

**SAINT THERESA OF AVILA PARISH**

**APRIL 21, 2024**

**10 SAINT THERESA AVENUE WEST ROXBURY, MA 02132**

**617-325-1300 STOFFICE24@GMAIL.COM**



Fourth Sunday of Easter

Jesus said: "I am the good shepherd. A good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep."

John 10:11

# **SAINT THERESA OF AVILA PARISH**

**IN COLLABORATIVE WITH SAINT JOHN CHRYSOSTOM PARISH**

## **SAINT THERESA OF AVILA**

Saturday Vigil: 4:30 pm in Main Church  
Sunday: 8:00 am, 10:00 am in Main Church  
Daily: Monday, Wednesday, Friday 8:30 am  
Holy Days: As announced  
Confessions: Thursday 6:30 –7:00 pm in the Chapel.

Exposition of Blessed Sacrament: Wednesday morning  
following 8:30 A.M. Mass

## **SAINT JOHN CHRYSOSTOM**

Saturday Vigil: 4:00 pm  
Sunday: 7:30 am, 9:30 am  
Daily: Tuesday, Thursday 4:30pm,  
Saturday 8:30am  
Holy Days: As announced  
Confessions: Saturday morning 9:15-9:45 A.M.  
Exposition of Blessed Sacrament: Saturday morning

## **MASS INTENTIONS**

**WEEK OF APRIL 21, 2024**

### **Sunday, April 21**

8:00 A.M. No Intention  
10:00 A.M. José Jayme—Memorial Mass  
Anne Kelly— Month’s Mind Mass

### **Monday, April 22**

8:30 A.M. Kay Ryan Gillis—Memorial Mass

### **Wednesday, April 24**

8:30 A.M. Lorenzo Petruzzello—Memorial Mass

### **Friday, April 26**

8:30 A.M. John Power—32nd Anniversary Mass

### **Saturday, April 27**

4:30 P.M. Deceased Members of the LeBlanc Family  
Memorial Mass  
Eugenia Corra—Memorial Mass

### **Sunday, April 28**

8:00 A.M. Mary Jane Zucca—Memorial Mass  
10:00 A.M. Patricia Tuohy—Anniversary Mass

## **CLERGY**

Reverend John J. Connolly, Jr. — Pastor  
Reverend Charles J. Higgins  
Deacon Brian Kean

## **STAFF**

### **PRINCIPAL OF SAINT THERESA SCHOOL**

Mrs. Mary Kate Stepatos  
www.sttheresaschoolboston.com • 617-323-1050

### **RELIGIOUS EDUCATION**

Grades 1-5: Ms. Rosetta Mark rmark@staboston.org  
Grades 6-10: Ellen Murphy, emurphy@staboston.org

### **RCIA**

Susan Abbott, sttadultfaith@gmail.com

### **COORDINATOR OF YOUTH MINISTRY**

Rudy Flores, rudy.flores@holynameparish.com

### **DIRECTOR OF MUSIC**

Brandon Santini, bsantini86@gmail.com

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### **DIRECTOR OF FACILITIES**

Michael O’Brien, mobstsj@gmail.com

### **PARISH SECRETARY**

Carol O'Brien, sttoffice24@gmail.com

## **MISSION STATEMENT**

### **PRAYER OF SAINT THERESA OF AVILA**

*Christ has no body now on earth but yours;  
yours are the only hands with which He can do His  
work,  
yours are the only feet with which He can go about the  
world,  
Yours are the only eyes through which His compassion  
can shine forth.  
Christ has no body on earth now but yours.*



**READINGS & OBSERVANCES 2024 YEAR B**

<b>4<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY OF EASTER</b> April 21	Acts 4:8-12/Ps 118:1, 8-9, 21-23, 26, 28, 29/1 Jn 3:1-2/ Jn 10:11-18
<b>MONDAY</b> April 22	Acts 11:1-18/Ps 42:2-3; 43:3, 4/Jn 10:1-10
<b>TUESDAY</b> April 23	<i>Saint George, Martyr; Saint Adalbert, Bishop and Martyr</i> Acts 11:19-26/Ps 87:1b-3, 4-5, 6-7/Jn 10:22-30
<b>WEDNESDAY</b> April 24	<i>Saint Fidelis of Sigmaringen, Priest and Martyr</i> Acts 12:24—13:5a/Ps 67:2-3, 5, 6 and 8/Jn 12:44-50
<b>THURSDAY</b> April 25	<i>Feast of Saint Mark, Evangelist</i> 1 Pt 5:5b-14/Ps 89:2-3, 6-7, 16-17/Mk 16:15-20
<b>FRIDAY</b> April 26	Acts 13:26-33/Ps 2:6-7, 8-9, 10-11ab/Jn 14:1-6
<b>SATURDAY</b> April 27	Acts 13:44-52/Ps 98:1, 2-3ab, 3cd-4/Jn 14:7-14
<b>5<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY OF EASTER</b> April 28	Acts 9:26-31/Ps 22:26-27, 28, 30, 31-32/1 Jn 3:18-24/Jn 15:1-8

Pilot Bulletins

**Fiat**

Fiat, a gathering of women interested in learning more about religious life, cordially invites you to the next meeting on Wednesday, April 24, 2024 at 7:00 p.m. (ET) on Zoom. The topic will be "The Call to Religious Life." If you are interested in attending, please contact Sr. Marian Batho, CSJ at [marian.batho@csjboston.org](mailto:marian.batho@csjboston.org) or 617-746-2025 for more information and the link to the meeting.

**APRIL 6TH / 7TH**




<b>OFFERTORY:</b>	<b>\$6,661</b>
<b>ONLINE:</b>	<b>\$1,620</b>
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>\$8,281</b>

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROUS SUPPORT!**




Parishioners can request a Prayer Shawl for someone by contacting Carol O'Brien at [sttoffice24@gmail.com](mailto:sttoffice24@gmail.com) or by calling 617-323-4410. Every prayer shawl is different and perfect. Donations of completed shawls may be dropped off in the parish office, Monday—Thursday 9:30 —12 Noon or when you come to Mass. Thank you, PHM. (Parish Health



**Catholic Appeal**

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[bostoncatholicappeal.org/donate4](https://bostoncatholicappeal.org/donate4)

"Every gift to the Appeal, no matter the amount, has meaning and purpose, and every gift plays an integral part in the vital mission of the Archdiocese of Boston."

- Cardinal Seán O'Malley

As of April 16, 69 donors from Saint Theresa Parish have pledged \$26,885 to the 2024 Catholic Appeal - - 34% of our goal of \$78,500. If you have not made a donation yet, please use the envelopes in the pews or scan the QR Code above to do so. We thank you for your generosity.

**SAINT THERESA CHAPEL** will continue to stay open for private prayer Monday through Friday from 8:30 A.M. until 4:30 P.M.

**SAVE the DATE...**

32<sup>ND</sup> ANNUAL  
POPE ST. JOHN XXIII NATIONAL SEMINARY  
GOLF TOURNAMENT  
"FRAN AND STEPHEN ROWEN MEMORIAL"

5.13.24

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PROCESSIONAL HYMN

The King of Love My Shepherd Is

1. The King of love my shep - herd is, Whose  
 2. Where streams of liv - ing wa - ter flow, My  
 3. Con - fused and fool - ish oft I strayed, But  
 4. In death's dark vale I fear no ill With  
 5. You spread a ta - ble in my sight, Your  
 6. And so, through all the length of days Your

good - ness fails me nev - er; I noth - ing lack if  
 ran - somed soul he's lead - ing, And where the ver - dant  
 yet in love he sought me, And on his shoul - der  
 you, dear Lord, be - side me, Your rod and staff my  
 sav - ing grace be - stow - ing; And, oh, what trans - port  
 good - ness fails me nev - er; Good Shep - herd, may I

I am his And he is mine for - ev - er.  
 pas - tures grow, With food ce - les - tial feed - ing.  
 gent - ly laid, And home, re - joic - ing, brought me.  
 com - fort still, Your cross be - fore to guide me.  
 of de - light From your pure chal - ice flow - ing!  
 sing your praise With - in your house for - ev - er.

Text: Psalm 23; Henry W. Baker, 1821-1877, alt.  
 Tune: ST. COLUMBA, 8 7 8 7; Irish melody; harm. by A. Gregory Murray, OSB, 1905-1992

COMMUNION HYMN

You Satisfy the Hungry Heart

Refrain

You sat - is - fy the hun - gry heart With  
 gift of fin - est wheat; Come give to us, O  
 sav - ing Lord, The bread of life to eat.

Verses

1. As when the shep - herd calls his sheep, They  
 2. With joy - ful lips we sing to you Our  
 3. Is not the cup we bless and share The  
 4. The mys - t'ry of your pres - ence, Lord, No  
 5. You give your - self to us, O Lord; Then

know and heed his voice; So when you call your  
 praise and grat - i - tude, That you should count us  
 blood of Christ out - poured? Do not one cup, one  
 mor - tal tongue can tell: Whom all the world can -  
 self - less let us be, To serve each oth - er

D.C.

fam - 'ly, Lord, We fol - low and re - joice.  
 wor - thy, Lord, To share this heav'n - ly food.  
 loaf, de - clare Our one - ness in the Lord?  
 not con - tain Comes in our hearts to dwell.  
 In your name In truth and char - i - ty.

Text: Omer Westendorf, 1916-1997  
 Tune: BICENTENNIAL, CM with refrain; Robert E. Kreuz, 1922-1996  
 © 1977, Archdiocese of Philadelphia, Published by International Liturgy Publications

PSALM 118: FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER, YEAR B

**R. The stone re-ject-ed by the build-ers has be-come the cor-ner-stone.**

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 Music: Owen Alstott, © 1977, 1990, OCP. All rights reserved.

PREPARATION HYMN

Shepherd of Souls

1. Shep - herd of souls, re - fresh and bless  
 2. We would not live by bread a - lone,  
 3. Be known to us in break - ing bread,  
 4. Lord, sup with us in love di - vine;

Your cho - sen pil - grim flock With man - na in the  
 But by your word of grace, In strength of which we  
 But do not then de - part; Sav - ior, a - bide with that  
 Your Bod - y and your Blood, That liv - ing bread, that

wil - der - ness, With wa - ter from the rock.  
 trav - el on To our a - bid - ing place.  
 us, and spread Your ta - ble in our heart.  
 heav'n - ly wine, Be our im - mor - tal food.

Text: James Montgomery, 1771-1854, alt.  
 Tune: ST. AGNES, CM; John B. Dykes, 1823-1876; harm. by Richard Proulx, 1937-2010

**The Parish Choir is actively recruiting new members. Inquire about a short term or longer-term commitment with our music director, Mr. Brandon Santini. Make new friends, learn music and pray with us. Rehearsals Wednesday evening. Email address bsantini86@gmail.com or inquire after Mass.**



**CATHOLIC CHARITIES FOOD PANTRY**

The Catholic Charities Food Pantry remains in desperate need of donations, especially now with rising prices. The situation continues to be urgent for many families. You may bring your contributions of food to the rectory garage on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 11:00 A.M.—1:00 P.M. Thank you for your ongoing generous support.

**FEED THE HUNGRY**

**EMERGENCY RESPONSE TO STATE MIGRANT CRISIS**

We remind you about the Saint Vincent de Paul clothing bin in the parking lot at Saint John Chrysostom Parish for donations of clothing to help the migrants. Your generous response to this emergency request will be greatly appreciated.



**RECESSIONAL HYMN**

**Christ Is Made the Sure Foundation**



1. Christ is made the sure foun - da - tion, Christ, our Head and  
 2. To this tem - ple, where we call you, Come, O Lord of  
 3. Here be - stow on all your ser - vants What they ask of  
 4. Praise and hon - or to the Fa - ther, Praise and hon - or



cor - ner - stone, Cho - sen of the Lord and pre - cious,  
 hosts, to - day; With your stead - fast lov - ing - kind - ness,  
 you to gain; What they gain from you, for - ev - er  
 to the Son, Praise and hon - or to the Spir - it,



Bind - ing all the Church in one; Ho - ly Zi - on's  
 Hear your serv - ants as they pray; And your full - est  
 With the bless - ed to re - tain; And here - af - ter  
 Ev - er three and ev - er one: One in might and



help for - ev - er And our con - fi - dence a - lone.  
 ben - e - dic - tion Shed in all its bright ar - ray.  
 in your glo - ry Ev - er - more with you to reign.  
 one in glo - ry While un - end - ing a - ges run!

Text: *Angularis fundamentum*; 11th C.; tr. by John M. Neale, 1818-1866, alt.  
 Tune: WESTMINSTER ABBEY, 8 7 8 7 8 7; adapt. from an anthem of Henry Purcell, 1659-1695, by Ernest Hawkins, 1807-1868

**BULLETINS BY EMAIL**

**Pilot Bulletins provides the opportunity for you to have the Bulletin sent to you by email each week. To sign up for this, please go to: [thebostonpilot.com](http://thebostonpilot.com) and scroll (way) down to Saint Theresa of Avila West Roxbury and enter your email address. The Bulletin will show up in your email each week for your convenience. This is a great way to stay connected to the Parish if you are away.**

**A PRAYER FOR THE HOLY LAND**

May all who love the Holy Land seek to bring about among all the parties engaged in the fighting a cessation of violence, respect for civilian populations and the release of hostages. "As we pray urgently for peace, we recall especially all the families and individuals suffering from these

*Listen to*

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**1060AM Boston**

**[thestationofthecross.com](http://thestationofthecross.com)**

**PROJECT RACHEL**

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. The final Spring date is Saturday, May 11. Locations are confidential. For more information on the retreats or other services, contact Project Rachel at 508.651.3100 or [help@projectrachelboston.com](mailto:help@projectrachelboston.com).

**PRAYER FOR THOSE WHO ARE ILL**



**LORD, OUR GOD, HELP OF THE HELPLESS, BE NEAR OUR FRIENDS AND NEIGHBORS WHO SUFFER THIS DAY. GRANT THEM STRENGTH, PEACE OF MIND AND HEART, AND RENEWED HEALTH IF IT BE YOUR WILL, THROUGH CHRIST OUR LORD.**

**AMEN.**

Tim Albert, Gary Anderson, Joseph Anderson, Mary Antonellis, Michelle Baker, Alan Bartlett, Marilyn Barry, Margaret Barto, Catherine Bielawa, Stephen Bisordi, Joseph Blackman, Diane Blaskiewicz, Kevin Boettger, Margaret Bomba, Jr., Damien Brennan, Chet Broderick, Katie Broderick, Paul Broderick, Kendall Buczynski, Stephanie Buczynski, Frank Budukiewicz, Geraldine Bulman, Joan Bumila, Larry Burke, Allen Cameron, Lisa Carden, Maria Cemrania, Jeanne Clancy, Nicholas Cleary, Brendan Cogavin, Charles Collins, John Collins, Rose Connolly, Mary Connors, Eileen Corrigan, Teresa Costa, Tom Cunningham, Richard Curran, Jr., Debra Daum, Gary D'Avila, Mary DeSantis, Lorraine DeVirgilio, Cristina Donatelli, Claire Donohoe, Kristen Doty, John J. Doyle, Kathleen Durepo, John Ellis, Helen Evans, Audrey Fallon, Barbara Farulla, Joseph Federico, Mary Feeney, Rose Finn, Joseph Fisher, Griffin Fleishman, Charles Fleming, Patrick Flynn, Dan Foley, Neil Foley, Terry Forkins, Ben Fox, Nora Frasier, Karen Glazer, Louise Gogg, Louise Goodwin, Eleanor Gordon, Colin Andrew Greco, Stephan Grundy, Patricia Hade, Denise Hamilton, Ann Hanlon, Patricia Dolan Harwitz, Elizabeth Heffernan, Mary D. Hennessey, Jackie Hess, Barbara Hickey, Louise Marie Hogan, Eleanor Howard, Janet Hughes, Meaghan W. Hussey, Kyle Johnson, Phil Keating, Mary Kenny, Karen Kostek, Irene Kyricos, Kylee LeSourd, Madison Paige Losuts, Taylor Anne Lynch, Lois MacDonald, Kathleen Maloney, Shawn Patrick Maloney, Elizabeth Matalobos, Jason McCann, Michael McCarthy, Patrick McCarty, Linda McClelland, Helen McCloskey, Mildred McDermott, Kara McGonagle, Erin McGuirk, Ellen McKenna, Jessica McKenzie, Joanne McKenzie, Neil McLaughlin, Paul McNamara, Hilda Mendise, Anna Minotti, Cynthia Monahan, Joe and Cindy Morello, Deanna Morrissey, Maryellen Mulkern, Pat Mullen, Honora Murphy, Annie Murray, Maria Nadile, Michael Nadile, Donna Nazzaro, Bruce Newman, Billy O'Brien, Mary O'Brien, Sister Mary O'Brien, Daniel O'Connor, Jay O'Connor, Natalie O'Connor, Patrick O'Connor, Barbara Page, John Palumbo, Virginia Palumbo, Steve Papia, Sheila Papia, Nicole Pellagrino, James Perri, Carol Pitman, Marie Polo, Virginia Prendergast, Kathy Psarros, Barton Ramos, Josephine Rappa, Steven Ricchiuti, Theresa Ricco, Joel Rivera, Kate Robbins, Kathleen Ryan, Merry Samonte, Lawrence Samonte, Stephen Shea, Jeannie Schlosky, Gina Scrima, John Sera, Kevin Shea, Zachary Shea, Claire Sloane, Terry Smart, Catherine Spellman, William Spicer, Albert Spiniello, Diane Carr Staton, John Sullivan, Patsy Sullivan, Philip Sullivan, Timothy Sullivan, Irene Supino, Steve Theodorakis, Mary Timony, Ellen Tobin, Joshua Torremoro, Edward Treseler, Jr., Edward Treseler, Sr., Peter Usherwood, Stephen Usherwood, Albert Vincentio, Ellen Vogel, Mary Walsh, Paula Ward, Catherine Watson, Brian Webber, Cassandra Welles, Bill Whitcomb, Anthony Young, and Florence Yu

***Prayers for my brother Thomas who is in need of a kidney transplant.***

If you are willing to give the gift of life, please contact Debbie, his Living Donor Champion, at [savetomslife723@gmail.com](mailto:savetomslife723@gmail.com)

*If you know of anyone on this list who is no longer in need of prayers please call the rectory to have their name removed 617-323-4410*

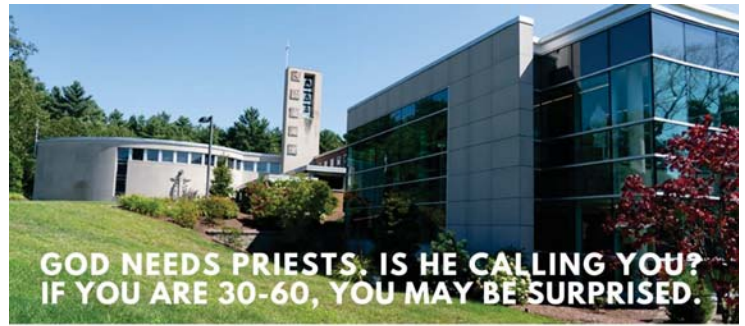
**Prayer to Saint Joseph  
Defender of Life**

*Dearest St. Joseph,  
At the word of an angel,  
you lovingly took Mary into your home.  
As God's humble servant, you guided  
the Holy Family on the road to Bethlehem,  
welcomed Jesus as your own son  
in the shelter of a manger,  
and fled far from your homeland  
for the safety of both Mother and Child.*

*We praise God that as their faithful protector,  
you never hesitated to sacrifice  
for those entrusted to you.  
May your example inspire us also  
to welcome, cherish, and safeguard  
God's most precious gift of life.*

*Help us to faithfully commit ourselves  
to the service and defense of human life  
—especially where it is  
vulnerable or threatened.  
Obtain for us the grace  
to do the will of God in all things.  
Amen.*

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**FIRST FRIDAY VISIT**

**May 3, 2024  
5:00 PM EST  
Pope St. John XXIII National Seminary**

**HOLY HOUR AND EVENING PRAYER**

**In-Person Visit:** Includes Dinner with seminarians and tour of the Seminary

**Virtual Visit:** Live-stream Holy Hour followed by a Zoom visit (Zoom link provided at registration)

**Register:**  
Contact Msgr. William Fay,  
781-899-5500 ext. 134,  
firstfriday@psjs.edu



POPE ST. JOHN XXIII NATIONAL SEMINARY | 558 SOUTH AVE, WESTON, MA | 781.899.5500

**NEW TO THE PARISH??**

If you have recently moved into the Parish and would like to register to receive Parish mailings and Offertory envelopes, please fill in the form below and drop it in the offertory basket or return it to the rectory. You may also register online by visiting our website

**www.stheresaparishboston.com**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_



**TRANSFORMED IN LOVE  
FOR ENGAGED COUPLES**

*Transformed in Love* is a comprehensive marriage preparation program which explores the following topics with engaged couples:

- **Self-Knowledge: Knowing Your True Self**
- **Communication: Relationship Skills for Marriage**
- **Expectations: Great Expectations are Managed Well**
- **What is Love? The Four Loves**
- **God is Love: Proclaiming the Good News (Kerygma)**
- **What is Marriage? God's Plan for Love and Life**
- **The Sacrament of Matrimony: You, Me, and Jesus**
- **The Rite of Marriage: The Consent We Give and Live**
- **Finances: Let's Talk Money**
- **Five Spiritual Practices for Marriage and Family Life: Keeping Christ at the Center of our Marriage**
- **The Mass: The Presence of Christ**
- **Marital Sexuality: Love's Perfect Design**

To sign up for this Marriage Preparation Program, offered virtually by the Archdiocese of Boston, please visit [www.bostoncatholic.org/familylife/transformedinlove](http://www.bostoncatholic.org/familylife/transformedinlove)



***Christ is Risen! Alleluia!***

I hope all of you are enjoying your Easter. We have some great events coming up for this month.

**April 21, 6-7:30 P.M.**, we will be having a discussion on faith and science and how as Catholics we do not see the two opposed to each other but go hand-in-hand.

**April 28, 6:30-8:00 P.M.**, we will be having our second Youth Social Justice group discussing upcoming volunteer opportunities.



**Happy  
Easter**

**Youth Ministry**

**Events - April**

**April 21, 6-7:30pm**  
Discussion on Faith & Science

**April 28, 6:30-8pm**  
Youth Social Justice Group

**RSVP**



**At St. John Chrysostom Parish  
4750 Washington St. West Roxbury**



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## PHYSICIAN-ASSISTED SUICIDE IS A SLIPPERY SLOPE

*Physician-assisted suicide does not just contradict deeply held religious convictions, but also violates principles held by many in the health care community,*

**By Seán P. O'Malley, Archbishop of Boston** April 15, 2024 Boston Globe

It has been said that at the heart of the physician-assisted suicide debate is the moral-medical distinction between curing and caring for patients. The United States has an unmatched capacity for curing illness. But even here, there comes a moment when caring is the imperative because curing is no longer possible. Our collective responsibility is to address a person's psychological, physical, and spiritual needs as they face the end of life or debilitating illness. To instead instigate death with physician-assisted suicide presents a moral and ethical threat to society, the medical profession, the disability community, and the common good.

Physician-assisted suicide is just that: suicide. And it is always tragic whether administered under a doctor's care or self-inflicted. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention report that suicide rates increased 36 percent between 2000 and 2021. In 2021, 1.7 million people attempted suicide in the United States. The CDC states that risk factors include a history of depression and other mental illnesses, impulsive behavior, isolation, and access to lethal means of suicide among people at risk.

The Massachusetts Legislature is considering a physician-assisted suicide bill, and they should reject it. Physician-assisted suicide could lead to a slippery slope of possibilities, like those already being witnessed in countries like the Netherlands, where 400 people suffering from mental illness were "euthanized" without their consent, as reported in 2017 by the Bioethics Observatory at the Catholic University of Valencia. Also consider the 28-year-old Dutch woman Zoraya ter Beek, from the Netherlands, who has decided to end her life next month because she has struggled with depression, autism, and borderline personality disorder. When we normalize physician-assisted suicide, we devalue life and remove any sense of hope.

Particularly vulnerable are people with disabilities. Debate in Canada has been intense. Dr. Mark S. Komrad of Johns Hopkins Hospital wrote in 2021 of a new assisted-suicide law in Canada, "This is a profound change in the trajectory of the euthanasia law, and the practice of psychiatry for Canada, which is now the largest nation that will soon allow MAID [medical aid-in-dying] for psychiatric conditions. It has rocked the professional mental health community in Canada, which fought to forestall the inclusion of psychiatric disorders for euthanasia."

For 2,500 years physicians throughout the world began their service with the Hippocratic Oath, promising not to harm and to "give no deadly medicine to anyone if asked nor suggest any such counsel." This stands in direct opposition to physician-assisted suicide.

In my more than 54 years as a Catholic priest, I have anointed, prayed with, comforted, and stayed with many people during their last hours and minutes of life. Losing a loved one or watching someone suffer is always difficult, a process the hospice care and palliative care communities are dedicated to mitigating. Fear of tremendous pain and the loss of control are advanced as reasons to support physician-assisted suicide. In almost every instance, palliative care can suppress pain and provide a crucial level of support for patients and families.

In fact, the National Institute on Aging notes that "palliative care can be helpful at any stage of illness and is best provided soon after a person is diagnosed."

Hospice was one of the first programs to use modern pain management techniques to care compassionately for the dying. In 2021, there were more than 5,000 hospice programs in the United States with an organized team approach to professional caregiving, and 1.5 million people are enrolled in hospice care each year. Furthermore, people already have the right to refuse burdensome, life-extending treatments. They also have the option of leaving advance directives to determine their care when they are no longer able to express their wishes. The death that results from withholding or withdrawing of life-sustaining treatment has always been separated by a bright line from active measures to cause death. Assisted suicide proponents seek to blur this line. (continued on page 9)



The assisted suicide bill in the Legislature has flaws, including:

**A diagnosis of death within six months, a requirement under the bill, is often wrong**

As the late Dr. Barbara Rockett, a former president of the Massachusetts Medical Society, wrote, “One of the most difficult and often inadequate determinations that a physician has to make is the attempt to predict when a patient might die.” There are numerous examples of individuals across the country who have outlived that diagnosis and have lived for many years. They get to share the comfort, love, and companionship of family and friends and that wouldn’t have happened if they had opted for physician-assisted suicide. These individuals or their family members testify year after year before the Legislature about their personal journey and implore legislators to refrain from legalizing physician-assisted suicide.

**The bill lacks sufficient safeguards to protect the most vulnerable**

Individuals who are ill are often at the most vulnerable stage of their lives. In short, an individual who is physically disabled, depressed, or who fears being a burden to their family may be subject to undue influence or coercion by others to consume the deadly drug mixture. This is particularly troubling if there are financial benefits to be gained as a result.

Physician-assisted suicide does not just contradict deeply held religious convictions but also violates principles held by many in the health care community, as evidenced by the stated positions of national health organizations as well as the disability community.

In June 2021, the National Hospice and Palliative Care Organization stated, “In light of the underuse of hospice and palliative care to alleviate suffering, lack of comprehensive health care with persons with serious illness, ... concerns of disability rights advocates regarding protections from coercion, longstanding racial bias in medicine, disparities in health and medical care, and lack of protections to ensure voluntary participation, NHPCO opposes legally accelerated death.”

In January 2023, the Alzheimer’s Association severed its ties with Compassion & Choices, the chief proponents of physician-assisted suicide, [stating](#), “Their values are inconsistent with those of the Association.”

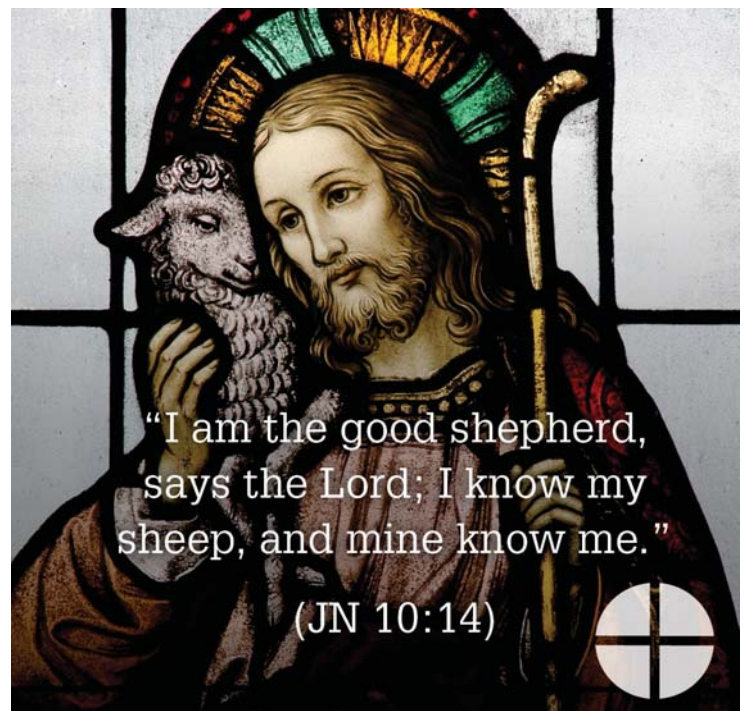
Rather than legislating the acceleration of death, the Catholic Church encourages legislators to focus on providing quality palliative care to the sick and dying. Patients are best served when medical professionals, families, and loved ones provide support and care with dignity and respect.

**COMMUNITY SENIORS** meet at Saint John Chrysostom Parish on the second Tuesday of the month for conversation, presentations of interest to Parkway Seniors, and Bingo. This group is open to both men and women and we are always happy to have new members. We have some fun events planned for this year and would love to have you join with us. Please call Beverly for more information 508-359-9789.



**REMEMBER THOSE WHO SERVE**

If you would like your relative or friend who is serving in the military to be remembered in the prayers of our parish, please provide their name, rank, service branch, and location if applicable. You can call the Parish Office ( 617-323-4410 / 617-325-1300) or email [stoffice24@gmail.com](mailto:stoffice24@gmail.com)







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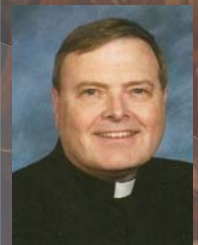


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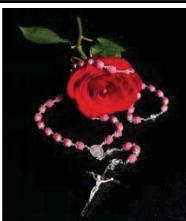
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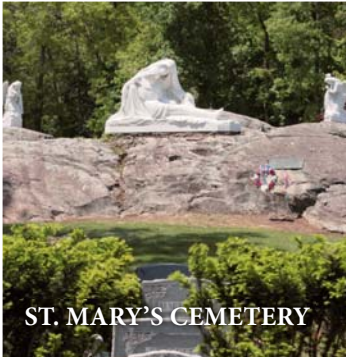
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