

# CHARLESTOWN CATHOLIC COLLABORATIVE

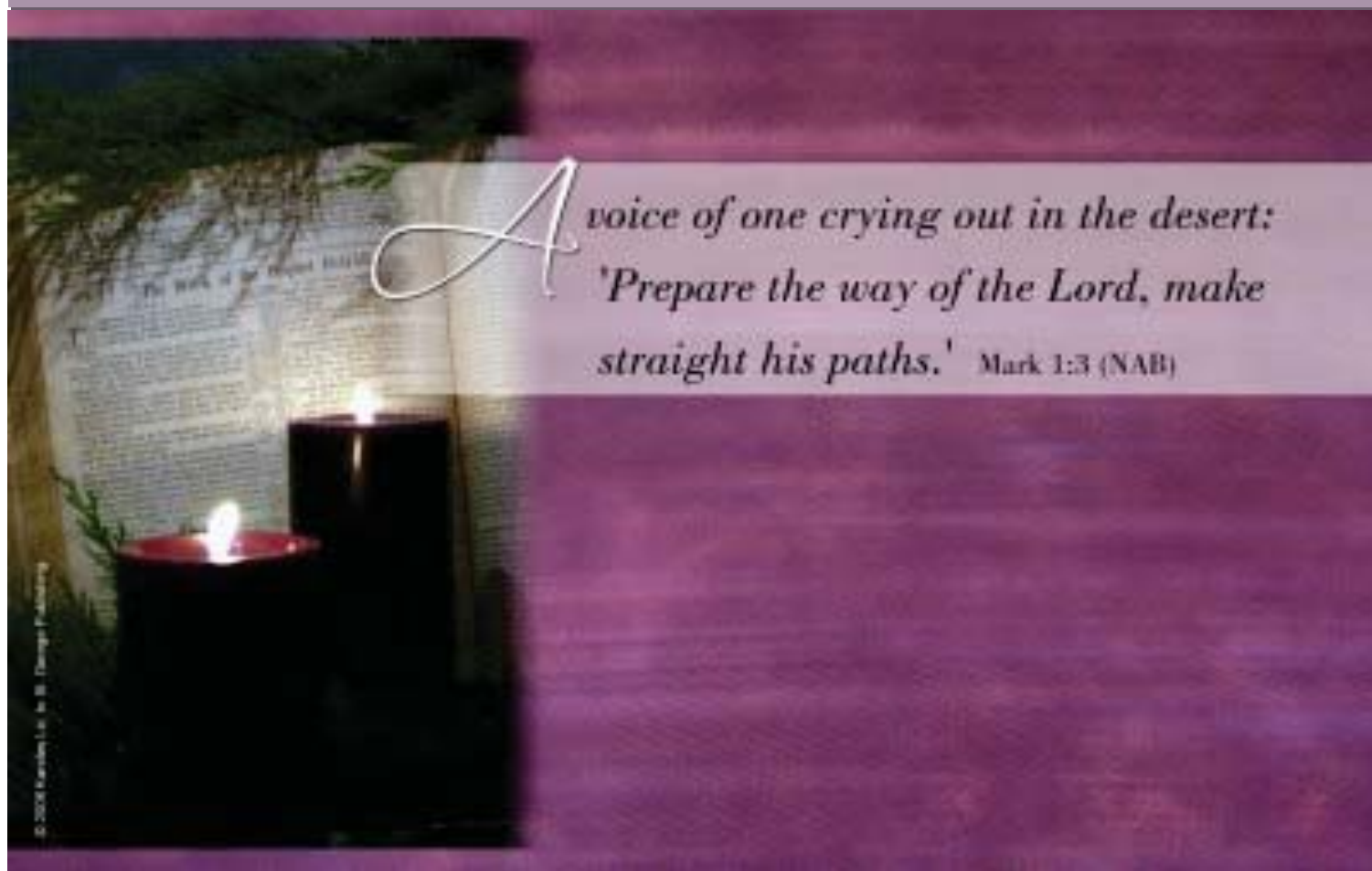
Saint Mary–Saint Catherine of Siena and Saint Francis de Sales Parishes

*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

December 10, 2023



## 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

## CHRISTMAS MASSES

### December 24—Christmas Eve Masses

St Mary St Catherine Siena at 4 pm

St. Francis de Sales at 5:30 pm

### December 25—Christmas Day Masses

8:00 am and 11:00 am at St Mary Church

9:30am at St. Francis de Sales



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. Be sure to include the name of your loved one on the envelope. Names submitted by Friday, Dec. 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 for your contributions .



## ALL HANDS ON DECK!

The Parish could use some helping hands to clean the interior of St. Mary's Church for Christmas on Saturday, Dec. 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@stmarystcatherine.org](mailto:dludy@stmarystcatherine.org)

AND

On Saturday, December 24 at 9:30 AM, (after the morning Mass) we will be decorating the Church for Christmas. Please join us in adorning our Church in celebration of the birth of Jesus.

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 I'll show you what it means to love like this...  
to love like you don't even care about the hurry and the hustle...  
like you are unaware December comes with so much trouble.  
'Cause you believe a baby came, not in paintings or in plays,  
but every minute, every hour, every day... to be real.*  
From Real, written by Nichole Nordeman

This second Sunday of Advent we are introduced to someone who took real to a new plane- the great John the Baptist. John challenged people then and us today to transform our lives. He dressed strangely, ate an unusual diet, but it was the truth of his words that was the point. John calls us today to conform our lives, not to the slavish desires of this world, but to the freedom of Jesus Christ. No wonder Herod was fascinated by him- the brightness of truth eventually cuts through the foolishness and clamor and darkness of this world.

During this season of waiting, may we be lights of challenge and hope to those in our midst. May we point others, by our words, by our actions, by our very lives to Jesus Christ, John's cousin.



### 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.

## **Advent Prayer and Reconciliation Service** **Thursday, Dec. 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.



### **GIVING TREES** — (Both Parishes)

#### ***Just a reminder:***

Please note that gifts should be unwrapped or placed in gift bags. **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!**

## Charlestown Catholic Collaborative

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

*Saturday, December 9—2nd Sunday of Advent*

9 am

4 pm + Dorothy M. Shea

4 pm + Maryann Wrenn

*Sunday, December 10*

8 am + Gerald "Jerry" Wall

9:30 am + Joseph Whelan

11 am + Thomas Regan

6 pm + Joan & Daniel Blake

Monday, December 11

8 am

Tuesday, December 12

8 am + Sarah Farmer-Williams

Wednesday, December 13

8 am

6:30 pm—Advent Prayer & Reconciliation Service

Thursday, December 14

8 am

Friday, December 15

8 am

*Saturday, December 16*

9 am

4 pm + Peg O'Brien

4 pm + Henry Maneely, Jr.

*Sunday, December 17 - 2nd Sunday of Advent*

8 am

9:30 am + Mary "Sis" Farrell, William "Bill" Farrell and  
Mary "Mamie" Connelly

11 am + Christine Ryan

6 pm

# CHARLESTOWN CATHOLIC



## Come Join the St. Mary-St. Catherine Music Ministry for Christmas!

Do you love to sing and or play Christmas Music? Then come join us for the Christmas Season with sacred hits such as Silent Night, Joy To The World and many more! Contact John Anthony Volpe at [Javolpay@gmail.com](mailto:Javolpay@gmail.com) for details on how you can share in the Joy of Christ's coming in prayerful Song.





Weekend of  
Dec 2—3

Parishioners contributed  
\$5,172.72 to the Weekly Collection  
and \$13,765.00 to  
the Grand Annual  
Collection at St. Mary—  
St. Catherine Parish.

<i>St. MC Attendance 12/02 &amp; 12/03</i>	
Sat. @ 4 pm	67
Sun @ 8 am	57
11 am	87
6 pm	106
Total	317

<i>St. F Attendance—12/02 &amp; 12/03</i>	
Sat. @ 4:00 pm	51
Sun @ 9:30 am	101
Total	162



**WE ARE GRATEFUL  
TO YOU**

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

**On the weekend of Nov. 18-19,  
\$3,303 was contributed  
to the Weekly Collection  
and 1,111.00 for the  
Capital Improvement  
at St. Francis de Sales Parish**



Saint Mary Church  
Sanctuary Lamp  
is lit for

Christine Ryan

St. Catherine Siena Chapel  
Sanctuary Lamp

Is lit for

Sarah Farmer-Williams



Saint Francis de  
Sales Church  
Sanctuary Lamp  
is lit for

Ronan Joseph  
Yandle

# COMMUNITY NEWS & INFO

## Harvest on Vine Turkey Distribution

Over 540 turkeys were passed out with the “fixins” for Thanksgiving. We would like to thank our volunteers who worked so hard to make this day a success and our benefactors for their generous donations. And, thank you to Tom MacDonald who oversees all it takes to make it happen.





Charlestown Catholic Community participated in the Christmas Stroll. Pictured (below) are two of our volunteers selling raffles for the Hockey tickets and also pictured are student volunteers working the table giving out some Christmas ornaments!



## USHERS & GREETERS

With Christmas coming we'll need help with the additional worshipers that will be coming into the Parish for Christmas Eve Family Mass at 4 pm, Christmas Day Mass at 8 am and 11:00 am.

We need Ushers to help with quickly assisting with collection and helping greeters finding seats during mass.

If you can help, please email [dludy@stmaryscatherine.org](mailto:dludy@stmaryscatherine.org) or call 617-242-4664

Please note which mass you will be able to help with and be willing to be available 15-30 mins. before mass.



## CHRISTMAS CONCERT WITH THE SPECTRUM SINGERS

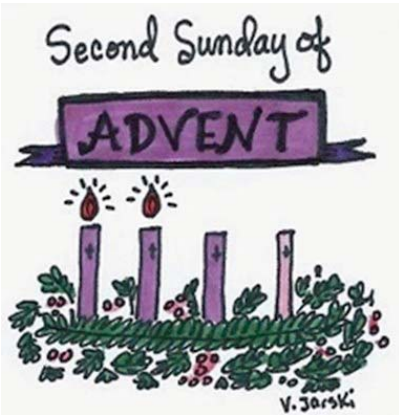
**DEC. 10 AT 3 PM AT ST. MARY CHURCH**  
CONCERT IS FREE WITH SUGGESTED  
DONATIONS TO HARVEST ON VINE

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

## REMEMBERING OUR LOVED ONES WHO ARE WITH GOD *Weekend of December 16-17*

At all Masses at St Mary Church on the weekend of Dec. 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)*



## December 10 - Second Sunday of Advent

The prophet Isaiah instructs us: “Prepare the way of the Lord.” What does it mean to “prepare the way for the Lord,” and what can you do differently to prepare for the Lord’s coming? St. Peter give us a suggestion in our second reading, “conduct yourselves in holiness and devotion” as we await Christ’s coming. Living by these words is more difficult than it sounds! Begin each day this week by making this simple prayer your own, “Come Lord Jesus, come! Come Lord Jesus, come.” Grant me the grace to conduct myself in holiness and devotion.



Cientos de personajes llenan las páginas de la Biblia, personajes que cumplen una misión y desaparecen para siempre. El Adviento tiene su personaje, Juan Bautista, el telonero de Jesús. Juan Bautista, predicador del desierto, anuncia el comienzo del evangelio de Jesucristo, le prepara el camino y desaparece. Juan Bautista tiene que disminuir, Jesús tiene que crecer. Sólo Jesús y su Buena Noticia permanecen para siempre. La conversión, sermón predicado miles de veces por todos los predicadores del mundo, sería el título del primer sermón de Juan Bautista en el desierto, escenario nada eclesial para un predicador.

Un profesor de universidad fue a visitar a un gurú, un maestro de sabiduría oriental y le dijo: “Maestro, enséñame lo que tengo que saber para ser feliz. He estudiado las Escrituras, he escuchado a los grandes maestros, pero aún no he encontrado la respuesta”.

El Maestro le invitó a té, llenó la taza y siguió echando té que se iba derramando por la mesa y el suelo. El profesor sorprendido le dijo: “La taza está llena. Pare. Ya no cabe más”. El Maestro le explicó: “Tú, como esta taza estás lleno de tus opiniones y de tus especulaciones. ¿Cómo puedo enseñarte el camino si antes no vacías tu taza?”

¿Cómo puedo llenarme del evangelio de Jesucristo y cómo puedo acogerlo si yo soy el centro, si yo lo lleno todo?

¿Podemos vaciarnos de nuestros prejuicios, de nuestras ideas fijas, de nuestros hábitos, de nuestra educación de nuestro orgullo, del siempre se hizo así, de la contaminación mediática ambiental, de ese bagaje acumulado a lo largo de los años?

Mi experiencia personal y mi observación de las personas que me rodean es que nadie vacía su taza. Nada nos cambia. La conversión que predica Juan Bautista, el cambio que me pide es más profundo que desaprender catecismos y creencias viejas, es más que decir no a un pasado incambiable, es decir sí al evangelio de Jesucristo, comienzo de todo cambio, no es hacer más cosas para justificar mi existencia, es hacer menos, es tener una actitud nueva y centrada en lo importante, no lo interesante.

Marcos comienza el evangelio de una manera sencilla, no nos habla de pastores ni de ángeles ni de una algarabía celestial. Desde el inhóspito desierto grita una sola palabra: PREPARAD un camino al que viene, al que bautiza con Espíritu Santo, preparad un camino que lleve al corazón, la geografía más escarpada de la tierra. La conversión es fruto de una profunda y sincera relación con Dios. ¿Podemos cambiar? Por supuesto, porque hacer una opción verdadera y auténtica por Jesucristo nos hace relativizar toda la calderilla de las religiones, las cosas de la ciudad, sus doctrinas, sus ruidos y sus modas nos lleva al desierto, lugar donde Dios nos habla y nos llena de savia nueva.

El desierto es el lugar donde entro en relación con Dios, el guía del camino. Cada uno de nosotros tenemos que descubrir nuestro desierto donde Dios sale a nuestro encuentro y nos habla al corazón,





**Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe December 12** On Dec. 9, 1531 a poor Mexican Indian, Juan Diego, was walking by a hill near his village when he heard beautiful music. Suddenly there appeared a radiant cloud and within it a young Indian maiden dressed as an Aztec princess. The young maiden spoke to the 57-year-old widower in his native language and directed him to visit the Archbishop of Mexico with a request that a chapel be built where she stood. The archbishop demanded a sign of authenticity, and the maiden instructed Juan Diego to gather flowers from the top of the hill where they met. Even though December was too late in the growing season for flowers to bloom, Juan Diego was surprised to find Castilian roses, not native to Mexico. On Dec. 12, Juan Diego opened his cloak before the archbishop, the roses fell to the floor, and in their place the image of the young virgin was miraculously imprinted on the fabric. News spread quickly, and shortly thereafter an estimated nine million Indians converted to Catholicism. Our Lady's appearance to a poor, humble man is a compelling reminder that God's loving embrace is all-inclusive; and that our Church's preferential option for the poor is a Gospel imperative.



## *Second Week of Advent*

### *Peace*

*We find peace in remembering the ways that God has been a force for justice and righteousness in the past, even as we seek God's justice and righteousness in our future. We long for steadfast love and faithfulness to meet and for righteousness and peace to kiss each other. As we reflect on the Christ child piercing the darkness of this world, we ask God to restore unto us light and peace.*

*"Peace be with you." Simple, but transformative words during a time of stress and anxiety. We are invited during the week to welcome peace in our lives. It is when we accept a spirit of peace that we are transformed and able to embrace Jesus, the Prince of Peace.*

*Father in heaven, set our hearts ablaze to follow in the steps of John the Baptist. May we bring light and love to all we meet, that the darkness of sin and fear may be overcome with*

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Maureen McGlame, 617-272-5039  
or Craig Smith, 339-226-0845



*We extend a warm welcome to all visitors and those who are new to our parish. If you're new to St. Mary -St. Catherine of Siena Parish or St. Francis de Sales Parish, please visit our website for events and resources. You may also register on line at:*  
***charlestowncatholic.org***





Can you choose the correct endings?

- The rugged land shall be made a:  
(a) sea (b) garden (c) plain?
- The day of the Lord will come like a:  
(a) whirlwind (b) thief (c) tidal wave?
- What we await are new heavens and:  
(a) a new earth (b) a fresh start  
(c) some rest?
- Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight:  
(a) your lives (b) his paths  
(c) any confusion?
- He fed on locusts and wild:  
(a) fruit (b) animals (c) honey?

ANSWERS

The correct answers are: 1(c); 2(b); 3(a); 4(b); 5(c)

## WORDSEARCH

Can you find and circle the words listed below?

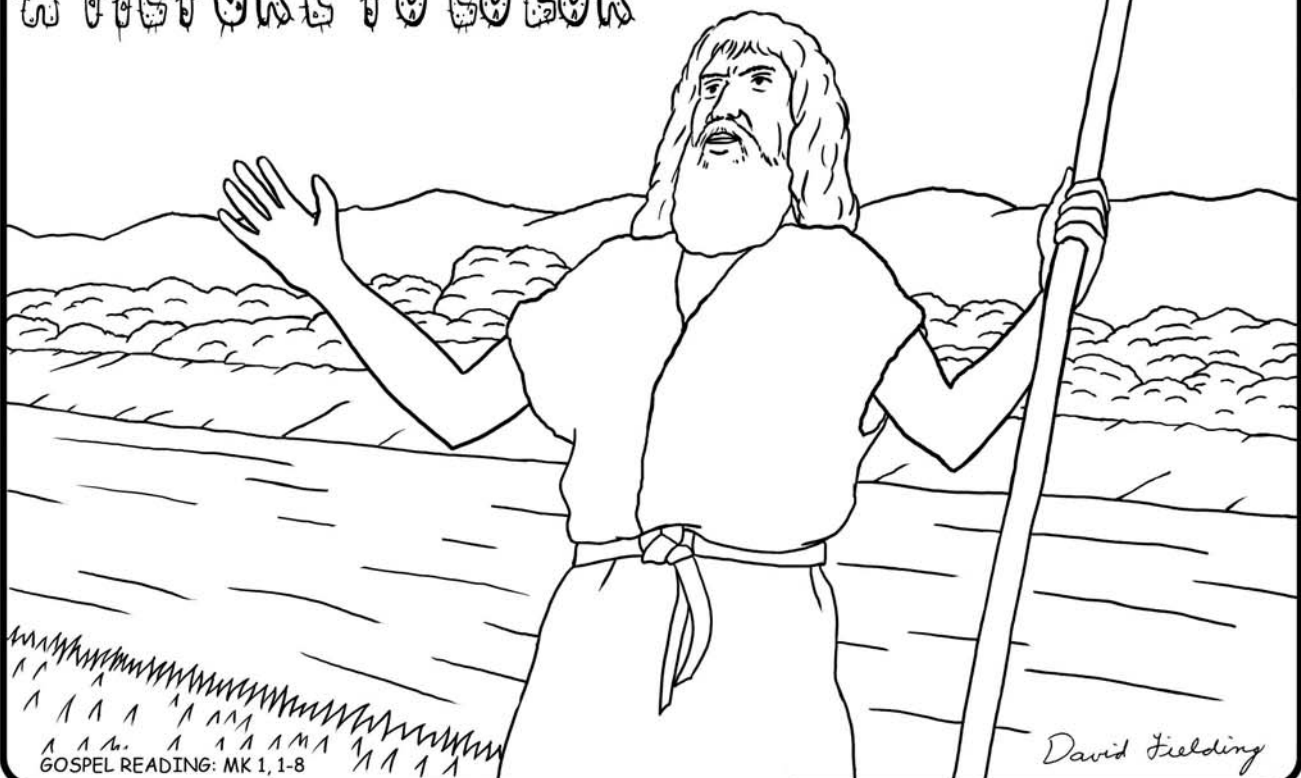
COMFORT DELAY STEPS  
SERVICE ROAR DESERT  
GUILT FIRE HAIR  
SINS EARTH BELT  
DOUBLE DEEDS WATER

Solution to last week's crossword



## A PICTURE TO COLOR

JOHN THE BAPTIST BY THE RIVER JORDAN



GOSPEL READING: MK 1, 1-8

David Fielding



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

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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.



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"Pray without Ceasing" 1  
Thessalonians 5:17



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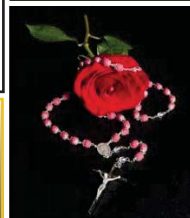
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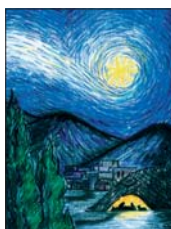
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Fr. Tom Nestor has served as pastor at the Collaborative Parishes of Resurrection and Saint Paul in Hingham for the past ten years, and previously served at St. Eulalia's in Winchester for 17 years. A Harvard graduate and native of West Roxbury, Fr.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

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