



Diocese of Fall River

Office of the Bishop

Most Reverend Edgar M. da Cunha, S.D.V., D.D.

Holy Week - 2025

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

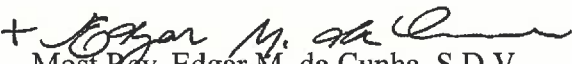
As we approach the sacred celebration of the Chrism Mass, I warmly invite each member of our Diocese to participate in this important Liturgy, which will take place at 4:00 PM on Tuesday, April 15, 2025, at St. Mary's Cathedral. The Chrism Mass is a time of profound unity and renewal for our diocesan family. During this Liturgy, we come together to pray for our priests, who will renew their sacred ordination promises, and to bless the holy oils that will be used in the Sacraments throughout the year.

This year's Chrism Mass holds special importance as we embark on our new three-year Diocesan Initiative: *Stronger Priests, Stronger Parishes, Stronger Church*. This initiative aims to profoundly strengthen our priesthood, which, with God's help, will lead to stronger parishes and a holy Diocese. Your presence and prayers at the Chrism Mass will be a powerful sign of solidarity and encouragement for our shepherds as we recommit ourselves to our sacred calling.

Moreover, as a Universal Church, this year marks the joyous occasion of commemorating the 100th anniversary of the canonization of Saint John Vianney, the patron saint of priests. Saint John Vianney's life and ministry exemplify the virtues of humility, pastoral zeal, and, above all, priestly holiness. The Church has given him to all priests as a Spiritual Father and powerful helper. His unwavering commitment to his parishioners and tireless efforts to bring them closer to Christ continue to inspire us all. Let us honor his example and seek his intercession by coming together in prayer and thanksgiving.

I greatly look forward to celebrating this Sacred Liturgy with you and witnessing the outpouring of grace that will surely flow from our united prayer and worship. May the Holy Spirit guide us and bless our efforts to serve Christ faithfully with wisdom, fortitude, and love.

Yours in Christ,

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Most Rev. Edgar M. da Cunha, S.D.V.



**The Stronger Priests,
Stronger Parishes,
Stronger Church Initiative
2025-2027**

A Time for Fortitude



Learn more at <https://www.fallriverdiocese.org/>

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