



St. Oscar Romero Parish

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

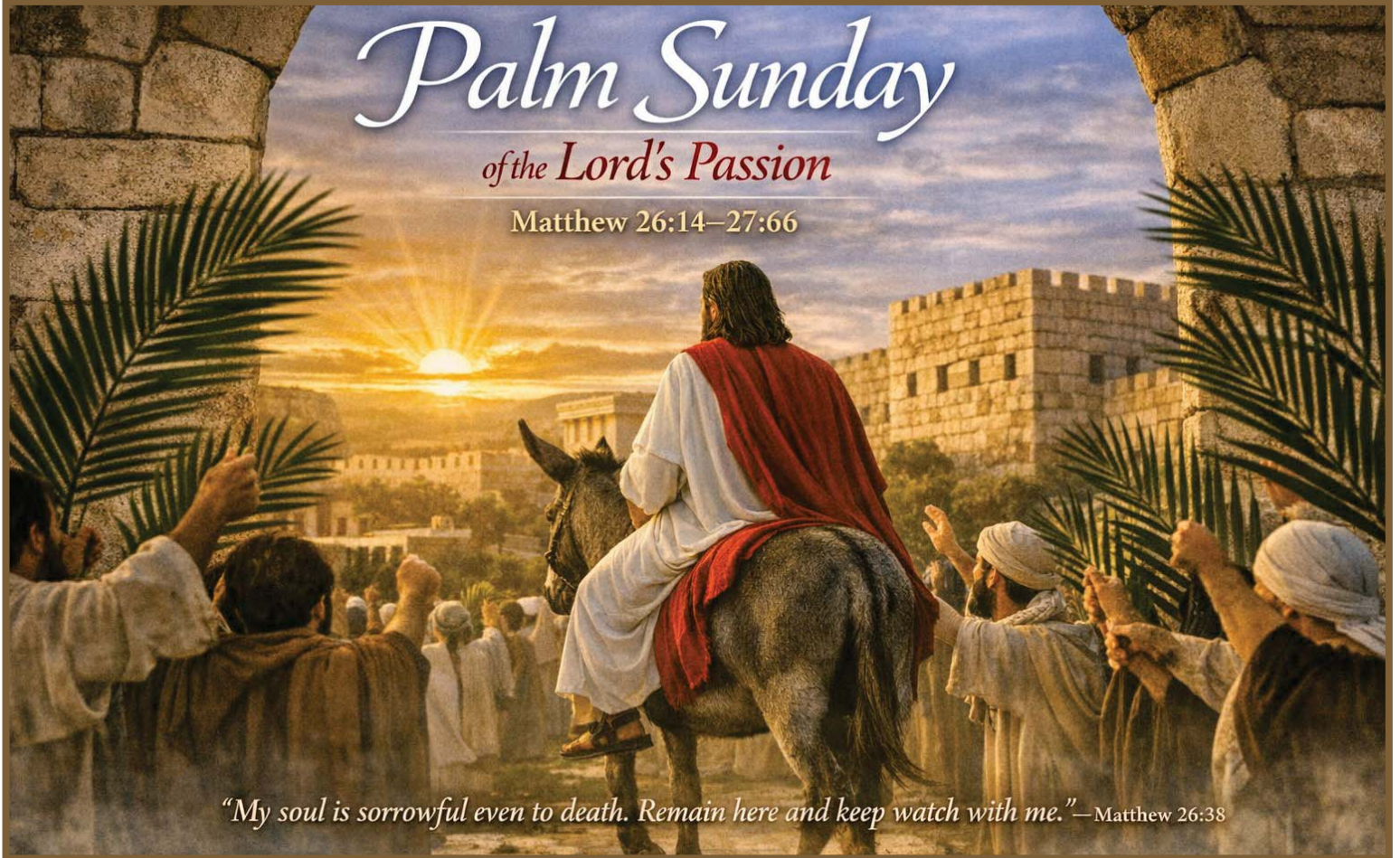
Parish Office: 781-828-0090 | Email: welcome@cantoncatholic.org



Palm Sunday

of the Lord's Passion

Matthew 26:14–27:66



"My soul is sorrowful even to death. Remain here and keep watch with me."—Matthew 26:38

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

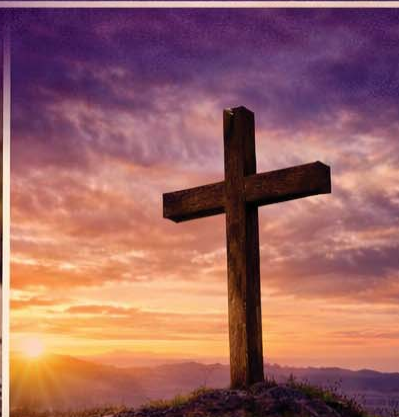
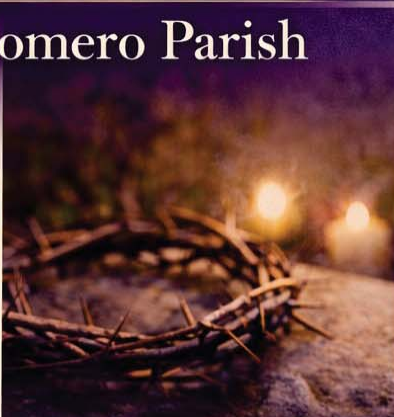
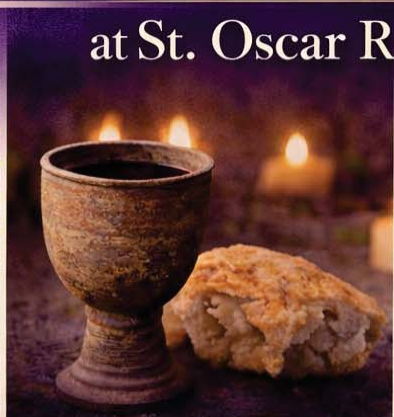
Catholic Men of Canton ~ 2nd Saturday of the month
8:00-9:30am in the Lower Church Hall or via a zoom link
option. Email jptjr2@gmail.com for more information.



*"Let us not tire of preaching love;
It is the force that will overcome the world."*

HOLY WEEK

at St. Oscar Romero Parish



Dear Friends,

At last Saturday's 4:00 p.m. Vigil Mass, we blessed the new thurible (for incense) that we will use during Holy Week and beyond. Please join me in thanking our Canton Catholic Women's Club for donating it. Last Saturday evening, I attended St. John School's Annual Gala. This fundraiser has been a significant source of the school's revenue. It also strengthens the bonds of community among our school and parish families. I am grateful to everyone who helped make the event so enjoyable and successful.

We now begin the holiest week of the year. On Tuesday, all the priests of the Archdiocese will gather at Holy Cross Cathedral for the celebration of the **Chrism Mass**. Archbishop Henning will bless the sacred oils that we use throughout the year. They will be formally brought into our parish at the Holy Thursday Mass.

On **Holy Thursday**, we re-enact Jesus' washing of the feet of his disciples. Then we move on to the celebration of the Eucharist. On this particular evening, it is a powerful re-enactment of Jesus' Last Supper with his Apostles. The liturgy concludes in solemn silence.

On **Good Friday**, we commemorate Jesus' Passion with solemn veneration of the Holy Cross. While the services at 3 and 7:30 pm are not Masses, they do include the distribution of Holy Communion. The **Easter Vigil** is celebrated at 7:30 pm on Saturday. This year, we have two catechumens who will be baptized, confirmed, and make their First Communion. It is a beautiful liturgy that begins with the Easter Fire, the chanting of the Exsultet by candlelight, and the blessing of Holy Water.

Our parish is blessed to have one of the best music programs in the Archdiocese. It so enhances the liturgy. I hope you will be able to join us.

Yours in Christ,
Fr. Tom

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!

A Gift That Enriches Our Liturgy

We are deeply grateful to the Canton Catholic Women's Club for their generous donation of a beautiful new thurible to our parish — a sacred vessel that will enrich our liturgies for years to come.

A thurible, also known as a censer, is a metal container suspended by chains, used to burn incense during Mass and other solemn celebrations. As the fragrant smoke rises, it symbolizes our prayers ascending to heaven — a visible sign of reverence, mystery, and the presence of the Holy Spirit.



You may see the thurible used during the Easter Vigil, funerals, Benediction, and other special liturgies. The priest or deacon swings it gently, enveloping the altar, the Gospel, or the faithful in clouds of incense. It is a moment that invites awe and reflection — a reminder that we are part of something sacred and eternal.

This new thurible, gifted with love by the Women's Club, will be used in many of these moments. It is more than a liturgical tool — it is a symbol of our community's devotion, generosity, and care for the beauty of worship.

We thank the Canton Catholic Women's Club for this meaningful gift. May it continue to lift our prayers and hearts to God, and may their kindness inspire all of us to offer what we can — in service, in beauty, and in love.



What is the Significance of Covering Statues During Lent?



In our Catholic tradition, the covering of statues and sacred images during the final two weeks of Lent—especially from the Fifth Sunday of Lent until Easter—helps us enter more deeply into the solemn mystery of Christ's Passion. When the familiar beauty of these images is veiled, the church takes on a more stark and contemplative character.

This simplicity mirrors the somber path Jesus walked and gently draws our attention to the depth of His suffering and the love that led Him to the Cross.

The veils remind us that, for a time, the glory of Christ was hidden. Yet even in that hiddenness, God's saving work was unfolding. As we move through these days of reflection and repentance, the covered images invite us to quiet our hearts, to feel the longing for Easter, and to prepare ourselves for the joy that will burst forth when the veils are lifted and Christ's Resurrection is proclaimed.

On Good Friday, the Cross is traditionally covered in red. During the liturgy, a Cross—brought into the church specifically for this moment—is slowly unveiled and presented for veneration. This powerful gesture allows the faithful to approach the Cross with reverence, gratitude, and love, honoring the One who gave His life for our salvation.

Support Our Priests: Easter Collection Benefiting the Clergy Trust

Our Easter collection benefits the Clergy Trust which cares for the health, well-being, and retirement needs of all active and senior diocesan priests in good standing. These parish collections are crucial for them to continue their mission, so any gift you're able to give is appreciated. Information to make your gift online is on page 7 of this bulletin or on the collection envelopes. Thank you so much for your generosity!

7th Grade Holy Spirit Pins

Our 7th graders joyfully received their **Confirmation Holy Spirit Pins** this past weekend, marking the completion of their 7th-grade pre-Confirmation program. We congratulate them as they now move forward into the **Grade 8 Confirmation preparation program**, where they will continue growing in faith and readiness to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation.

May the Holy Spirit guide them, strengthen them, and fill their families with peace and encouragement as they begin this next chapter of their journey.



Morning Prayer During the Sacred Triduum

All are invited to join us for **Morning Prayer during the Sacred Triduum at 9:00 am each day**. The Church does not celebrate Mass on the mornings of Holy Thursday, Good Friday, or Holy Saturday. These days are set apart in a unique way, and the liturgies of the Triduum—beginning with the Mass of the Lord's Supper on Holy Thursday evening—form one continuous celebration of the Paschal Mystery. Because of this, the mornings are reserved for quiet prayer, reflection, and the Liturgy of the Hours.

Gathering for Morning Prayer allows us to enter more deeply into these sacred days, uniting our hearts to the universal prayer of the Church as we prepare to walk with Christ through His Passion, Death, and Resurrection. May these moments of stillness and Scripture draw us closer to the Lord and ready our hearts for the joy of Easter.



Paving the Way Together

Thank you to all the parishioners who have so generously supported Pave the Way, our capital campaign to repair and repave the St. Oscar Romero parking lot. Your kindness is already making a visible difference in the safety, beauty, and accessibility of our parish grounds.

The total cost of the project was \$374,000, shared between the parish and the school. Thanks to an \$80,000 grant secured by our school and \$100,000 from parish capital savings, we set a goal of raising the remaining \$87,000 through parishioner support.

We are delighted to share that, through your generosity, we have already raised \$73,657. We are now just \$13,343 away from reaching our goal before the end of our fiscal year on June 30, 2026.

If you have not yet had the opportunity to contribute — or if you feel called to help us close the final gap — there are several simple ways to give. Donations may be made online through ParishSoft Giving, or by placing a check in the offertory basket marked “Pave the Way.” Some parishioners choose to give a small amount on a weekly or monthly basis, and these steady gifts have a meaningful impact. Truly, every contribution helps.

Thank you for your continued support and for the love you show our parish through your generosity. Together, we care for our spiritual home and ensure it remains a welcoming place for all who come to pray, learn, and gather.

Dancing with Grace: Daniel Sullivan's Prayer in Motion



For Daniel Sullivan, Irish step dancing is more than tradition — it's prayer. A lifelong parishioner, Daniel began dancing at age three and has grown into a twelve-time New England champion, earning recognition for his dedication and skill. Now a freshman at Villanova University, he continues to pursue both

his studies and his passion for dance.

His faith is at the heart of every performance. “There’s God and Jesus behind me in everything that I do,” he says.

Inspired by his older sisters, Daniel discovered early that dance is a way to express himself. Even amid the pressures of competition and college life, he finds peace in movement, finding in dance a source of strength, joy, and prayer.

Even as he pursues a career in economics, Daniel hopes to teach Irish dance one day — passing on the joy, the discipline, and the prayer that have shaped his journey.

Thank You

Our parish community once again showed extraordinary generosity during our recent Food Drive for the Canton Food Pantry. Thanks to your kindness, shelves will be fuller, families will be supported, and neighbors in need will feel the comfort of knowing their community cares for them.



Every can, every box, every bag makes a difference. Your donations are a beautiful expression of the Gospel call to feed the hungry and care for one another with compassion and dignity. Thank you for responding with such open hearts. May God bless you for the hope and nourishment you bring to others.

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
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Lorraine Olsen-Viola x316
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Youth Ministry & Outreach Programs
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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

PALM SUNDAY

TRULY,
 THIS WAS THE
 SON OF GOD!
 MATTHEW 27:54

| |
|---|
| <p>Saturday, March 28 9:00am~Andrea Yolande, Gerard Augier, Memorial 4:00pm~Thomas Raymond Long, Memorial</p> |
| <p>Sunday, March 29—Palm Sunday 8:00am~ 10:00am~ 12:00pm~Jesus Benedito, Memorial 5:00pm~Catherine Bradley, Month's Mind</p> |
| <p>Monday, March 30 9:00am~</p> |
| <p>Tuesday, March 31 9:00am~Kenneth Augier, Memorial</p> |
| <p>Wednesday, April 1 9:00am~</p> |
| <p>Thursday, April 2 Holy Thursday 9:00am~Morning Prayer 7:30pm~Mass of the Lord's Supper</p> |

| |
|--|
| <p>Friday, April 3 Good Friday 9:00am~Morning Prayer 3:00pm~Celebration of The Lord's Passion 7:30pm~Celebration of The Lord's Passion</p> |
| <p>Saturday, April 4 Holy Saturday 9:00am~Morning Prayer 7:30pm~Easter Vigil * NO 4:00pm Mass</p> |
| <p>Sunday, April 5 Easter Sunday 8:00am~Easter Memorials 10:00am~Easter Memorials 12:00pm~Easter Memorials 5:00pm~NO 5:00 pm Mass on Easter</p> |

Prayers and Sympathy

Paul E. McManus
Santo Zito

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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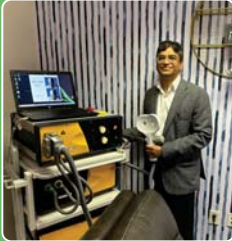


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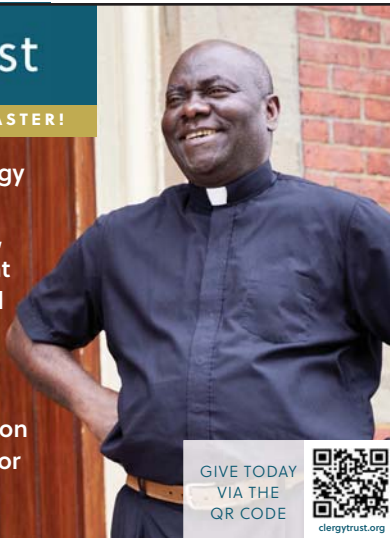
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