



St. Oscar Romero Parish

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

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



Losing and Rediscovering God



Parish Lenten Retreat March 9-12
9:00 AM Mass | 7:00PM Evening Prayer

"You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart."

— Jeremiah 29:13

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."*

**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 with Stations of the Cross on Friday, March 13.*

Dear Friends,

We are delighted to welcome Father Simeon Gallagher, OFM, Cap, to our parish. Father Simeon will preach at this weekend's Masses. He will, as previously announced, conduct a Lenten Retreat this week. You can join the retreat at the 9:00am Mass Monday through Thursday, or each evening, for a Liturgy of the Word Service at 7:00pm.

This Sunday is the First Scrutiny for our OCIA (Formerly RCIA) candidates. They shall participate in the Rite of Handing on the Creed at the 10am. We will provide more information in the weeks ahead as they progress in their journey towards the Sacraments of Initiation at the Easter Vigil. We are grateful to Deacon Dan for all his efforts with this program.

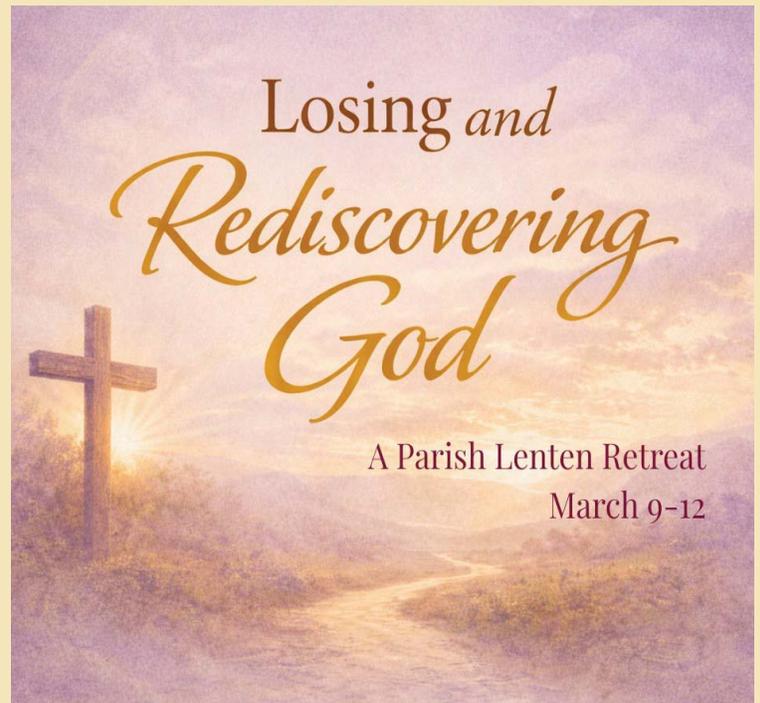
Yours in Christ,
Fr. Tom

The Retreat Is Here: Losing and Rediscovering God Begins This Week

As we continue our Lenten journey, the Church gently invites us to pause and look honestly at our hearts. There are seasons in every life when God can seem distant — when prayer feels quiet, faith feels fragile, or the path forward feels unclear. Yet the promise of Scripture remains steady: *"You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart."* (Jeremiah 29:13)

This week, from **March 9-12**, our Parish Lenten Retreat, **Losing and Rediscovering God**, will take place in the church. These days are a sacred opportunity to step away from the noise and allow the Lord to meet us exactly where we are. Through prayer, reflection, and thoughtful preaching, we will explore what it means to search for God in the midst of everyday life — and to rediscover His faithful presence walking beside us.

The **same retreat message** will be offered each day at the **9:00am Daily Mass** and again during the **7:00pm Liturgy of the Word service**, making it easy to participate at a time that fits your schedule. Come for one evening or join us for all four days. Each day stands on its own, and each day offers grace.



Whether you come carrying questions, weariness, hope, or longing, you are welcome. This Lent, give yourself the gift of time with the Lord. He has never stopped seeking you. Perhaps this week is His gentle invitation to rediscover Him anew.

The Journey of Our Elect

Our parish is blessed to walk alongside two members of our community, **Robert Tosi and Madison Fledderjohn** who will be fully initiated into the Catholic Church at the Easter Vigil. Under the faithful guidance of Deacon Dan Nelson, they have been preparing through prayer, study, and reflection through the **Order of Christian Initiation of Adults (OCIA)**.

You may remember this process by its former name, the **Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA)**. In 2021, the Church restored the original translation and now calls it the Order of Christian Initiation of Adults, emphasizing that this is not simply a program, but a sacred series of rites leading a person into full communion with Christ and His Church. On the Third Sunday of Lent, the Church celebrates the **First Scrutiny**. This solemn rite marks the beginning of a more intense period of preparation known as *Purification and Enlightenment*. The

Scrutinies are not about judgment, but about healing, as the Church prays that all that is good within the Elect may be strengthened.



Though celebrated for the Elect, the Scrutinies invite all of us to deeper conversion during Lent. During this sacred season, the Church also celebrates the **Handing on of the Creed**, when the faith of the Church is entrusted to the Elect. They will publicly profess this faith at the Easter Vigil, reminding all of us of our own baptismal promises.

Please continue to pray for our Elect, Robert and Madison and we warmly invite you to join us at the **Easter Vigil on Saturday evening, April 4**, to support and celebrate with them as they are welcomed fully into the life of the Church.

Lenten Giving to Support the Canton Food Pantry

LENTEN FOOD DRIVE
March 14 - March 22
Share What You Can. Feed Those in Need.

ITEMS NEEDED

Canned Foods	Peanut butter & Jelly
Pasta & Rice	Non-perishables
Cereal - hot & cold	Toiletries

Checks payable to:
The Canton Food Pantry

DROP OFF

Church Entrance

As we continue our Lenten journey of prayer, sacrifice, and charity, our parish is blessed to join with the **Canton Catholic Women's Club** and the **Knights of Columbus Council** in supporting this year's Lenten Food Drive.

The collection will take place from **March 14-22**. You are invited to participate in whatever way you are able, either through a monetary donation or by contributing non-perishable canned or dry goods. All donations may be placed in the bins at the entrance of the church.

Your generosity will be multiplied in a special way this year.

- All personal or business checks will be matched dollar-for-dollar through a \$1,200 Challenge Grant provided by our two parish co-sponsors. Checks may be made payable to the *Canton Food Pantry*.
- In addition, for every 500 lbs. of food and every \$500 in monetary donations, the Supreme Council of the Knights of Columbus will contribute an additional \$100, up to a total of \$500.

“Sir, Give Me This Water”

— John 4:5–42

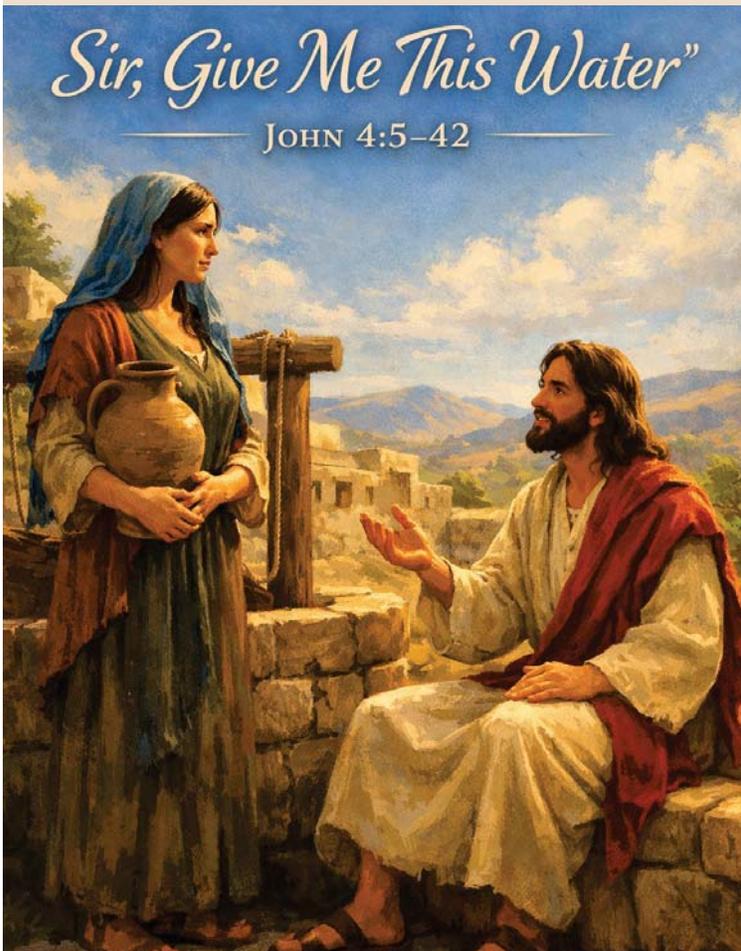
In the fourth chapter of the Gospel of John, Jesus meets the Woman at the Well — a woman who comes at noon, alone, likely carrying both water and a heavy heart.

Jesus crosses every boundary to speak with her. He asks for a drink and then offers her something far greater: “living water” — the grace of God that satisfies the deepest thirst of the soul.

When Jesus gently reveals her past, He does not condemn her. Instead, He reveals Himself. In that moment, shame gives way to encounter. She leaves her water jar behind and runs to tell others about Him.

This Gospel reminds us that we all thirst — for love, for mercy, for purpose. And Jesus still waits at the well of our lives, ready to offer living water.

May we have the courage to receive it — and the joy to share it.

*Prayer Shawl Ministry – An Invitation to Serve and Pray*

Thank you to everyone who has already expressed interest in our new Prayer Shawl Ministry. We are truly grateful for the wonderful response and the generosity of spirit in our parish community.

If you knit or crochet and would like to be part of this beautiful ministry — creating prayerfully made shawls for our homebound parishioners and those in need of comfort — we warmly invite you to take part. Knitters may choose to create shawls at home on their own schedule or gather with others for fellowship and shared prayer as we work. Each shawl will be made in prayer, asking the Lord to bring comfort, peace, and hope to the one who receives it. All skill levels are welcome, and there is no commitment required — simply come to learn more and see if this ministry is a good fit for you. Anyone who would like to take part is welcome to join at any time.

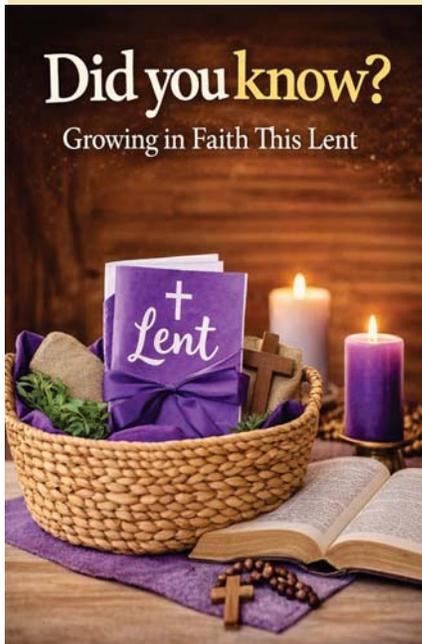
Anyone interested is invited to meet after the **10:00am Mass on Sunday, March 15**, in the lower church hall. We will gather for coffee and donuts and spend some time chatting about the vision and goals of this ministry, as well as the next steps.

For more information or to express interest, please contact Nancy Cunniff at ncunniff@cantoncatholic.org or 781-828-5130.



Did You Know? Growing in Faith

The Meaning of Fasting.



Fasting is more than skipping a meal. It is a spiritual discipline that teaches the heart freedom. In Scripture, fasting prepares people for deeper encounter with God — and Jesus Himself fasted in the desert before beginning His ministry.

When we fast, we experience a small hunger that re-

minds us we depend on God. It also reveals what we cling to for comfort. By setting those things aside, even briefly, we allow the Lord to reorder our desires and strengthen our souls.

Fasting is not about punishment — it is about love. It makes room for God and unites our small sacrifices to Christ’s sacrifice on the Cross.

Growing in Faith This Lent:

Consider offering your small sacrifices intentionally this week for someone who is struggling, ill, grieving, or in need of encouragement. Let your fasting become an act of hidden intercession.

Sunday Morning Coffee March 15 - 10am Mass



In honor of St. Patrick, the Patron Saint of our Archdiocese, Irish bread will be served in addition to our usual coffee, tea, and donuts, after the **10:00 am Mass next Sunday.**

The Remarkable Mayor Curley

You are warmly invited to a special presentation sponsored by the Canton Catholic Women’s Club (CCWC)!

THE MAYOR OF THE POOR



On **Wednesday, March 18**, following the **9:00am Mass**, the CCWC will host an engaging and inspiring look at the life and legacy of **James Michael Curley** — the legendary Boston mayor known as “The Mayor of the Poor.”

Serving multiple terms between 1914 and 1937, Mayor Curley championed the disadvantaged and left a lasting mark on Boston through major public works and strong advocacy for those in need.

Our presenter, **Larry Overlan**— a longtime resident of Canton—historian, adjunct professor, contributor to the Canton Citizen Newspaper, and devoted Curley enthusiast — will share insights into the mayor’s family life, political career, accomplishments, and enduring influence.

All are welcome — men, women, family, and friends! Please join us in the lower church hall for coffee and refreshments. **The presentation will begin at 10:00am.**

Come enjoy fellowship, history, and inspiration as we reflect on a leader whose life reminds us of the power of service and commitment to others.

Celebrating Our District Champions!

We’re proud to share that **Emma Novogratz** and **Nicholas Celia** both captured first place in the Knights of Columbus District Free Throw Competition. Emma won the girls’ age 10 division, and Nicholas won the boys’ age 14 division—a wonderful accomplishment for these talented young athletes.



Both students from St. John’s School will now advance to the regional round of the competition. Please join us in congratulating them and cheering them on as they continue their journey!

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

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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
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Anne Guerini x315
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Dora Foster
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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, March 7 9:00am~ 4:00pm~Peter Camarra, Memorial</p>
<p>Sunday, March 8 8:00am~Don Novak, Memorial 10:00am~Francisco Andrade, Memorial 12:00pm~Alice Ogalin, Memorial 5:00pm~Andy Andersen, Memorial</p>
<p>Monday, March 9 9:00am~Kenneth & Marie Croke, Memorial</p>
<p>Tuesday, March 10 9:00am~</p>
<p>Wednesday, March 11 9:00am~</p>
<p>Thursday, March 12 9:00am~</p>

<p>Friday, March 13 9:00am~</p>
<p>Saturday, March 14 9:00am~Christina Carty, Month's Mind 4:00pm~Susan Mulvey, Mildred & Harold Mulvey, Memorial</p>
<p>Sunday, March 15 8:00am~Denise M. Cogliano, Memorial 10:00am~ 12:00pm~Yanick Bayard, Memorial 5:00pm~</p>



Prayers and Sympathy
Christopher Lynch
Jennie Terminiello

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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