



St. Oscar Romero Parish

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

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



The Third Sunday of EASTER

*“He was made known to them
in the breaking of the bread.”*

Luke 24:13-35

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."*

The Parish Administrative Office will be closed on Monday, April 20 in observance of Patriots' Day.

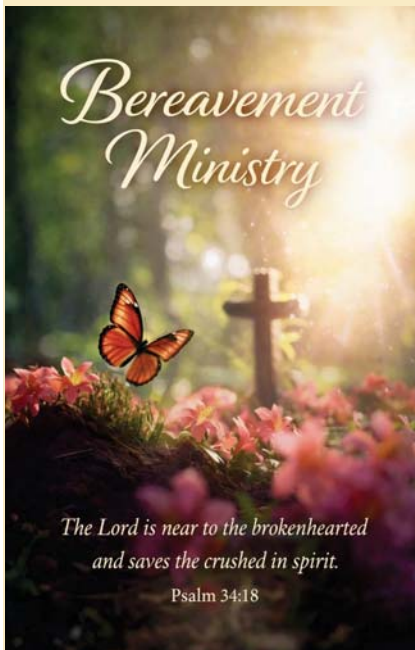
Dear Friends,



In 2013, while on pilgrimage to the Holy Land, we visited Emmaus Nicopolis, a Franciscan Monastery. It has long been considered to be the area in which the Risen Jesus appeared to two disciples as described in today's Gospel. While St. Luke doesn't tell us why they were unable to recognize Jesus, it is not an incidental factor. I think that we can occasionally not recognize Jesus' presence in our lives. Especially during times of difficulty, one can feel abandoned. It often takes only a bit of effort and patience to realize that he is with us. And that he can give us strength. When that occurs, as it did for the two after they broke bread with Jesus, we experience our own "Emmaus Moment."

In Christ,
Fr. Tom

Bereavement Ministry – Spring Session



Our parish **Bereavement Ministry** offers a compassionate place of support for anyone grieving the loss of a loved one. Led by **Deacon Dan Nelson**, a trained grief counselor, this ministry provides a gentle, caring space to share, to heal, and to find hope alongside others who understand the journey of grief.

The spring session begins: Wednesday, May 6 at 10:00 a.m. in the Upper Church.

Pre-registration is required.

If you are interested in learning more or would like to register, please call 781-828-0090 x311 or email bmckenney@cantoncatholic.org.

Please feel free to pass this information along to anyone who may find comfort in this ministry.

Discover Brotherhood and Service with the Knights of Columbus

The Knights of Columbus is a worldwide community of Catholic men striving to live their faith with purpose—supporting families, serving those in need, and standing together for the values that shape a compassionate and faith-filled life.



Our local council, **Father John J. Flatley Council No. 2095**, will be hosting a **Membership Drive at all Masses the weekend of April 25–26**. We invite the men of our parish to stop by, learn more, and consider how joining the Knights can deepen your faith, strengthen your family life, and connect you with a brotherhood committed to making a difference.

If you feel called to join now, you can sign up anytime at KofC.org/joinus. Be sure to enter **Council No. 2095** to connect with our local community.

We would be grateful to welcome you into this mission of faith, service, and fraternity.



Supporting Our Winter Snow Removal Costs

Now that the weather is finally improving, it's easy to forget how deeply our new parking lot—and all our parish properties—were buried under snow this winter. We are fortunate that the Town of Canton's Public Works Department does such a good job with snow removal. Our own maintenance team worked tirelessly throughout January, February, and March to keep the church, school, and cemetery safe and accessible.

These efforts came at a significant cost. This winter we expensed **\$19,905** across our parish properties:

- **Over \$15,500** for the Parish and School
- **\$4,500** at St. Mary's Cemetery to ensure clear paths and driveways for multiple funerals

If you are able, please consider making a donation to help offset these unexpected expenses.

Snow Fund envelopes are available at the back of the church and in the pews. You may also give online at www.cantoncatholic.org or scan the QR Code.



Your generosity helps ease the burden this winter placed on all three budgets. Thank you for your continued support.

Did You Know? – The Easter Candle

Did you know that the large candle you see near the altar during the Easter season has a story all its own? The **Easter Candle**, also called the **Paschal Candle**, is one of the most ancient and beautiful symbols in our Catholic tradition.

Each year at the Easter Vigil, this candle is blessed and lit from the new fire—a powerful sign that the light of Christ breaks through every darkness. As the flame is carried into the darkened church, we hear the words *“The Light of Christ”*, reminding us that the Risen Lord is not just a figure of the past but a living presence who guides His people today.

The candle is marked with the current year and the Greek letters **Alpha** and **Omega**, proclaiming that Christ is the beginning and the end of all things. Grains of incense are placed into the candle in the form of a cross, symbolizing the wounds of Christ and His victory over death.

Throughout the Easter season, the Paschal Candle stands near the altar, glowing at every Mass as a sign of resurrection hope. After Pentecost, it moves to the baptismal font, where it burns at every baptism—because the light of Christ is handed on to each newly baptized Christian. It is also lit at funerals, accompanying our loved ones with the same promise of eternal life.

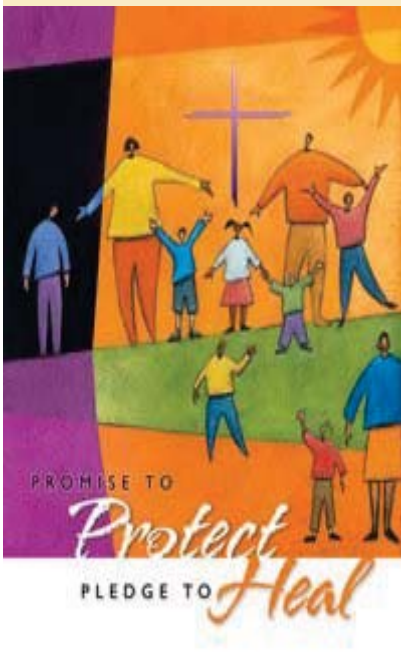
This single flame carries a whole message:
Christ is risen, and His light is stronger than any darkness we face.



Protecting God's Children

April is **Child Safety Month** in the Archdiocese of Boston.

As part of our commitment to creating safe, nurturing environments for all children and teens, the Archdiocese requires that every adult who serves with minors in our parishes and schools completes child abuse prevention training through the **VIRTUS Protecting God's Children** program. This training helps all of us recognize warning signs, respond appropriately, and foster a culture of safety and care.



We will be offering our next VIRTUS training session later this spring, and dates will be announced soon. If you have not yet completed the training, we warmly encourage you to join us in this important ministry of protection and vigilance for the young people entrusted to our parish community.

Why We Say Alleluia Again



During Lent, the Church sets aside the joyful word *Alleluia* — a Hebrew expression meaning “Praise the Lord!” — as we enter a season of repentance and preparation. Its

absence reminds us of the longing for Easter joy.

Now, in the Easter season, we sing *Alleluia* again with full hearts. It bursts forth in every Mass, hymn, and prayer because Christ is risen! The return of *Alleluia* is more than a change in words — it’s a change in spirit. It calls us to live as people of Resurrection hope, praising God not only with our voices but with our lives.

St. Mark the Evangelist — Messenger of the Good News

St. Mark, one of the four evangelists, is traditionally considered the author of the earliest written Gospel. His



writing is vivid and fast-moving — the word “*immediately*” appears more than 40 times — because Mark wants us to feel the urgency and joy of the Good News. A companion of St. Peter, Mark’s Gospel is often understood as reflecting Peter’s own memories of Jesus. Mark’s symbol is the winged lion, a sign of courage and proclamation. His Gospel ends with the women at the empty tomb, amazed and afraid — a very human response to the astonishing truth of Easter. Mark leaves the ending open, inviting *us* to step into the story and continue the proclamation. As we journey through these Easter weeks, St. Mark reminds us that the Resurrection is not just something to admire but a message to share with boldness, hope, and joy.

Sacrament of Baptism



Noah and Nicolas Mack and their family.

We Welcome You With Great Joy!

Stay With us, Lord



Reflection on Luke 24:13–35

The Emmaus story is one of the most tender and revealing moments in the Gospel. Two disciples walk away from Jerusalem with heavy hearts, their hopes shattered after Jesus' crucifixion. They speak honestly about their confusion and disappointment: *"We had hoped..."* — perhaps the most human phrase in all of Scripture. It captures that ache we know so well when life does not unfold as we prayed it would.

What they do not realize is that the Risen Christ has already come alongside them. He listens first. He lets them pour out their grief. Then, beginning with Moses and the prophets, He gently opens their eyes to the truth that God had been at work all along, even in the moments that felt like loss.

Still, they do not recognize Him — not until they offer a simple act of hospitality: *"Stay with us."* It is in the breaking of the bread, in that familiar gesture of blessing and sharing, that their eyes are finally opened. Suddenly everything becomes

clear. Their hearts, which had been weighed down, are now burning with new life.

This story reminds us that Christ often walks with us long before we recognize His presence. He meets us on our own roads — the ones marked by disappointment, uncertainty, or longing — and He patiently reveals Himself through Scripture, through community, and especially in the Eucharist. Like the disciples, we may only realize in hindsight that our hearts were being stirred, that grace was quietly at work.

As we continue through this Easter season, may we find the courage to utter the same invitation: *"Stay with us, Lord."* And may our eyes be opened to recognize Him in the breaking of the bread, in the warmth of shared faith, and in the quiet moments when our hearts begin to burn again with hope.

Scripture for the week: *"Were not our hearts burning within us while He spoke to us on the way..."* (Luke 24:32)

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

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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
erin@cantoncatholic.org

Maggie Rubenacker x312
Finance, Operations & HR
mrubenacker@cantoncatholic.org

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



<p>Saturday, April 18 9:00am~Mario Orbita, Margarita, Henry, Rogelio & Jaun—Mass of Thanksgiving 4:00pm~Helen McFadyen, Memorial</p>
<p>Sunday, April 19 8:00am~Barbara & James Sherlock, Memorial 10:00am~Sheila McCabe, Memorial 12:00pm~Alice Devine, Memorial 5:00pm~Leone Overton, Memorial</p>
<p>Monday, April 20 9:00am~Joanne Quirk, Memorial</p>
<p>Tuesday, April 21 9:00am~Gina Federico, Memorial</p>
<p>Wednesday, April 22 9:00am~Lucille St. Louis, Living Intention</p>
<p>Thursday, April 23 9:00am~Anne Afilantoni & Martina Ndugubam, Memorial</p>

<p>Friday, April 24 9:00am~</p>
<p>Saturday, April 25 9:00am~Jack & Peter Murphy, Living Intention and Maeve McMahan, Health Intention 4:00pm~Lucy Ronayne, Month's Mind</p>
<p>Sunday, April 26 8:00am~Noa Garson, Living Intention 10:00am~Fr. Mike McLellan, Memorial 12:00pm~Floyd Teague, Sr., Allan Doody, Sr. & Allan Doody, Jr. Memorial 5:00pm~Mr. & Mrs. Albert W. Sexton, Memorial</p>

Prayers and Sympathy



David Durant

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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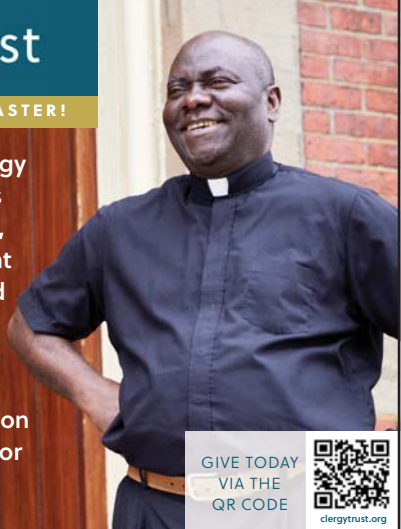
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