

CHARLESTOWN CATHOLIC COLLABORATIVE

Saint Mary–Saint Catherine of Siena and Saint Francis de Sales Parishes

Parish Center & Eucharistic Center, 46 Winthrop Street, 617-242-4664, charlestowncatholic.org

St. Francis Rectory, 303 Bunker Hill Street, 617-242-0147, info@charlestowncatholic.org

Charlestown, MA 02129

November 19, 2023

*Well done, my good and faithful
servant. Since you were faithful in
small matters, I will give you great
responsibilities.*

Matthew 25:23

WELCOME

*To visitors to our parish, to those who have recently moved into the area, and to those who are comfortable and nourished here—**welcome to all!** Please introduce yourself to the priest, and register as a member of our parishes.*

SAINT MARY - SAINT CATHERINE

Our Mission is to make active disciples of Jesus Christ by creating a welcoming community rich in spirituality and by moving people to share their God-given talents in the service of others and the care of creation.

We are an intentionally inclusive Roman Catholic parish that welcomes all those who make up our diverse community in a way that reflects God's love.

Nourished by the Gospel and the real presence of Jesus in the Eucharist, we strive to build a vibrant parish that strengthens our faith and elevates our worship.

SAINT FRANCIS DE SALES

Led by the Holy Spirit, the Parish Family of Saint Francis de Sales seeks to know and celebrate Jesus through Mass, Prayer, Sacrament and Service.

Saint Francis de Sales Church is the oldest consecrated church in New England, the oldest in the city of Boston in continuous service, and the fourth oldest in America, built in 1859, on the top of Bunker Hill. Saint Francis is known affectionately as the Firefighter's church – The statue of St. Florian, patron saint, is located in the bell yard next to the church.

Mass Schedule

Saturdays at 9 am, Holidays at 9 am

8:00 am Masses — Weekdays
St. Catherine Chapel
at St. Mary Church

Weekend Masses

Saturday

9 am St. Mary- St. Catherine

4 pm St. Francis de Sales

4 pm St. Mary - St. Catherine

Sunday

8 am St. Mary- St. Catherine

9:30 am St. Francis de Sales

11 am St. Mary - St. Catherine

6 pm St. Mary - St. Catherine

Pastor

Fr. John Sheridan

Pastoral Associate

Sr. Nancy Citro, SNDdeN

Finance & Operations Manager

James Santosuosso

Social Ministry Director

Thomas J. MacDonald

Pastoral Assistant, Faith Formation

Allison Buff

Confirmation Director

Cynthia Markey

Director of Music

John Anthony Volpe

Administrative Assistant

Dianne Ludy

Hispanic Ministry

Blanca Paz

St Francis de Sales

Pastoral Assistant

Joan C. Rae

Music Director

Timothy Leahy

Clergy in Residence

Fr. Jerome Gillespie
Fr. Anthony Nweke C.S.S.p.
Fr. Britto Dhinakaran
Fr. Mark Shimave

Email

info@charlestowncatholic.org



Mairead Ryan Tobin Baptized 11/12



Lydia Jane Midon Baptized 11/12

A Celebration of Convalidation (2/11/2024)

Married couples desiring holy matrimony in the Catholic Church are invited to convalidate their marriage on World Marriage Sunday, Feb. 11, 2024 at the Cathedral of the Holy Cross, Boston at 3 pm with Bishop Mark O'Connell as the celebrant.

A convalidation ceremony is an opportunity for couples married outside of the Church to enter into a marriage covenant in the Catholic tradition.

For more information, email EmilyElliott@rcab.org, or ask Fr. John or Sr. Nancy.

Thirty-Third Sunday in Ordinary Time November 18/19, 2023

In today's Gospel, Jesus delivers the parable of the talents; using the example of money rather than abilities or skills. It is a story about investments, risks and returns. Stewards understand that God has given them an abundance of spiritual gifts. They know God doesn't want them to simply receive these blessings and bury them in fear, but to multiply them; to use these gifts to serve Him and others; to spread Christ's Good News; to go and make disciples of others. Good stewards invest what God has given them in the service of others and are prepared to render an account when the Lord returns.

Saint Mary Church

55 Warren Street

Saint Catherine of Siena Chapel

Warren & Soley Street

617.242.4664

St. Francis de Sales Church

313 Bunker Hill Street

617.242.0147

Charlestown Catholic Collaborative

Parish Center

46 Winthrop Street

617-242-4664

Social Ministry Office

49 Vine Street 617-580-8305

Good Shepherd School

20 Winthrop Street 617-242-8800

Handicap Access

St. Mary's Church is handicapped-accessible on Soley Street.

St. Catherine's Chapel is handicapped-accessible
on Winthrop Street.

From our Pastor ...

*And all I ever have to be is what You've made me.
Any more or less would be a step out of Your plan.
As You daily recreate me, help me always keep in mind
that I only have to do what I can find,
and all I ever have to be... is what You've made me.
From All I ever have to be written by Gary Chapman*

Sometimes we take for granted what each of us gives to the world or has the capacity to. It's so easy for us to fall into the trap of comparing ourselves to others who might have gifts or skills that seem to be more attractive, more valuable, or more helpful. As adults we're even harder on ourselves, as we see others excel in A or B and we seem to fail, though we may excel in C or D.

St. Paul understood that tendency when he writes about the parts of the body in his first letter to the Corinthians (1 Cor 12:14-26) and Jesus illustrates it perfectly in today's Gospel in the story of the talents (He uses the term in two ways, because a talent was also considered a monetary term). God has given us gifts- differently, not more or less- to make something extraordinary come about, and it may seem so simple, but maybe that's the point behind it all. I love how St. Paul writes how the Church is comprised of living stones and we build each other up- we need one another. It's not always the quantity, it's the quality that's the point.

There are so many out there who may think they are not worthy or have nothing to give, but the truth is it is God who gives us what we need and makes us worthy, not any of us or this world. May we rejoice in a God who loves us as we are and calls us to develop and share His gifts with one another and the world. The world needs you.



Hockey Raffle for St. Francis de Sales Parish!

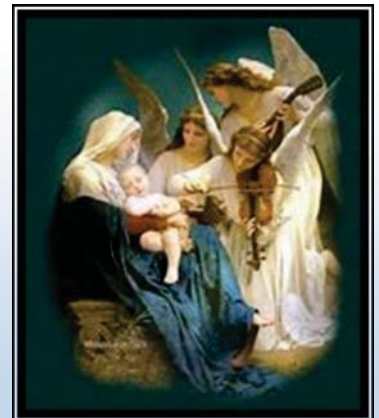
2 loge seats to Bruins vs. NJ Devils
on Dec. 30 (value: \$500 ea.)

Drawing: Dec. 16 after the 4 pm Mass.
Tickets: \$25 each, available from Fr. John,
St. Francis Parish Council members
and the Parish Offices at 46 Winthrop St.

SAVE THE DATE

FOR THE CHRISTMAS
CONCERT WITH THE
SPECTRUM SINGERS
DEC. 10 AT 3 PM
AT ST. MARY CHURCH
CONCERT IS FREE WITH
SUGGESTED DONATIONS TO
HARVEST ON VINE

THE SPECTRUM SINGERS
IS A BOSTON BASED CHOIR
FOUNDED IN 1980 AND COMPRISED
OF A CONGENIAL GROUP
OF AUDITIONED VOLUNTEERS
AND PROFESSIONALS
CONDUCTED BY
JOHN W. EHRLICH,
FOUNDER & MUSIC DIRECTOR
HENRICH CHRISTENSEN,
ORGANIST & CHOIRMASTER



Charlestown Catholic Collaborative

The 11 am Sunday Mass is live on our Website and Facebook
and archived on Facebook

Saturday, November 18

9 am

4 pm

4 pm + Mary Devlin

Sunday, November 19

8 am + James L. Higgins

9:30 am + Eugene F "Buddy" & David M Whelan

11 am + Marie, Nancy, John Maughn & Joan Minton

6 pm + Philip "Bucky" Jones

Monday, November 20

8 am

Tuesday, November 21

8 am + Jeanne Michellini for birthday

Wednesday, November 22

8 am

Thursday, November 23

THANKSGIVING

9 am— office closed

Friday, November 24

9 am— office closed

Saturday, November 25

9 am

4 pm

4 pm + Emmett R. Pulliam, Jr.

Sunday, November 26

8 am

9:30 am + Winnie Anthony

11 am + Thomas & Marie Muldoon; Thomas & Beatrice
Muldoon; Eleanor & Robert Emery

6 pm + Mary McBride Wilkins

CHARLESTOWN CATHOLIC



Thanksgiving Prayer

Lord, we thank you for the goodness of our people and for the spirit of justice that fills this nation. We thank you for the beauty and fullness of the land and the challenge of the cities. We thank you for our work and our rest, for one another, and for our homes. We thank you, Lord: accept our thanksgiving on this day. We pray and give thanks through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Prayer taken from the Catholic Household Blessings and Prayers, Revised Edition, copyright © 2007, United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, Washington, DC. All rights reserved.



The Catholic Parishes of Charlestown are offering an Adult Confirmation Program consisting of 7 classes for persons 18 years of age and older.

Orientation is Thursday, 18 January at 6:30 at 46 Winthrop Street. For more information and to register, please contact Sr. Nancy at 617-242-4664 or

ncitro@stmaryscatherine.org

COLLECTION FOR RETIRED RELIGIOUS SISTERS

This week's Nov. 19 collection is for Retired Religious Sisters. This collection provides needed financial support for communities of Religious Sisters who have served the Archdiocese of Boston as educators, pastoral ministers, health care, and social service providers. Please give generously in recognition of the Sisters' years of dedicated service.

*This weekend we celebrate the World Day of the Poor
"Do not turn your face away from anyone who is
poor" (Tob 4:7)*



**Weekend of
Nov. 11-12**

**Parishioners contributed
\$4,601.51.82 to the
Weekly Collection
And \$ 1,089
To the Monthly collection
at St. Mary—
St. Catherine Parish.**

Attendance 11/11 & 11/12

4 pm	62
8 am	65
11 am	105
6pm	49
TOTAL =	281

St. Mary - St Catherine of Siena

UPCOMING COLLECTIONS

Nov 19—Retired Religious Sisters
Dec 8—Immaculate Conception



*Requiescant in
Pace*

Mary J. Dowd



**Saint Mary Church
Sanctuary Lamp**



is lit in for

Rene Menard



**WE ARE GRATEFUL TO
YOU**

**We are grateful to you
for your offerings!**

**On the weekend of Nov. 11-12,
\$1,010 was contributed
to the Weekly Collection
And
\$417.00 for the 2nd collection
at St. Francis de Sales Parish**

ATTENDANCE—11/11 & 11/12

Sat. @ 4:00 pm	47
Sun @ 9:30 am	42
Total	89

**St. Francis de Sales
UPCOMING COLLECTIONS**

Nov 19—Retired Religious Sisters
Dec 3—Capital Improvement

COMMUNITY NEWS & INFO

*If you are planning a Wedding,
Planning a Baptism,
If you are interested in becoming
Catholic or have not yet received
Confirmation, if you are homebound
and would like to receive the
Sacraments, interested in the choir
Religious Education,
or becoming a volunteer in a ministry...*

*Contact us at the Parish office
at 617.242.4664 or email
info@charlestowncatholic.org*

*The Sacrament of Reconciliation
is offered at 3:15 pm on Saturdays
before Mass at both Parishes.*

*If you would like to pray the rosary
with us on Saturday mornings -
Please email Donna at:
donna.lecam@gmail.com*

COMING UP



**Advent Mission—
Speaker series**

**Wednesday, Nov. 29
6:30 pm
St. Francis de Sales
On Gratitude**

**Wednesday, Dec. 6
6:30 pm
St. Mary- St. Catherine
On Joy**

**Wednesday, Dec. 13
6:30 pm
St. Francis de Sales
Prayer Service for Peace
With the Sacrament of
Reconciliation**



A pesar de su aparente inocencia, la parábola de los talentos encierra una carga explosiva. Sorprendentemente, el “tercer siervo” es condenado sin haber cometido ninguna acción mala. Su único error consiste en “no hacer nada”: no arriesga su talento, no lo hace fructificar, lo conserva intacto en un lugar seguro.

El mensaje de Jesús es claro. No al conservadurismo, sí a la creatividad. No a una vida estéril, sí a la respuesta activa a Dios. No a la obsesión por la seguridad, sí al esfuerzo arriesgado por transformar el mundo. No a la fe enterrada bajo el conformismo, sí al trabajo comprometido en abrir caminos al reino de Dios.

El gran pecado de los seguidores de Jesús puede ser siempre el no arriesgarnos a seguirlo de manera creativa. Es significativo observar el lenguaje que se ha empleado entre los cristianos a lo largo de los años para ver en qué hemos centrado con frecuencia la atención: conservar el depósito de la fe; conservar la tradición; conservar las buenas costumbres; conservar; la gracia; conservar la vocación...

Esta tentación de conservadurismo es más fuerte en tiempos de crisis religiosa. Es fácil entonces invocar la necesidad de controlar la ortodoxia, reforzar la disciplina y la normativa; asegurar la pertenencia a la Iglesia... Todo puede ser explicable, pero ¿no es con frecuencia una manera de desvirtuar el evangelio y congelar la creatividad del Espíritu?

Para los dirigentes religiosos y los responsables de las comunidades cristianas puede ser más cómodo “repetir” de manera monótona los caminos heredados del pasado, ignorando los interrogantes, las contradicciones y los planteamientos del hombre moderno, pero ¿de qué sirve todo ello si no somos capaces de transmitir luz y esperanza a los problemas y sufrimientos que sacuden a los hombres y mujeres de nuestros días?

Las actitudes que hemos de cuidar hoy en el interior de la Iglesia no se llaman “prudencia”, “fidelidad al pasado”, “resignación”... Llevan más bien otro nombre: “búsqueda creativa”, “audacia”, “capacidad de riesgo”, “escucha al Espíritu” que todo lo hace nuevo.

Lo más grave puede ser que, lo mismo que le sucedió al tercer siervo de la parábola, también nosotros creamos que estamos respondiendo fielmente a Dios con nuestra actitud conservadora, cuando estamos defraudando sus expectativas. El principal quehacer de la Iglesia hoy no puede ser conservar el pasado, sino aprender a comunicar la Buena Noticia de Jesús en una sociedad sacudida por cambios socioculturales sin precedentes.

Thankful and Grateful

A little note...

Each weekend when traveling to Mass or the parish offices, I am greeted with countless blessings that I am so very grateful for. With Thanksgiving quickly approaching I wanted to take a moment to share a short story of my journey that led me to my home at the CCC.

Not too long ago, I, like many of my colleagues in the field of music, took a large hit with the pandemic. I had lost my job and had begun subbing at any church who needed support. Money was tight, I lost my benefits, and each day was a struggle to roll back the covers to begin the day.

When traveling from church to church, I began meeting many new amazing faith filled people, who all taught me a little something. Those people unbeknownst to me, were actually serving as my own personal shepherds, guiding me back to my vocation of sacred music. Before I knew it, I stumbled upon a job posting for Director of Music at St. Mary-St. Catherine of Siena Parish, and the rest my friends, is history.

Now, when I look back, I realize the big guy upstairs had a plan for me, that ultimately led me back to not only the work I love, but to a renewed faith. The seemingly endless journey of subbing led me to my home, and just when I thought I had landed, another blessing appeared, the St. Francis De Sales community. I know my journey is just beginning and I have “miles to go before I sleep”, as the great late Robert Frost stated, I am both thankful and grateful for the many blessings that God has bestowed upon me with my employment at the CCC.

This Thanksgiving I hope we are able take a moment and reflect on the bounteous blessings of our newly formed community/collaborative. From the parishioners, to the clergy, and fellow staff members, we truly have something very special in the town we love so well, Charlestown.

(The Town I Loved So Well, song by Phil Coulter)

All the very best to you and yours this Thanksgiving and I hope that this little note allows us to enjoy the miles to go before we sleep.

John Anthony Volpe

Director of Music

St. Mary- St. Catherine of Siena Parish



LIVING LIFE AFTER COVID



“I have two words for Long Covid – the worst,” shares Eric T. of Burlington, MA.

While the initial alarm of the Covid-19 outbreak has subsided, the pandemic is ongoing. The spread may have slowed but we continue to feel the long-term impacts. Nearly 23 million Americans (100 million people globally) have learned that regardless of the severity of their initial infection, they may continue to experience debilitating symptoms for weeks, months, or even years. In a number of cases, these symptoms worsen with time, even turning deadly.

“I got Covid early last year, and it was pretty bad,” shares Eric. “I was hospitalized for 9 days, and there was a point where I wasn’t sure I would make it. I’m still here, so I guess God had other plans but months passed, and I was still gasping for air. I couldn’t do everyday tasks like cutting the grass or working in the yard, much less enjoy a quick bike ride. And then there was what my doctor called ‘brain fog.’ I’d lose my train of thought mid-sentence or forget words for stupid things like plates and toilet paper. It felt like I’d had a stroke more than it did a virus.”

Officially dubbed Long Covid, the aftermath of the original virus has taken on a life of its own. Dozens of symptoms have been reported, including shortness of breath and cognitive issues to a sudden onset of diabetes and cardiothoracic conditions.

These symptoms are so well-documented and common that those suffering now qualify for disability assistance.

Unfortunately for Eric and so many others, the treatment options thus far have been limited.

“I started with my primary care doctor and saw specialist after specialist. A pulmonologist finally told me ‘this is the best we can do for you, it’s time you start thinking about how you’re going to live with Long Covid.’ Apparently, their best was letting me live what felt like half a life.”

Eric wasn’t satisfied with that and resigned to doing his own research, which is how he ended up here at AWC Acupuncture & Wellness Clinic. “I fully believe the human body has the ability to heal itself, but sometimes it needs a little push. I’ve used acupuncture in the past to help me through a bout of sciatica and just knew if anyone could help me with this Long Covid business, it was going to be Acupuncturist, Min Jeon D.Ac. Lic.Ac.”

You might think that a novel virus needs a novel solution, but you’d only be half right. While we are using innovative solutions like ATP Resonance BioTherapy® to combat Long Covid because it aids in the healing and repair of specific cells and tissues, it’s a much more time-tested science that’s getting our patients back to living their lives.

AWC Acupuncture is the premier provider of ozone therapy in the state.

“Our O3 ReBoot Therapy® has all-encompassing and powerful healing capabilities,” shares Clinical Director Rebecca Rinn. “Ozone therapy has been used since the 1800s and was actually a popular tool for Doctors during the first world war because of its antibacterial, antiviral and anti-inflammatory properties. We use it today to inactivate residual Covid virus, stimulate oxygen metabolism and activate the immune system. And the whole treatment takes about 15 minutes and is completely noninvasive.” As with our other services, O3 ReBoot Therapy® requires consistent and repeated treatment to achieve measurable and long-lasting results.

“I’m in my second month of treatment and back to riding my bike and maybe breathing better than before I even had Covid. Everyone [at AWC] has been amazing! I feel cared for every time I walk in the door.”

Acupuncturist Min Jeon D.Ac. Lic.Ac. has successfully treated chronic pain and complicated conditions for over two decades. When Covid-19 emerged three years ago, we researched and developed therapies to address the complex virus effectively. Based on the testimony of patients like Eric, our efforts are a smashing success.



Call (781) 221-0162 where an AWC Care Coordinator is waiting to help you achieve optimal health and wellness!

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"Pray without Ceasing" 1
Thessalonians 5:17



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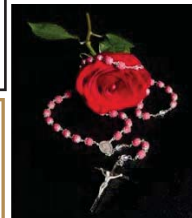
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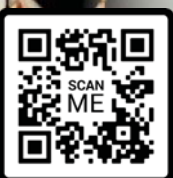
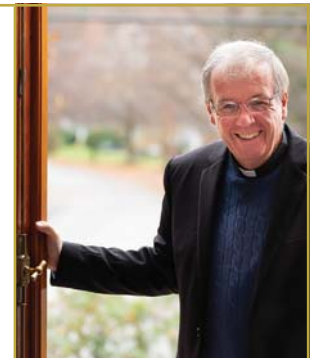
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Fr. Tom Nestor has served as pastor at the Collaborative Parishes of Resurrection and Saint Paul in Hingham for the past ten years, and previously served at St. Eulalia's in Winchester for 17 years. A Harvard graduate and native of West Roxbury, Fr. Nestor is known for fostering a sense of community wherever he goes.

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clergytrust.org

— OR —



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Registration
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