



St. Oscar Romero Parish

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

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



First Sunday of Lent

*“One does not live on bread alone,
but on every word that comes
from the mouth of God.”*

Matthew 4:4

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,

Welcome to Lent! If you follow the parish bulletin and/or social media, you will note the many opportunities for prayer and almsgiving. The highlight of our Lenten experience will be the retreat offered by the renowned Franciscan preacher, Father Simeon Gallagher, OFM, Cap., March 9 - 12. He will preach at our daily 9:00 am Mass and again each evening at 7:00 pm.

For Prayer, in addition to daily Mass, we gather each Friday evening for *Walking with Christ* at 6:30 pm, followed by Stations of the Cross at 7:00 pm. We are also offering daily Lenten reflections, *Along the Way*, on Facebook and Instagram to accompany you throughout the season. **For Almsgiving**, Religious Education students are participating in the Mite Box program. Our Confirmation Program is hosting a Baby Shower to support mothers and families. The Knights of Columbus and the Canton Catholic Women's Club are partnering for a collection to benefit the Canton Food Pantry. As I said on Ash Wednesday, **for Fasting**, "You're on your own."

We are saddened to learn of the sudden death of Holy Cross Father Willy Raymond. After running Holy Cross Family Ministries media operation on the West Coast, he came to Easton as Director. One of our first St. John/St. Gerard Majella joint ventures was a Lenten retreat he led along with Father Pinto Paul, CSC. Wake and funeral details are in this issue of the bulletin.

Yours in Christ,
Fr. Tom



Lent: Liturgical Changes

As we enter the sacred season of Lent, you may notice several changes in our liturgy. These changes are intentional and deeply meaningful, helping us enter more fully into this time of prayer, penance, and preparation.

Purple (or violet) is the liturgical color of Lent. It symbolizes repentance, humility, and a spirit of reflection. Beginning on Ash Wednesday and continuing throughout the season, the priest wears violet vestments as a visible sign that we are walking a penitential journey together as a parish community.

During Lent, the joyful hymn "**Gloria in Excelsis**" is omitted at Sunday Mass. This hymn, normally sung in a celebratory manner, expresses praise and exultation. Its absence creates a quieter, more reflective tone. Likewise, the "**Alleluia**"—a Hebrew word meaning "Praise the Lord"—is not sung before the Gospel. In its place, we proclaim an alter-

nate Gospel acclamation, often:

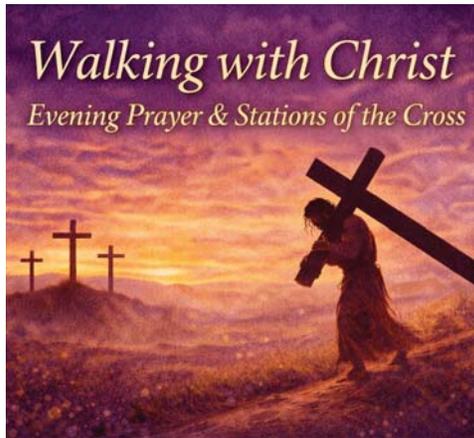
"Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, King of Endless Glory."

The absence of the Gloria and the Alleluia is not meant to diminish our joy, but rather to heighten our longing. Just as we fast from certain foods or comforts during Lent, the Church "fasts" from these joyful hymns so that when they return at Easter, our hearts are ready to rejoice with renewed gratitude and wonder.

These subtle liturgical changes remind us that we are spiritually in the desert with Jesus—walking with Him in prayer, sacrifice, and trust. Lent invites us to slow down, to examine our hearts, and to allow God to work more deeply within us, preparing us for the great celebration of the Resurrection at Easter.



Walking with Christ Lenten Series



Last week, we began our **Walking with Christ** Lenten series with a powerful reflection on the **Agony in the Garden**. Together, we entered into that sacred moment when Jesus, in the solitude of Geth-

semane, surrendered Himself completely to the Father’s will. Through Scripture, prayer, and reflection, we considered Christ’s deep anguish, His loving obedience, and His invitation for us to trust God even in our own moments of struggle.

If you were not able to join us, it is not too late.

This Friday, we continue our journey as we meditate on the **Scourging at the Pillar**—a profound mystery of Christ’s suffering and His immeasurable love for us. In this second reflection, we will contemplate the physical suffering Jesus endured and reflect on what His wounds reveal about mercy, healing, and redemption.

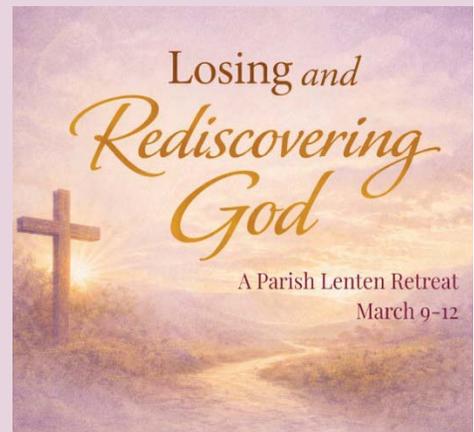
Each week stands on its own, so all are welcome—whether you attended the first evening or are coming for the first time. Lent is a sacred opportunity to slow down, enter more deeply into prayer, and walk closely with Our Lord on the road to Calvary.

The evening begins with **Evening Prayer at 6:30 PM**, followed by the **Stations of the Cross at 7:00 PM**.

We hope you will join us as we continue to walk with Christ this Lenten season.

Parish Lenten Retreat

This Lent, we invite you to step into a sacred time of renewal through our Parish Lenten Retreat, **Losing and Rediscovering God** — a four-day journey for anyone seeking deeper meaning, healing, and hope.



The retreat will be preached by **Fr. Simeon Gallagher, OFM, Cap**, and offered **March 9–12** in **two opportunities each day in the church:**

- 9:00 am Mass (Monday–Thursday)
- Evening retreat at 7:00 pm

The **same retreat message** will be shared each day at both the morning Mass and the evening session, allowing participants the flexibility to attend at the time that works best — whether in the morning, the evening, or a mix of both throughout the week.

This retreat offers space to honestly explore moments when God may feel distant, forgotten, or hard to recognize — and to gently rediscover God’s presence in the midst of everyday life. Each session is designed to be accessible, welcoming, and prayerful.

All are welcome to attend one day or the full retreat. Come as you are, and allow this Lenten season to draw you closer to the God who never stops seeking you.

Funeral Arrangements for Father Willy Raymond, CSC

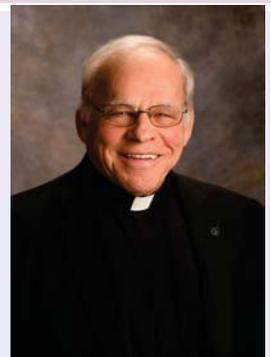
Monday, Feb. 23

Visitation 5pm to 8pm | Vigil service at 7:30pm
Chapel of Mary, Stonehill College

Tuesday, Feb. 24

Funeral Mass 10:30am Holy Cross Parish 225 Purchase Street,
South Easton, Massachusetts

Burial at Holy Cross Cemetery, Stonehill College, immediately following the funeral Mass.





Baby Shower

Join us this Lent in showing love and support for mothers and their babies in need. Sharing Christ's love through acts of compassion.

ITEMS NEEDED:

Diapers: Sizes 5, 6, 7 & pull-ups

Baby wipes

NEW swaddles, sleepers & onesies

NEW spring/summer clothing & pajamas (12 months–2T)

♥ Boys' clothing especially needed ♥

Amazon Gift Cards

Drop-Off Location & Dates

Front entrance of the church

February 28 – March 8

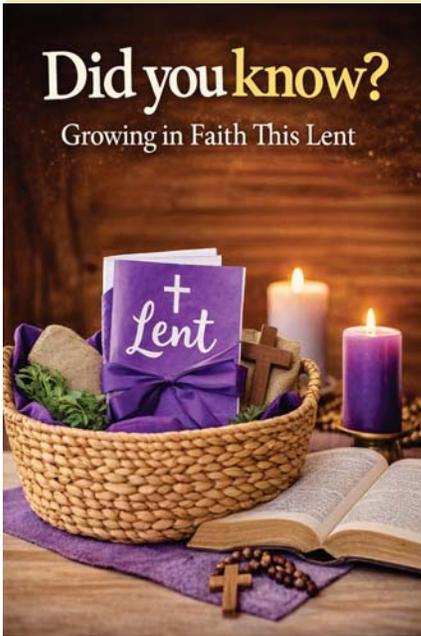
Sponsored by our Confirmation Program in support
of Abundant Hope Pregnancy Center

Thank you for helping our Confirmation students live their faith.

Questions: Contact Nancy Cunniff at ncunniff@cantoncatholic.org

Did You Know? Growing in Faith

Lent Is a Season of Conversion



Did you know?

Growing in Faith This Lent

Did you know?

Lent is not just about “giving something up.”

It is a season of conversion — a time when the Church calls us to turn our hearts more fully back to God.

The word conversion means a change of direction. During these forty days, we ask the Lord to renew our

hearts and lead us closer to Him.

Growing in Faith This Lent: Ask the Lord,
“What in my life needs to change so I can follow
You more faithfully?”



Once a year, Catholics throughout the Archdiocese are asked to support the greater church by giving a gift to the Catholic Appeal. Just as our weekly collection supports parish expenses, initiatives, and programs, the Catholic Appeal helps fund services that are essential to our parishes, schools, and the greater community. Each of us is responsible not only for the well-being of our parish, but also for the well-being of the Church throughout our Archdiocese. In preparation, we invite you to prayerfully consider making a generous gift.

To make an online pledge, please visit www.bostoncatholicappeal.org or scan the QR code.

Thank you for your prayerful consideration of the 2026 Catholic Appeal.



*May this season of repentance bring
us the blessing of your forgiveness
and the gift of your light.*

-Roman Rite

Hands at Work, Hearts in Prayer ~ Prayer Shawl Ministry

In last week’s bulletin, we announced the launch of our new Prayer Shawl Ministry, a parish outreach rooted in prayer, compassion, and service. We are grateful for the initial interest and would love to hear from others who may feel called to take part.

We invite parishioners who knit or crochet to prayerfully create shawls that will be shared with our homebound parishioners and the residents of Hellenic. Each shawl will be a tangible sign of comfort and a reminder that they are remembered in prayer by our parish community.

All skill levels are welcome — whether you prefer working from home or would enjoy gathering with others at the parish.

If you are interested, please contact Nancy Cunniff at ncunniff@cantoncatholic.org or 781-828-5130. Once we gather our initial group, we will schedule our first meeting and begin this beautiful work together.



Wrapped in Faith, Hope 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

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
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
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Erin Sullivan x305 781-828-5130
First Communion, First Reconciliation & Religious Education 1-6
erin@cantoncatholic.org

Maggie Rubenacker x312
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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



<p>Saturday, February 21 9:00am~ 4:00pm~John Gill, Memorial</p>
<p>Sunday, February 22 8:00am~ 10:00am~Paul McNeil, Healing Intention 12:00pm~ 5:00pm~</p>
<p>Monday, February 23 9:00am~Addie Sullivan, Memorial</p>
<p>Tuesday, February 24 9:00am~Don Novak, Memorial</p>
<p>Wednesday, February 25 9:00am~</p>
<p>Thursday, February 26 9:00am~</p>

<p>Friday, February 27 9:00am~Greg Smith</p>
<p>Saturday, February 28 9:00am~ 4:00pm~Warner Lund, Memorial</p>
<p>Sunday, March 1 8:00am~Dr. Bill Sullivan & Susan Sullivan, Memorial 10:00am~William Maher, Memorial 12:00pm~Joe Clifford, Memorial 5:00pm~</p>

Prayers and Sympathy

Stephen Curran
 Joseph Berardi
 Duncan MacLeod,
 Maria Soares



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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