in Christ. Whether he was comforting the sick, praying in solitude, or facing persecution, Blaise lived with a heart anchored in God's presence.

The Blessing of Throats, offered each year on his feast, is more than a beloved tradition. It is a moment when we acknowledge how fragile we are and how deeply we depend on God's healing grace.

Illness, fear, uncertainty, and the “things that choke us” spiritually or emotionally are part of every human life. Yet in this simple blessing, the Church places us under the gentle protection of Christ, asking that our voices, our breath, and our very lives be strengthened for the journey of faith.

Saint Blaise reminds us that holiness is not found in extraordinary deeds alone but in the daily choice to remain close to Jesus. His witness encourages us to bring our needs—great and small—to the Lord with confidence. As we receive the blessing of throats, we pray not only for physical health but also for the courage to speak words that heal, encourage, and build up the Body of Christ.

May Saint Blaise intercede for us, and may God's healing love guard our hearts, our voices, and all those we hold in prayer.

Blessing of Throats—Tuesday, February 3—9:00am



At the 9:00am Mass on the Feast of the Presentation, we will bless the candles used at Mass throughout the year. All are welcome to join us for this beautiful tradition.

A Light for All People

The Feast of the **Presentation in the Temple on February 2** is one of the most intimate and revealing moments in the early life of Jesus. Mary and Joseph bring Jesus to Jerusalem “to present him to the Lord,” offering “a pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons.” In this simple act of faith, something extraordinary unfolds. Simeon, “righteous and devout,” recognizes the child immediately and proclaims, “My eyes have seen your salvation... a light for revelation to the Gentiles.” His lifetime of waiting and prayer has prepared him to see what others overlook.

Anna, who “never left the temple” and prayed night and day, also gives thanks and begins speaking about the child to all who hoped for redemption. Their witness reminds us that God often reveals Himself in quiet, ordinary moments—but only hearts formed by patience and prayer will notice.

Even in this joy, Mary hears that Jesus will be “a sign that will be contradicted,” and that a sword will one day pierce her heart. Discipleship carries both grace and cost, yet God’s presence remains steady.

As Jesus “grew and became strong, filled with wisdom,” may we grow in attentiveness to God’s quiet work in our own lives, trusting—like Simeon and Anna—that His promises unfold in His perfect time.

May we wait with hope, pray with perseverance, and welcome Christ’s light into our daily lives.

Blessing Over Children

Enter into the theme of today’s Gospel by blessing your children. Parents/guardians are invited to place their hands upon the head of each child and pray the following prayer.

Lord Jesus, You bless us with your love, your mercy, and your promise of true happiness. As we reflect on the Beatitudes, open our hearts to the grace you offer in each one.

Bless _____, and help this beloved child grow in the virtues you cherish. Teach them the joy of trusting you with a humble heart.

Give them the strength that comes from gentleness, the courage to seek justice, and the compassion to show mercy.

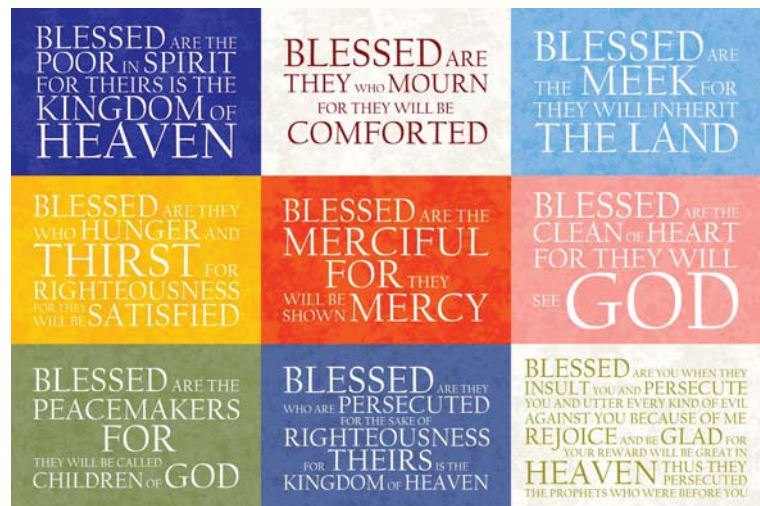
Fill them with a clean and honest heart, and guide them to be a peacemaker wherever they go.

Help them recognize the gifts you have placed within them and use those gifts for good: [list areas of giftedness here].

Protect them from harm, surround them with friends who lift them up, and grant them wisdom to turn away from anything that leads them astray.

Walk with them today and always, so they may grow into the person you created them to be—blessed, joyful, and rooted in your love.

Amen.



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

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*"Freely you have
 received; freely give."*
 Matthew 10:8

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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
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

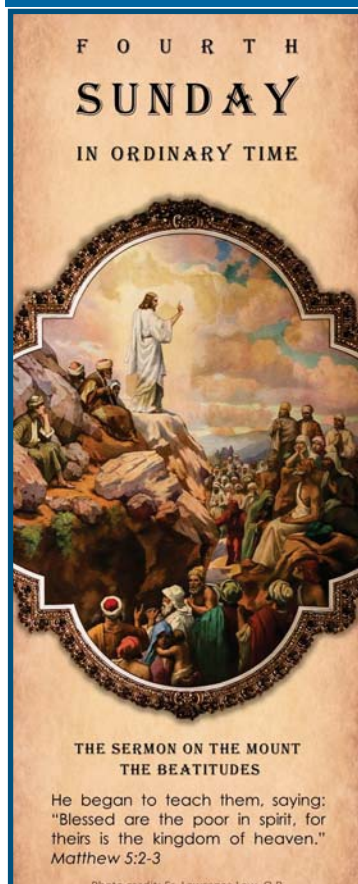
Anne Guerini x315
School Finance Office

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, January 31
 9:00am~
 4:00pm~Harry Perreault, Memorial

Sunday, February 1
 8:00am~
 10:00am~Carmela Avino, Memorial
 12:00pm~
 5:00pm~Caesar & Adele Tarallo,
 Memorial

Monday, February 2
 9:00am~Peter Agbola, Eucharist, and
 Augustan, Memorial

Tuesday, February 3
 9:00am~

Wednesday, February 4
 9:00am~

Thursday, February 5
 9:00am~

Friday, February 6
 9:00am~St. John School Families

Saturday, February 7
 9:00am~Theresa Kadi,
 Birthday Thanksgiving
 4:00pm~Roslyn Lowney, Memorial

Sunday, February 8
 8:00am~Carmela Ferrara, Memorial
 10:00am~Tom Gunning, Memorial
 12:00pm~Francisco Andrade, Memorial
 5:00pm~

Prayers and Sympathy

Neil O'Brien
 Joseph Byrne
 Joan Harriet Amrhein

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



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