



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.



MAY 6 - 7, 2023
5TH SUNDAY OF EASTER

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

WEEKDAY IN-PERSON MASSES
Monday – Friday
12:05pm
CONFESSIONS
Monday and Friday
11:00-11:45am,
and by appointment

PAULIST CENTER BOSTON presents

IT'S NOT JUST YOU, IT'S EVERYBODY A Symposium on Mental Health and Faith

Join us for a sacred symposium on a host of issues around the intersection of faith, mental health, and challenges we all face in a prayerful, pastoral setting with presenters whose ground-breaking theological work and pastoral ministry are shaped by their personal experiences in these areas.



JESSICA COBLENTZ, PHD
St. Mary's College, Notre Dame, IN



ELIZABETH ANTUS, PHD
Boston College, Boston, MA



FR. STEVEN BELL, CSP
Paulist Missionary, Los Angeles, CA



PATRICIA SIMPSON, MDIV
Paulist Center, Boston, MA
Harvard Divinity School, Cambridge, MA

Friday, May 12th
6:30-9:00 pm

Saturday, May 13th
10:00 am - 3:45 pm

Suggested donation: \$50 | For more information and to register:
www.paulistcenter.org/mental-health-and-our-faith-symposium
Registration requested by May 10

FAMILY RELIGIOUS EDUCATION PROGRAM (FREP)

Because so many of our families are involved with the Walk For Hunger, **FREP classes are not meeting today, Sunday, May 7.**

We pray for the families preparing for **First Holy Communion at the 10am Mass on Sunday, May 14,** especially while they are on retreat on May 13.

Because of the First Communion celebration after Mass, there are **no FREP classes on May 14,** either.



Welcome to all of those visiting us this morning after completing the **Walk For Hunger!**

STAFFING CHANGES

We sent an important announcement out on May 3 about upcoming staffing changes at the Paulist Center this summer. If you didn't receive our email, please read it at <https://conta.cc/42mPfeV>. We'll share more in subsequent weeks, as room in the bulletin allows.

Welcome! If you are considering becoming a member, please fill out a membership inquiry form that can be found on our [website](http://www.paulistcenter.org). 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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TWITTER.COM/PAULISTBOSTON
INSTAGRAM.COM/PAULISTCENTER

LIVE-STREAMED MASS LINKS

Sunday, May 7, 10am

YouTube [Link](#)

Order of Worship [Link](#)



Sunday, May 14, 10am

YouTube [Link](#)

Order of Worship [Link](#)

VIRTUS TRAINING TO BE REQUIRED FOR ALL VOLUNTEERS BY SEPTEMBER 2023 - TRAINING SESSION @ THE CENTER ON SUNDAY, JUNE 4

Dear Paulist Center Community Members -

In an effort to continue to improve the safety of church spaces for all, the Archdiocese and its Office of Child Advocacy has announced, starting this September, ALL volunteers and ALL liturgical ministers, not just those who work directly with children, will have new things they are required to do/provide, in addition to the initial and then annual Criminal Offender Record Information check (CORI) previously required:

- Attend an in-person three-hour VIRTUS training **once**.
- Those already VIRTUS trained will need to provide us with a copy of their completion certificate (but not yet!).
- Be CORI'd initially and then annually through the Center (We will provide you the forms and collect them from you at the appropriate times. You must be CORI'd by the Center to volunteer here, even if you are also CORI'd elsewhere for other purposes.).
- Acknowledge and agree to the Archdiocesan Volunteer Code of Conduct (link at: <https://www.bostoncatholic.org/protecting-children-word-welcome>).
- Fill out/update a volunteer application/reference/emergency contact form annually.
- Those who work directly with children will be required to provide two references to be contacted, although those who have previously volunteered and are known to the staff can have staff be their references.

To make attending VIRTUS training as easy as possible (it is required to be in-person), we have arranged for a session to be held **at the Paulist Center on Sunday, June 4, from 12:00 - 3:00 PM.**

You may also attend a session elsewhere, as long as you complete the session and provide the Center with proof of that, by the end of September 2023. To find other sessions, go to www.VIRTUSonline.org. On the left side of the page click on "First Time Registrant." Select "View list of sessions" and select "Boston (Archdiocese)" from the drop down menu.

We're still learning what the Archdiocese will require in terms of record keeping and formats for collecting the required information and will provide further details in the coming weeks, along with a registration link to let us know you are coming on June 4.

For now:

- If you have never been VIRTUS trained and wish to continue (or start) serving in almost any capacity at the Center, **please plan on attending the June 4th VIRTUS training session here or make plans to attend one elsewhere.**
- We will provide a registration link for you to let us know you are coming on June 4th in the coming weeks.
- If you have previously been VIRTUS trained, plan on getting a copy of your completion certificate to give/show to us (but don't email it to us until we ask! We are not ready to record this information.). Go to www.virtusonline.org/virtus/virtus_help_faq.cfm and look for "Printing Certificates/Attendance Credit" under the Frequently Asked Questions.

The Paulist Center has always strived to make our community a safe space for children and all vulnerable people. We understand that these new requirements present an initial inconvenience, but trust our members will appreciate the intent behind them and will comply with the new requirements as soon as possible in order to continue engaging our large and growing body of dedicated volunteers - a hallmark of our community.

If anyone is open to train to lead future VIRTUS sessions for our community, which would be an immense help to us, please contact **Susan** at susan@paulistcenter.org.

With deepest gratitude for your ministry to our community,

Your Paulist Center Ministerial Staff

Anna, Ed, Norm, Patty, Rich and Susan

FREP END-OF-YEAR LISTENING SESSION

The final day of our 2022-23 Family Religious Education Program (FREP) is May 21. While the students are having one last set of classes that day 11:15 am - 12:15 pm, **Susan Rutkowski** and **Fr. Rich Andre** will be holding a **listening session with parents** in the auditorium so that we can all dream, strategize, and offer constructive feedback together on how



the program went this year after the 3-year absence due to Covid-19. Included topics: schedule of classes, the intergenerational sessions, and curriculum/content of classes.

Then, we'll all gather downstairs for a short party!



40TH ANNUAL AUCTION: BACK IN THE SADDLE AGAIN! GROSSES OVER \$65K!

*Yee-haws abounded in a packed auditorium on April 29. Decked-out cowpokes enjoyed a hearty meal and were as generous as ever, bidding on items donated by community members and local businesses. At night's end, we raised over \$65,000 to support our beloved Paulist Center—a new record! From donating items, to volunteering, to sponsoring, the event was successful **because of your time, talent, and treasure.** Events like this take a whole community, so please*



*know it happened because of YOU. **Thank you for your unwavering support** of the Paulist Center! Your efforts and generosity are so appreciated.* ~ Auction Co-Chairs Tara & Michael Rousseau and Anna Costello Duran

And the Paulist Center wants to extend our immense thanks to this year's co-chairs, Anna, Tara and Michael, for doing an amazing and intense job with generosity and good humor! They epitomized putting the "fun" in "fund raiser" and made it possible for everyone else to have fun in the process of doing great things for our community!

ARE YOU THERE, GOD? IT'S ME, SUSAN.

Susan Rutkowski, Pastoral Minister of Family Religious Education and Social Justice

Jesus said to him, "Have I been with you for so long a time and you still do not know me, Philip? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father." John 14:9

At some point in our lives, we step back and wonder "Hmmm...do I...could I...is it *possible*...that I have *issues*?" (A friend once told me I have more issues than Vogue!) Sometimes these are pointed out by others, but most emerge during deep introspection as we bump up against life's struggles. We explore the genetic makeup and environmental factors which have a large role in determining human behavior. How we were parented is a key factor, indeed. In fact, relationships are the key training ground for issues to crop up.

To take the blame off of you and/or your parents, in the most scientific sense, we are animals oriented by evolution and toward maximizing our survival. Our issues in adulthood are all adaptations made in childhood to get our needs met. If these adaptations no longer work, we can shift our patterns. Re-parenting ourselves is not a new concept, but it is an integral one to become unstuck to live a more authentic life. Making sense of our stories and forming a coherent narrative of our earlier lives helps us heal.

Does this include our relationship with God? Yes! Our concern with our ultimate reality is a real struggle! Like our physical development, our spiritual development cries out for a coherent narrative as we move toward becoming more authentic disciples. Christianity tells a story about God, humanity and the world, a story that pivots around the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. Father, Son and Holy Spirit are, despite serious limitations, still the metaphors traditionally used to describe the Trinity. Unfortunately, these images and language, can impede many women – and men – from identifying with our loving God. Like with our childhood experiences, we have the opportunity to reframe who God is to us as we grow.

For me, the image of a distant, abusive, and violent Father God, with no involvement in the world, took a long time to resolve. This God was a God of wrath sitting in heaven, wherever that was. I didn't identify with, or even like, the stereotypical image emblazoned on my brain as a young person, of an old man with a beard in a white gown standing on a cloud. I didn't "get" that vengeful, powerful God. But, Jesus Christ, who I grew to understand as the parable of God, revealed God's concern for human wholeness. That touched me and was something I could relate to. The verse above from Sunday's gospel was an important meditation for my spiritual maturation as I prayed with our Triune God.

Jesus experienced God as unconditional love, intimately connected to his personal experience of God. At the center of Jesus' life and preaching was a message concerning the reign of God referring to God's actual nature: "unconditional and liberating sovereign love." This renewal of life was an experience that the reign of God was near; that *God* was near. So, I totally understand Phillip's question. I wanted to be shown the Father too. But Jesus makes the connection for us: if we have seen him, we have seen God.

Are you there, God? It's me, Susan. My understanding of you has grown and I "get" you more now. Thank you for sending Jesus. It made all the difference!

SYNOD ON SYNODALITY

We've just updated our webpage on the Church's ongoing 3-year Synod on Synodality (<https://www.paulistcenter.org/synod-2021-2023/>) for your review.

It includes two important news updates from the past month!

CALL FOR 2023 HECKER AWARD NOMINATIONS - DEADLINE JUNE 1

As we work through acceptances from recipients and schedules and prepare to announce our 2021 and 2022 winners of the Isaac Hecker Award for Social Justice, we'd like to formally request nominations for 2023 so we can finally catch up by the end of this year after frustrating covid delays. Therefore, please send your nomination (guidelines [here](#)) for an outstanding North American Catholic committed to building a more just and peaceful world. All nominations should be sent to Susan Rutkowski by June 1, either via email at susan@paulistcenter.org, or mailed to Susan's attention at the 5 Park Street address.



WE WANT YOU TO SERVE ON THE PASTORAL COUNCIL!

One of the most important ministries in guiding the Paulist Center this past year was the Pastoral Council, and the Council will continue to have a vital role. Would you consider serving on the Council for a two-year term starting in September 2023? Elections will be in early June, so we need your applications by May 30. We will have 5 seats open on the Council, so we hope to have at least 7 people run for election. Would you make a good candidate? Pastoral Council members care deeply about the Paulist Center, bring a diversity of life experiences and lengths of membership at the Paulist Center, and are willing to advise Fr. Rich on a variety of issues that affect the health and viability of the Paulist Center. To learn more, contact Amy Logan at alogan@erols.com.

The Paulist Fathers and their Associates, collaborators, and friends will be gathering in New York City May 18-21 for a number of events, including three that everyone can join via livestreams at paulist.org:



- 10am Fri, May 19 - lecture by John Farina, a biographer of Paulist founder Isaac Hecker (as part of a symposium on the spirituality of Hecker, organized in part by Paulist Center members Paula Cuzzo and Denis Hurley)
- 10am Sat, May 20 - ordination of Deacon Eric Hernandez to the priesthood by Cardinal Robert McElroy of San Diego
- 10am Sun, May 21 - Eric's Mass of Thanksgiving at the Church of St. Paul the Apostle



The Spring 2023 edition of *The Voice*, the Paulist Fathers' quarterly newsletter, is now available. This edition celebrates 6 Paulists celebrating major ordination anniversaries this spring, including 2 who've served at the Paulist Center: Mike Kallcock (1994-1998) and Chuck Cunniff (2018-2022). You can read it online [here](#), and hard copies will soon be available in the vestibule.

STEWARDSHIP

The Paulist Center receives no funding from outside sources. All costs to operate our ministries for both members and the wider Boston community, maintain the building, and pay our staff are supported solely by your financial donations.

We are so grateful for your financial support!

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."

COMMUNITY GIFT

The Paulist Center gives 5% of our annual offertory to 52 other charitable organizations with missions consonant with our own. These organizations receive an equal amount from our annual offertory, but we highlight one of them each weekend. The weekend of **May 6 and 7** we raise up Project Bread's **Walk for Hunger**.



EASTER SEASON FLOWER DECORATING CONTINUES!

We hope to continue decorating the chapel with flowers throughout the Easter season, so you still have the opportunity to make a donation. To do so, there are envelopes in the racks in the chapel and reception area vestibules. You may also donate at the front desk during regular office hours, or online at our website, using the flower donation line and noting who they are in memory of and who they are from in the comment section. **All donations received after April 9 will be recognized in our Pentecost bulletin.**



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.