



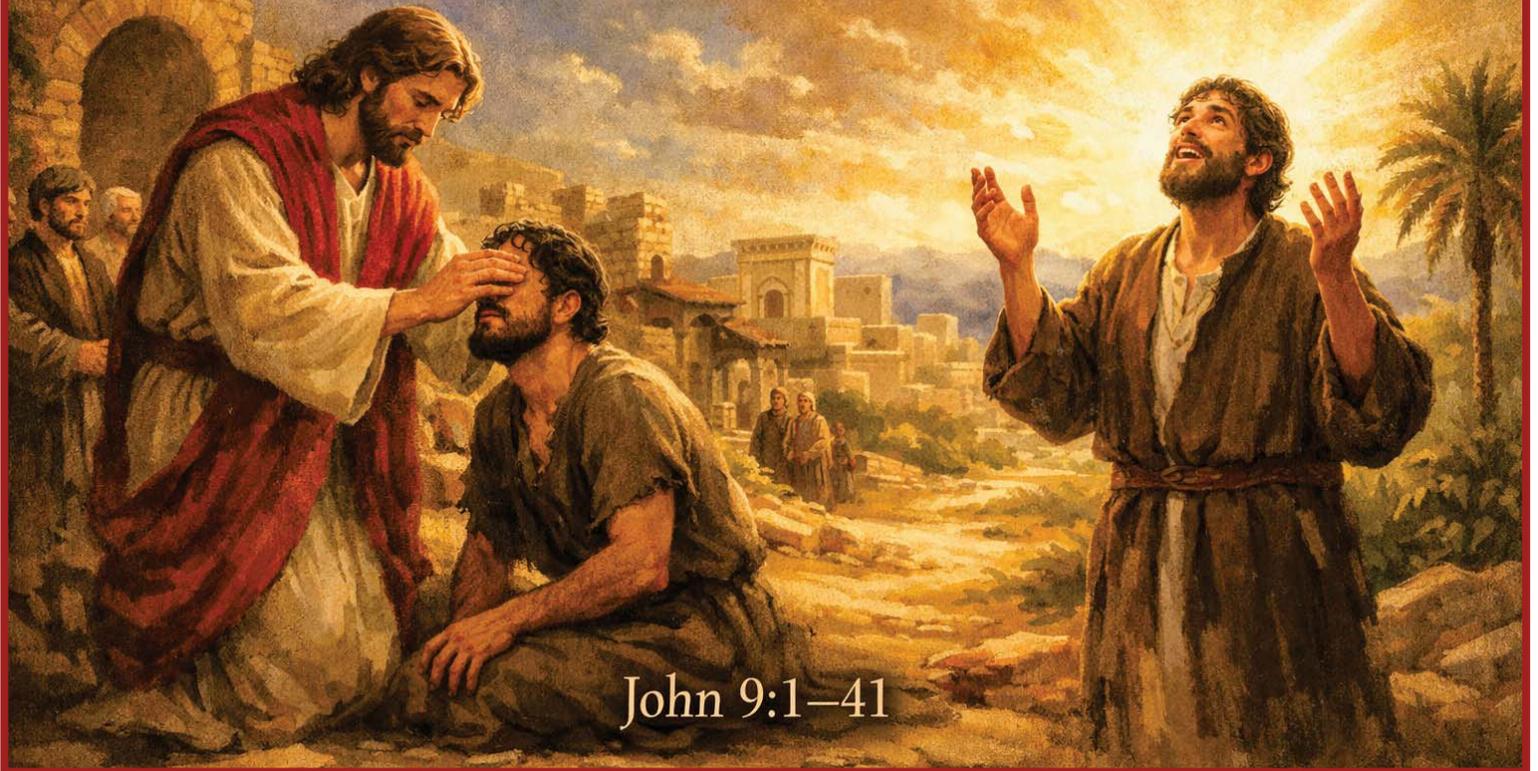
St. Oscar Romero Parish

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

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



The Man Born Blind



John 9:1-41

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,

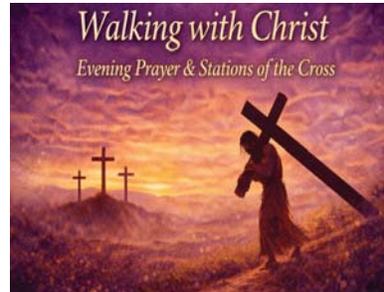
We can officially declare last week's Parish Lenten Retreat a resounding success. Like most attendees, I was incredibly impressed with Father Simeon Gallagher. What a preacher! The breadth and depth of his Scriptural, theological, and historical knowledge is unparalleled. The size of the crowds offered evidence that many thought the same thing. It had been many years since St. Gerard's or St. John's offered such a retreat. We will try to do so again next year.

Did anyone happen to see the February 25 story in the Boston Globe, or the March 6 editorial, regarding the plight of the Poor Clare Sisters and their Jamaica Plain property? Since the community moved from the Jamaica Plain convent to Westwood, Father Jeremy and I have been among the priests who celebrate Mass for them. As detailed in the Globe story, the Jamaica Plain facility was too big for the community and in need of extensive repairs. Their plan was to consolidate other sites at the Westwood cloister. However, due to objections raised by the Arnold Arboretum, Boston City Hall has held up the sale of the property. The Globe editorial noted the imbalance of power, a community of cloistered religious women versus Harvard University and the Arboretum.

There is a link on the Bulletin page of our website to the story and editorial. I am not sure what we can do to help the sisters. For sure, we can pray that the City of Boston moves forward with this project. As the editorial notes, its affordable housing component is good for the city. If, in addition, anyone knows something or someone that could help, I am sure the sisters would welcome your assistance.

Yours in Christ,
Fr. Tom

Walking With Christ — March 20



This week in our Lenten Evening Prayer series, we reflect on the Fourth Sorrowful Mystery: **Jesus Carries His Cross**. Together, we will walk with Him on the road to Calvary,

contemplating the weight He bore and the love that sustained Him. Through Scripture, prayer, and quiet reflection, and Stations of the Cross, we will consider our own burdens and the ways Christ meets us with strength and compassion. All are welcome to join us on this Lenten journey at **6:30pm in the church**.

A Baby Shower of Blessings



Thank you so much for your incredible generosity during our Lenten Baby Shower. Your outpouring of love—through baby items, essentials, and thoughtful gifts—will bring comfort, dignity, and hope to many women and babies served by Abundant Hope Pregnancy Center.

Because of you, mothers who are facing challenging circumstances will feel supported, and little ones will be welcomed with the warmth and care they deserve. What a beautiful witness of our parish living the heart of Lent: offering compassion, lifting up the vulnerable, and choosing love in action.

Please know how deeply grateful we are for every donation, every prayer, and every act of kindness. You have made a real difference, and your generosity shines Christ's light in a powerful way.

The Journey of Our Elect—the Second Scrutiny

On the **Fourth Sunday of Lent**, the Church celebrates the **Second Scrutiny** for those preparing to enter the Church through the Order of Christian Initiation of Adults (OCIA). During this sacred rite, the community prays in a special way for the Elect as they continue their final preparation for the Sacraments of Initiation at the Easter Vigil.

The Scrutinies are moments of prayer and reflection in which the Church asks God to strengthen what is good within the Elect and to heal anything that may separate them from the love of Christ. Rooted in the Gospel readings of Lent, these rites help the Elect grow in trust, faith, and openness to God’s grace.

The **Second Scrutiny** is closely connected to the Gospel story of Jesus healing the man born blind. Just as Jesus opened the man’s eyes to see the light, the Church prays that the Elect may grow in spiritual

sight, coming to see Christ more clearly and follow Him more faithfully.

Although the Scrutinies are celebrated for the Elect, they also invite all of us to deeper conversion during Lent. As we pray for those preparing to enter the Church, we are reminded to examine our own hearts and ask the Lord to open our eyes to His presence in our lives.

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.

From Darkness to Light

Reflecting on John 9:1-41

In the Gospel of John, Jesus meets a man who has lived his entire life in darkness — blind from birth. The disciples ask the question that still echoes in human hearts today: “*Who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?*” Jesus’ response turns their assumptions upside down. Neither the man nor his parents sinned; rather, his very brokenness becomes the place where the works of God will shine forth.

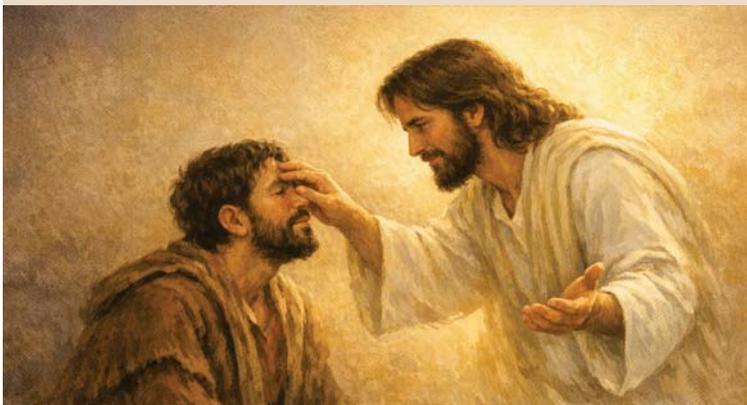
Jesus heals him, restoring his sight. But the miracle is more than physical. As the story unfolds, the man’s spiritual vision grows clearer and clearer. At first, he refers to Jesus simply as “*the man called Jesus.*” Later, he boldly proclaims Him a prophet. Finally, after encountering Jesus again, he recognizes Him as the Son of Man — and worships Him.

Meanwhile, those who believe they see perfectly — the religious leaders — cannot recognize the truth standing right in front of them. The Gospel draws a striking contrast: the one who was physically blind comes to see with the eyes of faith, while those who claim to see remain spiritually blind.

This story invites us to look honestly at our own lives. Where do we struggle to see clearly? What fears, habits, or assumptions cloud our vision? Are there places where we resist the light because it asks something of us?

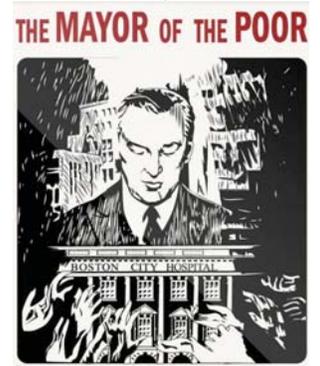
Lent is the season when Christ gently touches our eyes again. Through prayer, repentance, and quiet reflection, He leads us out of the shadows and into His healing light.

Like the man in the Gospel, may we have the courage to stand before Jesus with gratitude and say: “*I was blind, but now I see.*”



The Remarkable Mayor Curley

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



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.

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 this Sunday!**

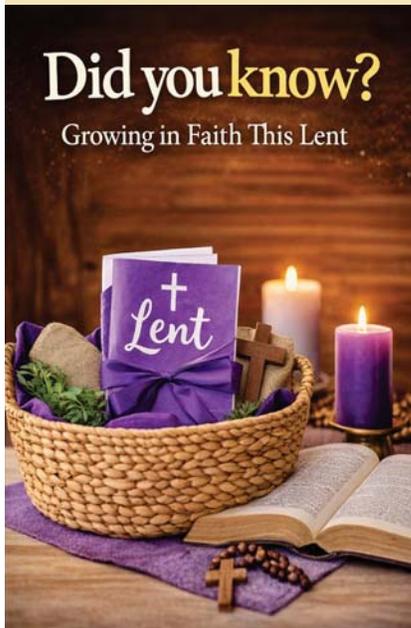
Together As One!

This weekend, the **2026 Catholic Appeal** launches across the Archdiocese of Boston! Please enter into solidarity with our brothers and sisters in need and spread hope by making a gift today. Thank you to those who have already responded generously to Archbishop Henning’s invitation to contribute. Through early support, our parish has already reached 53% of our goal and, together, we are on our way to greater success. Thank you!



Did You Know? Growing in Faith

Almsgiving as an Act of Love



Almsgiving is more than simply giving money or material help. It is an act of love rooted in our faith. Everything we have is a gift from God, and sharing with others reflects His generosity.

Throughout the Gospel, Jesus calls His followers to care for the poor, the suffering, and those in need. When we give to others — whether through our time,

kindness, encouragement, or resources — we participate in Christ’s compassion and become instruments of His love in the world.

Almsgiving reminds us that faith is not meant to be lived only privately. Love must take visible form in our actions.

Growing in Faith This Lent:

Look for one intentional way this week to share your time, kindness, or generosity with someone who may need it.



Canton Community Blood Drive

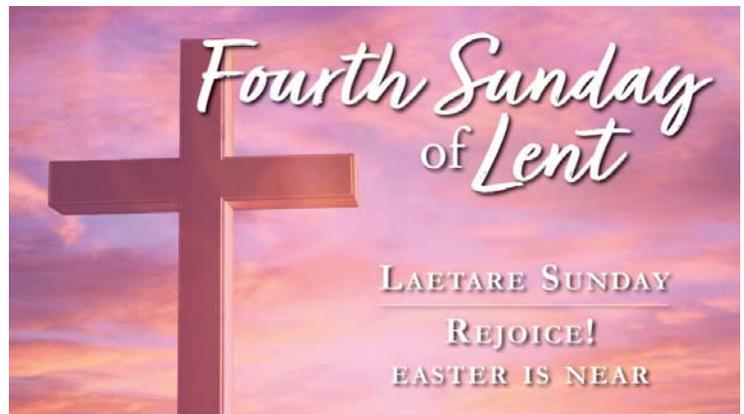
Knights of Columbus

The Canton Library - Community Room
786 Washington Street
Canton, MA 02021

Thursday, April 9, 2026
11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.



The Fourth Sunday of Lent:



Why We Rejoice on Laetare Sunday

This Fourth Sunday of Lent is called Laetare Sunday, from the Latin word meaning “rejoice.” The name comes from the Entrance Antiphon: *“Rejoice, Jerusalem.”*

In a season marked by prayer, fasting, and almsgiving, Laetare Sunday offers a gentle lifting of the Lenten tone. It is a reminder that even in the midst of our penitential journey, **God’s grace is already at work**, drawing us closer to the joy of Easter. The rose-colored vestments worn today reflect this spirit—lighter than the deep violet of Lent, they symbolize hope breaking through the shadows.

May this Sunday’s joy strengthen us for the weeks ahead, and may we continue our Lenten journey with hearts open to the transforming light of Christ.

Fourth Grade Stations of the Cross

St. John the Evangelist School’s fourth grade class, under the direction of Mrs. Angela McMillan, has been prayerfully preparing a live presentation of the **Stations of the Cross**. Their reverent portrayal offers a beautiful opportunity to enter more deeply into the spirit of Lent.



All parishioners are warmly invited to attend the performance on Wednesday, April 1, 2026, at 2:00pm.

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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Matthew 10:8

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PARISH STAFF

Nancy T. Cunniff x203 781-828-5130
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7-10 & Parish Communications
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Lorraine Olsen-Viola x316
Offertory, Donations & Online Giving
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Mike Mahan x304 or 617-460-2800
Youth Ministry & Outreach Programs
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Barbara McKenney x311
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Cemetery & Sacramental Inquiries
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Erin Sullivan x305 781-828-5130
First Communion, First Reconciliation
& Religious Education 1-6
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Maggie Rubenacker x312
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Maria White x216
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Adult Choirs
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PARISH SCHOOL

Chris Flieger, Ed.D.
Principal
chris.flieger@sjscanton.org

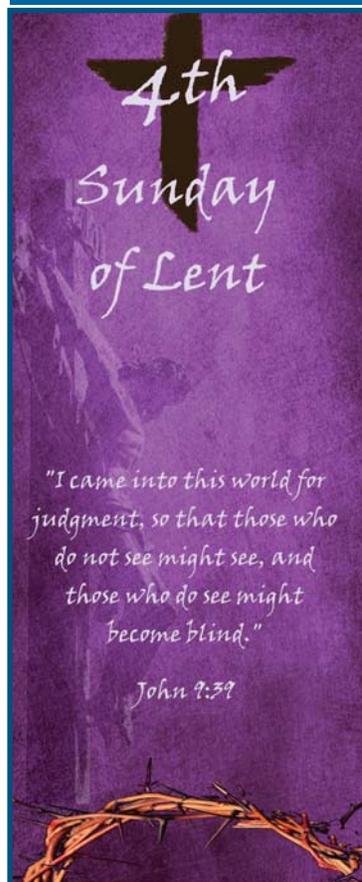
Anne Guerini x315
School Finance Office

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, 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~Mario Marganella, Memorial 12:00pm~Yanick Bayard, Memorial 5:00pm~</p>
<p>Monday, March 16 9:00am~</p>
<p>Tuesday, March 17 9:00am~</p>
<p>Wednesday, March 18 9:00am~</p>
<p>Thursday, March 19 9:00am~</p>

<p>Friday, March 20 9:00am~</p>
<p>Saturday, March 21 9:00am~Leo McNeil, Jr., Memorial 4:00pm~Warner Lund, Memorial</p>
<p>Sunday, March 22 8:00am~Robert Ducat, Memorial 10:00am~Celia Rocco, Memorial 12:00pm~Kate DeLello, Memorial 5:00pm~Kathleen Bohane, Memorial</p>



Prayers and Sympathy
Catherine Moore
Eleanor Barrile

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

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To request a Mass Intention,
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Bulletin Submissions are due by noon on Monday
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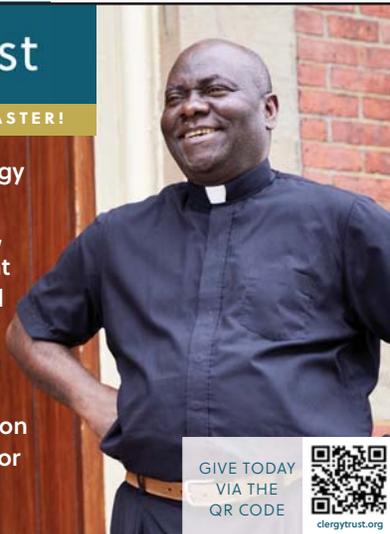
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