

# CHARLESTOWN CATHOLIC COLLABORATIVE

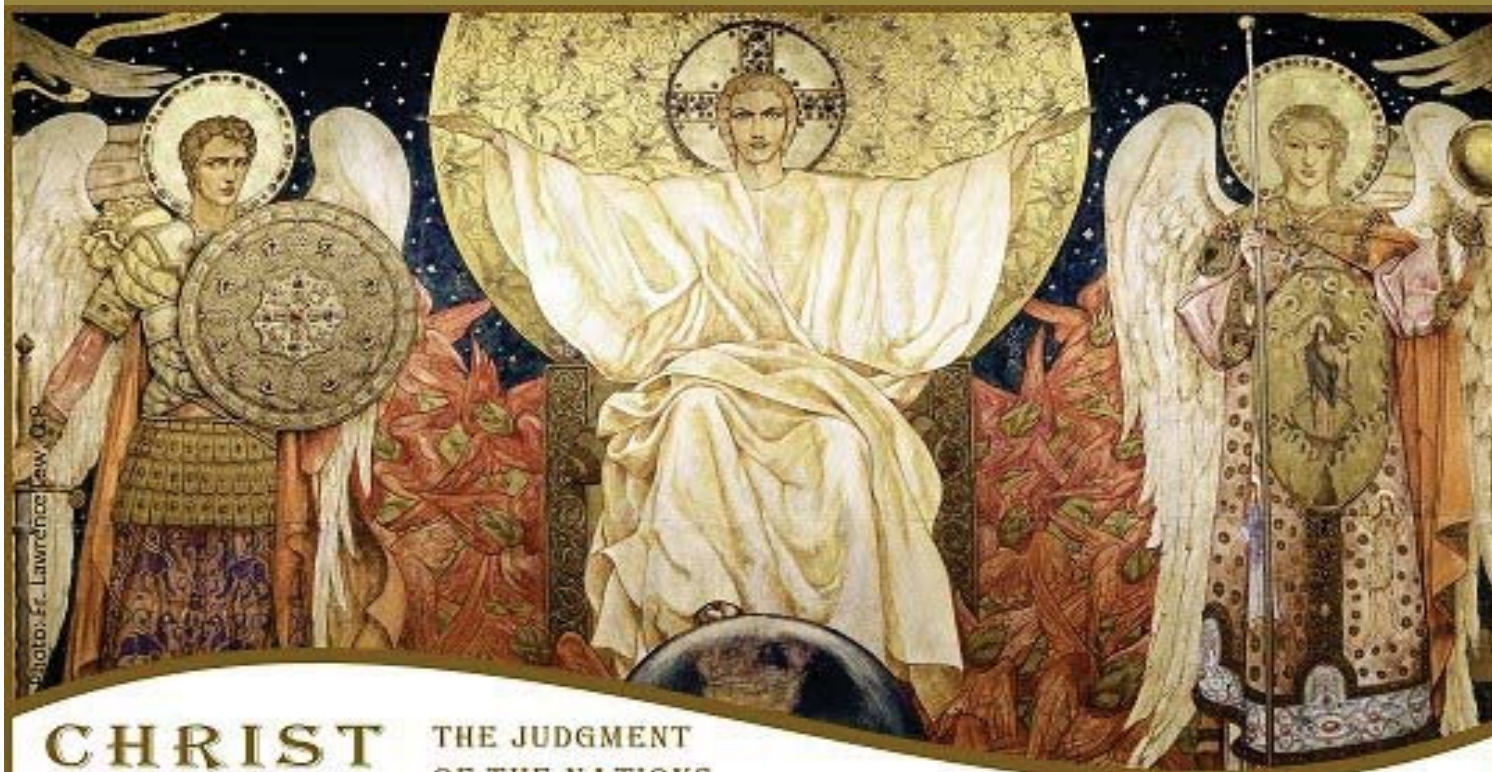
Saint Mary-Saint Catherine of Siena and Saint Francis de Sales Parishes

*Parish Center & Eucharistic Center*, 46 Winthrop Street, 617-242-4664, [charlestowncatholic.org](http://charlestowncatholic.org)

*St. Francis Rectory*, 303 Bunker Hill Street, 617-242-0147, [info@charlestowncatholic.org](mailto:info@charlestowncatholic.org)

Charlestown, MA 02129

November 26, 2023



## CHRIST THE KING

### THE JUDGMENT OF THE NATIONS

"Come, you who are blessed by my Father. Inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world." Matthew 25:34

### 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 Santosuoso

**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

**Parish Nurse Ministry Director**  
Mrs. Maureen Collier, RN BSN

**Clergy in Residence**  
Fr. Jerome Gillespie  
Fr. Anthony Nweke C.S.S.p.  
Fr. Britto Dhinakaran  
Fr. Mark Shimave

#### Email

info@charlestowncatholic.org

## December in Our Parishes

**Dec 2/3** – Season of Advent begins with the lighting of the Advent wreath at all Masses.

**December 6**—Advent series on Joy—St Mary Church at 6:30 pm

**December 8** – Immaculate Conception (Friday) Masses at 9am—St. Francis de Sales Church and 6:00pm at St. Mary Church

**December 10**, 3:30 Spectrum Singers Christmas Concert—St Mary Church

**December @ 13 at 6:30 PM** - Advent Prayer for Peace and Reconciliation Service—St. Francis Parish

**December 16/17**, All Masses - Remembering Our Loved Ones Who Have Gone to God: Sand dollar tree

**December 24**: Carols at 3:30, Christmas Eve Mass at 4PM at St Mary church and 5:30 pm at St. Francis de Sales

**December 25**: Christmas Masses at 8AM and 10:30AM, no 6PM Mass at St Mary Church and 9:30 am at St Francis de Sales

#### Religious Ed Classes:

12/5 Tues  
12/19 Tues

#### Confirmation Class

12/3 Sun  
12/17 sun

#### Youth Group

12/3 Sun

**Faith sharing groups continue** – it's not too late to join. Call Parish Office, 617-242-4664 for more information for the Women's Group and Advent Group.

**Giving Trees** – Please pick a tag and help make Christmas a little brighter for some one in need. We ask that gifts be delivered to the Church no later than December 18.



## Feast of Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe November 25/26, 2023

In today's Gospel, Saint Matthew offers a compelling vision of the end-time, when the people of all nations are brought before the Lord to give an account of their lives and actions. Interestingly, the sheep, the righteous ones, are rewarded for having acted with love and compassion without having recognized the face of Christ in others. Good stewards recognize those in need of their care as gifts from God. They know that they are instruments of Christ's active, loving presence. What accounting will we make to the Lord for their care?

**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 ...*

*Some days, we forget to look around us.  
Some days, we can't see the joy that surrounds us.  
So caught up inside ourselves... we take when we should give.  
So for tonight we pray... for what we know can be,  
and on this day... we hope for what we still can't see.  
It's up to us to be the change, and even though we all can still do more...  
There's so much to be thankful for.*

From Thankful, written by Bayer Sager, Foster, Page

When I watch the heart wrenching news reports from the aftermath of a tornado that has destroyed a town out in the middle of our nation, it seems that all I hear from the survivors, standing in the midst of such devastation are words of thanks for what was saved- the people they loved- where all that mattered when all seemed lost around them, and in their faith and courage, they will find the strength to start over again. It certainly puts it all in perspective.

Thanksgiving, the feast of Christ the King, the season of Advent, and Christmas are perfect times to find ways rediscover that perspective; to express our thanks to God not just for the many resources and gifts we have, but even more, for the families, friends, and all the loved ones He has blessed us with. During this happy season of hope, please prayerfully and happily give that those around us so others may experience the presence of God's blessing in peace, joy, and hope.

Whether you give to our parishes, St. Vincent de Paul, our Harvest of Hope food pantry, the Giving Trees, and so many other ways, you are giving more than your resources- you are sharing the gifts you have received. Let's make this year we give beyond! There is so much to be thankful for.

Log onto our website at **Charlestown Catholic Community**

Find bulletins, and Mass times for both parishes and view the latest recorded Sunday Mass.

There is Music, news from Harvest on Vine, pictures, and more.

You may donate to the Parishes or its various ministries by selecting the Donate tab.

### **Advent Prayer and Reconciliation Service**

**Thursday, December 13 at 6:30 P.M. at St Francis de Sales Church**

This year as part of the Advent speaker series, let's come together as a community of faith and pray for peace. Let's give ourselves the gift of time to slow down and ponder the many ways in which God blesses and sustains each of us in our daily lives, and longs to grow closer to each of us with unconditional love.

At the conclusion of the Service, if you choose, you may receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation privately with a priest. We hope you will join us for this extraordinary time of prayer.

### **REMEMBERING OUR LOVED ONES WHO ARE WITH GOD**

**Weekend of December 16/17**

At all Masses at St Mary Church on the weekend of December 16 and 17, we will have a Ritual of Remembrance for all of our loved ones who have gone to God. At the conclusion of Mass you are invited to place one sand dollar in memory of your loved ones on the Parish Christmas tree by the piano, approaching it from the Winthrop Street aisle.

Go to God with all of your sorrows, that He may lift you up in due time. Cast all your anxiety on Him because He cares for you. Be alert and of sober mind. Do not let doubt or any kind of negative thinking overpower you. Resist it, standing firm in the faith, because you know that the family of believers throughout the world is under-going the same kind of sufferings. And though it will take time, God of all grace, who called you in Christ, will restore you and make you strong, firm and steadfast. To Him be the power for ever and ever. Amen. (1 Peter 5:6-11-Adapted)



## Charlestown Catholic Collaborative

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

*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

Monday, November 27

8 am

Tuesday, November 28

8 am

Wednesday, November 29

8 am

Thursday, November 30

8 am

Friday, December 1

8 am

*Saturday, December 2*

9 am

4 pm - Advent Vigil

4 pm + William King - Advent Vigil

*Sunday, December 3 - 1st Sunday of Advent*

8 am + Joan Grace Matarazzo

9:30 am deceased members of the Benoit Family

11 am + Rene Menard

6 pm + John Johnston

# CHARLESTOWN CATHOLIC



## 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.

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 COMPRISES A CON-  
GENIAL GROUP OF AUDI-  
TIONED VOLUNTEERS  
AND PROFESSIONALS  
CONDUCTED BY JOHN W.  
EHRlich, FOUNDER  
& MUSIC DIRECTOR  
HENRICH CHRISTENSEN,  
ORGANIST &  
CHOIMASTER

## COMING UP .....

Advent Mission  
Speaker series  
Beginning -

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



**Saint Mary  
Church  
Sanctuary Lamp  
is lit in for  
Mary Coffey  
& Patrick Curry**

*Next Week, December 3rd is the  
First Sunday of Advent. We will  
be lighting the Advent Wreath  
at all the Masses.*

**St. Mary - St Catherine of Siena**

### **UPCOMING COLLECTIONS**

Dec 8—Immaculate Conception

Dec 10—Monthly

Dec 17—Parish Christmas

Dec 25—Clergy Benefit

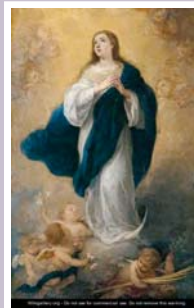
### **ONLINE GIVING**

Many have asked us how to contribute through online banking so that when they are not in the Parish, they can continue to make their offertory collection and second collection donations. This can be done easily by logging into your online banking account and entering St. Francis de Sales or St. Mary—St. Catherine as vendor/payee.

**For St. Francis, please use  
303 Bunker Hill St for the address.**

**For St. Mary – St. Catherine,  
please use 46 Winthrop Street.**

If you have any questions, please contact James Santosuosso at the Parish Office. Thank you for your continued generosity.



### **FRIDAY DEC. 8 FEAST OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION**

We are celebrating the feast on Friday, December 8 with 9:00 AM Mass at St. Francis de Sales Church. There will be a 6:00 pm Mass at St. Mary Church.

*It is a Holy Day of Obligation*

### **St. Francis de Sales UPCOMING COLLECTIONS**

**Dec 3—Capital Improvement**

**Dec 8—Immaculate Conception**

**Dec 17—Parish Deficit**

**Dec 25—Clergy Trust**

## **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](mailto: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](mailto:donna.lecam@gmail.com)*



There are **Christmas Flower envelopes** in the back of the Church for those who would like to make a donation in memory of a loved one. The flowers are placed on the Altar for Christmas. Be sure to include the name of your loved one on the envelope. Names submitted by December 15 will be included in the bulletin for Christmas. You may drop the envelope in the collection basket or mail to the Parish Center at 46 Winthrop Street. All names received after that date will be added to a future bulletin. Thank you.



### **ALL HANDS ON DECK!**

The Parishes could use some helping hands to clean and decorate the interior of our Churches for Christmas.

We are looking for some volunteers to help out. The dates will be announced in next week's bulletin.

### **ADVENT GROUP**

#### **St. Catherine's Chapel**

Starts Tuesday, Nov. 28, following the 8 am Mass and held in the meeting room outside the Chapel. Kathy Devaney will lead a mixed group (men and women) in reflections for the Advent season. It will end on Dec. 19<sup>th</sup>. All are most welcome!

### **WOMEN'S FAITH-SHARING GROUP**

The women's faith sharing group will meet via Zoom on Wednesday, Nov. 15 at 6:30 pm. It's a wonderful opportunity to nurture your soul as we reflect on scripture and commentaries and make new friends.

Call Sr. Nancy at 617-242-4664 or go to [ncitro@stmarystcatherine.org](mailto:ncitro@stmarystcatherine.org) to learn more or to sign up!



# JESUCRISTO REY

## DEL UNIVERSO

Las fuentes no admiten dudas. Jesús vive volcado hacia aquellos que ve necesitados de ayuda. Es incapaz de pasar de largo. Ningún sufrimiento le es ajeno. Se identifica con los más pequeños y desvalidos y hace por ellos todo lo que puede. Para él la compasión es lo primero. El único modo de parecernos a Dios: «*Sed compasivos como vuestro Padre es compasivo*».

¿Cómo nos va a extrañar que, al hablar del Juicio final, Jesús presente la compasión como el criterio último y decisivo que juzgará nuestras vidas y nuestra identificación con él? ¿Cómo nos va a extrañar que se presente identificado con todos los pobres y desgraciados de la historia?

Según el relato de Mateo, comparecen ante el Hijo del Hombre, es decir, ante Jesús, el compasivo, «todas las naciones». No se hacen diferencias entre «pueblo elegido» y «pueblo pagano». Nada se dice de las diferentes religiones y cultos. Se habla de algo muy humano y que todos entienden: ¿Qué hemos hecho con todos los que han vivido sufriendo?

El evangelista no se detiene propiamente a describir los detalles de un juicio. Lo que destaca es un doble diálogo que arroja una luz inmensa sobre nuestro presente, y nos abre los ojos para ver que, en definitiva, hay dos maneras de reaccionar ante los que sufren: nos compadecemos y les ayudamos, o nos desentendemos y los abandonamos.

El que habla es un Juez que está identificado con todos los pobres y necesitados: «*Cada vez que ayudasteis a uno de estos mis pequeños hermanos, lo hicisteis conmigo*». Quienes se han acercado a ayudar a un necesitado, se han acercado a él. Por eso han de estar junto a él en el reino: «*Venid, benditos de mi Padre*».

Luego se dirige a quienes han vivido sin compasión: «*Cada vez que no ayudasteis a uno de estos pequeños, lo dejasteis de hacer conmigo*». Quienes se han apartado de los que sufren, se han apartado de Jesús. Es lógico que ahora les diga: «*Apartaos de mí*». Seguid vuestro camino...

Nuestra vida se está jugando ahora mismo. No hay que esperar ningún juicio. Ahora nos estamos acercando o alejando de los que sufren. Ahora nos estamos acercando o alejando de Cristo. Ahora estamos decidiendo nuestra vida.



**GIVING TREES** -(Both Parishes) Next week—please take a tag off the Giving Tree if you are able to assist with getting a gift for any one of our groups who could use a little Christmas help. Your generosity provides Christmas aid to St. Mary Center for Women and Children; the Charlestown Recovery House, Homeless Veterans; Sisters of St. Joseph Prison Ministry and for our Society of Saint Vincent de Paul.

Due to Dept. of Corrections security regulations, gifts for Sisters of St. Joseph Prison Ministry must be monetary donations. The Chaplain will buy needed items such as combs, shampoo, soap, deodorant, calendars, lotion, tooth paste, stationary, and pens which will then be inspected by DOC. Once the items are approved by security, the items will be assembled in gift bags within the prison by Chaplaincy Volunteers.

For the Saint Vincent de Paul, there will be envelopes on the tree for a donation. Saint Vincent de Paul has helped families in our community with rental assistance and furniture since January 1st of this year.

Please note that gifts should be unwrapped or placed in gift bags. **Please attach the tag to the outside of the package so that we can deliver your gift to the appropriate program. Please bring your gifts to Church or the Parish Center by Sunday, December 15 for delivery to the recipients by Parish Volunteers. Many thanks for your kindness!**



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](mailto:ncitro@stmaryscatherine.org)

# 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.



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"Pray without Ceasing" 1  
Thessalonians 5:17



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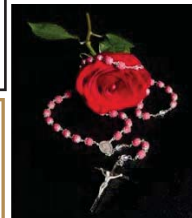
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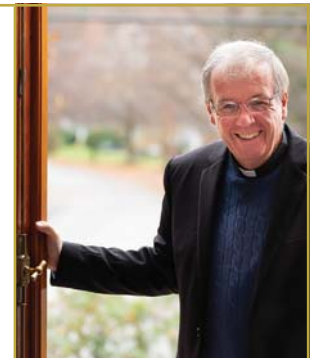
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Fr. Tom Nestor has served as pastor at the Collaborative Parishes of Resurrection and Saint Paul in Hingham for the past ten years, and previously served at St. Eulalia's in Winchester for 17 years. A Harvard graduate and native of West Roxbury, Fr.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

donate at  
[clergytrust.org](http://clergytrust.org)

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