



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 17 - 18, 2022

4TH SUNDAY IN ADVENT

WEEKEND IN-PERSON MASSES

Saturday
5pm

Sunday
10am
6pm

WEEKDAY IN-PERSON MASSES

Monday – Friday
12:05pm

CHRISTMAS MASS SCHEDULE



Christmas Eve
Saturday, December 24

5pm [Link](#)
8pm
10pm [Link](#)



Christmas Day
Sunday, December 25



10am

The 10pm Christmas Eve Mass will be a more reflective service appropriate for everyone, including those who find themselves alone, grieving, or estranged from family this holiday season.

Note: we will use hypoallergenic incense at the 5pm Mass.

For those who are immunocompromised, we predict that the 5pm Mass will be quite crowded.

Attendance at the 10pm and 10am Masses will likely be no larger than a typical weekend Mass.

You can join us online for the [5pm Mass](#) and the [10pm Mass](#) on December 24.

LAST CALL FOR 2022 HECKER AWARD SUBMISSIONS - DEADLINE CHANGE

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.

The new nomination deadline is Saturday, December 31.

FREP THIS WEEKEND IS GRADES ONE THROUGH SIX ON THE 6TH FLOOR. NO JUNIOR HIGH.
CONFIRMATION TEENS ARE IN THE 3RD FLOOR LIBRARY.

THE CREATION CARE MINISTRY WILL MEET THIS SUNDAY, DECEMBER 18 AT 11:15AM TO DISCUSS ADVOCACY EFFORTS. GATHER IN THE CHAPEL. ALL ARE WELCOME.

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.



PAULIST CENTER BOSTON
5 PARK STREET
BOSTON MA 02108

PHONE 617-742-4460
FAX 617-720-5756
EMAIL INFO@PAULISTCENTER.ORG

WWW.PAULISTCENTER.ORG
FACEBOOK.COM/PAULISTCENTER
TWITTER.COM/PAULISTBOSTON
INSTAGRAM.COM/PAULISTCENTER

We pray for our Jewish neighbors celebrating Hanukkah December 18-26.



May they have a warm and wonderful Festival of Lights!

LIVE-STREAMED MASS LINKS
SATURDAY, DECEMBER 17TH, 5PM

YouTube [Link](#)

Order of Worship [Link](#)



STILL TAGS ON THE JESSE TREE - EXTENDED DEADLINE

There are still tags on the Jesse Tree. 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.

Gift cards are requested by many agencies as they afford people the dignity to choose what they'd like.

If you feel so moved, please take a tag off the tree and bring the unwrapped gift back to the Center by **Saturday, December 24**. Please know that if gifts are turned in after December 21, recipients won't get the gifts by Christmas Day, but they'll still get them during the Christmas season.

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.



CHRISTMAS FLOWERS & DECORATIONS

Help us decorate with a poinsettia plant and other Christmas decorations. **Suggested donation is \$10.**



Contributions can be made 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 [Flower Donation](#) and note that it is "in honor of, or in memory of" in the space provided.

DECEMBER 18 AFTER THE 6PM MASS: MEET OUR NEW YOUNG ADULT MINISTER!



We've hired **Anna Costello Duran** as our new part-time Young Adult Minister! We ask all community members ages 21-39, plus those a little older who were involved in Young Adult Ministry before the pandemic, to **join her for discussion about your hopes and dreams for this ministry in 2023**. We'll do that **after the 6pm Mass this Sunday, December 18**. Please **RSVP to Fr. Rich**.

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!

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, please 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.

LIGHT DAWNS, LOVE GROWS, AND HOPE BLOOMS AT THE PAULIST CENTER

Rev. Richard R. Andre, C.S.P.

Director

I write this on Sunday evening, December 11, gazing out my bedroom window. As the season's first snow gives a misty glow to the Christmas lights on Boston Common, I'm giving thanks for the beautiful autumn season we've experienced at 5 Park Street.

To me, it seems as if our autumn season began and ended 10-14 days ahead of the astronomical season. It started on the weekend of September 10 & 11 with the entire community offering a blessing to our newly-reconstituted pastoral staff, including Fr. Ed. Since then, there seems to be a sense of energy returning to the Paulist Center. We celebrated our first baptism at a Sunday Mass since the pandemic began on September 18, and we jubilantly kicked off our Family Religious Education Program (FREP) the week after that.

This fall, more Paulist Center ministries – most notably, the Wednesday Night Supper Club – ventured back to holding in-person gatherings. Weekend Mass attendance numbers are gradually increasing. Even though we don't see some beloved Paulist Center Community members in person these days, they are still part of our community. Each week, an astounding 550-700 people open the Missive through their email, and others read it directly from links posted to Facebook, Twitter, and – if they're willing to copy a URL – Instagram. Most surprising of all, the number of identified donors has held quite steady over the past 4 years. Many of us know members who are no longer engaged with the Paulist Center for various reasons, but evidence shows that new members are stepping in.

It's clear that our commitment to social justice and marginalized groups continues. From the pulpit, in the bulletin, on the internet, and in meetings, we have addressed care of the environment, racial justice, the role of women in the Church, clergy sexual abuse, the discrimination of LGBTQ+ people, toxic polarization in our nation, and ecumenical & interfaith bridge-building. All the while, we have continued to delve into the rich deposit of faith in the Catholic tradition.

Fall at the Paulist Center concluded with the return of our Advent-Christmas Concert on December 10 & 11. (I guess we demonstrated that we were ready for Christmas, so God provided the snow to enhance the mood!) The Paulist Center Community came together over the weekend, despite epic traffic problems. I'm especially grateful for the great gifts of time, talent, and pastoral sensitivity lavished on us by **Normand Guin** and **Christine Tardiff**. Norm programmed the readings, music, and visual arts, and then handled the thousands of details to stretch an ensemble of 29 musicians — 28 of whom were volunteers and members of the PCC — to create sounds better than we expected of ourselves! Christine once again assembled and rehearsed the children of the community in a her choreographed retelling of the Christmas story. It was a deeply spiritual experience! I'm grateful for everyone else — staff and volunteers — who helped in so many different ways.

I leave you with some of the lyrics from the title song of the program:

*Light dawns on a weary world, when eyes begin to see all people's dignity.
Love grows in a weary world, when hungry hearts find bread and children's dreams are fed.
Hope blooms in a weary world, when creatures, once forlorn, find wilderness reborn.
The promised day of justice, the promised feast of plenty, the promised green of Eden, comes.*

*The trees shall clap their hands; the dry lands, gush with springs;
The hills and mountains shall break forth with singing.
We shall go out with joy, and be led forth in peace,
As all the world in wonder echoes "shalom."*

In this week when many of us will be caught up in last-minute preparations, I wish you all peace, shalom. Remember: no matter how far behind we get on our self-imposed deadlines, Jesus will be born, right on God's schedule!

CREATION CARE - 4TH WEEK OF ADVENT

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

Reflection: "For the beauty of the earth, for the beauty of the skies, for the love which from our birth, over and around us lies, Lord of all, to thee we raise, this our hymn of grateful praise."

Suggestion: Living more simply for the planet probably means adjusting: your utilities, your transportation and your food – the 3 biggest carbon impacts for most people. Does your town let you switch your electric supply to 'renewable sources'? All your home's electricity could come from green sources. The Paulist Center did this. In terms of food, check out Oxfam's "Eat for Good" tips on how to shop & eat sustainably on their website - www.oxfamamerica.org.

A Paulist Center member says:

- *I'm trying to educate myself about the problems- global warming, pollution, water and food scarcity and figure out what I can do about them. Our book discussion group is focusing on this area.*



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 17 and 18** we lift up **Urban Edge**, a national leader in community development and building affordable housing.

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!

CALENDAR YEAR-END GIFTS TO THE CENTER WARMLY WELCOMED

As you are likely aware, your financial gifts are key to the Paulist Center's financial sustainability. While we did not bombard you with Giving Tuesday requests, please know that we warmly welcome calendar year-end gifts, which are very helpful to our budget every year.

If you wish to donate **stock**, please be in touch with **Patty Simpson**, patty@paulistcenter.org or **617-948-2428**, for specifics on our legal name, tax ID and account information for transfers.

Thank you for ALL you give in so many ways to the Center!



BEWARE SPEAR PHISHING

Internet scammers are getting more sophisticated! This past week, several PCC members received fake email messages, claiming to be from staff and other members, asking for gift cards or personal information.

DO NOT CLICK ON LINKS OR RESPOND! Here's **a guide on techniques currently used by scammers.**

THE PAULIST CENTER WILL BE CLOSED ON MONDAY, DECEMBER 26 AND MONDAY, JANUARY 2. WE WILL NOT HAVE MASS OR CONFESSIONS HERE ON THOSE DAYS.



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.