



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 24 - 25, 2022

THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD

DECEMBER 31, 2022 - JANUARY 1, 2023

SOLEMNITY OF MARY, THE HOLY MOTHER OF GOD

WEEKEND IN-PERSON MASSES

Saturday
5pm

Sunday
10am
6pm

WEEKDAY IN-PERSON MASSES

Monday – Friday
12:05pm



A BLESSED CHRISTMAS TO ALL!



Christmas Eve
Saturday, December 24

5pm Link
8pm
10pm Link

Christmas Day
Sunday, December 25

10am

The 10pm Christmas Eve Mass will be more reflective. It's open to everyone, including those who are grieving, alone, or estranged from family.

A JOYOUS NEW YEAR TO ALL!

Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God

Saturday, December 31

5pm

Sunday, January 1

10am Link

6pm



Solemnity of Epiphany

Saturday, January 7

5pm

Sunday, January 8

10am Link

6pm

WELCOME, BLESSINGS, HISTORY, AND JUSTICE

Welcome! Whether this is your first time or your four-thousandth time worshipping at the Paulist Center, we are glad that you are with us! With less activities happening over these next two weeks, we have some extra space in the bulletin. I'm taking this opportunity to share a longer-than-usual pastoral reflection with both members and visitors. I offer the Paulist Center Community's Christmas blessings to all, a brief history of the Center for those who are visiting, and some thoughts on our obligations to our Jewish friends who have been celebrating Hanukkah while simultaneously enduring threats on many fronts. I'll conclude with a quotation from spiritual writer Jan Richardson that we used in our Advent-Christmas Concert two weeks ago.

Christmas Blessings!

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light....

For a child has been born for us,... upon his shoulders authority rests.

They name him Wonder-Counselor,... Prince of Peace. (Isaiah 9:2, 6)

On behalf of the entire Paulist Center staff and worshipping community, we wish you a blessed and holy Christmas season. In these cold and dark days, Christmas promises us warmth and light. God lives among us. God understands our challenges. Christmas demonstrates that even when things are not perfect – such as there being no room for a pregnant mother at an inn – God can find a way. As we transition to a new year, we recall these words of Pope Francis: "Joy adapts and changes, but it always endures, even as a flicker of light born of our personal certainty that, when everything is said and done, we are infinitely loved" (*Evangelii Gaudium*, #6).

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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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A Brief History of the Paulist Center

The Paulist Center is a truly special place. This is a community where all are welcome at Mass, not only devout Catholics committed to the work of justice, but also those who are unfamiliar with the Church's teachings and those who question some of the teachings. We journey together as we each wrestle with our questions and search for answers!

In his 1855 book, *Questions of a Soul*, Servant of God Isaac Thomas Hecker wrote:

*If Christ is to be for us a savior,
we must find him here, now, and where we are, in this age of ours also;
Otherwise, he is no Christ, no Savior, no Emmanuel, no 'God with us.'*

Hecker (1819-1888) grew up as a spiritual seeker. He felt called by God from a young age to do something extraordinary with his life, but he struggled to understand to what exactly God called him. Hecker worked in his brothers' baking and flour-milling business for a while, dabbled in New York politics, and lived briefly at two Transcendentalist communes in the Boston area as he studied the world's religions. When he discerned the call to become Catholic, he wasted no time. He was soon baptized and later ordained, becoming one of the best-known Catholic writers in the country. He and four companions formed the Paulist Fathers, the first religious community of priests founded in the United States.

The Paulist Center is one of the experimental ways that the Paulists have made the faith relevant "here, now, and where we are, in this age of ours." In the 1950s and 60s, people flocked here on their lunch breaks to learn about the Catholic faith, and then were baptized here and joined our worshipping community. The Paulist Center continues to be a place of innovative evangelization. It was among the first places to minister to certain marginalized groups, including divorced and separated people, women yearning for larger leadership roles within the Church, and LGBTQ+ persons. Our community is filled with passionate people dedicated to issues of charity and justice. For over 50 years, our Wednesday Night Supper Club has provided dignified, sit-down, community-building meals for our neighbors in need. Project Bread, one of the largest non-profit fundraisers in Boston, was originally founded by our members to support the Supper Club. At any given time, at least a half-dozen justice and advocacy groups work to bring forth the kingdom of God here and now.

Justice For Our Jewish Neighbors

As we celebrate the birth of the Prince of Peace, and as Hanukkah reaches its conclusion, we continue our history of working for justice. Sadly, there has been an alarming increase in threats against Jewish individuals, Jewish beliefs, and Jewish institutions, so we feel compelled to reiterate the Church's strong opposition to anti-Semitism. Paulist Father Tom Stransky was the main author of *Nostra Aetate*, the most important document that the Church has ever issued on the relationship of the Church with other world religions. Overwhelmingly approved by the world's bishops at the Second Vatican Council in 1964, *Nostra Aetate* affirms all that is good and holy in Hinduism, Buddhism, Islam, and Judaism. It reserves its strongest affirmations for our Jewish sisters and brothers:

In her rejection of every persecution against any [person], the Church, mindful of the patrimony she shares with the Jews and moved not by political reasons but by the Gospel's spiritual love, decries hatred, persecutions, displays of anti-Semitism, directed against Jews at any time and by anyone. (#4)

During World War II, to the horror of most Christians, others had quoted biblical passages out of context and cited anti-Semitic writings of prominent Christians to justify the Holocaust. *Nostra Aetate* was written in part to address this egregious error.

As Christians, we have an obligation not only to condemn anti-Semitic words and actions in the 21st century, but also to undo nearly two millennia of harm that Christianity has inflicted on our Jewish brothers and sisters. I pledge that in 2023, the Paulist Center will address the passages in the Gospel of Matthew that have too often been twisted to promote anti-Semitism.

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Bringing It All Together

Jan Richardson has written the following in response to the Isaiah passage quoted at the beginning of this reflection:

It's important to note that the texts that originated with our Jewish forebears—the texts that Christians usually call the Old Testament—can stand on their own. These ancient words do not take on meaning for the people of Christ solely by our reading and interpreting them with our Christian eyes. What Isaiah offers here are powerful words for those in darkness in any time, in any place.

At the same time it is right that we in the Christian tradition find hope, solace, and meaning in these words as we celebrate and anticipate the coming of Christ. The vivid, brilliant imagery of Isaiah undergirds and resonates with and gives poetic expression to the images and stories that we receive from the New Testament texts in this season. Isaiah prepares us to hear the astonishing story of what has come in the person of Christ. This Hebrew prophet reminds us that the longing for light is an ancient human longing. He assures us that in the presence of the darkness of this world—be it friendly darkness or foul—God is present, working to help us know God more clearly and to live together with deeper compassion, justice, and peace.

Once again, Merry Christmas! We warmly welcome you to the Paulist Center. Together, we have seen a great light, assuring one another that we are infinitely loved by the God who comes to dwell among us.

 R.R. Andre, C.S.P.

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

WITH DEEPEST GRATITUDE

My heart is filled with immense gratitude as I reflect on the Advent-Christmas "concert" celebration of song and story, prayer and reflection, and, most importantly, the opportunity it provided to bring our community together during this holy season.

Over 270 people attended between Saturday and Sunday. That's 270+ people, plus the 28 musicians, who braved/endured the MBTA, driving and Park Street closure challenges of that weekend to be here in person. In addition, 60 devices viewed in real-time during the livestreaming, and we have had over 900 views on our Youtube channel so far.



I want to take this opportunity to thank all those who helped make this event happen in any way - musicians, Christine Tardiff and "The Christmas Story" participants and their parents, those who helped with logistics and the receptions, those who attended, and those who gave so generously in donations and sponsorships. With everyone's effort and support, we raised over \$8000 for the Center.

May the promise of hope, light, peace, and love that this season brings fill your hearts and homes this Christmas and in the New Year.

- Norm

JESSE TREE

Any outstanding gifts can be dropped off at the Center the weekend of **December 24-25 or December 31 -January 1.** Thank you for the immense generosity shown by this community to help those in need!

FREP

Religious Education and Sacramental Prep classes are on holiday **break from December 25 - January 1.** Classes **resume January 8.**

The first gathering for First Holy communion will take place on **January 29.** Please register using the FREP registration form on the website or contact Susan Rutkowski at susan@paulistcenter.org

HECKER AWARD

The deadline for submitting nominations for the 2022 Hecker Award is **December 31.** Submission guidelines can be found **here**, or in the racks in our chapel vestibule. Please submit nominations to Susan Rutkowski, susan@paulistcenter.org.

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 24 and 25** we lift up **Mother Caroline Academy and Education Center**, a tuition-free independent school for girls in grades 3-8, serving traditionally under-resourced Boston neighborhoods.

The weekend of **December 31 and January 1** we lift up **Penelope's Place**, an emergency shelter for families and individuals fleeing domestic violence.

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!



OCTAVE OF CHRISTMAS:

Monday, December 26: no Mass or confessions

Tuesday, December 27, Wednesday, December 28, Friday, December 30: Mass is at 12:05pm

Friday, December 30: Confessions 11:00 - 11:45am

2ND WEEK OF CHRISTMAS

Monday, January 2: no Mass or confessions

Tuesday, January 3 - Friday, January 6: Mass is at 12:05pm

Friday, January 6: Confessions 11:00 - 11:45am

NO 12:05 MASS ON THURSDAY, DECEMBER 29

The Paulists will attend **Fr. Chuck Cunniff's father's funeral in Connecticut** that day, so we are canceling this one daily Mass.

Thank you for your understanding and please keep Fr. Chuck's dad, Deacon Charles Cunniff, and all Chuck's family in prayer.



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!*

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.