

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

February 11, 2024

6TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Moved with pity, he stretched out his hand, touched him, and said to him,
“I do will it. Be made clean.” Mk 1:41

© 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



Couples!

On Sunday, Feb. 18, in honor of
World Marriage Day, at the 9:30 am Mass
at St. Francis and the 11 am Mass at St.
Mary's Church, we'll invite couples to restate their vows!

Coming soon!



Two very special evenings
with dynamic TV and film star
Frank Runyeon
who will light up St. Mary's
Church with *three* presentations
March 21-22:

Thursday, March 21 at 7 pm:

Signs! The Gospel of John

Friday, March 22 at 7 pm:

The Sermon on the Mount and Hollywood vs. Faith!
Take everyone to this special evening and be inspired,
encouraged, and spellbound!

Admission is a free will offering.

Mark these dates on your calendar and join us!

Saint Mary Church
55 Warren St.
Saint Catherine of Siena Chapel
Warren & Soley St.
617.242.4664

St. Francis de Sales Church
313 Bunker Hill St.
617.242.0147

Charlestown Catholic Collaborative
Parish Center
46 Winthrop St.
617-242-4664

Social Ministry Office
49 Vine Street 617-580-8305

Good Shepherd School
20 Winthrop Street 617-242-8800

Handicapped Access

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

From our Pastor ...

*They say it's a river, that circles the earth.
A beam of light shining to the edge of the universe.
It conquers all, it changes everything.*

*They say it's a blessing, they say it's a gift.
They say it's a miracle, and I believe that it is.
It conquers all, but it's a mystery.
From *Love Is* written by Brian McKnight*

This year Ash Wednesday happens to fall on Valentine's Day. Every 15 years or so this happens, and it reminds me of what I talk about at weddings- what we want and what we need. It strikes me as I work with couples and help plan their celebration that a beautiful transformation takes place- their concern is not their own desires or pleasures, but the happiness of the one they love, and as I get to baptize their children, seeing the joy of their love grow to their children, I see the source of all that love from God Himself.

Real love involves sacrifice and finding true meaning and peace in that giving, which is heart of the Lenten season. I find it powerful that these days intersect- the love God calls us to share puts the other person first- actively, joyously, sacrificially. Let us be about this holy season with hearts open to God's will- in this we will find our joy!

Ash Wednesday schedule

8 am Mass @ St. Francis
12:10 pm Service @ St. Mary's
3 pm Service @ St. Francis
6 pm Mass @ St. Mary's
Ashes also available at the offices at 46 Winthrop St.

On **Ash Wednesday** and **Good Friday**, Catholics ages 18-59- in reasonable health- are called to eat only one full meal and two smaller meals which, combined, would not equal a single normal meal.

Those 14 years and older are called to abstain from meat on Fridays during Lent.

Catholics are also encouraged to engage in acts of kindness, justice, and mercy, as well as abstain or refrain from something one would normally indulge in to mark the nature of the season.

For young children, parents should communicate the meaning and importance of Lent.

Stations of the Cross

The Stations will be prayed in English and Spanish
at St. Francis Church on Fridays throughout Lent at 6:30 pm.
Gather with us and walk the steps of Christ.

On **Sunday, Feb. 18**, after the 11 am Mass, folks from our Collaborative will join with Cardinal Sean and hundreds of candidates and catechumens for the Rite of Welcoming at the Cathedral that afternoon.

Through the Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults, they will be brought into the fullness of the Catholic Church at the Easter Vigil on March 31st. Please pray for them, specially Abigail, Hannah, and Sarah, members of our Parish!

Charlestown Catholic Collaborative

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

Saturday, February 10

9 am

4 pm + Christine Auch Cormican

4 pm + Joseph Andrea

Sunday, February 11

8 am Those who have no one to pray for them

9:30 am + Thomas Ford

11 am Members of our Parish who need healing

6 pm Intention of Parishioners

Monday, February 12

9 am

Tuesday, February 13

8 am

Wednesday, February 14 Ash Wednesday- Beginning of Lent

8 am Mass @ St. Francis

12:10 pm

Service @ St. Mary's

3 pm

Service @ St. Francis

6 pm

Mass @ St. Mary's

Thursday, February 15

8 am

Friday, February 16

8 am

Saturday, February 17

9 am + Maureen Armstrong

4 pm + Thomas Byrne

4 pm + Linda LeBlanc

Sunday, February 18

8 am

9:30 am World Marriage Day—Restating Vows

11 am World Marriage Day—Restating Vows

6 pm

CHARLESTOWN CATHOLIC

CORI Time - To all our volunteers at St Mary-St Catherine of Siena Parish:

It is time for our parish to complete CORI forms. A copy of the form will be emailed to volunteers. You may have it notarized and send it back or bring it filled out to Church and Sister Nancy or approved staff member will be there to verify your signature. Please bring your photo ID. You may also drop by the office. Also, there will be blank CORI forms at the office and at the Church for your convenience. All those who have recently filled out a CORI do not need to fill another one out.

Thank you for all that you do and for your help in getting the CORIs submitted in a timely manner.

WORLD DAY OF THE SICK

On the weekend of Feb. 10-11, in honor of the World Day of the Sick, at the Saturday 4 pm Mass at St. Mary's Church and the Sunday 9:30am Mass at St. Francis Church, we will offer the Sacrament of Anointing.

*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 online at:
charlestowncatholic.org*



LOW GLUTEN HOSTS ARE
AVAILABLE

Please let the priest know of your need

GRATEFULLY ACKNOWLEDGING
THAT GOD GIVES US ALL, WE
EACH WILLINGLY OFFER OUR
UNIQUE GIFTS TO ONE ANOTHER
AND ALL CREATION IN THE
SPIRIT OF JESUS CHRIST.



Weekend of
Feb 3 & 4

Parishioners contributed
\$6,203.96
to the Weekly Collection and
\$1,325.00 to the Fuel collection
For Latin America

St. MC Attendance 2/3 & 2/4

Sat. @ 4 pm	83
Sun @ 8 am	53
11 am	77
6 pm	97
Total	310

St. Mary - St Catherine of Siena

UPCOMING COLLECTIONS

Feb 11—St Vincent de Paul

Feb 14—Ash Wed: Catholic Charities



Saint Mary -
Saint Catherine Si-
ena Parish
Sanctuary Lamp

is lit for

Michael & Eleanor Santosuosso



Saint Francis de
Sales
Sanctuary Lamp
is lit for

Thomas Ford



WE ARE GRATEFUL
TO YOU

We are grateful to you
for your offerings!

Weekend of Feb 3 & 4
\$1,668.00 was contributed
to the Weekly Collection and
\$3,167.00 to the collection
For Capital Improvement

St. F Attendance—2/3 & 2/4

Sat. @ 4 pm	56
Sun @ 9:30 am	57
Total	105

St. Francis de Sales
UPCOMING COLLECTIONS

Feb 14—Ash Wed—Catholic Charities

COMMUNITY NEWS & INFO



Students learned about Patron Saints and, in particular, Saint Valentine, and engaged in a service project led by Katy Fleming.

The service project included making valentines for homeless veterans. The creative and thoughtful handmade valentines were delivered yesterday!

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



February 11 ~ Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time

St. Paul's words in the second reading today are clear but not necessarily the easiest to do: "whatever you do, do everything for the glory of God." This reading is a good attitude for us as we head into the Lenten season this week. Make it your prayer this week that in all things large and small, in your words and in your actions, your prayer and your intentions will be to give glory to God. Each evening, look back over your day to recall your day. Notice when you were aware of your intention to do things for God's glory and when you were not. Pray for the grace to act with right intentions in the coming day. As Lent begins, try to maintain this practice and notice the positive difference it makes in your life.



Dear Families,

This Lent, our community will participate in CRS Rice Bowl, a Catholic Relief Services program that invites us to encounter God and our global family through prayer, fasting and almsgiving.

Through CRS Rice Bowl, we will encounter communities in Uganda, El Salvador and Indonesia and learn how issues like hunger and climate change are impacting our sisters and brothers around the world. Together, we will reflect on our participation in the body of Christ and how the Eucharist—the Bread of Life—compels us to share bread for life with all members of our human family.

Alongside thousands of Catholic faith communities across the

United States, our Lenten alms will make a difference in the lives of millions of people worldwide. Together as a Church, we can support people who seek to build a better future for themselves and their communities.

CRS Rice Bowl provides resources for daily reflection throughout the liturgical season. Consider these suggestions in your family's Lenten plan:

- Use your CRS Rice Bowl and Lenten Calendar each day to guide your prayer, fasting and almsgiving.
- Visit crsricebowl.org to read weekly Stories of Hope and watch the accompanying videos.

Use the CRS Rice Bowl recipes from crsricebowl.org/recipe to prepare simple, meatless meals on the Fridays of Lent to eat in solidarity with our global family.

During this holy season, may your Lenten journey be a transformative and enriching experience as you put your faith into action for our sisters and brothers experiencing the greatest need.

CRS Rice Bowls will be collected at the end of Lent, so stay tuned to learn more. Thank you for participating in CRS Rice Bowl with your family.

Saint Valentine

How February 14 came to be celebrated as the feast for lovers is somewhat a mystery. What little is known of the feast's namesake can be attributed to the lives of two martyrs: one a priest, the other a bishop. Their lives bear little resemblance to the contemporary holiday. The priest Valentine reportedly was beheaded in 269 by Emperor Claudius II. The bishop, known for healing, was martyred earlier. It's probable that a medieval custom of sending messages of love on this day merged later with the feast.

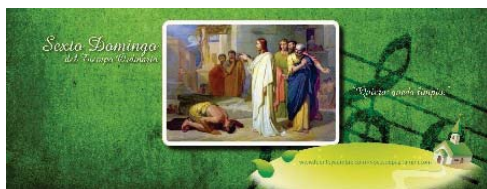
THIRD CENTURY
FEAST DAY: FEBRUARY 14



Catholic
Current



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Hasta hace muy poco, las personas de todo el mundo temían la lepra, una enfermedad que ataca las extremidades (pies, dedos, nariz) y les hace perder la sensibilidad y comenzar a pudrirse. La lepra consume el cuerpo llevando a una muerte dolorosa. Para protegerse, diferentes sociedades aislaron al leproso. Una persona que toca a un leproso se vuelve impura.

Jesús hace algo extraordinario al extender la mano y tocar al leproso. Jesús nos está diciendo algo. Si queremos ayudar a otros, debemos tocar su herida. La gente está herida, sufriendo. No los ayudamos tanto por darles cosas sino por tocar su herida. Es notable que Jesús toque al leproso y también es impresionante que el leproso se le acerque. Como escuchamos en la primera lectura, un leproso tuvo que usar ropa rasgada y gritar, "Soy impuro". Este leproso se atreve a acercarse a Jesús y arrodillarse frente a él. Él pide limpieza. "Si lo deseas, puedes curarme".

Como discípulos misioneros, debemos permitir que las personas se nos acerquen. Los católicos somos amistosos, pero no somos tan buenos para dar la bienvenida, creando la sensación de que la gente puede acercarse a nosotros. He comentado sobre nuestra tendencia a tomar el exterior de los bancos en lugar de avanzar hacia el centro. En otras formas, no enviamos una señal de bienvenida a la persona que está sola, herida o sufriendo.

El Evangelio dice que Jesús fue "conmovido". En su libro Reflexiones sobre el Discipulado, el Obispo Mueggenborg explica que la compasión, la misericordia y la compasión se refieren a algo más que el sentimiento que experimentamos cuando vemos a alguien en apuros. El obispo Mueggenborg escribe: "Para Jesús, sin embargo, la compasión no era solo un sentimiento o emoción, sino que la compasión era una motivación para la acción". En este caso, la acción implica una palabra curativa y un toque sanador.

Jesús puede sanarnos pero tenemos que enfrentar esta pregunta: ¿realmente queremos ser sanados? El presidente Lyndon Johnson contó una historia sobre un hombre que estaba perdiendo la audición. Acude a un médico que lo examina y luego le pregunta cuánto está tomando. El hombre dice: "Ah, alrededor de medio litro de whisky al día". El médico le dice que deje de tomar y regrese en dos meses.

Después del primer mes, su audición mejora. Cuando regresa al médico después de 2 meses, sin embargo, el médico lo examina nuevamente. Resulta que su audición es tan mala como antes. El doctor le pregunta si dejó de beber. "Bueno", dice, "lo intenté durante un mes y escuché mejor. Pero, ya sabes, me gusta como me siento después de tomar el medio litro que después de algunas de las cosas que he escuchado". Somos como ese hombre. En el fondo, realmente no queremos ser sanados. Hay algunas cosas que preferimos no escuchar, especialmente si esto significa abrirnos a las heridas y sufrimientos de los demás.

La semana pasada hablamos acerca de cómo convertirse en un discípulo significa recoger la mochila que Dios ha puesto en su camino. Tú y yo tenemos que tomar esa carga y llevarla. Dios tiene una tarea para cada uno de nosotros. Él quiere que hagamos esa tarea, que carguemos con nuestra carga y sigamos a Jesús. Puede sentirse demasiado herido, demasiado quebrantado como para soportar cualquier carga. Si te sientes así, eres exactamente el que Jesús está buscando. Él quiere hablarte, tocarte, curarte. Puede ser que no sucede en un instante. Puede requerir tiempo. Es por eso que tenemos una temporada de cuarenta días llamada Cuaresma. Jesús quiere sanarte a través de la oración, el ayuno y la generosidad.

Reclamamos el significado más profundo del amor. Tenga una cena especial el martes por la tarde y comience la Cuaresma bien el Miércoles de Ceniza. Jesús te enseñará el significado del amor a través de la oración, el ayuno y la generosidad. Puedes sentirte reacio a dejar que Jesús te toque, pero por favor ven este miércoles. Recibe la cruz de cenizas. Dile a Jesús: "Si quieres, puedes curarme". Permitir que Jesús te toque. "Si quiero," dice "sana". Amén.



Lenten Groups

If you are interested in joining a Lenten Group, please select the group you are interested in joining and returning it to the office or to staff at the end of Mass.

Women's Group _____

When: Wednesday evenings, beginning March February 21, 6:30

Where: Via Zoom

Facilitated by Sr. Nancy

Mixed Group _____

When: Thursday mornings, beginning February 15, 8:45-10:15

Where: St. Mary Church Hall

Facilitated by Kathy Devaney

Check one

Name: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

You can return this form to the Parish Center,



ASH WEDNESDAY - Lent Begins February 14, 2024

Ash Wednesday opens Lent, a season of fasting and prayer.

Ash Wednesday takes place 46 days before Easter Sunday, and is chiefly observed by Catholics, although many other Christians observe it too.

Ashes also symbolize grief, in this case, grief that we have sinned and caused division from God. Writings from the Second-century Church refer to the wearing of ashes as a sign of penance. All are invited to accept the ashes as a visible symbol of penance. Small children, the elderly and sick are exempt from this observance. Ashes also available at the Collaborative Office (Parish office at 46 Winthrop Street) from 9:30 am to 4:30 pm for those unable to get to a Mass or prayer service at the Church.

8 AM - St. Francis de Sales—
Mass

12:10 PM—St. Mary Church—
Prayer Service

3 PM—St. Francis de Sales—
Prayer Service

6 PM—St. Mary Church—Mass

The Three Pillars of Lent

PRAYER

Guide: Praying with Scripture

Enter His Gaze

Ask for Grace to be open

Read the Scripture a few times

Meditate on what bubbles up

Pray (or talk to the Lord) about your meditation

Contemplation - Be still and rest in His presence

Conclude with the Lord's prayer

FASTING

"Fasting gives birth to prophets and strengthens the powerful; fasting makes lawgivers wise. Fasting is a good safeguard for the soul, a steadfast companion for the body, a weapon for the valiant, and a gymnasium for athletes. Fasting repels temptations, anoints unto piety; it is the comrade of watchfulness and the artificer of chastity. In war it fights bravely, in peace it teaches stillness."

St. Basil the Great

ALMSGIVING

"Let us also love our neighbors as ourselves. Let us have charity and humility. Let us give alms because these cleanse our souls from the stains of sin. Men lose all the material things they leave behind them in this world, but they carry with them the reward of their charity and the alms they give. For these they will receive from the Lord the reward and recompense they deserve."

St. Francis of Assisi

FEBRUARY



Black History MONTH

FEBRUARY IS BLACK HISTORY MONTH

"Hold fast to dreams, for if dreams die, life is a broken winged bird that cannot fly." - Langston Hughes, Poet, Playwright

"I would like to be remembered as a person who wanted to be free... so other people would be also free." - Rosa Parks, Civil Rights Activist

Black History Month, or National African American History Month, has been celebrated annually since 1915. It is a time to recognize and celebrate the achievements by black Americans and their central role in United States History.

Black History month has been celebrated by every U.S. President during the month of February since 1976. Other countries in the world, including Canada and the United Kingdom also devote a month to celebrating black history.

During this month, make a point of researching the stories of a variety of African American men and women who have made extraordinary contributions to our society and to the Catholic Church throughout history.

Merciful God, in this troubled world we live in, heal and renew us in these trying times. Inspire us to look beyond our own fears, self-absorption and indifference, and to listen to the voice of conscience within us that orients us towards truth, love and justice. May we learn to be a society free of embedded judgments and racism, and celebrate together our differences and our humanity. Amen. Adapted Prayer written by Dianna Ortiz, O.S.U.

A PICTURE FOR YOU TO FINISH

GOSPEL READING: MARK 1, 40-45





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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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ATTORNEY AT LAW

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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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"Jesus Wept." John 11:35

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