

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

December 3, 2023

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT



Watch!

Jesus said to his disciples: "Be watchful! Be alert!
You do not know when the time will come. Mark 13:33

© Pilot Bulletins

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

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



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 Friday, 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 Parish could use some helping hands to clean the interior of St. Mary's Church for Christmas on **Saturday, December 16 at 9:30 a.m after the 9:00 am Mass.** Can you join us for this important activity? Coffee will be available! If you can spare some time, we'd love to see you and are very appreciative of your help!

Please let us know at 617-242-4664 or email dludy@stmaryscatherine.org

AND

On **Saturday, December 24 at 9:30 AM**, (after the morning Mass) we will be decorating the Church for Christmas. For those who are interested in helping, please let us know! (see above)

COMING UP

Advent Mission Speaker series

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

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 ...

*Light a candle for the homeless and the hungry;
a little shelter from the cold.*

*Light a candle for the broken and forgotten;
may the season warm their souls.*

Can we open our hearts to shine through the dark?

*And in this special time of year may peace on earth surround us here,
and teach us there's a better way to live.*

*Oh, and with every flame that burns, we must somehow learn
that love's the greatest gift that we could ever give.*

From Light a Candle, by Avalon

About a year ago, I arrived in the Town and hit the ground running, and as we light the first Advent candle and begin a new year in the Church this weekend, it's a great opportunity to thank the incredible staffs, councils and so many volunteers who serve our parishes with such enthusiasm and love- it's been quite a year, but we've remained focused on what Christ is calling us to- I pray that this season may both comfort and challenge us- as we light our churches and our homes, that the light of Christ may warm us and ignite renewal and new hope in all of us.

A new season begins, and a light shines- follow that star.

Over the next weeks, we're rolling out the Grand Annual in both parishes, and your help this year is timely and very, very important. After 40 years of service, the boiler has died in the offices- it's been rather nippy at 46 Winthrop, and the work to replace it has begun. There are great signs of new life and hope at St. Francis, but still challenges hover. Your generosity will help us to take on the challenges and opens the door to new opportunities to serve.

Please give generously.

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, December 2—1st Sunday of Advent

9 am

4 pm **Advent Vigil**

4 pm + William King—Advent Vigil

Sunday, December 3

8 am + Joan Grace Matarazzo

9:30 am **deceased members of the Benoit Family**

11 am + Rene Menard

6 pm + John Johnston

Monday, December 4

8 am

Tuesday, December 5

8 am

Wednesday, December 6

8 am

Thursday, December 7

8 am

Friday, December 8—Immaculate Conception

9 am **Holy Day of Obligation + Ronan Joseph Yandle**

6 pm **Holy Day of Obligation**

Saturday, December 9

9 am

4 pm + **Dorothy M. Shea**

4 pm + Maryann Wrenn

Sunday, December 10 - 2nd Sunday of Advent

8 am + Gerald “Jerry” Wall

9:30 am + **Joseph Whelan**

11 am + Thomas Regan

6 pm + Joan & Daniel Blake

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.



*Requiescant in
Pace*

*Evelyn Catherine
Carter*

&

Marie “Peachie” Marsden

&

Robert Fitzpatrick

December 8

Feast of the

Immaculate Conception

Holy Day of Obligation

Masses are as follows:

St. Francis de Sales - 9 AM

**St. Mary- St Catherine
of Siena - 6 PM**



**Saint Mary
Church
Sanctuary Lamp**

is lit for

Thomas J. Regan



Weekend of
Nov. 18-19

Parishioners contributed
\$3,622.20 to the Weekly Collection
and \$1,703.00 to
the Religious Retirement
Collection at St. Mary–
St. Catherine Parish.

Weekend of Nov. 25-26

Parishioners contributed
\$3,527.44 to the
Weekly Collection

*Thank you to all who contributed
to the Thanksgiving Collection.*

St. F Attendance—11/18 & 11/19

Sat. @ 4:00 pm	51
Sun @ 9:30 am	48
Total	99

St. F Attendance 11/25 & 11/26

Sat. @ 4:00 pm	44
Sun @ 9:30 am	34
Total	78

St. MC Attendance 11/18 & 11/19

Sat. @ 4 pm	64
Sun @ 8 am	54
11 am	97
6 pm	70
Total	285

St. MC Attendance 11/25 & 11/26

Sat. @ 4 pm	48
Sun. @ 8 am	49
11 am	104
6 pm	52
Total	256



**WE ARE GRATEFUL
TO YOU**

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

**On the weekend of Nov. 18-19,
\$2,838 was contributed
to the Weekly Collection
and \$966.00 for the
Religious Retirement
at St. Francis de Sales Parish**

WE ARE GRATEFUL TO YOU

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

**On the weekend of Nov. 25-26,
\$2,461 was contributed
to the Weekly Collection
and \$316 for the 2nd collection
at St. Francis de Sales Parish**

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*



CELEBRATING OUR FIRST YEAR TOGETHER

Fr. John Sheridan arrived on the First Sunday of Advent, 2022. As we celebrate the First Sunday of Advent, 2023 we would like to thank Fr. John for all his energetic efforts, positive attitude and leadership in helping both parishes in our collaboration. As Fr. John always says at the end of each Mass, “Look up and look ahead” .

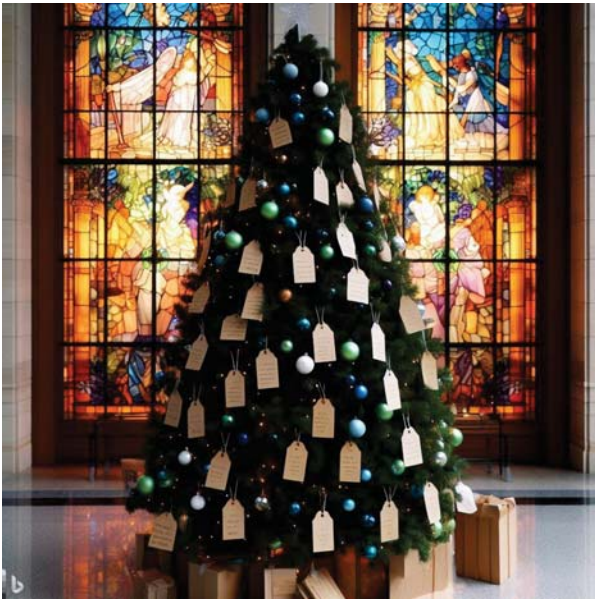
ONLINE GIVING Many have asked us how to contribute through online banking so that when they are not in the Parish, they can continue to make their offertory collection and second collection donations.

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.



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 Saint Joseph Prison Ministry and for our parish's 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. The Society of Saint Vincent de Paul has helped 51 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 17 for delivery to the recipients by Parish Volunteers. Many thanks for your kindness!



**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
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PROFESSIONALS
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FOUNDER & MUSIC DIRECTOR
HENRICH CHRISTENSEN,
ORGANIST & CHOIRMASTER**

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.



First Week of Advent

Hope

*We name the brokenness of the world we live in,
and we ask God to restore creation —
to shine God's face upon the world
so that God's righteousness and justice might reign.
We long for signs of hope for restoration.*

Are you feeling stuck and looking for more in life?
Are you questioning where God might be calling you next?
Want to be closer to an answer this time next year?

Give God a Year

Online Discernment Series for women in their 20's and 30's who want to intentionally engage together in prayer for a year to find deeper clarity with how God is calling them in life and experience greater peace, joy and true inner freedom!

Starting date January 7, 2024

Contact Sister Jenny at jzimmerman@sndusa.org or 419.438.6056 to sign up or with any questions!



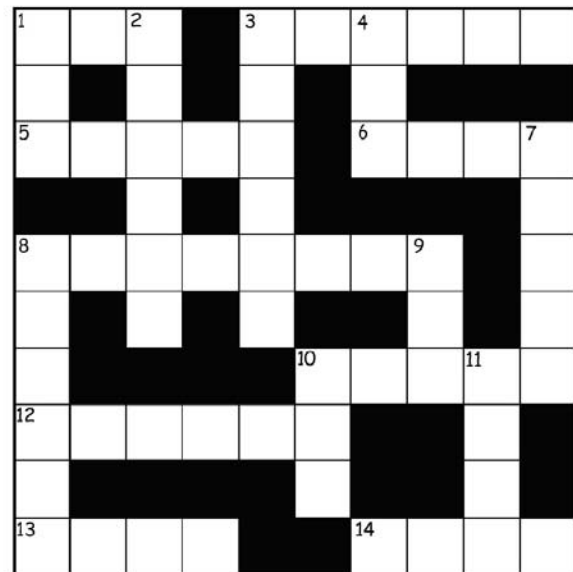
Sisters of Notre Dame
of the United States

CROSSWORD

(Most answers are in today's readings)

CLUES ACROSS

1. Used for hearing 3. Not awake 5. To go inside
6. A particular moment 8. People who serve others
10. All, each one 12. Male parent 13. An insufficiency;
a _____ of something 14. Just before nightfall



CLUES DOWN

1. Used for seeing 2. To come back or give back 3. In another country 4. Allow 7. Not late 8. Having sinned
9. Have sight 10. Make a mistake 11. Old pieces of cloth, or clothing that is falling apart.



Esperar supone una vigilancia constante y responsable. Hay personas que esperan acontecimientos no del todo definidos en su vida. Esperan cosas de manera global a través de un golpe de suerte: ganarse la lotería... o esperan situaciones después de un esfuerzo considerable: seguro que voy a encontrar un buen trabajo...

La espera del cristiano es distinta. Nuestro esperar se mueve en el presente y en el futuro. Tenemos que esperar no desde nuestras expectativas sino desde el ritmo de Dios. Nuestra espera es gratuita, segura. Nuestra espera pasa por la confianza en Dios más que en nosotros mismos y en las cosas que nos rodean... En la vida de

fe se pierden muchas valiosas energías, cuando somos nosotros, quienes prescindiendo de Dios, queremos marcar el ritmo y la marcha de nuestra espera...

La espera en Jesús es totalmente distinta: supone aceptar lo que ya sabemos, aceptar el encuentro amoroso con el amor. La espera del cristiano es sabiendo a quién esperamos...

El Señor no nos dice cuándo será su venida definitiva. Hay grupos que se han atrevido a afirmar en varias ocasiones el fin del mundo con fechas concretas. La palabra de Dios no nos dice nada al respecto, por eso debemos mantenernos alerta. Hay que estar alerta para descubrir el paso de Dios por nuestras vidas; alerta para descubrir su invitación y su conversión.

En el adviento se nos invita a tres compromisos concretos que la Palabra de hoy nos recuerda: estar atentos; velad; orad. Atentos para que nada nos disponga a pasar por alto la venida del Señor. Hay muchas cosas que nos pueden distraer de descubrir al Señor. Es relativamente fácil alejarnos de Dios e incluso ocultarnos (como en el paraíso) de Él, pero es muy difícil mantenernos en Dios porque la realidad del mundo no ayuda...

Velad, estar despiertos, saber descubrir en la noche de la vida las tinieblas de nuestro yo y ver la luz de Cristo que viene. El velar significa dejarse iluminar la vida por Jesús.

Y la última condición es el orar. Esperar atentos y velando en oración. No es esperar de cualquier manera, sino en una actitud orante, de hijo, de desvalido, de quien de verdad espera al Señor. Esperar orando. Hay personas que esperan desesperándose. Hay que esperar orando.

Cuando se ora, la espera no cansa sino que ensancha y transforma nuestro corazón. ¿Eres una persona que sabes esperar o te desesperas con facilidad? ¿Qué papel tiene la oración en tu vida? Como no sabemos cuándo vendrá el Señor tenemos que estar en vela siempre. Tenemos que estar en vela para que la vida verdadera no nos pase de largo.

El ser humano es el único ser de la naturaleza consciente de que espera; de ahí el ofrecimiento de Dios es siempre una llamada a la espera que no acaba.

Es bueno recordar en este comienzo del adviento las virtudes teologales y, desde ellas, esperar en atenta vigilancia y oración. Fe, esperanza y amor; la mayor de ellas es el amor. Tenemos que esperar desde el amor.

Quien no sabe esperar confiado en la palabra de Jesús, desespera.

El mundo de hoy no es propenso a aconsejar la espera. Todo intenta ser ultra rápido: comidas, limpieza, revelado de fotos, arreglos, etc.

El mundo de hoy ha sido pensado para tratar lo que el ser humano ha creado. La espera del evangelio, en cambio, atañe a lo más íntimo del ser humano: una persona no cambia en un día, ni de manera ultra rápida. Una persona no puede cambiar automáticamente el corazón ni su interior, de ahí la necesidad de la espera en el Señor.

December 3 ~ First Sunday of Advent

Jesus sets the tone for how we are to approach this Advent with these words in today's Gospel, "Be watchful! Be alert! You do not know when the time will come." The Church gives us Advent as the season of waiting and preparing for the coming of Christ at the end of time. Yet preparations for Christmas occupy our time leaving little or no time for reflection on Christ's admonition. This Advent, let us strive to make it a daily practice to take ten minutes each day to turn your attention to Jesus and to his presence. What change can we make or what practice can we adopt in our daily lives that will help ready us for the time when Christ comes to take us home?



Catechetical Corner

“BLESSED ARE YOU AMONG WOMEN”

An essential part of God’s plan for the mother of his Son was that she be conceived free from Original Sin. “Through the centuries the Church became ever more aware that Mary, ‘full of grace’ through God, was redeemed from the moment of her conception” (CCC, no. 491).

In anticipation that she was to bear the Son of God, Mary was preserved from the time of her conception from Original Sin. We call this the Immaculate Conception. No sin would touch her, so that she would be a fitting and worthy vessel of the Son of God. The Immaculate Conception does not refer to the virginal conception and birth of Christ, but rather to Mary’s being conceived without inheriting Original Sin.

In the course of time, the doctrine of the Immaculate Conception became more precisely enunciated, as its truth—long supported by the universal popular devotion of the faithful—was better understood by deepening theological inquiry. In 1854, Pope Pius IX proclaimed this dogma infallibly: that is, in his role as supreme teacher of the Church, he declared that this doctrine is divinely revealed and must be accepted with faith by the entire Church.



Memorare

Remember, O most gracious Virgin Mary,
that never was it known that anyone
who fled to your protection,
implored your help or sought your
intercession was left unaided.
Inspired with this confidence, we fly unto you,
O Virgin of Virgins, our Mother.
To you we come. Before you we kneel,
sinful and sorrowful.
O Mother of the Word Incarnate,
despise not our petitions,
but in your clemency, hear and answer them. Amen.
—St. Bernard of Clairvaux



THANKS TO THESE SPONSORS WE ARE ABLE TO PROVIDE YOU WITH YOUR BULLETIN **FREE EACH WEEK**

Enjoy the full color bulletin that will change weekly and may feature images to reflect the Gospel of the week or a meaningful Parish event.

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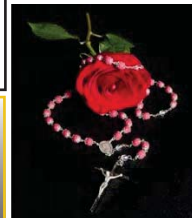
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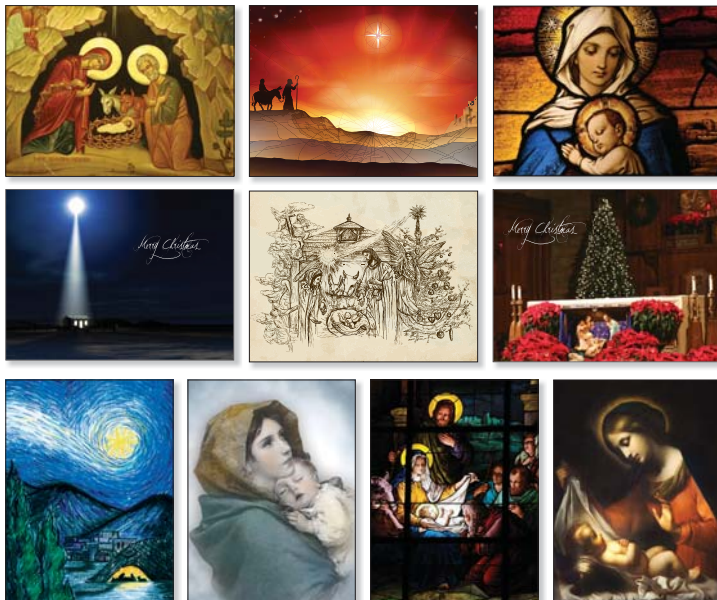
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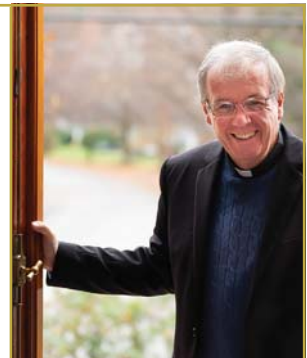
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Fr. Tom Nestor has served as pastor at the Collaborative Parishes of Resurrection and Saint Paul in Hingham for the past ten years, and previously served at St. Eulalia's in Winchester for 17 years. A Harvard graduate and native of West Roxbury, Fr.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

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