



Paulist Center Boston

Attentive to the Holy Spirit and nourished by vibrant liturgy, we are a Catholic community that welcomes all, fosters healing and reconciliation, and acts for justice.



DECEMBER 10 - 11, 2022

3RD SUNDAY IN ADVENT

WEEKEND IN-PERSON MASSES

Saturday
5:00pm

Sunday
10:00am
6:00pm

WEEKDAY IN-PERSON MASSES

Monday – Friday
12:05pm

LIVESTREAMED MASS LINKS

Sunday, December 11, 10am

YouTube [Link](#)

Order of Worship [Link](#)



Saturday, December 17, 5pm

YouTube [Link](#)

Order of Worship [Link](#)

While we usually livestream the 10am Mass, we will livestream the 5pm Mass on December 17, not 10am on December 18.

CALL FOR 2022 HECKER AWARD SUBMISSIONS

Since 1974, the Paulist Center Community has presented the Isaac Hecker Award for Social Justice to an outstanding North American Catholic. Recipients of the award have included locally and nationally recognized women and men - lay people, sisters, priests, and bishops. Some have been involved in direct service to those in need, others in advocacy works and the transformation of structures and institutions.



The award was named to honor Isaac Hecker, founder of the Paulist Fathers. Nominate your favorite Catholic who is committed to peace and striving to live a life of social justice.

Submission guidelines can be found [here](#), or in the racks in our chapel vestibule. Direct submissions to Susan Rutkowski, susan@paulistcenter.org or 617-948-2426.

Nomination deadline is Monday, December 19, the day after Isaac Hecker's 104th birthday.

FREP, Grades 1-6 will meet on the 6th floor.

ADVENT RECONCILIATION SERVICE

We will host a communal reconciliation service at noon on Saturday, December 17, with at least three Paulist priests available to hear individual confessions. If you haven't come to this service in recent years but are thinking of coming this year, please leave an anonymous message at 617-742-4460, and we'll make arrangements to have additional Paulist priests available.



LIGHT DAWNS ON A WEARY WORLD



Our annual Advent-Christmas Concert, *Light Dawns On A Weary World* Saturday, December 10, 7:30pm - [Link](#) Sunday, December 11, 2pm - [Link](#)

The Christmas Story, a celebration of dance, drama and music, begins the Sunday program.

Instead of selling tickets, we're taking up a freewill offering. We'd appreciate if you'd [donate online](#) in advance.

A reception, with a train display, follows each concert!



CHRISTMAS FLOWERS & DECORATIONS



Help us decorate with a poinsettia plant and other Christmas decorations in honor of a family member or friend, living or deceased. Suggested donation is \$10.

You can contribute at the front desk during the week from 10:30am-4:30pm; by using the "Flower Donation" envelopes in the pews; or go to [Donate Online](#), and choose "Flowers" and note that it is "in honor of, or in memory of" in the space provided.

Welcome! If you are considering becoming a member, please fill out a membership inquiry form that can be found on our [website](#). You may also call the Reception Desk at 617-742-4460. After returning the form, a staff member will contact you.



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BREAKING NEWS: MEET OUR NEW YOUNG ADULT MINISTER!



On Wednesday, we hired **Anna Costello Duran** to be our new part-time **Young Adult Minister!** We ask all community members ages 21-39 to join us for dinner & discussion with her after the 6pm Mass on Sunday, December 18.

Anna was first introduced to the Paulists at UC Berkeley's Newman Hall - Holy Spirit Parish, where she participated in and led various student ministries. Since graduating, she worked for 6 years to prevent childhood lead poisoning through the California Department of Public Health.

A cradle Catholic, Anna continued to practice and did a lot of "church shopping." Anna and her husband, Kirk, were married last year by Father Ivan Tou, CSP, and moved to the Boston area in January to be closer to Kirk's family. Anna is thrilled to find a spiritual home at the Paulist Center and looks forward to meeting you and serving young adults!

RITE OF ACCEPTANCE INTO THE CATECHUMENATE

At the 10am Mass on December 11, we will welcome **Naz Uremek** into the Catechumenate.

We welcomed **Claire de Lacoste** to the Catechumenate on December 4. Together, Naz and Claire officially begin their journey towards joining our Catholic Faith through the sacraments of Initiation; (Baptism, Confirmation and First Communion).

Please keep them in your prayers as well as **Krystin Wasikowski** and **Morgan Corniquel**, who are preparing to complete their sacraments of Initiation with Confirmation and First Communion.



STILL TAGS ON THE JESSE TREE

The Jesse Tree, the Paulist Center's Advent Giving Tree, is up in the Mary Alcove.

This is an opportunity to buy gifts for families at Crossroads Family Shelter; the Catholic Worker House in Worcester; the Agape Community; and families that come to our food pantry and supper club.



If you feel so moved, please take a tag off the tree and bring the unwrapped gift back to the Center by **Sunday, December 18**. Gift cards are requested by many agencies as they afford people the dignity to choose what they'd like. Gifts can be dropped off at the Food Pantry or mailed to Susan at the Center. Please do not leave any gifts under the tree or anywhere that is unsecured.

RACIAL JUSTICE ADVOCACY GROUP MEETING

The Racial Justice Advocacy Group (RJAG) will hold its monthly meeting this Tuesday, December 13 at 7pm by way of Zoom. RJAG is a relatively new ministry at the Center focused upon promoting racial equity through events and programs within our Community and also action hours and events that engage civic leaders in Greater Boston. We seek to build an ever-growing group who can together be a catalyst for positive efforts to address systemic racism in our society. We welcome your joining us or checking us out. If interested, please contact **Tom Sharkey** at sharkey.te@verizon.net for more information and for the December 13 meeting's Zoom link.



CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES

Christmas Eve, Saturday, December 24

5pm*, 8pm & 10pm*

5pm [Link](#)

10pm [Link](#)

*Livestreamed Mass on our YouTube channel.



Christmas Day, Sunday, December 25

10am

FROM PINK TO BLUE IN ADVENT WAITING

By Bob Bordone

As a kid, Gaudete Sunday, the Third Sunday in Advent, always confused me. As I was counting down the days to Christmas (and, to be honest, Santa's visit to my home), it seemed counterintuitive to me that the Sunday marked with special joy and a different rose-colored candle on the Advent wreath was the THIRD Sunday and not the FOURTH!

Surely, it seemed to me, the last Sunday in Advent should be the most joyful? Why rose-colored on Week 3 and then this strange backsliding to blue (or, back then, purple) on the last Sunday? It just seemed a bit backward to me.

As I read this Sundays' readings, however, I noticed a similar contradiction, a perverse kind of confusing "backsliding." The First Reading and Psalm are not about some kind of Future God, but are spoken in the present tense – the here and the now. **The Lord gives, raises, loves, protects.** It is happening now, in this moment.

Contrast this with James' message in the second reading, written after the death and resurrection of Jesus when we might think that divine recompense would surely have been accomplished. No! James is not celebrating the actualized Reign of God on earth with healing, salvation, or glad tidings. Rather it is a more urgent and dour plea: "Don't lose hope!" This feels like going from the joy of Gaudete Sunday back to the interminable waiting for the Incarnation – going backward from the rose-colored joyful candle back to the boring blue or purple in Week 4.

As I look around, I see similar contradictions and backsliding in our world and in our Church. What does it mean to live in this moment where progress toward peace and justice in many domains seems farther away now than it was just a decade ago? If God loves the blind, those who are bowed down, the just, and the stranger – then why does such injustice persist, both in our world and in our Church?

One day Pope Francis goes out of his way to visit transgender people or to meet with Fr. James Martin, SJ to encourage his ministry to queer people. And then the next day, the bishops of our own country elect as their new conference President a prelate who publicly blamed the sex abuse crisis on "effeminate gay priests."

Today's readings implore us to not be discouraged by contradiction or backsliding such as this. It reminds us that yes – we need conviction and patience. As we wait for the Lord God to come again in glory, ours is also a fallen world, full of backsliding and contradiction and chaos. We remember that we will be back to yet another Sunday of blue/purple before God becomes incarnate on Christmas.

But Jesus is coming! Indeed, God is here insofar as we act now to love the just, the stranger, the bowed down, and the blind.

Rather than let the contradiction in our shared Church and civic life lead us to hopelessness, acrimony, or division, let us heed Isaiah's call to, "Be Strong, fear not!" My prayer for myself, you, and our Paulist Center Community collectively is that we will have the courage, the grace, the conviction and, yes, the patience, to actualize the words of the prophet, that we will, "Strengthen the hands that are feeble, make firm the knees that are weak, say to those whose hearts are frightened: Be strong, fear not! Here is your God!"

CREATION CARE - 3RD WEEK OF ADVENT

For Advent, the Creation Care ministry invites you to prepare to celebrate Jesus' birth with simplicity.

Reflection: Prayer from Pope Francis' *Laudato Si'*: "All-powerful God, you are present in the whole universe, and in the smallest of your creatures. Pour out upon us the power of your love, that we may protect life and beauty. Fill us with peace, that we may live as brothers and sisters, harming no one."

Suggestion: For Advent, focus on Simplicity. How?

(1) Have Clear Priorities

(2) Practice Detachment

(3) Serve Others

These ideas are expanded with examples in this Catholic **blog**.

A Paulist Center member says:

- *I worked for a ban on single-use plastics in my town.*
- *I've been vegan for a number of years and feel much healthier for it. Vegan diets help reduce carbon emissions.*



PLEASE PRAY FOR ...

Please pray for **Susan Burke**, sister-in-law of community member Lisa Savini, who passed away suddenly on November 27.

COMMUNITY GIFT

Our **Community Gift** is the Paulist Center's tradition of **giving 5% of our annual offertory to other charitable organizations.**

The weekend of **December 10 and 11** we lift up **Preble Street**, whose mission is to address hunger, poverty, and homelessness in Portland, Maine.

Two ways to give to the Paulist Center:

1. To make a one-time or recurring donation to the Center using your bank account or credit card, click on this link: <https://tinyurl.com/DonatePaulistCenter>
2. Giving by text: Text a whole dollar donation to **844-899 7511**; this will be designated as your "Weekend Offering"

THANK YOU!

FAMILY & FRIENDS OF LGBTQ+ PERSONS - MONTHLY MEETING

A consortium of seven Boston Catholic communities (including the Paulist Center) hosts a support group for family and friends of LGBTQ+ persons at **2pm on the 3rd Sunday of every month**. For the **December 18** meeting, place email **Jay** at lgbtqministry@stanthonyshrine.org to receive the Zoom link. On **December 18**, Fr. Rich leads a discussion about the stresses that people who identify as LGBTQ+ and their families may experience around the holidays. We'll look to the spiritualities of Advent and John of the Cross for inspiration.



INTERESTED IN BEING A LECTOR?

We are rebooting our lector teams starting in January! If you would like to explore newly serving in this ministry at the Paulist Center, please contact our **Pastoral Minister of Liturgy and Music, Norm Gouin** at norm@paulistcenter.org to discuss the possibility. There will be lector ministry formation and orientation sessions held in mid- January.



MINISTERIAL STAFF: Rich Andre, CSP
Normand Gouin
Susan Rutkowski

Anna Costello Duran
Ed Nowak, CSP
Patricia Simpson

PASTORAL COUNCIL CO-CHAIRS:
Adrienne Murphy and Yoojung Yang

Please see our **website** for direct contact information.