

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

March 10, 2024

**Laetare
Sunday
4th
Sunday
of Lent**

For God so loved
the world that he
gave his only Son,
so that everyone
who believes in him
might not perish
but might have
eternal life.

John 3:16



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

From our Pastor ...

*"Nicodemus could not understand how You could truly free us.
He struggled with the image of a grown man born again.
We might have been good friends,
because sometimes I still question too how easily we come to
You."*

From *Face to Face*, written by Nichole Nordeman

A Word to the Wise...

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 season.

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

Looking up. Looking ahead.

Last Saturday, members of our Collaborative Councils, staff, and Stewardship council met with Sr. Pat Boyle from the Archdiocesan Planning Office to plan for our future together!



**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.**

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 ...

cont.

A Date to Remember: Saturday, March 16th

We're having a clean-up day at St. Francis de Sales church for Holy Week and Easter, so grab your cleaning supplies and join us as we spruce up our pretty church **starting at 9:30 am!**

Ready for My Close-Up

I make my return to the Catholic TV Mass on **Thursday, March 21st** at 9:30 am!

Peace before Holy Week

Join us on **Thursday, March 21st at 7 pm** at **St. Francis Church** for a Lenten Penance Service!

Lenten Mission!

Two very special evenings with a dynamic TV and film star **Frank Runyeon**, who will light up St. Mary's Church at 55 Warren St. with **three** presentations:

Thursday, March 21 at 7 pm: Signs! The Gospel of John

Friday, March 22 at 7 pm: The Sermon on the Mount and 7:45 pm: 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!

Cabrini- An incredible film

We're looking to host a special evening with discount tickets to see the incredible movie based on the life of Mother Cabrini, the first American saint and patron saint of immigrants at the AMC Theatre in Assembly Square early during Holy Week. Stay tuned!

Confirmation!

The Sacrament will be administered by Most. Rev. Cristiano Barbaro on Saturday, April 27 at St. Mary's at the 4 pm Mass and with special permission by Fr. John on Sunday, April 28 at St. Francis at 9:30 am.

First Communion!

We will celebrate First Communion at St Mary's on Saturday, May 4 at 10 am and at St. Francis on Sunday, May 5 at 9:30 am!

As we conclude the Faith Formation year, we express our thanks and fond farewell to Allison Buff, who ran our K-4 program so very well this year.

A Special Sending Forth

On Pentecost Sunday, May 19 at the 11 am Mass (Wear red that day for the Holy Spirit), we'll have a sending forth for Sr. Nancy Citro, as she heads off to her next adventure.

Join us for a special Mass and celebration as we express our gratitude to our beloved sister in Jesus Christ and her exceptional ministry here.

HUNGRY SUNDAY APPEAL THIS WEEKEND

Every Second Sunday of the month both parishes will be conducting the Hungry Sunday Appeal for Charlestown's Harvest On Vine Food Pantry. Bring a non-perishable food item such as cereal, rice, soup or pasta to the Usher's Tables at St Francis de Sales or to the back of the church at St Mary- St Catherine of Siena when you come to Mass next weekend. Thank you!

Charlestown Catholic Collaborative

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

Saturday, March 9

9 am

4 pm

4 pm + James P. Collins

Sunday, March 10

8 am Rachel Barberian & Margaret Costello

9:30 am

11 am + John, Theresa & Donald Ring

6 pm + Margaret & William Fitzpatrick

Monday, March 11

8 am + Tranquillino, Minnie & Vincent Citro
Joseph & Arthur Mari & Fabio Laudadio

Tuesday, March 12

8 am

Wednesday, March 13

8 am

Thursday, March 14

8 am

Friday, March 15

8 am

Saturday, March 16

9 am

4 pm + Karen Langan, James Langan
Patricia & William Sullivan

4 pm + Lawrence Mahoney

Sunday, March 17—Happy Saint Patrick's Day!

8 am + Colleen Bowman

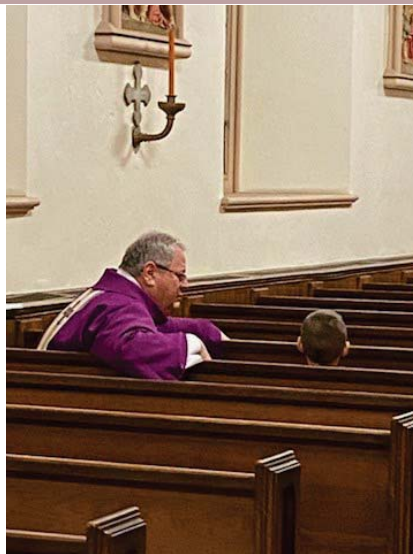
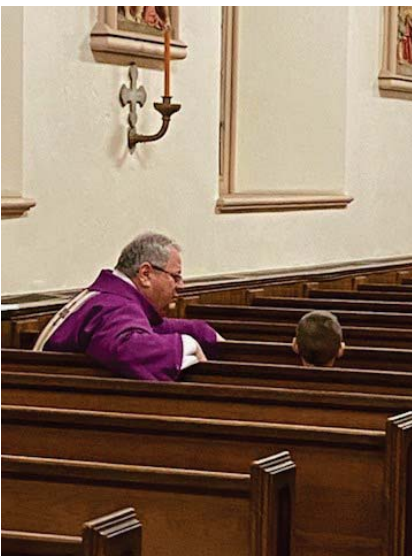
9:30 am

11 am + Thomas Regan

6 pm + Frank Abate



CHARLESTOWN CATHOLIC





**Weekend of
March 2 & 3**

Parishioners contributed
\$7329.99
to the Weekly Collection



*Requiescant in
Pace*
Ann M. Winnett
Mary Rose Jordan
Thomas J Ford
Jane T McLaughlin



**WE ARE GRATEFUL
TO YOU**
**We are grateful to you
for your offerings!**
March 2 & 3
**\$2,001 was contributed
to the Weekly Collection**

St. MC Attendance 3/2 & 3/3

Sat. @ 4 pm	93
Sun @ 8 am	49
11 am	126
6 pm	01
Total	369

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

Mar 10 Fuel
Mar 17 Monthly
Mar 24 Parish Easter
Mar 31 Clergy Benefit



Saint Francis de Sales
Sanctuary Lamp
is lit for

John P "Jake" Keady III



Saint Mary Church
Sanctuary Lamp
is lit for
John P "Jake" Keady III

And the
St Catherine Siena Chapel
Sanctuary Lamp is lit for
Sarah Farmer-Williams

St. F Attendance—3/2 & 3/3

Sat. @ 4 pm	49
Sun @ 9:30 am	53
Total	102

**St. Francis de Sales
UPCOMING COLLECTIONS**

Mar 10 Capital Improvement
Mar 29 Holy Land
Mar 31 Clergy Benefit

COMMUNITY NEWS & INFO



**First Penance at St Francis de Sales on
February 29, 2024**
Congratulations to our religious education students



Don't Forget -Time to Clean up for Easter!

St Mary Church

On SATURDAY Morning, March 23

Right after the 9:00 am Mass in the Chapel – about 9:30 am;

All are invited to come and help out to clean up the Church for Easter. Breakfast? No problem!

Coffee & Donuts will be ready for you when you arrive.

Spring is in the air!

That means ... Spring Cleaning too!

St Francis de Sales Church

On Saturday, March 16, from 10 a.m. to noon, your help is needed. In preparation for Easter, St. Francis de Sales upper church needs a cleaning. If you could spare an hour or so, the benches need a wipe down; the floors under the kneelers need to be swept and mopped; and the aisles need a vacuum. The more hands the better.... bring a friend!

As always, your time and talents spent at St. Francis de Sales are greatly appreciated by Fr. John and the entire parish family.



Easter Flowers:

Names for the Easter Flowers Bulletin must be submitted *no later than Thursday, March 21*. Please bring your envelope to Mass, or the Parish Center (46 Winthrop, 9-5, M-F), or email dludy@stmarystcatherine.org with the subject "Easter names".

FOR OUR PARISHIONERS

*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...
Or would like to register to the parish*

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*

Our Stewardship Prayer

Heavenly Father, instill in our hearts a spirit of love and compassion. May we foster a welcoming parish community with acceptance and respect for all. Inspire us to make a difference by being generous with our time and talents. Please send your Holy Spirit among us to remind us to follow Jesus and his teachings in all aspects of our lives. As we end this Mass, may we go forth and spread goodwill among our neighbors, friends, and fellow parishioners. Through Christ, our Lord. Amen



We're very excited to launch the Catholic Appeal this weekend at . Thank you to those who have already responded generously to the Cardinal Seán's invitation!

As Catholics, each of us shares the responsibility of the Church community – both directly within our parish and to the greater Church. Thank you for responding in faith, hope, and charity by making a gift to the 2024 Catholic Appeal.

We are stronger together and your generous participation is greatly appreciated!



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 these special evenings
and be inspired, encouraged, and spellbound!

Admission is a free will offering.

Mark these dates on your calendar and join us!



Hi everyone,

Here's an update from Sunday's Youth Group (pictured here) and Confirmation Classes!

The class began with a great discussion on generosity and was co-lead by two students from the Confirmation 2 class. We talked about generosity and its particular significance during Lent, and learned about St. Mother Teresa, an incredible example of generosity. . We also discussed where we are in the Liturgical Year, including Lent, Palm Sunday, Good Friday, and Easter. A special thank you to Thomas and Gwen for co-leading a fun and engaging class with Kerry and also for sharing their experiences about being Confirmation Candidates.

In addition, we completed an Easter Lenten service project that involved assembling more than 80 treat bags filled with pastel-colored M&Ms, telling the Easter story. By turning the candies around, the "M" becomes a "W," a "3" and an "E". Each bag was filled with 40 colored M&Ms (for the 40 days of Lent) and included an Easter poem folded inside. These creative treat bags will be handed out by available students at the 11 am Easter Sunday mass. Thank you to Father John for joining in the fun of assembling the treat bags! Our next class and final Youth Group is Sunday, April 7th at 7pm, following the 6 pm mass.

Confirmation 1 students started Part 1 of the discussion on the Holy Spirit, including who is the Holy Spirit and what does he do? We reviewed the symbols of the Holy Spirit and shared experiences of the Holy Spirit in our lives. We also talked about generosity and its particular significance during Lent, and learned more about St. Mother Teresa, an incredible example of generosity.

Thank you to Allison Buff for leading the discussion and to Fr. John for joining the class and sharing his personal perspectives on the Holy Spirit.

Another note of appreciation goes to the Confirmation 1 students who volunteered to help the 2nd graders as they prepare for First Holy Communion by assisting at the Reconciliation/Penance services on Wednesday, Feb. 29th at St. Francis de Sales and this coming Thursday, March 7th at St. Mary/St. Catherine's (5:30 pm - 7pm).

Confirmation 2 candidates continued their discussion of the topic of Prayer, including why we pray, how we pray, and ways to think about prayer as a conversation with God. They also started a conversation on the Holy Spirit and the role that the Holy Spirit plays in our lives.

The next class for Confirmation 1 & 2 is Sunday, March 17th at 7pm

Many thanks and best wishes for a joyful and very happy Easter!

Cynthia Markey, Confirmation Director

**DON'T BE AFRAID
TO GO TO THE
SACRAMENT OF
CONFESSION,
WHERE YOU
WILL MEET
JESUS WHO
FORGIVES YOU.**

Pope Francis



LENTEN PRAYER AND RECONCILIATION SERVICE

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 20 - 7PMAN

AT SAINT FRANCIS DE SALES CHURCH

As we enter into the days before Holy Week, set an hour aside and come to our Lenten evening of prayer. In a serene and reflective atmosphere, we will pray together as a community of faith, contemplating God's love, mercy, and action in our lives. The evening will conclude with an opportunity for individual confession.

Easter Triduum



Holy Week Schedule

Palm Sunday—March 24

4:00 PM March 23—both Parishes

8:00 AM St Mary Church

9:30 AM—St Francis de Sales Church

11:00 AM St Mary Church

6:00 PM—St Mary Church

Monday—Mass 8AM St Catherine Siena Chapel

Tuesday— Mass 8AM St Catherine Siena Chapel

Wednesday— Mass 8AM St Catherine Siena Chapel

Holy Thursday

9:00AM Morning Prayer St Catherine Siena Chapel

7:00PM Liturgy— St Mary Church

Good Friday

9:00AM Morning Prayer St Catherine Siena Chapel

3:00PM Stations of the Cross St Francis de Sales Church

7:00PM Liturgy St Francis de Sales Church

Holy Saturday

9:00AM Morning Prayer St Catherine Siena Chapel

7:00 PM The Great Vigil—St Mary Church

Easter Sunday

Resurrection of Our Lord Masses:

8:00 AM and 11:00 AM St Mary Church

9:30 AM— St Francis de Sales Church

No 6:00 PM Mass on Easter Sunday



Project Rachel Post-Abortion Healing Retreats (3/23, 5/11)

Are you – or someone you know – seeking peace after an abortion? The Project Rachel ministry of the Archdiocese of Boston extends a special invitation to women experiencing regret from a past abortion to attend a Come to the Waters of Healing one-day retreat. Spring dates are Saturday, March 23 and Saturday, May 11. Locations are confidential. For more information on the retreats or other services, contact Project Rachel at 508.651.3100



“ Tanto amó Dios al mundo que entregó a su Hijo único ”

En este cuarto domingo de Cuaresma, llamado «loetare», que significa «alégrate», porque la antífona de entrada de la liturgia eucarística nos invita a la alegría: «Alégrate, Jerusalén así es su invitación a la alegría; saltad de gozo y alegraos los que habéis caído en la tristeza».

El motivo de este gozo es el gran amor de Dios a la humanidad, como nos dice el Evangelio de hoy: «Tanto amó Dios al mundo, que entregó a su Unigénito, para que no perezca ninguno de los que creen en él, sino que tengan vida eterna». Estas palabras, pronunciadas por Jesús en su coloquio con Nicodemo, sintetizan un tema que está en el centro del anuncio cristiano: incluso cuando la situación parece desesperada, Dios interviene, ofreciendo al hombre la salvación y la alegría. Dios, en efecto, no está a un lado aparte, sino que entra en la historia de la humanidad.

Se in-miscuye en nuestra vida, entra para animarla con su gracia y salvarla.

Estamos llamados a abrir los oídos a este anuncio, rechazando la tentación de considerarnos seguros de nosotros mismos, de querer prescindir de Dios, reivindicando para nosotros la absoluta libertad de él y de su palabra. Cuando encontramos el coraje de reconocer lo que realmente somos i se necesita mucho coraje para esto!, nos damos cuenta de que somos personas llamadas a arreglar las cuentas con nuestra fragilidad y nuestros límites. Y nosotros tenemos la verdadera y grande esperanza en Dios Padre, rico en misericordia, que nos ha dado a su Hijo para salvarnos, y esa es nuestra alegría.

Es verdad que también tenemos muchas tristezas, pero, cuando somos cristianos de verdad, está en nosotros la esperanza, esa pequeña alegría que va creciendo y te da seguridad. No debemos desanimarnos cuando vemos nuestras limitaciones, nuestros pecados, nuestras debilidades: Dios está ahí a tu lado, Jesús está en la cruz para curarte. Esto es el amor de Dios. Hemos de mirar al Crucificado y decirnos interiormente: «Dios me ama», Es verdad que tenemos limitaciones, debilidades y pecados, pero él es más grande que todas las limitaciones, pecados y debilidades

March 10 ~ Fourth Sunday of Lent ~ Laetare Sunday

Oftentimes at sports events, people hold up a sign “John 3:16” to be shown on a jumbotron! It’s likely that many people do not know what John 3:16 is, let alone what the text says! We’re given that text in today’s Gospel. This text is given to us to remind us of the extent of God’s love, the length to which our God went to convince us of his love. All are included in God’s vast inclusive love. God loves each one of us as if we were the only one in the world to be loved. As Lent continues take a few minutes to ponder God’s all-inclusive love for you. How will you respond to that love?

LAETARE SUNDAY



Laetare Sunday is the fourth Sunday in the season of Lent, in the Western Christian liturgical calendar. Traditionally, this Sunday has been a day of celebration, within the period of Lent. This Sunday gets its name from the first few words (incipit) of the traditional Latin entrance (Introit) for the Mass of the day. "Laetare Jerusalem" ("Rejoice, O Jerusalem") is Latin from the Book of Isaiah 66:10-11

On Laetare Sunday (as similarly with the Third Sunday of Advent’s Gaudete Sunday) the Church expresses hope and joy in the midst of our Lenten fasts and penances. It is also called Rose Sunday and pink (rose) vestments are worn. This change in color indicates a glimpse of the joy that awaits us at Easter, just before we enter into the somber days of Passiontide.

We extend a warm welcome to all visitors and those who are new to our parishes. 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. Please register online at: charlestowncatholic.org



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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"God is Love" 1 John 4:8

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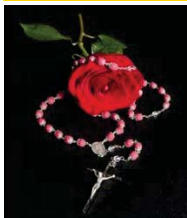


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Fr. Tom Nestor has served as pastor at the Collaborative Parishes of Resurrection and Saint Paul in Hingham for the past ten years, and previously served at St. Eulalia's in Winchester for 17 years. A Harvard graduate and native of West Roxbury, Fr.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

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