



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 13 - 14, 2023
6TH 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

FREP END-OF-YEAR LISTENING SESSION FOR PARENTS

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



The goal of the listening session is to gather together to share our experiences and

ideas after having to change course so dramatically after COVID and then re-emerge after three years of a combination of solely virtual, a combination of virtual and in-person, and now back to in-person.

Topics include:

- Review of the curriculum/content of classes
- FREP/Racial Justice Intergenerational Sessions
- Seasonal family gatherings

We look forward to seeing you there and brainstorming together. **Afterwards, we will all gather downstairs for an end-of-the-year party!**

FIRST COMMUNION

Congratulations to our First Communicants!



Please join us downstairs after the 10am Mass this Sunday, May 14 for a reception in their honor!

SOLEMNITY OF THE ASCENSION

Join us for the Solemnity of the Ascension this week! It's the moment in salvation history when becoming "a follower of Jesus" took its most radical change.

We'll have **Masses at 5:15pm on Wednesday, May 17, and at 12:05pm on Thursday, May 18.** The Mass on May 17 will be livestreamed, here is the [link](#).

In observance of the importance of this solemnity, both Masses will feature **music**.



The Paulists have just published a *Novena to the Holy Spirit: Towards a More Perfect Union*. Find it at paulist.org/novena.



It can be prayed at any time, but it's especially appropriate for the 9 days between the Ascension (May 18) and Pentecost (May 28).

TO YOUNG ADULTS AGES 21 - 39 AND ALL STUDENTS:

Wishing you great learning, low stress, and abundant community support as you study!
Email [Anna](mailto:anna@paulistcenter.org) or follow us on [Instagram](https://www.instagram.com/paulistcenter) for:



- prayer requests
- to join upcoming events including Study Halls
- to set up a 1:1 conversation to learn more about how you can get involved at the Center

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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LIVE-STREAMED MASS LINKS

Sunday, May 14, 10am
YouTube [Link](#)
Order of Worship [Link](#)



Wednesday, May 17, 5:15pm
YouTube [Link](#)



Sunday, May 21, 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, 12– 3pm

Register at this link: [VIRTUS Registration](#)

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 as we learn them.

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.***
- *Register at this link [VIRTUS Registration](#).*
- *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*

CALL FOR 2023 HECKER AWARD NOMINATIONS – DEADLINE JUNE 1



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. 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. Nominations should be sent to **Susan Rutkowski by June 1: email at susan@paulistcenter.org, or mailed to Susan's attention at the 5 Park Street address.**

LET NO ONE WALK ALONE

I will not leave you orphans; I will come to you. John 14:18

Patty Simpson, Pastoral Administrator

I have been an adult “orphan” for 29 years – almost half my life at this point. My Dad died when I was 25, my Mom when I was 32. Not tragically young to be orphaned, but somewhat young today.

While both the Greek and the Hebrew words for orphan can mean a child who is fatherless, “orphan” derives from a Greek root term meaning “to be alone, deprived.” Some scholars say the Hebrew traces back more accurately to a root meaning “lonely.” Today the word most commonly refers to children who tragically lose both parents before the age of 18. But there are many losses in our lives that can make us feel “orphaned.” For me, two other such losses stand out. Senior year in high school I lost my friend, Stephen, a “second brother” to my family, to a random murder. Just over six years ago, as many of you know, we lost our 25 year old son, Owen, to suicide. Owen's 32nd birthday would be this Monday, May 15th, the date of which, coincidentally, is the 39th anniversary of Stephen's death.

Each of these losses evoked feelings of loneliness and deprivation of the physical presence, support, comfort and earthly love of these incredibly significant relationships in my life. In addition, Stephen's loss evoked fear and anxiety around random acts of violence. Owen's evoked “what ifs” - wonderings of whether anything could have been done that would have allowed him to still be here with us.

I imagine the disciples, including Mary, were feeling many of these same feelings in the days and weeks after Jesus' arrest and death. **Fear** - of the authorities. **Anxiety** - about the future. **Depression** - from the profound loss of their son and friend, the One they had given up everything to follow. Maybe even some foolishness - now how were they going to show their faces to their families, their former employers? **Shame** - Peter for multiple denials, Thomas for doubt, Judas (the loneliest of all?) for betrayal, to name a few. **What-ifs** - could they have done anything to have prevented Jesus' death? **Uncertainty** – what were they supposed to do next? Even after the resurrected Jesus appeared to them, he promptly told them that he would soon be leaving them again, a second loss after a momentary joy.

We can be certain the disciples and apostles experienced all these emotions. Jesus, fully human, also experienced them and understood them. As a loving friend, he promised that he would not leave them – and, thereby, us – orphaned, abandoned, lonely. He would get God to send the Spirit, who would be with them – and, thereby, us - not just for a few years, but for always. Jesus knew that to ward off loneliness, fear, anxiety, depression, shame, what-ifs, uncertainty, the depths of despair, we need accompaniment by a holy, life-affirming, steadfast, compassionate love. I was incredibly fortunate, and remain eternally grateful, that I had and felt the gift of this kind of love and support, both physically and spiritually, during my times of feeling most “orphaned.”

May is Mental Health Awareness Month. Loneliness, anxiety, depression, fear and shame are raging epidemics in our world. None of us are immune. Even while dealing with our own “stuff,” can we be part of a solution by modeling Jesus and channeling the Comforter, the Spirit, in our accompaniment of others we encounter on our journeys? Can we be that holy, life-affirming, steadfast, compassionate love for someone? All we have is today. We or those we love could be gone tomorrow. As we sang at Owen's funeral, in the words of Rory Cooney's *Jerusalem, My Destiny*, “We have set our hearts for the way; this journey is our destiny. Let no one walk alone. The journey makes us one.”

I will not leave you orphans (lonely); I will come to you. So may we model our teacher and friend.

The Creation Care team invites older adults (60+, but nobody's checking ID's) to join them via **Zoom at 7pm on May 15** for the launch of **Third Act Massachusetts**, the newest local chapter of Third Act, a national organization focused on organizing “experienced Americans” in defense of our climate. Presenters include the **Rev. Mariama White-Hammond** and renowned environmental activist (and Third Act co-founder) **Bill McKibben**. Register [here](#).

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 13 and 14** we raise up **St. Francis House**, a refuge for the poor and homeless of Boston.

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**.

(A reminder that past Council members are allowed to run again, if it has been at least a year since you served.)

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**.



Feeling inspired to serve the Paulist Center Community in new ways, besides serving on the Pastoral Council? Check out paulistcenter.org/wp-content/uploads/2023-04-16.pdf for additional opportunities we've identified.

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:

- **9:30am 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

FR CHUCK HEALTH UPDATE - MAY 2, 2023

As many of you know, for the past 11 months I have been dealing with Stage 4 metastatic prostate cancer. After Christmas, my PSA numbers began to rise. My oncologist ordered tests and scans, which revealed that the prostate cancer had developed a gene mutation and was not reacting to the previous treatments anymore. By the end of March, I was in pain and getting weak. My oncologist recommended a new course of treatment, along with a pain management program. I accepted her recommendation and on April 5,

I began a new prescription drug from AstraZeneca (their charitable arm is paying for the prescription drug in full!). Over the last month, I have felt better every day! This new drug, which is a DNA targeted specific drug in pill form, seems to be working as my PSA dropped 36 points in 3 weeks! Many thanks for all your prayers and physical support! It is working!!

As I feel better, I am trying to be present – usually at the end of our weekend Masses here at the Paulist Center. My hope is to return to some limited pastoral ministry (AA conversations, marriage prep, conversations about life/death/health or God's love and presence in our lives right now). Should you know someone who might need to talk, feel free to suggest that they contact me at 616.446.5742.

Fr Chuck

WANTED
Fr. Chuck Cuniff



* EASTER SEASON FLOWER DECORATING CONTINUES! *

We hope to continue decorating the chapel with flowers throughout the Easter season. To make a donation in honor or in memory of a loved one, there are envelopes in the chapel and reception area vestibules. Or, donate at the front desk during regular office hours, or **online at our website**, using the flower donation line. **All donations received by May 23 will be listed in the 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](https://paulistcenter.org) for direct contact information.