

St. Matthew the Evangelist Parish
April 13, 2025



THE ENTRY INTO JERUSALEM

"Blessed is the king who comes in the name of the Lord.
Peace in heaven and glory in the highest." Luke 19:38

PALM

SUNDAY



Dear Parishioners,

Palm Sunday always brings out such a sharp contrast; the joyful praises and greetings welcoming Jesus into Jerusalem remembered in the first Gospel proclaimed at the door, and then the Passion of the Lord proclaimed as the Gospel of the Mass. In such a short time the people went from welcoming Jesus into the Jerusalem to crying out "Crucify Him!" This contrast brings out the complexity that can be a part of our relationship with Jesus as we can find ourselves vacillating between following Jesus with our whole heart, mind, and strength and falling into sin. As hard as it is to participate in shouting out the words "Crucify Him!" we must accept that any sin in our own lives is the same kind of rejection of the Lord. When I consider this I get unsettled considering the power of sin in my own life, but at the same time I take great comfort in re-

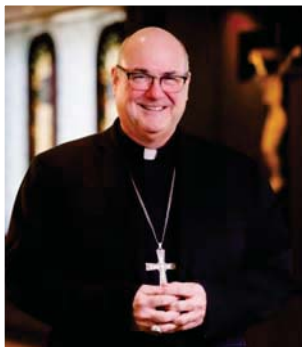
membering the Mercy of God made real most vividly from the Cross itself, with the words of Jesus in agony, "Father, forgive them, they know not what they do."

After the triumphant entry Jesus tells His disciples once again about His coming death. It is not triumphalism on display though, and we hear something of Jesus' own emotion as He enters into this first Holy Week when He says *"Now my soul is troubled. And what should I say—'Father, save me from this hour'? No, it is for this reason that I have come to this hour. Father, glorify your name."* Then a voice came from heaven, *"I have glorified it, and I will glorify it again."* (JN 12:27-28)

God is about the work of saving His people, willing to pay any price that salvation requires. It is not death for death's sake, but for a higher purpose. It is for love. Jesus says *"The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. Very truly, I tell you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains just a single grain; but if it dies, it bears much fruit. Those who love their life lose it, and those who hate their life in this world will keep it for eternal life. Whoever serves me must follow me, and where I am, there will my servant be also. Whoever serves me, the Father will honor."* (JN 12:23-26)

To follow Jesus I die to myself and live for the Lord. This means to overcome the tendencies to sin in my life wherever they are. We are blessed with the Sacrament of Reconciliation that those mistakes we make are forgiven in the "Court of Mercy" which is the confessional. Do not deprive yourself of this grace! It is not unusual for me to hear Catholics say "I believe I can go to God directly and ask Him for forgiveness... I don't have to go to Confession." To say this is to deny the Sacrament that Jesus Himself gave us as the ordinary way for us to receive His mercy. We do go to Jesus directly in prayer in *extraordinary* circumstances...like for example, if I am hanging on the to the railing of a sinking ship I am going to spend my final moments begging the Lord for mercy. Jesus has given us a way to receive that mercy for the times we are not on a sinking ship or a spiraling airplane. I say it again; do not deprive yourself of this grace!

One thing I enjoy about being a priest is that I get to read the part of Jesus in the Gospel this weekend, and I don't have to shout out "Crucify Him! Crucify Him!" It always made me uncomfortable and I can't imagine that if I were there I would have joined in with the crowd shouting those shameful words. But in truth I shout them out each time I sin. My sin constantly points out the great chasm that exists between me and God and it makes me uncomfortable. My joy at Easter, indeed everyone's joy at Easter is in the fact that in spite of my sin Jesus has done what He has done. He has paid the debt for our sins, and out of perfect love has bridged the chasm that separates us from God. This Palm Sunday we truly have cause to wave our branches and welcome Him once again, this time into our hearts, and proclaim "Hosanna! Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord!" ~Father Chris



PALM SUNDAY MESSAGE FROM ARCHBISHOP HENNING

Dear Friends, for this Palm Sunday we will join in the proclamation of the Passion according to Saint Luke. Luke's Passion places a special emphasis on the healing forgiveness offered to us by and through the mercy of the Lord. In this Passion we hear the repentant thief receive the promise of Paradise and we hear Jesus even as he suffers pray "Father forgive them for they know not what they do." I hope that this proclamation will help us to begin our Holy Week journey with humility and gratitude before the wideness of God's mercy.



Holy Week Schedule

Holy Thursday (4/17)

9am Morning Prayer ~ St. Andrew
7pm Mass of the Lord's Supper ~ St. Theresa
9pm Night Prayer ~ St. Theresa

Good Friday (4/18)

9am Morning Prayer ~ St. Andrew
3pm Passion Service ~ St. Andrew
7pm Passion Service ~ St. Theresa

Holy Saturday (4/19)

9am Morning Prayer ~ St. Andrew
8pm Easter Vigil ~ St. Theresa

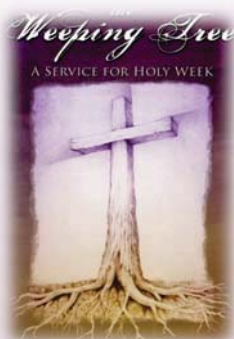
Easter Sunday Masses (4/20)

8:00am	St. Andrew
9:30am	St. Theresa
11:00am	St. Andrew

There is no 5:00pm St. Theresa Mass for Easter Sunday.

St. Matthew Women's Club Scholarship- DUE FRIDAY

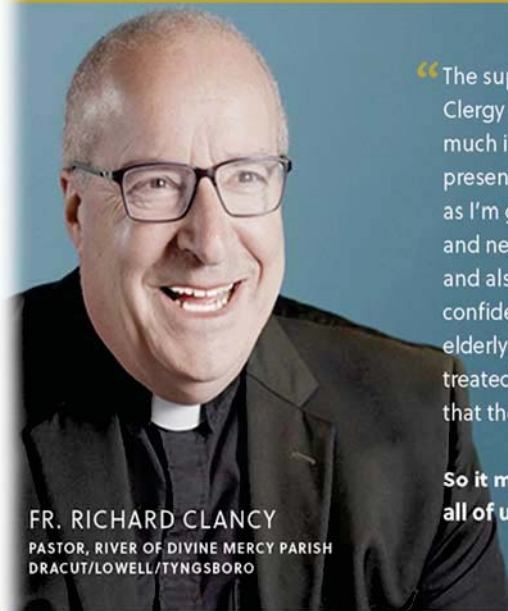
College Scholarship Applications are **due THIS Friday, April 18**. Please call the office with any questions or for more information. **All applicants must be accepted into college, be a registered member of St. Matthew Parish and completed volunteer work within the Parish.*



The Weeping Tree

To mark the start of Holy Week, the Courageous Catholic Women Group (CCW) will present The Weeping Tree for prayer and reflection on **Monday, April 14th at 7:00pm in St. Andrew Church**. The Weeping Tree is a "poignant portrait of the cross that uses beloved hymns, newly composed music, thoughtful narration and sacred symbols to create a touching testament of grace" to the events of Holy Week. All members of St. Matthew Parish are invited to join members of the CCW for this beautiful presentation. Light refreshments will be provided in Father Wilson Hall after the presentation.

SUPPORT OUR PRIESTS THIS EASTER



"The support of the Clergy Trust means so much in terms of my present situation, and as I'm getting older and needing it more... and also to have the confidence that our elderly priests are treated with the dignity that they deserve.

So it means a lot to all of us."

FR. RICHARD CLANCY
PASTOR, RIVER OF DIVINE MERCY PARISH
DRACUT/LOWELL/TYNGSBORO



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SCAN TO GIVE



HELP NEEDED! St. Paul's Soup Kitchen - April 18th



St. Paul's
soup kitchen

Our Parish continues to provide meals to the St. Paul's Soup Kitchen in Lowell. We are currently feeding approximately 120 individuals every third Friday of each month. If you would like to sign up to make a meal, dessert, or donate items, use this link:

<https://www.perfectpotluck.com/NVBQ6601>. The link address does change each month, so please monitor the bulletin or request to be on our monthly email blast for the most current sign-up. Contributions may be dropped off at Father Wilson

Hall at St. Andrew's on April 18th from 1-3. We appreciate your continued support of this worthy cause. Questions or comments may be directed to our new Soup Kitchen Coordinators Nicole at nicole.smay@gmail.com or Renee at renee.rogers@wbmason.com.

Baby Bottle Drive– THIS WEEKEND



Please join in assisting Heartbeat to frugally purchase essential infant supplies such as car seats, strollers, diapers, wipes, clothing, etc. Heartbeat donors and volunteer staff helped over 1,120 newborn babies and their siblings in 2024 while continuing to support families from earlier years. Over 96% of the funds spent during 2024 were used directly to purchase items for families in need, the remaining 4% was on operating expenses.



Heartbeat is VERY low in funds at the moment and need your help! Bottles and envelopes will be available after all the Masses this weekend for our Baby Bottle Fundraiser to support the important work of Heartbeat Pregnancy Center in Burlington. We ask that you place a donation in the bottle, in the form of cash or a check made out to Heartbeat or use the OR code provided to donate online. **All donations should be returned at any of the Masses taking place on the weekend of April 26th and 27th.** A major portion of Heartbeat's financial resources are provided by, with God's help, the generosity of our parishioners. We greatly appreciate all of your help for the many families that we serve. Thank you in advance!

~The Pro-Life Network, Billerica and Beyond

Saint Matthew the Evangelist Easter Egg Hunt Sponsored by the Billerica Knight of Columbus



We invite you and your family to hop on over to Fr. McCormick Hall at St. Theresa Church on **Saturday, April 19th** from **10:00 AM – 2:00 PM** for a very special Easter Egg Hunt sponsored by the Billerica Knights of Columbus. The members of the K of C have been working hard stuffing hundreds of eggs to prepare for this fun-filled day!

This **FREE event** will also include many other activities such as a bouncy house, cookie decorating, pin the tail on the Easter Bunny and much more! A light lunch will also be provided. Weather permitting, the Easter Egg hunt will take place outdoors.

We hope you and your family can join us for this wonderful event!

Come and be comforted!



The **"Seasons of Hope" Spring Bereavement Sessions** will take place on Wednesday evenings, beginning on April 23, April 30, May 7, May 14, May 21 and May 28. The sessions will be held in the Parish Center of St. Michael Parish in Bedford from 6:00-7:30pm. If you have any questions, or would like to sign up, please e-mail Pat@bedfordcatholic.org or call Pat at **781-275-6318, X 230**.



PROJECT RISE

Our friends in faith are again hosting a special distribution for our residents in need on **Saturday, May 3rd** at their beautiful Masjid on 246 Rangeway Road in Billerica from 10am-noon. With the way the status of the economy is, we are anticipating 250 families, if not more. This is a special distribution outside of the Community Pantry and is open to ALL in need. There is NO registration required, but an RSVP using

email distrsvp@gmail.com does help to anticipate how many will be in attendance.

We are working in conjunction with the other faith communities in town and each parish has signed up for specific items. St. Matthew the Evangelist Parish is specifically asking for deodorant and body wash. Donation buckets will be provided at the front entrances of both churches next weekend or you can stop by the Parish Office during business hours where you may drop off your items. **All donations are due by Thursday, May 1st** so that they can be delivered on the distribution date.

In addition, on May 3rd volunteers from each faith community are welcome at 9am to help distribute these donations. In years past we have gathered around the traffic circle at the Masjid and have multiple stations to load cars for recipients. This is a Great Day of community and socialization for all. If you are interested in participating in this Distribution Day, please reach out to the Parish Office at **978-663-8816** or admin@billericacatholic.org to sign up.

OFFERTORY REPORT

We are pleased to present to you a report on revenue and expenses. This includes offertory (received weekly at Masses, by mail, and online giving), as well as other revenue received throughout the month.

Thank you for all you do through your time, treasure and talent to support our parish!

	December 2024	January 2025	February 2025	March 2025
Total Offertory (by month)	66,206	63,177	44,477	66,479
Grand Annual Stewardship Campaign (by month)	34,267	7,128	8,943	9,310
Other Revenue Received (by month)	29,031	14,401	16,891	18,375
Total Revenue	129,504	84,706	70,311	94,164
Expenses	123,989	102,208	88,004	90,045
NET INCOME (LOSS)	5,515	(17,502)	(17,693)	4,119

Please note, the Net Loss in January and February 2025 is being funded through the cash reserves from the prior months.

Bank Operating Account Balance 3.31.2025 \$24,688

Women's Club Raffle

A huge "Thank You" to Ann Doherty and all of the members of the Women's Club for their hard work this past weekend at the Spring Raffle. Parishioners of all ages enjoyed a great day of delicious food, fun and fellowship as they waited with anticipation to find out if they would be the winner of one of the amazing baskets being raffled off or the grand prize winner of the \$2,000.00 Cash Raffle! With everyone's help and participation, The Club will be able to continue charitable donations to SVDP, the Senior Center, our local Veterans and the College Scholarship and our Parish!



Our \$2,000.00 Cash Prize Winner– Jean Lombardo!!!



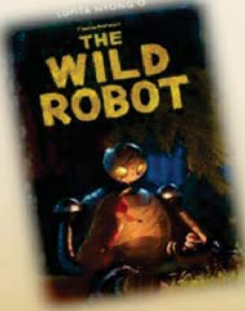
PPC Corner Announcement - THANK YOU!

Saint Matthew the Evangelist Parish Pastoral Council would like to express their sincere gratitude to the following groups for graciously volunteering their time and talents for our weekly Soup and Stations this Lenten Season:

- ***The Knights of Columbus***
- ***The Courageous Catholic Women's Group***
- ***The St. Matthew Women's Club***
- ***St. Matthew Parish Staff***
- ***TheTeen Ministry Group***
- ***St. Vincent de Paul Society***
- ***St. Matthew Parish Liturgical and Homebound Ministry Team***
- ***St. Matthew Parish Finance Council***
- ***St. Matthew Parish Pastoral Council***

Once again, Soup and Stations was a tremendous success and was a beautiful and prayerful way to spend our Friday evenings together during Lent. Our parish is truly blessed to have such dedicated and generous parishioners. Thank you again and have a wonderful Easter!





APRIL PARISH MOVIE MATINEE – SUNDAY APRIL 27th

Are you looking for a family-friendly activity on a Sunday afternoon? If so, come to the St. Matthew MOVIE MATINEE. We will be showing the Oscar Nominated film ***The Wild Robot***.

The movie is **FREE** and light refreshments will be available during the event. Join us as you wrap up April vacation in a fun way!

Movie Selection -The Wild Robot

Date: Sunday, April 27, 2024

Time: NOON

Location: Fr. McCormick Hall at St. Theresa Church

"After a shipwreck, an intelligent robot called Roz is stranded on an uninhabited island. To survive the harsh environment, Roz bonds with the island's animals and cares for an orphaned baby goose."



Intentions for the week of April 12th-April 18th

Gertrude Higgins-Birthday Memorial

Connie Conway-11th Anniversary

Elizabeth Perez-Memorial

Pauline McGaughy-Memorial

James McGinnis-3rd Anniversary

Jack and Alexander MacArthur-Memorial

Gene Ferris-Memorial

Toni Tarnowski and Robin Williams-Memorial

Ronald Pelletier-Memorial

Kathleen Ruggeri-Birthday Memorial

The Avellani and Massaro Families-Memorial

Joyce Martin-Memorial

Intentions for the week of April 19th-April 25th

For All Parishioners of St. Matthew the Evangelist Parish



Legion of Mary- Our Lady of Hope

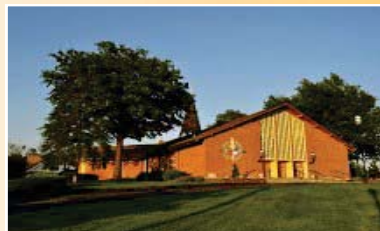
Our members meet every Tuesday at 2:30pm in the Parish Offices at St. Theresa for prayer, planning and discussion in a group setting. In addition, our members go out to perform Spiritual Works of Mercy within our Parish and local community under the guidance of Father Chris.

Our Lady of Hope, pray for us!

Pray the Rosary with the Legion of Mary at St. Andrew

All are invited to join members of the Legion of Mary Prayer Group as they lead us in the recitation of the Most Holy Rosary of the Blessed Virgin Mary **every Friday at 11:30am at St. Andrew Church**. Join us for the rosary, and if you are able, stay for the Daily Mass. "Parishioners who pray the rosary and receive the Eucharist together will unite and strengthen our Parish."

~Father Arthur from Our Lady of Wayside Church



St. Andrew Church

45 Talbot Avenue

N. Billerica, MA 01862

Sun. Mass 8:00am & 11:00am

Daily Mass Tues. & Fri. at 12:05pm

Rosary led by Legion of Mary: Friday at 11:30am

St. Theresa Church

466 Boston Road

Billerica, MA 01821

Sat. Mass 4:00pm

Sun. Mass 9:30am & 5:00pm

Daily Mass M, W, & Th at 9:00am

Confession Sat @ 2:00 pm

Pastoral Team

Rev. Christopher Casey, *Pastor*

Ext. 224

Fr. Jean Sassou, *Parochial Vicar*

Ext. 223

Deacon Al Shanahan, *Deacon*

Resident Clergy:

Fr. Romain Rurangirwa

Fr. Theophilus Okpara

St. Vincent de Paul Society: 978-408-8278

Office Team

Christine Kilburn, *Director of Finance & Operations*

Ext. 243

Karen Dubbs, *Office Manager*

Ext. 300

Heather Murphy, *Pastoral Ministry & Project Coordinator*

Ext. 200

Dino Bastianelli, *Facilities Manager*

Ext. 332

Youth Faith Formation Staff

Karyn Moody, *Coordinator for Grades 1-4*

Ext. 444

**Deb Fergus, *Senior Coordinator for Faith Formation
and Coordinator for Grades 5-8***

Ext. 442

Alanna Fava, *Confirmation & Teen Ministries*

Ext. 445

Dustin Batista, *Pastoral Minister & Teen Ministries*

Ext. 448

Knights of Columbus

Dan Quattrocchi, *Membership Director*

kofc3963@yahoo.com

St. Matthew Parish Office

One Grace Avenue

Billerica, MA 01821

978.663.8816

Office Hours: Mon-Thurs 10am-3pm

Music Ministry

Mrs. Laura Rosa, *Director and Organist*

Maria Coughlan, *Cantor*

Rebecca Murphy, *Cantor*

Michelle Roy, *Cantor*



For questions about St. Matthew Parish or information on any of the following topics, please contact the person listed below:

New to the Parish, Mass Intentions, Baptisms, Adult Confirmation, RCIA or the CORI process?

Please Call the Parish Office at 978-663-8816, Mon-Wed. from 10am-1pm or email admin@billericacatholic.org

Funerals

If you have recently experienced the loss of a loved one, please contact the office at **978-663-8816** so that we can walk with you through this difficult journey.

Weddings

Congratulations on your engagement! Please call 978-663-8816 or email admin@billericacatholic.org to schedule an appointment at least 6 months before your wedding.

Homebound and Sick

Do you know of someone who is homebound and would appreciate a visit from a priest? If you know someone in the parish who would like a visit to receive the Eucharist, please call the office at **978-663-8816** to arrange a visit.



I CAN WALK BAREFOOT ON THE BEACH AGAIN!

Local acupuncture clinic is treating the untreatable,
peripheral neuropathy with incredible results!

Pain comes in many shapes and sizes. One of the most debilitating being the burning and tingling that comes with peripheral neuropathy. A disease that comes with years of shooting, stabbing pain that gradually ends in numbness, balance problems, and on occasion, amputations. A disease that was once classified as irreparable.

David R. of Waltham, MA was facing such a fate.

"I stopped golfing. I wasn't taking walks on the beach with my wife. I was living on gabapentin and antidepressants and everywhere I went; my doctor, the specialists, the pain institute, told me there was no cure. How are you supposed to live your life knowing that everyday brings pain and suffering?"

Peripheral neuropathy is a result of damage to the nerves, commonly caused by a lack of blood flow to the nerves in the hands and feet. This causes the nerves to begin to degenerate due to lack of nutrient flow. Most peripheral neuropathy sufferers experience a heightened sensitivity to touch making it almost impossible for those diagnosed to even wear shoes, much less enjoy life.

"It was like walking on sharp river rocks. I barely left my recliner," shares David, whose experience is not uncommon for those diagnosed with peripheral neuropathy.

That is until he found Min Jeon of AWC|Acupuncture & Wellness Clinic of Burlington Massachusetts. Min and her staff have pioneered a cutting edge, medical solution to treat neuropathy, eliminate or greatly reduce its symptoms and give people their lives back. And they're doing it without the use of prescription medications and invasive surgeries.

"Acupuncture is incredible at restoring blood flow and stimulating damaged nerves, preventing them from dying off," tells Min Jeon. "We take our treatments a step further by integrating ATP Resonance BioTherapy® which targets specific nerves in the body using microcurrent. ATP therapy is like watering a plant. This treatment will stimulate the blood vessels to grow back around the peripheral nerves and provide them with the proper nutrients to heal and repair."

Three months later David is thrilled with his progress, "I can walk barefoot on the beach again!"

Success stories like David's are not atypical for the staff at AWC. "We have a 90% success rate in treating neuropathy," shares Min.

The number of treatments needed to allow the nerves to fully recover will vary from person to person and can only be determined after a detailed neurological and vascular evaluation. So long as you have not sustained more than 85% nerve damage AWC offers hope where there once was none.

While David's peripheral neuropathy was idiopathic, meaning the cause is unknown, Min's treatments can also help people whose neuropathy is caused by diabetes or chemotherapy.

"We have seen tremendous success in treating neuropathy of all types through very personalized treatments, specifically tailored to treat each individual case."

To schedule a consultation and complete evaluation call (781)221-0162 but do so quickly because AWC is taking a limited number of new neuropathy patients. For more information and to take advantage of their new patient offer visit AWClinic.com.

**Visit www.AWClinic.com to learn more
and to take advantage of their NEW PATIENT OFFER!**

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"Jesus Wept." John 11:35



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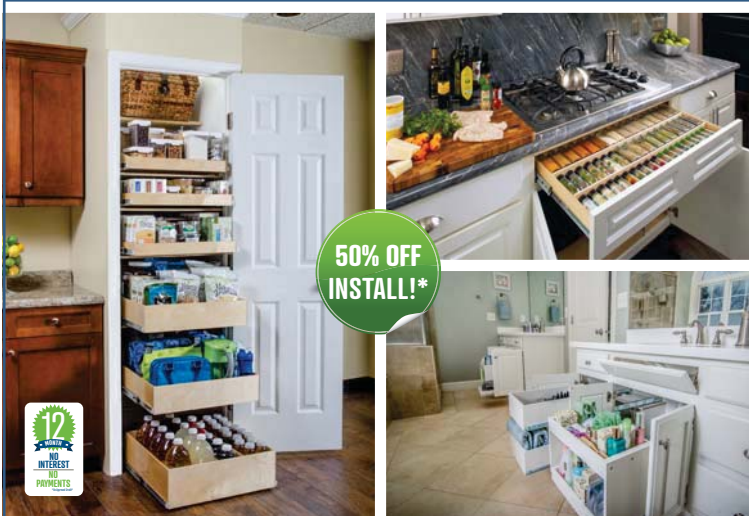


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“The support of the Clergy Trust means so much in terms of my present situation, and as I'm getting older and needing it more... and also to have the confidence that our elderly priests are treated with the dignity that they deserve.

So it means a lot to all of us.”

- Fr. Richard Clancy

Pastor, River of Divine
Mercy Parish
Dracut/Lowell/Tyngsboro



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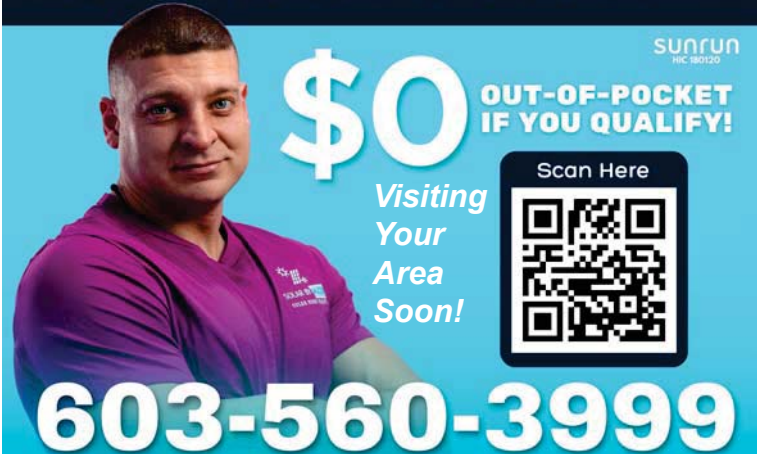
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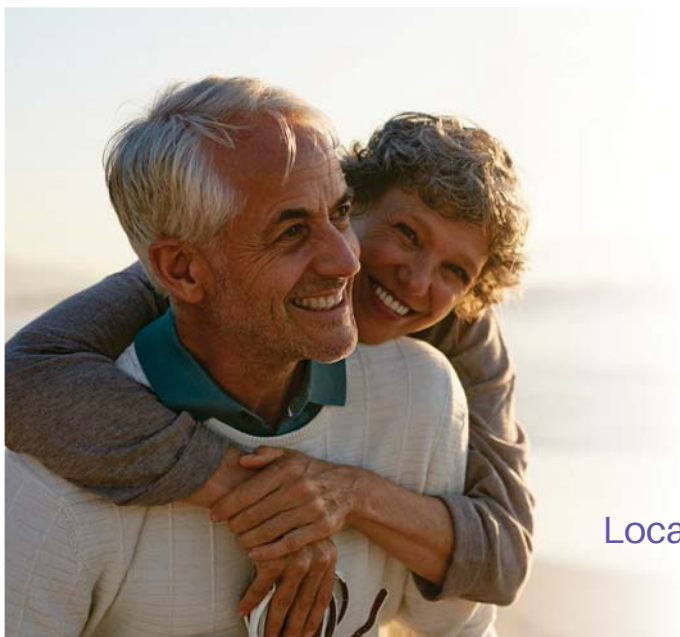
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Upcoming 2025 Weekends: Call us at 508-271-7155

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Aug 7 Tewksbury, MA
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“

I CAN WALK BAREFOOT ON THE BEACH AGAIN!

Local acupuncture clinic is treating the untreatable,
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David R. of Waltham, MA was facing such a fate.

“I stopped golfing. I wasn’t taking walks on the beach with my wife. I was living on gabapentin and antidepressants and everywhere I went; my doctor, the specialists, the pain institute, told me there was no cure. How are you supposed to live your life knowing that everyday brings pain and suffering?”

Peripheral neuropathy is a result of damage to the nerves, commonly caused by a lack of blood flow to the nerves in the hands and feet. This causes the nerves to begin to degenerate due to lack of nutrient flow. Most peripheral neuropathy sufferers experience a heightened sensitivity to touch making it almost impossible for those diagnosed to even wear shoes, much less enjoy life.

“It was like walking on sharp river rocks. I barely left my recliner.” shares David, whose experience is not uncommon for those diagnosed with peripheral neuropathy.

That is until he found Min Jeon of AWC|Acupuncture & Wellness Clinic of Burlington Massachusetts. Min and her staff have pioneered a cutting edge, medical solution to treat neuropathy, eliminate or greatly reduce its symptoms and give people their lives back. And they’re doing it without the use of prescription medications and invasive surgeries.

“Acupuncture is incredible at restoring blood flow and stimulating damaged nerves, preventing them from dying off,” tells Min Jeon. “We take our treatments a step further by integrating ATP Resonance BioTherapy® which targets specific nerves in the body using microcurrent. ATP therapy is like watering a plant. This treatment will stimulate the blood vessels to grow back around the peripheral nerves and provide them with the proper nutrients to heal and repair.”

**Three months later David is thrilled with his progress,
“I can walk barefoot on the beach again!”**

Success stories like David’s are not atypical for the staff at AWC. “We have a 90% success rate in treating neuropathy,” shares Min.

The number of treatments needed to allow the nerves to fully recover will vary from person to person and can only be determined after a detailed neurological and vascular evaluation. So long as you have not sustained more than 85% nerve damage AWC offers hope where there once was none.

While David’s peripheral neuropathy was idiopathic, meaning the cause is unknown, Min’s treatments can also help people whose neuropathy is caused by diabetes or chemotherapy.

“We have seen tremendous success in treating neuropathy of all types through very personalized treatments, specifically tailored to treat each individual case.”

To schedule a consultation and complete evaluation call (781)221-0162 but do so quickly because AWC is taking a limited number of new neuropathy patients. For more information and to take advantage of their new patient offer visit AWClinic.com.

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