



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.



FEBRUARY 25 - 26, 2023

1ST SUNDAY IN LENT

WEEKEND IN-PERSON MASSES
Saturday 5pm Sunday 10am
6pm

WEEKDAY IN-PERSON MASSES
Monday - Friday 12:05pm

YOUNG ADULT LENTEN SMALL GROUP

We still have a few spaces in our young adult Lenten small group! We hope you'll join your 21-39 years old peers for at least four one-hour sessions of prayer, reflection, and community-building.



Please RSVP and express your interest through the form at: bit.ly/LentYASG2023

Please note your availability if you are unable to attend on Sunday evenings after the 6pm Mass. Please contact Anna at youngadults@paulistcenter.org with any questions or to set up a 1:1 conversation about getting involved with the Paulist Center Young Adult community!

LIVE-STREAMED MASS LINKS

Sunday, February 26, 10am

YouTube [Link](#) Order of Worship [Link](#)

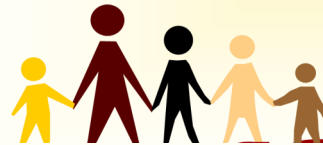


Saturday, March 4, 5pm

YouTube [Link](#) Order of Worship [Link](#)

RACIAL JUSTICE EVENT - NEXT SUNDAY

The Racial Justice Advocacy Group (RJAG) and the Family Religious Education Program (FREP) invite all to our next intergenerational event, next Sunday, March 5, 11:15am in the auditorium.



We will start with Community Coffee.

Please join us!

WEDNESDAY LENTEN PRAYER



All are invited to attend our Wednesday Lenten Prayer led by members of the LGBTQ+ ministry.

The prayer service will be held via Zoom on Wednesday evenings, 7:00-7:30pm: March 1, 8, 15, and 22.

Zoom link: bit.ly/LentOnlinePrayers2023

Meeting ID: 827 2190 5689

Passcode: 366636

REST IN PEACE, PEGGY LAVOIE

Please pray for Peggy Lavoie, longtime community member who recently passed away.



May she rest in peace. Please keep Peggy's family in prayer during this time of loss.

Peggy's funeral liturgy will be on Saturday, March 4 at 11am at St Michael's Cathedral in Springfield. Here is a [link](#) to her obituary.

The family requests in lieu of flowers, that people can make donations to the food bank or feeding program of their choice.

THERE ARE NO RELIGIOUS EDUCATION CLASSES THIS SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 26 DUE TO WINTER BREAK.

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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VIRTUAL BUSY PERSONS RETREAT (BPR)

This retreat - **Sunday, March 12 through Thursday, March 16** - will assist you with personal Lenten prayer and reflection time on your own schedule. The three-day retreat begins and ends with a virtual gathering on Sunday and Thursday evenings. **Suggested donation: \$40**

Register at: tinyurl.com/LentBPR23 by next Monday, March 6.

The core BPR days will follow the rhythm of an invitation to:

- 30 minutes of personal prayer
- 30 minutes of communal prayer (daily Mass or other opportunities)
- 30 minutes 1:1 spiritual direction on Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday

Daily reflection options for participants to use will be provided.

The gathering on Sunday and Thursday evenings are optional but we hope most everyone can gather at those times.

Participants are matched with spiritual directors and you will be able to meet with each other daily during a 30-minute time that best fits your schedules.

For more information email Fr. Ed at ed@paulistcenter.org.



ANNUAL AUCTION FUNDRAISER

- APRIL 29 -
SAVE THE DATE!



April 29 is our 40th Annual Auction Fundraiser and we have a theme:
Back in the Saddle Again!

Are you interested in getting to know other members of the Paulist Center? Are you looking to contribute your time, talents, or treasures to support the community?

After 3 years apart, we're getting "**Back in the Saddle Again**," ready to come together and celebrate in-person as an intentional faith community! Whether you're new to the Paulist Center, returning, or just beginning to come back to in-person events, we sincerely hope that you will join us.

The Paulist Center Auction, our largest annual fun and fundraiser, is coming together! Here are some ways you can help:

- Donate an item or service to the auction. Examples range from event tickets and vacation home stays to making a fancy dessert to hosting members for a boat ride!
- Sign up to be a financial Sponsor.
- Volunteer leading up to or on the day of the auction.
- Buy and/or sell raffle tickets.
- Purchase a ticket to attend (available starting March 25). Invite friends and family to reserve a table together!

Mark your calendars for April 29! Tune in next week for donation, financial sponsorship, and volunteer sign-ups. **Please contact Auction Co-Chairs - Tara & Michael Rousseau and Anna Costello Duran - with additional questions at Auction@PaulistCenter.Org.**

CULTIVATING DIVINE SPACIOUSNESS

Anna Costello Duran

Young Adult Minister

My previous workplace had a culture of urgency and busyness. Surrounded by exhausted coworkers, I was stuck in cycles of reactivity, leaving me feeling helpless, disconnected from my sense of agency, and wavering in my belief in God's infinite power of healing. As burnout set in, I realized that this culture was preventing my creativity and my ability to build the kin-dom of beloved community that Jesus calls us towards.

As Lent begins, my personal goal mirrors my desire for others: divine spaciousness. When we cultivate spaciousness, we carve out sacred time to grow belief in our intrinsic worth and we expand the capacity for God to breathe change into our lives ([Gn 2:7](#)).

This week's readings center around the concept of sin, which can constrict conversations into the good/bad binary and encourage judgment. But, if we take a deep breath and create some space, there are other possibilities. We can let go of blaming Eve for the world's suffering (and let's let go of the tropes about "crazy women" while we're at it!), and replace shaming with empathy. Empathy means knowing deeply that we're not alone. And we are definitely not alone! Our faith offers us beloved community, Jesus's accompaniment, the Holy Spirit - consoler, the communion of saints, the list goes on! When we cultivate divine spaciousness, we open ourselves up to receiving gifts of companionship and allowing ourselves to be healed through spiritual connection.

What if, instead of blaming individuals for sin, we could recognize that we are born into sinful systems that disconnect us from God, ourselves, and each other? From racism to sexism, heteronormativity to economic oppression, the systems around us create hierarchies of human worth that benefit a select few while making us forget that we are all God's children. Sinful systems perpetuate cycles of violence and convince us that we cannot be instruments of peace because we're not enough; we don't have enough time, we don't have enough power, and we're helpless to create change in the face of injustice.

So, how can we create divine spaciousness during Lent when we're lacking hope and feel like there's not enough time? For me, it's helpful to look for role models. My first source of inspiration is a friend who observes the Jewish sabbath for a full day each week, disconnecting from electronics in order to focus on "being" instead of "doing." Another friend prays *at least* five times a day by literally removing herself from what she's doing, rolling out her mat, and praying in an act of prostration. When I was young, my father would retreat to his garden on long summer days, leaving the answering machine to take calls until nightfall. In a nutshell: we have to cultivate our own version of "the desert."

This likely means shifting our priorities. Are there boundaries we need to set for Lent in order to welcome divine spaciousness? What practices can we adopt to more fully trust in God's time (kairos) and allow for the miraculous to unfold? Maybe we choose to fill our inner worlds with divine spaciousness through grieving, art, meditation, and/ or prayer. Maybe we turn our attention toward mindfulness, allowing ourselves to become aware of the wisdom that our bodies hold, and responding from a place of grounding. Maybe we cultivate sacred time for deep listening and accompaniment of others. And maybe, alongside cultivating spaciousness, we can begin to work to dismantle the sinful systems which prevent us from living as Jesus did.

In this week's gospel reading, we are told that Jesus was only approached by the devil after he had survived 40 days and nights in the desert. He was hungry and seemingly at a breaking point but - can you believe it? - he never succumbed to helplessness ([Mt 4:1-11](#)). Since Jesus was human just as we are, he teaches us that we always have a choice to resist oppression; even when that choice feels inaccessible. Like Jesus, we are called to embrace practices that fill us with divine grace and allow us to shift our focus from resource scarcity to God's abundance. Cultivating divine spaciousness is possible and, instead of restricting our time, it can introduce new possibilities that no amount of "doing" ever could.



A CREATION-CARING LENT

Fasting From Overconsumption
and
Living More Simply



FEBRUARY 26: WEEK ONE – FOOD

Our Lenten practice this week is buying and eating food more responsibly.
(source: *Lent 4.5, Passionist Earth and Spirit Center, Louisville, KY*)

CONSIDER:

- Pray with meals (gratitude for our food and for those who produced and transported it).
- Pray for those who are hungry.
- Abstain from or reduce meat consumption this week (livestock requires more water, energy, and land than grains and vegetables; most of the world's corn and soy feeds cattle, pigs and chickens for wealthier humans while millions suffer from hunger.)

If you'd like some delicious Vegan recipes, just email paulistcentercreationcare@gmail.com and we'll send you some.

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 February 25 and 26 we raise up Catholic Relief Services in their emergency relief efforts to support areas of Turkey and Syria devastated by the February 6th high magnitude earthquakes. Should you wish to make an additional contribution, there are envelopes in the pews marked "Special Collection" - please make checks payable to "Catholic Relief Services" and notate Turkey and Syria earthquake on the check memo. You may also donate online by going to:

<https://support.crs.org/donate/earthquakes>

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!**

IN OTHER COMMUNITIES

RETREAT NIGHT AT ST. CATHERINE OF GENOA CHURCH IN SOMERVILLE

Parish One Night Retreat: Monday, March 13, 7pm at St. Catherine of Genoa Church, Somerville. Fr. Ed Nowak, CSP will preach on Holy Ground Holy Encounters.

Through the use of scripture, stories, and prayer experiences, the retreat will give us opportunities to reflect upon Holy Encounters in our own lives.



MINISTERIAL STAFF: Rich Andre, CSP
Normand Gouin
Susan Rutkowski

Anna Costello Duran
Ed Nowak, CSP
Patricia Simpson

PASTORAL COUNCIL CHAIR
Amy Logan

Please see our [website](#) for direct contact information.