



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 9 - 10, 2023 - 2ND SUNDAY IN ADVENT

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



LOVE INCARNATE, LOVE DIVINE

This weekend, **December 9 and 10**, our Paulist Center community will come together for the **annual Advent-Christmas Concert!**

Please join us - and invite your friends & family - for this joyous & prayerful celebration of community and faith. Both performances will be live streamed. [Link](#) for 8pm Saturday, Dec 9. [Link](#) for 2pm Sunday, Dec 10.

We will not sell any actual tickets, but we welcome free-will offerings. Click [here](#) to donate online: use the Advent/Christmas Concert category and write how many people, and which concert date you plan to attend.

The children of the Paulist Center will present a **Christmas Pageant at 2pm on Sunday** to open the afternoon concert.



To hear more about the concert, please see last week's Pastoral Reflection by Norm Gouin found on our website. Here is the [link](#).



A **reception** will follow each concert.

We look forward to seeing you there!!!

THE PAULIST CENTER presents
**LOVE INCARNATE
LOVE DIVINE**
ADVENT-CHRISTMAS CONCERT 2023
presented by
THE PAULIST CENTER MUSIC MINISTRY
NORMAND GOUIN, DIRECTOR
SATURDAY, DECEMBER 9 • 8:00 P.M.
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 10 • 2:00 P.M.
Sunday's concert begins with a
Christmas Pageant
presented by the children of the Paulist Center
HOLY SPIRIT CHAPEL
5 PARK STREET
BOSTON, MA
FOR MORE INFORMATION: Tel: (617) 742-4460 | www.paulistcenter.org
Admission is open to all. Freewill donations and sponsorships gratefully accepted online through our website and by cash or check at the performance.



EVENTS FOR THE SECOND WEEK OF ADVENT



- * **Online Prayer hosted by the LGBTQIA Ministry** - Each Tuesday in Advent at 7pm. An online opportunity to come together in shared prayer, reflection, and song. ALL ARE WELCOME to this event, whether you identify as LGBTQIA or not. [Zoom Link: ADVENT PRAYER](#)
- * **Advent Service of Reconciliation and Reflection** - A lay-led service of reconciliation and reflection on Wednesday, Dec 13 at 7pm. Members of our LGBTQIA community will again serve in some of the leading roles. Four priests will be available to hear individual confession. Please join us for this time of prayer and reflection! This service will also be live streamed; here is the [Livestream Link](#).
- * **Advent Bible Study for Young Adults** - Young adults ages 18-39 are welcome to an Advent Bible study from 6-7pm on Thursday, Dec 14 on the 6th Floor, Room 13. Feel free to come by any time after 5:30pm for light snacks. Walk-ins are welcome, but [email Gus](#) if you know in advance that you're coming.

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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WE ARE LIVESTREAMING 5 MASSES AND EVENTS OVER THE NEXT 8 DAYS:



- **8pm Saturday, Dec 9** - Advent-Christmas Concert
- **10am Sunday, Dec 10** - 2nd Sunday of Advent
- **2pm Sunday, Dec 10** - Advent-Christmas Concert (begins with Christmas Pageant)
- **7pm Wednesday, Dec 13** - Advent Reconciliation & Reflection Service
- **10am Sunday, Dec 17** - 3rd Sunday of Advent

At the time of each livestream, the appropriate **Order of Worship** will be available at paulistcenter.org/order-of-worship.

RACIAL JUSTICE ADVOCACY GROUP (RJAG)

The next RJAG meeting is on **Tuesday, Dec 12** at **7pm on Zoom**.



Contact **Tom Sharkey** at sharkey.te@verizon.net for the link to the meeting. *All are welcome.*

ROSARY CIRCLE - NEW ZOOM INFO

All are welcome to the **Paulist Center Rosary Circle, every Monday at 7:30pm.**

Here is the new Zoom link information:

<https://bccte.zoom.us/j/94527420746>

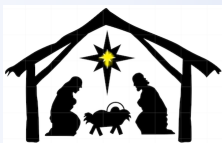
Meeting ID: **945 2742 0746**



FAMILY & FRIENDS OF LGBTQIA PERSONS - MONTHLY MEETING

A consortium of seven Boston Catholic communities (including the Paulist Center) hosts a support group for family and friends of LGBTQIA persons at **2pm** on the 3rd Sunday of every month.

The topic for the 2pm meeting on **Dec 17**:



On Christmas Eve, in 1223 in the mountain village of Greccio, Italy, St Francis of Assisi established the first creche - forever highlighting the simplicity and magnificence of the Incarnation. We will reflect on the 800th Anniversary of this great Christmas tradition and our human connection with the great celebration of the Incarnation.

Please email lgbtqministry@stanthonyshrine.org for the **Zoom** link.

STILL TAGS ON THE JESSE TREE!

There are still tags left on our Jesse Tree if you feel so moved to help one of the agencies we've designated (Catholic Worker House, Agape Community, Crossroads Family Shelter and/or one of the Afghan families we've helped to resettle). Please take a tag off the tree and return the gift to the Center **before Dec 18**. Requests can be for an agency need (sheets, towels, equipment) or for a family they may be helping or that we help directly.



We get many requests for food gift cards, visa/mastercard gift cards because families can't afford food AND gifts at Christmas and anything that helps their bottom line is requested. In addition, gift cards allow parents the dignity to choose their own gifts for their children. Suggested gift card amounts range from \$25-\$100 depending on your budget.

For those who do not come into the Center, you may mail gift cards to Susan Rutkowski here at the Center or email her at susan@paulistcenter.org with questions.

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 who it is "in honor of, or in memory of" in the space provided.



THE HOPE OF ISAIAH, LIVED THROUGH THE MILLENNIA

Fr. Richard R. Andre, CSP, *Director*

Isaiah is one of the most important books of the Bible in both the Jewish and Christian traditions, and we hear from Isaiah on the majority of days in the season of Advent. Most Biblical scholars believe that the 66-chapter Book of Isaiah was composed in two, or more likely three, distinct time periods:

Isaiah 1 - 39 (*“First Isaiah”*) is primarily a compilation of prophecies by and stories about the historical prophet Isaiah of Jerusalem, who flourished c. 760-700 BC. Isaiah was an adviser to several kings in the southern kingdom of Judah, before and after the northern kingdom of Israel was destroyed by the Assyrian Empire in 722 BC.

Isaiah 40 - 55 (*“Second Isaiah”*) was most likely written during the Babylonian exile, after Judah was defeated and destroyed by King Nebuchadnezzar, c. 586 BC. While the authorship of Second Isaiah—and the reason why Second Isaiah was attached to the same book as First Isaiah—is debated, there are clear connections between these chapters and the Book of Deuteronomy.

The origins of **Isaiah 56 - 66** (*“Third Isaiah”*) are subject to debate. The majority of scholars suppose it was written after the Jewish captives were allowed to return to Jerusalem by King Cyrus of Persia c. 538 BC, but perhaps before the completion of the rebuilding of the temple c. 515 BC. Whereas Second Isaiah speaks to universal themes, Third Isaiah focuses on the internal concerns of the fledgling vassal state of Judah.

Remarkably, even though the situation for the Judahite people was tenuous in all three time periods, we find passages of Advent hope in each. First Isaiah sings of the promise of Emmanuel and foresees a time when all nations will climb the mountain of God. Third Isaiah relies on the Spirit of God to sustain faith in times when our circumstances are vastly different from our expectations. And some of the most hope-filled passages of the Hebrew Bible come from Second Isaiah, the time of greatest desolation in the history of the Jewish people.

The lessons of Isaiah are numerous, but here are a few to consider today: Hope is not something to be carried alone; it is a communal virtue. No matter how dire the circumstances may be, and no matter how much it may seem as if sin has the upper hand, God is always present among us. For God to break into our world in new and exciting ways, we must cooperate with the Spirit of God as described by Third Isaiah.

We usually consider Mary’s “Yes” to God being solely an act that she carried out alone. But if we think about it another way, Mary was fulfilling the promises of Isaiah that had been passed down to her over many generations. Today, whenever we gather as a community, we too are fulfilling Isaiah’s promises. Like the people foretold in 2:2-3, we stream (or livestream) towards 5 Park Street to be instructed in God’s ways. We endeavor as in 40:4-5 to raise the valleys and lower the mountains so that all people may behold God together. Through our vibrant liturgies, we become attentive to the Spirit in 61:1 who is upon us because God has anointed us.



We pray for our Jewish neighbors celebrating Hanukkah tonight through December 15. May they have a warm and wonderful Festival of Lights!

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.

If you wish to donate stock, or remember the Paulist Center in your will, 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!*



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>, or scan the QR code.
2. 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.

This weekend of we lift up **Preble Street**, their mission is to address hunger, poverty, and homelessness in Portland, Maine.

CAN YOU HELP FIND ROOM AT THE INN?

The Paulist Center's Immigration Advocacy Group (RIAG) and Racial Justice Advocacy Group (RJAG) are asking our community members to prayerfully consider the following reality.

Massachusetts is experiencing a humanitarian crisis driven by the arrival of a large number of families, many with young children, who have been forced to flee their home country to escape violence and destitution. The **Massachusetts Office for Refugees and Immigrants** is looking for people who can house immigrant families on a temporary basis. To learn more about how you can help look [here](#), or contact **Ronnie Millar** at **617-710-4668**; Ronnie.Millar@mass.gov.

MASS SCHEDULE FOR CHRISTMAS DAY WEEKEND

When Christmas falls on a Monday, even seasoned liturgists can get confused! Here's a guide to what we're celebrating when:



4th Sunday of Advent:

- 5 pm Saturday, Dec 23 and 10 am Sunday, Dec 24
- There is no 6 pm Mass on Sunday, Dec 24

Solemnity of the Nativity:

- 5 pm and 8 pm Sunday, Dec 24
- 10 am Monday, Dec 25

Around the Community

MUSIC SPEAKS

Central Reform Temple and Emmanuel Episcopal Church are hosting an evening workshop and conversation at **7pm on Wednesday, Dec 20** with Jerusalem Youth Chorus (JYC) DC-based Artistic Director, Micah Hendler and Jerusalem-based Executive Director, Amer Abu Arqub. The JYC is a choir in Jerusalem made up of Jewish, Christian, and Muslim youth from Israeli and Palestinian homes.

Register for this in-person event at <https://tinyurl.com/4dr48ukm>.

Pastoral Staff: Rich Andre, CSP; Normand Gouin; Gus Kellerman;
Susan Rutkowski; Patricia Simpson; Rick Walsh, CSP

Administrative Staff: Barbara Dunay; Dorothy Messenger;
Rob Smyser; Sal Whooley

Custodial Staff: Alvaro Enamorado; Timmy Valle

Pastoral Council Chair: Deb Heimel
pccouncil@paulistcenter.org

Finance Committee Chair: Mary Lesko

Worship Committee Chair: Claire Byrne
worship@paulistcenter.org

(See our [website](#) for staff contact information.)