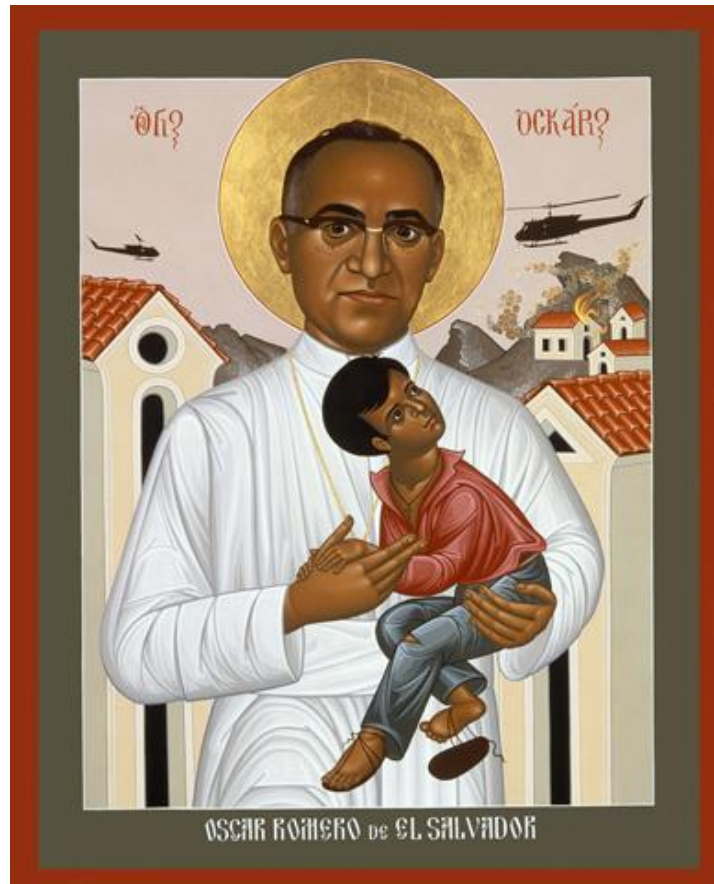


**DIOCESE OF CLEVELAND MISSION OFFICE
&
COAR PEACE MISSION**

Prayer Service



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**Celebration of the Martyrdom and Legacy
of St. Oscar A. Romero**

*in thanksgiving for all those who work with and sacrifice for
the people of El Salvador*

March 24, 2023 ~ 4th Week of Lent

Celebrated at:

St. Joseph Catholic Church * 12700 Pearl Road * Strongsville, Ohio 44136
Via livestream: coarpeacemission.org

Order of Service

Welcome

Mary Stevenson
Executive Director,
COAR Peace Mission

Entrance Hymn: Romero Hymn

Verses: 1, 2, 4, & 6
(sung to the tune of Ode to Joy)

God, you raise up true disciples, teachers, martyrs, deep in faith.
Like Romero, holy people, giving witness to your grace.
Let us listen to their voices, speaking of new ways to live.
By their words and by their actions, we may know the love you give.

Yours the gospel that disturbs us, words that must demand a choice;
Speaking to a broken people, hope for those who have no voice.
Stir in us your call to action, rouse us from our apathy.
In the places lost to darkness, we will shine for all to see.

In the gift of your creation, you provide for every need.
Yet we squander earth's resources just to satisfy our greed.
Turn our eyes to see the anguish on the faces of the poor.
Open wide our hearts and hands to help the needy at our door.

Brought together by your Spirit, one in you, our risen Lord,
Now you send us as your chosen, hearts emboldened, hope restored.
Like Romero, we will serve you and whatever may befall,
We'll devote ourselves to justice and the common good of all.

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Adorning the Altar

Cross

Chris Janezic
COAR Peace Mission Board Member

Flowers

Joe Raguso
COAR Peace Mission Board Member
John Hannon
St. Rita Parish

Basket of Prayer Intentions

Dee Downey
St. Joseph Catholic Church

Opening Remarks	The Most Reverend Michael G. Woost Auxiliary Bishop, Diocese of Cleveland
Opening Prayer	Reverend Steve Vellenga Diocese of Cleveland Mission Office
<p>In the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit ...</p> <p>Christ of the margins, help us to recognize you in the faces of the poorest and most vulnerable people. Be with us as we gather together and pray that your justice will reign throughout the earth.</p> <p>We pray that we may, in the spirit of St. Oscar Romero, be courageous enough to speak out on behalf of those who face injustice, no matter the cost.</p> <p>In your name we pray. Amen</p>	
Reading <i>Luke 4:16-21</i>	Mary Ann Tinus St. Rita Parish
<p>A reading from the Gospel of Luke:</p> <p>Jesus came to Nazareth, where he had grown up, and went according to his custom into the synagogue on the Sabbath day. He stood up to read and was handed a scroll of the prophet Isaiah. He unrolled the scroll and found the passage where it was written: “The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring glad tidings to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim liberty to captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free, and to proclaim a year acceptable to the Lord.” Rolling up the scroll, he handed it back to the attendant and sat down, and the eyes of all in the synagogue looked intently at him. He said to them, “Today this scripture passage is fulfilled in your hearing.”</p> <p>The Word of the Lord</p> <p><i>Response: Thanks be to God</i></p>	
Reflection	Reverend Steve Vellenga
<p>Saint Oscar Arnulfo Romero was born in Ciudad Barrios, the department of San Miguel, El Salvador, on August 15, 1917. He was ordained a priest in Rome on April 4, 1942, ordained a bishop on June 21, 1970, and installed as Archbishop of San Salvador on February 22, 1977.</p>	

From his life as a student, as a young priest, and in his later ministry, one can see in him the profound depth of his life, his interiority, and his spirit of union with God, the root, source, and summit of all his existence.

In the midst of a history of suffering that he lived and shared with the poor, his unshakeable faith in the Lord of Life, his hope of seeing in El Salvador the Christian reality of a new

heaven and a new earth, and a charity, not simply announced but embodied in the fate of the poor, with the people of El Salvador, from them, and for the good of all, Oscar Romero proclaimed the absolute human dignity that God has given to humanity.

We just heard in today's gospel that Jesus proclaimed the words of the prophet Isaiah at his synagogue in Nazareth, that He was the anointed one who was sent to "bring glad tidings to the poor, to proclaim liberty to captives, recover of sight to the blind, and release to prisoners," and that "today, this scripture passage is fulfilled in your hearing". This gave meaning to a preferential option for the poor, assumed in the flesh of the Son of God and proclaimed by the Latin American Church pastoral teaching in the Medellin, Colombia and Puebla, Mexico documents, and was for Oscar Romero a particular way of teaching, living, and proclaiming the reign of God to the Salvadoran people and from it to be the "voice of the voiceless", making alive his episcopal motto "Sentir con la iglesia" (to be of one mind and one heart with the Church), being for the poor of El Salvador a model pastor who knew how to always be at the side of those most in need.

He carried out this Archdiocesan ministry in a climate of constant threats and torturous harassment of sin and death. His life as an Archbishop was lived between the persecutions of the world and the consolations of God.

On March 24, 1980, while celebrating the Eucharist on the altar of the Chapel of the Divine Providence Hospital, Oscar Romero was shot down by a well-aimed bullet. Thus, they ended his mortal life and his fruitful three years of public life as Archbishop of San Salvador.

His martyred death has forever sealed the meaning of his life and has become good news for the men and women of our contemporary world. His death is the true symbol of many martyrs, especially of the multitude of anonymous martyrs, because his disposition was always to give his life for God.

Word and Song

God Has Chosen Me

Reader

Reader

Deacon Mark Janezic
St. Rita Parish

John Novak
St. Joseph Catholic Church

Word and Song

*God has chosen me, God has chosen me to bring good news to the poor.
God has chosen me, God has chosen me to bring new sight to those searching for
light.*

*God has chosen me, chosen me:
And to tell the world that God's kingdom is near,
to remove oppression and break down fear,
yes, God's time is near, God's time is near, God's time is near.*

Lord, I was a pile of ash and you made me a light for the world
I was a stone and you made me salt for the earth
I was as lifeless as clay and you made me part of the Body of Christ
I was sinful and you made me holy.
I was nothing and you made me part of everything

*God has chosen me, God has chosen me to set alight a new fire.
God has chosen me, God has chosen me to bring to birth a new kingdom on earth.
God has chosen me, chosen me:
And to tell the world that God's kingdom is near,
to remove oppression and break down fear,
yes, God's time is near, God's time is near, God's time is near.*

Lord, in you I am transformed and transformed still again
When the discouraged cry for hope, make me hope
When the hungry cry for bread, make me bread
When the thirsty cry for water, make me water
When the suffering cry for help, make me help
When the sick cry for healing, make me healing
When the bound cry for freedom, make me freedom
When the outcasts cry for love, make me love

*God is calling me, God is calling me in all whose cry is unheard.
God is calling me, God is calling me to raise up the voice with no power or choice.
God is calling me, calling me:
And to tell the world that God's kingdom is near,
to remove oppression and break down fear,
yes, God's time is near, God's time is near, God's time is near.*

Lord who is hope,
who is bread and water,
who is help and healing,
who is freedom, and who is love,
Transform me anew, and so keep me close to you,
as you transform the world.
Amen.

Intercessions

Reverend Robert Sanson
 Pastor Emeritus
 St. Joseph Catholic Church

PRESIDER:

As we celebrate the life of St. Oscar Romero, we lift up our hearts and prayers.

LECTOR:

For the faith filled people of El Salvador, that they will find peace amidst the violence, we pray...

Lord, hear our prayer

That we may find ways to comfort those who suffer around the world, especially victims of violence, those who go without food or water and all who continue to live in fear, we pray...

Lord, hear our prayer

That political leaders around the globe will put the poorest and most vulnerable first, we pray...

Lord, hear our prayer

For both the Cleveland Latin American and COAR Peace Missions, that their goals of peace and justice become as real as St. Romero envisioned, we pray.

Lord, hear our prayer

For all of us gathered here: that we will not be indifferent to the suffering of our brothers and sisters; but that, like St. Oscar Romero, we will rise up on their behalf, even when it is uncomfortable or unpopular, we pray...

Lord, hear our prayer

For sainthood for Rutillio Grande and the Cleveland church women, we pray...

Lord, hear our prayer

For the Lenten transformation of our hearts, through prayer, fasting and almsgiving, we pray...

Lord, hear our prayer

For those prayers we hold in the silence of our hearts, and those placed in the basket at the foot of the altar, we pause now..., we pray...

Lord, hear our prayer

PRESIDER:

Loving Creator, we are so often overwhelmed by the difficulties in our lives. We ask you, through the intercession of St. Romero, to help us work through them and continue to be instruments of your peace for the world.

This we ask through Christ our Lord. Amen

<p>Blessing of groups, individuals, and organizations active in El Salvador</p>	<p>The Most Reverend Michael G. Woost</p>
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May God bless you with discomfort with easy answers, half-truths, and superficial relationships...

so that you will live deep within your heart.

Response: God has chosen me.

May God bless you with anger at injustice, oppression, and exploitation of people... so that you will work for justice, equity and peace.

Response: God has chosen me.

May God bless you with tears to shed for those who suffer from pain, rejection, starvation and war...

so that you will reach out your hand to comfort them and change their pain to joy.

Response: God has chosen me.

And may God bless you with the foolishness to think that you can make a difference in the world...

so that you will do the things which others tell you cannot be done.

Response: God has chosen me.

Christ Jesus,

We trust that you will walk with us on our journey of discipleship, wherever it may lead.

May our walk be one of true solidarity, as St. Romero's was.


AMEN

<p>Closing Hymn: God of the Poor (Beauty for Brokenness)</p>	<p>Verses 1 & 2 See next page</p>
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*Free will offering for the Diocese of Cleveland Mission Office
in the vestibule*

**Please join us for refreshments and fellowship in Holy Family Hall
at the conclusion of the Prayer Service!**

God of the Poor (Beauty for Brokenness)



1. Beau-ty for bro - ken-ness, hope for des - pair, Lord, in Your
 2. Shel-ter for fra - gile lives, cures for their ills, work for the
 3. Ref - uge from cruel - wars, ha - vens from fear, ci - ties for
 4. Rest for the rav - aged earth, o - ceans and streams, plun - dered and
 5. Ligh - ten our dark - ness, breathe on this flame un - til Your



suff' - ring world, this is our prayer: bread for the chil - dren,
 crafts - man, trade for their skills; land for the dis - pos - sessed,
 sanc - tu' - ry, free - doms to share; peace to the kil - ling fields,
 poi - sen - ed, our fu - ture, our dreams, Lord end our mad - ness,
 jus - tice burns bright - ly a - gain; un - til the na - tions




jus - tice, joy, peace, sun - rise to sun - set Your king - dom in -
 rights for the weak, voi - ces to plead the cause of those who can't
 scorched earth to green, Christ for the bit - ter - ness, His cross for the
 care - less - ness, greed, make us con - tent with the things that we
 learn of Your ways, seek Your sal - va - tion and bring You their

1. | 2. | Refrain




crease. crease. God of the poor, friend of the - weak, give us com - pas -
 speak. speak.
 pain. pain.
 need. need.
 praise. praise.



- sion we pray, melt our cold hearts, let tears fall like rain.

1. | 2.



Come, change our love from a spark to a flame. flame.

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Thanks

COAR Peace Mission and the Diocese of Cleveland Mission Office would like to thank the following groups and individuals who contributed to tonight's St. Romero Prayer Service:

- The Most Reverend Michael G. Woost
 - Auxiliary Bishop, Diocese of Cleveland
- Reverend Steve Vellenga
 - Director, Diocese of Cleveland Mission Office
 - Pastor, St. Mary Catholic Church, Painesville, OH
- Daphne Held
 - Event Chairperson and member, COAR Peace Mission Board of Directors
- Event Committee members:
 - John Hannon
- COAR Children's Village Staff and Residents
 - Archbishop José Luis Escobar Alas
 - Rev. Edwin Alexander Henríquez Márquez, Administrator
 - Licda. Marta Elizabeth Calderón Aguirre, Director
- St. Joseph Catholic Church, Strongsville, OH
 - Rev. Joe Mamich, Pastor
 - Rev. Kevin Klonowski, Parochial Vicar
 - Judy Rawlins, Office Manager
 - Amy Fraleigh, Music
 - Joe Putrino, IV, Livestream Admin
- COAR Peace Mission Board of Directors
- St. Mary Catholic Church, Painesville, OH
- St. Rita Parish, Solon, OH

All those donors and volunteers who work and sacrifice and pray for the well-being of the COAR children and the people of El Salvador, the living legacy of St. Oscar A. Romero.

www.coarpeacemission.org

<https://www.dioceseofcleveland.org/offices/mission-office/overview>

***¡Viva San Romero!
¡Que viva!***