



St. Oscar Romero Parish

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

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



Fifth Sunday of Lent



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."*

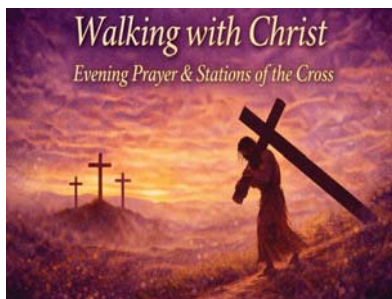


Dear Friends,

Next Sunday we begin Holy Week as we celebrate Palm Sunday. We will begin the 10:00am Mass with an outdoor Palm Procession, as long as the weather cooperates. Please note our schedule for the Sacred Triduum of **Holy Thursday, Good Friday, and the Easter Vigil**. We are fortunate to have so many committed parishioners whose contributions of time and talent enable us to celebrate these liturgies with reverence and devotion.

Yours in Christ,
Fr. Tom

Walking With Christ — March 27



This week in our Lenten Evening Prayer series, we reflect on the **Fifth Sorrowful Mystery: The Crucifixion**. Together, we will walk with Him on the road to Calvary, con-

templating 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**.



Blessing Our Church with Flowers

To help beautify our church for Easter, you are welcome to contribute to the parish Easter Flowers. If you receive offertory envelopes, please use the Easter Flowers envelope included in your packet. If not, simply place your donation in any envelope labeled **"Easter Flowers"** and include your name along with the names of loved ones you wish to remember, or email the names to Nancy Cunniff at ncunniff@cantoncatholic.org.

Donations for the flowers may also be dropped in the mailbox outside the administrative office, placed in the collection basket, or made through our online giving portal by scanning the QR code.



To ensure your intentions are included in the Easter bulletin, **please submit all names by March 29**. Names received after that date will be listed in the following week's bulletin.

When writing the names of loved ones, kindly print clearly so we may honor them accurately.

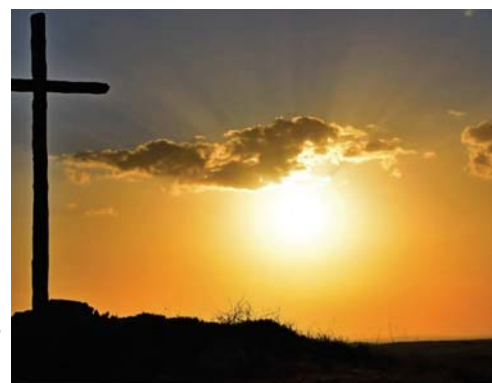
As we prepare to celebrate the Resurrection, these Easter Flowers become a beautiful sign of the hope we hold in Christ—a reminder that the love we shared with those who have gone before us is not lost, but transformed. Your remembrance helps fill our church with both beauty and prayer, lifting our hearts toward the promise of new life.

The Journey of Our Elect—the Third Scrutiny

This weekend, on the Fifth Sunday of Lent, our parish will celebrate the **Third Scrutiny** with those preparing to enter the Church through the Order of Christian Initiation of Adults (OCIA). These ancient rites, prayed during the final weeks of Lent, invite the whole community to intercede for the Elect as they draw closer to receiving the Sacraments of Initiation at the Easter Vigil.

The Scrutinies are moments of deep prayer in which the Church asks God to purify the hearts of the Elect, strengthen all that is good within them, and free them from anything that keeps them from fully embracing the life of Christ. Each Scrutiny is rooted in the Sunday Gospel, and the Third Scrutiny is closely connected to the raising of Lazarus—a powerful sign of Jesus’ authority over sin and death. As Jesus called Lazarus from the tomb, we pray that the Elect may experience newness of life and a renewed spirit as they prepare to enter the waters of Baptism.

Although these rites are celebrated for the Elect, they are also a grace-filled invitation for all of us. As we accompany **Robert and Madison** with our prayers, we are reminded to examine our own hearts and allow Christ to call us out of whatever “tombs” keep us from living fully in His light.



Please continue to pray for Robert and Madison, and we warmly invite you to join us at the **Easter Vigil on Saturday evening, April 4**, as we joyfully welcome them 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.

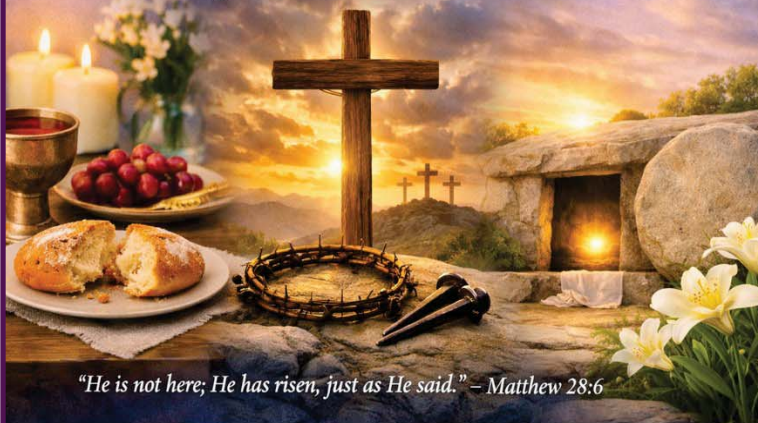
The collection will take place from **March 14-22**. You are invited to participate in whatever way you are able, either through a monetary donation or by contributing non-perishable canned or dry goods. All donations may be placed in the bins at the entrance of the church.

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.

Holy Week at Our Parish

Holy Week Schedule



"He is not here; He has risen, just as He said." – Matthew 28:6

Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord - March 29

Procession of Palms - 10:00 am Mass

All gather in the Mary Garden for the procession.

After the Opening Prayer, children will be invited to a Children's Liturgy of the Word.

Holy Thursday - April 2

9:00am - Morning Prayer

7:30pm - Mass of the Lord's Supper

Good Friday - April 3

9:00am - Morning Prayer

12:00pm - Family Stations of the Cross

3:00pm - Celebration of the Lord's Passion

7:30pm - Celebration of the Lord's Passion

Holy Saturday - April 4

9:00am - Morning Prayer

7:30pm - The Great Vigil of Easter

(No 4:00pm Mass on Holy Saturday)

Easter Sunday - April 5

8:00am, 10:00am, and 12:00 Noon Masses

(No 5:00pm Mass on Easter Sunday)

Please join us for these sacred celebrations as we journey through Holy Week and celebrate the joy of Easter together!

Called by Name: From the Tomb to Life

In this Gospel from John 11:1–45, we encounter both the deep humanity and the divine power of Jesus. When He arrives in Bethany, Lazarus has already been in the tomb for four days. Martha greets Him with both faith and sorrow: "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died." It is a feeling many of us understand when prayers seem unanswered or God feels distant.

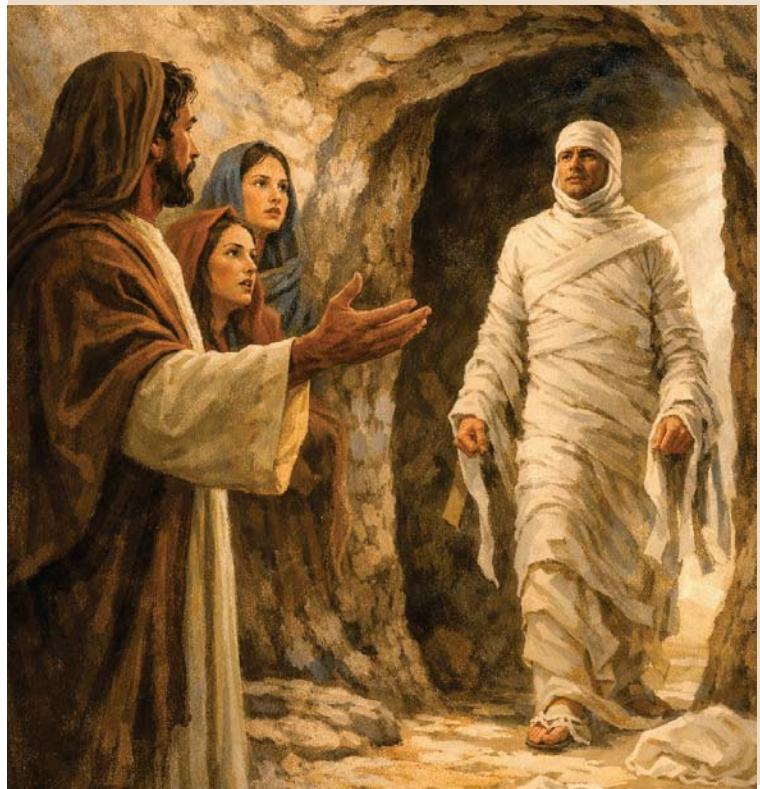
Jesus does not turn away from their grief—He enters into it. He weeps with them, revealing a God who is not removed from our suffering, but present within it.

Then, standing before the tomb, Jesus calls out, "Lazarus, come out!" With that command, death does not have the final word. Life breaks through, and hope is restored.

This Gospel is not only about Lazarus—it is about us. There are moments when parts of our lives feel closed off or buried—by fear, sin, or discouragement. Yet Jesus continues to call each of us by name, inviting us to step into new life.

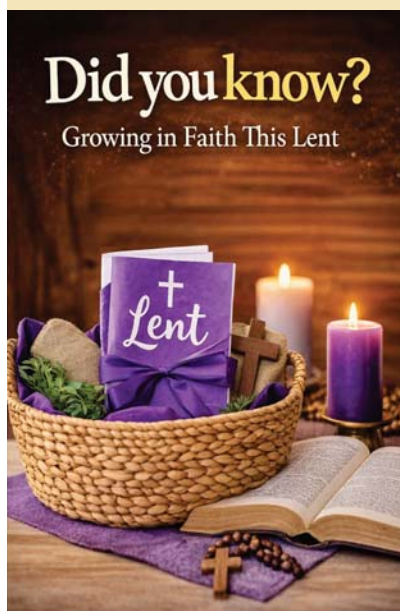
As we journey through Lent, we are reminded that Christ is always leading us out of darkness and into light.

The question remains: *will we come out?*



Did You Know? Growing in Faith

The Gift of Reconciliation



Lent is a privileged time to celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Through Confession, Christ meets us in our weakness, forgives our sins, and restores us to new life.

God never tires of offering mercy. No sin is greater than His love. In this sacrament, we do not encounter judgment, but healing — a personal invitation to

begin again.

Reconciliation is not only about forgiveness; it is about renewal. It prepares our hearts to enter more deeply into the mystery of Christ's Passion and Resurrection.

Growing in Faith This Lent:

Consider setting aside time this week to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation and experience the peace of God's mercy.

Sacrament of Baptism We Welcome You With Great Joy!



Tinsley Morse, Keegan McCarthy and Theodore Giza-Sisson

Fr. Mac Scholarship

Applications are being accepted for a \$2,500 scholarship to registered, active parishioners attending a Catholic High School in 2026-2027. Full details are available at www.cantoncatholic.org.
Deadline: **Friday, March 27, 2026.**

Remembrance Plaques

A Remembrance Wall has been established at St. Mary Cemetery as a place of prayer, gratitude, and lasting tribute. These engraved stone plaques offer a meaningful way to honor loved ones—living or deceased—whose memory we hold close to our hearts.



If you would like to have an individual or family name included on the Remembrance Wall, please contact Barbara McKenney at 781-828-0090 x311 or bmckenney@cantoncatholic.org for details.

Plaques ordered soon will be ready for installation by Memorial Day, a fitting time to remember those who have shaped our lives with love. A memorial plaque is a beautiful and heartfelt way to keep their legacy alive within our parish community.

Spring Maintenance Reminder

Our cemetery staff kindly asks that all winter decorations be removed from cemetery plots. This winter's extreme weather left many items buried under heavy snow, and we understand the delay.



With Easter approaching on April 5, we need to clear the grounds soon so that spring maintenance can begin.

Thank you for your cooperation and care for our cemetery. Our staff is truly grateful.

7th Grade Holy Spirit Pins

This weekend, our Faith Formation 7th graders will receive their **Confirmation Holy Spirit pins** during the 10:00 AM Mass. This special moment marks the completion of their **pre-Confirmation program** and celebrates their joyful step forward into next year's Grade 8 Confirmation preparation.



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

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
bmckenney@cantoncatholic.org

Erin Sullivan x305 781-828-5130
First Communion, First Reconciliation & Religious Education 1-6
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Maggie Rubenacker x312
Finance, Operations & HR
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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, March 21
 9:00am~Leo McNeil, Jr., Memorial
 4:00pm~Warner Lund, Memorial

Sunday, March 22
 8:00am~Robert Ducat, Memorial
 10:00am~Celia Rocco, Memorial
 12:00pm~Kate DeLello, Memorial
 5:00pm~Kathleen Bohane, Memorial

Monday, March 23
 9:00am~Edward O'Keefe, Memorial

Tuesday, March 24
 9:00am~Addie Sullivan, Memorial

Wednesday, March 25
 9:00am~Ruth & Leo McNeil, and Jeanne McNeil, Memorial

Thursday, March 26
 9:00am~Don Novak, Memorial

Friday, March 27
 9:00am~Jack Cash, Memorial

Saturday, March 28
 9:00am~Andrea Yoland, Gerard Augier, Memorial
 4:00pm~Thomas Raymond Long, Memorial

Sunday, March 29—Palm Sunday
 8:00am~
 10:00am~
 12:00pm~
 5:00pm~Catherine Bradley, Month's Mind



Prayers and Sympathy

Lucy Ronayne

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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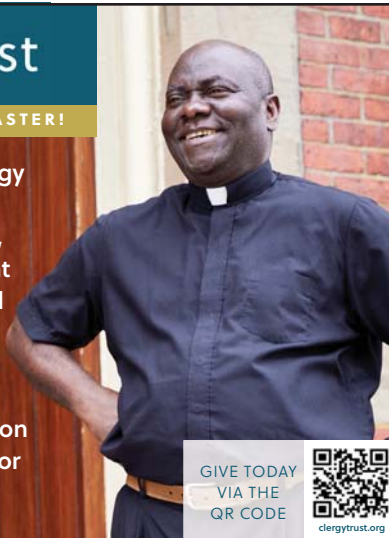
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