



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;
listen to him.”*

Matthew 17:5

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,

If you love snow, you must be happy. We are doing our best to keep the parish grounds clear, but the amount of snowfall makes it a challenge. Use caution when driving as snowbanks impede vision, and the pathways are narrowed. Thanks for your patience as our team confronts this winter's challenges.

We are excitedly looking forward to welcoming Father Simeon Gallagher, OFM, Cap., to our parish. Father Simeon will preach at the weekend Masses. He will preach at the 9:00 am Mass on Monday, March 7, through Thursday, March 12. He will also preach at Liturgy of the Word services each evening at 7:00 pm. See you there! (see more details below.)

Yours in Christ,
Fr. Tom

The Journey Begins: Our Parish Lenten Retreat Is Almost Here

As Lent unfolds, the anticipation is building for our Parish Lenten Retreat — and we hope you will be part of it.

This year's retreat, **Losing and Rediscovering God**, will be preached by Simeon Gallagher, OFM, Cap., a gifted Franciscan known for his warmth, wisdom, and engaging preaching. Over four days, he will guide us on a journey of renewal — a time to reflect, pray, and open our hearts more deeply to God's presence.

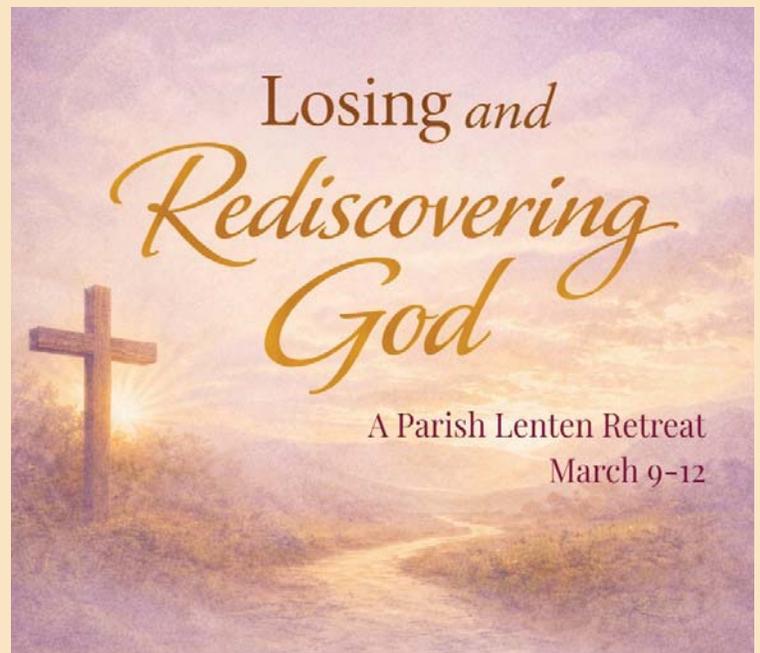
The retreat will take place **March 9–12**, with two opportunities each day in the church:

9:00 AM Mass (Monday–Thursday)

7:00 PM Evening Retreat (Monday–Thursday)

The **same retreat message** will be offered at both the morning Mass and the evening session each day, making it easy to attend at the time that works best for you — whether mornings, evenings, or a combination throughout the week.

Have you ever felt that God was distant, quiet, or hard to recognize? This retreat creates a gentle, prayerful space to explore those moments honestly — and to rediscover how God is present even in

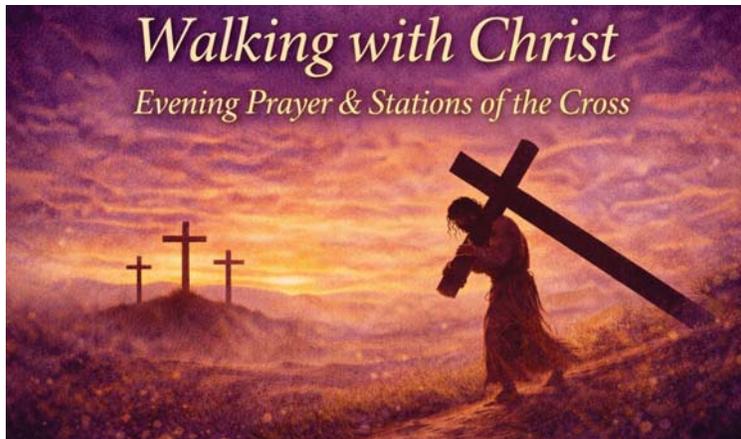


the ordinary rhythms of our lives. Each session will be accessible, welcoming, and rooted in hope.

Whether you attend one evening or all four days, this is a beautiful opportunity to pause, reflect, and allow the Lord to renew your heart.

All are welcome. Come as you are — and let this Lent become a turning point, drawing you closer to the God who never stops seeking you.

Walking with Christ Lenten Series



Due to the snow cancellation last Friday evening, we opted to combine the first two Sorrowful Mysteries for this past Friday as we began our **Walking with Christ Lenten series**.

Together, we reflected on the **Agony in the Garden and the Scourging at the Pillar**. We entered into the sorrow of Gethsemane, where Jesus surrendered Himself completely to the Father's will, and then contemplated the suffering He endured at the pillar. Through Scripture, prayer, and reflection, we considered Christ's anguish, His loving obedience, and the depth of His mercy revealed through His wounds. The Cross ritual helped anchor our prayer, reminding us that we do not walk the road to Calvary alone.

This Friday, we continue our journey with the **Third Sorrowful Mystery: The Crowning with Thorns**. In this powerful mystery, we reflect on Christ's humiliation, His quiet strength, and the kingship revealed not in earthly power, but in sacrificial love.

Each week stands on its own, so all are welcome—whether you have attended previous evenings or are joining us 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.**

**Please note: Because our parish will be engaged in the week-long Lenten retreat "Losing and Rediscovering God," there will be no "Walking with Christ" session on Friday, March 13.*

Baby Shower Donation Drive



Last week, we introduced our Confirmation Program's Baby Shower Donation Drive to benefit Abundant Hope Pregnancy Center. We warmly invite our parish family to participate in this beautiful opportunity to support mothers and their babies in need.

As part of their preparation for the Sacrament of Confirmation, our students are learning that faith is lived through acts of compassion and service. Your generosity helps teach them what it means to be witnesses of Christ's love in action.

Through this simple act of giving, we help our young people discover that discipleship means caring for the most vulnerable and supporting families with dignity and hope.

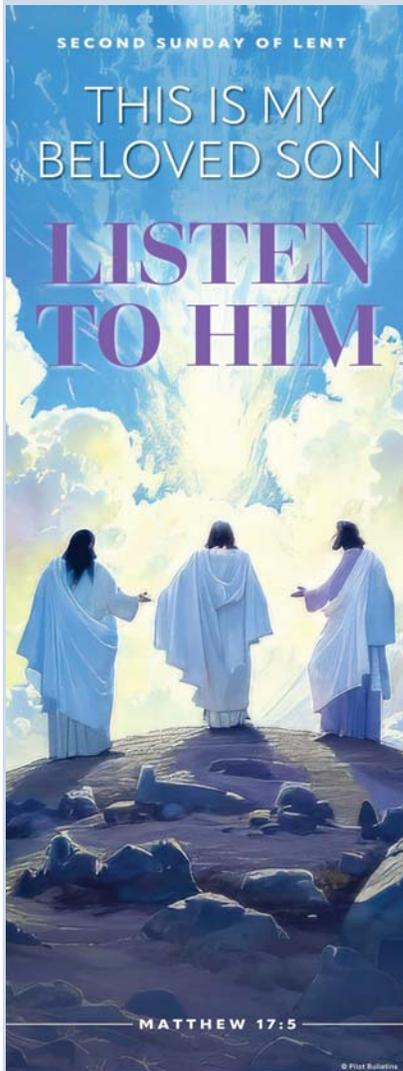
Items Needed:

- **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**

Items may be dropped off at the front entrance of the church through **March 8 in the pack and play**.

Thank you for your continued generosity and for supporting our Confirmation students as they grow in faith and service.

This Is My Beloved Son: A Glimpse of Glory



On the high mountain, Peter, James, and John were granted a glimpse of something extraordinary—a vision of Jesus transfigured, radiant with divine glory, conversing with Moses and Elijah. It was a moment of awe and wonder, a fleeting experience of heaven touching earth. In that instant, the disciples saw not just the humanity of Jesus, but the fullness of God shining through him.

Then came the voice from the cloud, the Father’s unmistakable proclamation: “This is my beloved Son.” These words anchor the entire scene. They reveal who Jesus truly is and remind the disciples—and us—that the glory before them is not an illusion but the very presence of God dwelling among His people.

Peter’s response, “Lord, it is good that we are here,” echoes our own longing to pause, to dwell in the sacred, and to build “tents” where we might linger in God’s presence. Yet even in such moments, God calls us gently back to the ordinary path of life: “Rise, and do not be afraid.”

This vision is not simply a story of a mountaintop experience long ago. It is an invitation for each of us today—to notice the moments of light in our own lives, to recognize Christ’s presence in the everyday, and to trust that God walks with us even in fear or uncertainty. The glory we glimpse on the mountain is meant to guide us down into the valley, into our families, our communities, and our daily living, carrying the hope and love of Christ wherever we go.

As we journey through Lent, may we open our hearts to these moments of transformation. And may we, like the disciples, be attentive to Jesus’ voice, trusting in his promise and responding with courage and faith.

Together We Are One



Next weekend, our parish—along with the whole Archdiocese—will begin the 2026 Catholic Appeal. I warmly encourage you to join me in supporting this year’s Appeal, a vital way we share Christ’s care and hope with those in need.

If you have already made a gift, thank you for your generosity. As a parish, we are striving for full participation. When we reach our goal of \$94,000, our parish will also receive funds back to support our own ministries. To make an online gift, please visit www.bostoncatholicappeal.org or scan the QR code.



Prayer Shawl Ministry



Thank you to those who have already expressed interest in our new Prayer Shawl Ministry. We are grateful for the wonderful response and hope to schedule our first introductory meeting in

the coming weeks.

If you knit or crochet and would still like to be part of this ministry — creating prayerfully made shawls for our homebound parishioners and those in need of comfort — there is still time to join us.

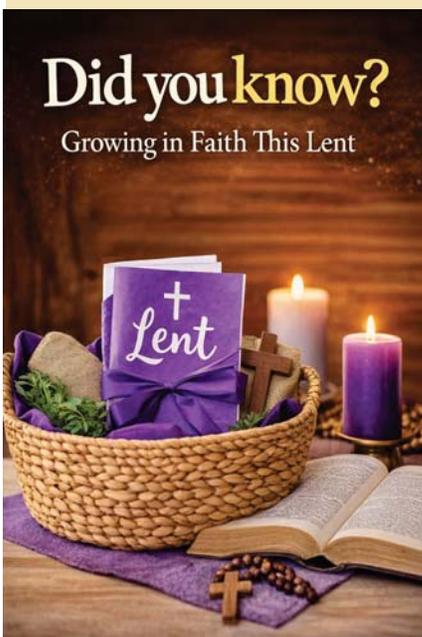
For more information or to express interest, please contact Nancy Cunniff at

ncunniff@cantonicatholic.org or 781-828-5130.

Did You Know? Growing in Faith

Why Prayer, Fasting, and Almsgiving?

The Church gives us three Lenten practices:



prayer, fasting, and almsgiving.

These are not random traditions or spiritual “extras.” They come directly from the Gospel (Matthew 6:1–18), where Jesus teaches His disciples how to return to the Father with sincere hearts.

Prayer draws us closer to God. Fasting strengthens our self-

discipline and frees us from unhealthy attachments.

Almsgiving turns our hearts outward in love toward others.

Together, these practices restore right relationship — with God, with ourselves, and with our neighbor. They form us into people who love more deeply and live more intentionally.

Lent is not meant to be a season of mere self-improvement. It is a season of transformation. Through prayer, fasting, and almsgiving, the Lord gently reshapes our desires and teaches us to live as true disciples.

Growing in Faith This Lent:

What is one concrete way you can deepen each of these practices this week — one step in prayer, one small sacrifice in fasting, and one intentional act of generosity?

Whatever Lenten practices we undertake, it is important to remember their purpose. Lenten practices are not about losing weight or quitting smoking, but they are about deepening our baptismal identity as children of God and members of the Body of Christ.

– Living Liturgy 2007

A Bit of St. Mary Cemetery History

The Friends of Irish Research (a local group) worked on a historical project which began twenty-one years before its completion in 2014. The undertaking started in the fall of 1993, the aim of the project was to document all the names of those laid to rest in the oldest section of St. Mary’s Cemetery and was a collective effort by volunteers from various organizations such as The Irish Ancestral Research Association, the Canton Historical Society, the Stoughton Historical Society, and volunteers from the towns of Canton, Sharon, and Stoughton.



We are incredibly grateful for their effort, as we are the beneficiaries of their work. The documents they created have allowed St. Mary Cemetery Staff to research burial information that otherwise would be difficult to find. St. Mary’s Cemetery was established in 1847, which was prior to the founding of the first Catholic parish in Canton.

Some of our current parishioners and community members may be aware of this project and may have even been a part of it. Our thanks and gratitude go out to those who were involved.

Often, people who are history enthusiasts search for places to witness the past. Our town of Canton, and particularly Old St. Mary Cemetery, is rich in historical findings, enjoy looking for them!

Sacrament of Baptism



The family of Callan Kennedy

Parish Directory

OFFICE (M-TH 9am-4pm) | Phone: 781-828-0090 x311 General Inquiries | Fax: 781-828-2520

CLERGY

Rev. Thomas S. Rafferty, x209
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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

NEW QR CODE



ParishSOFT

PARISH STAFF

Nancy T. Cunniff x203 781-828-5130
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Anne Guerini x315
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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



2nd Sunday of Lent

Lord, let your mercy be on us,
 as we place our trust in you.

Psalm 33:22

Saturday, February 28 9:00am~ 4:00pm~Warner Lund, Memorial
Sunday, March 1 8:00am~Dr. Bill Sullivan & Susan Sullivan, Memorial 10:00am~William Maher, Memorial 12:00pm~Joe Clifford, Memorial 5:00pm~Thomas Timmons, Memorial
Monday, March 2 9:00am~Virginia & Jack Hagerty, Memorial
Tuesday, March 3 9:00am~
Wednesday, March 4 9:00am~Greg Smith, Memorial
Thursday, March 5 9:00am~

To request a Mass Intention, please call 781-828-0090

Friday, March 6 9:00am~Janice Kussman, Memorial
Saturday, March 7 9:00am~ 4:00pm~Peter Camarra, Memorial
Sunday, March 8 8:00am~Don Novak, Memorial 10:00am~Francisco Andrade, Memorial 12:00pm~Alice Ogalin, Memorial 5:00pm~

Prayers and Sympathy



**Duncan MacLeod,
 Maria Soares**

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

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