



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 16 - 17, 2023 - 3RD 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

ONLINE PRAYER HOSTED BY THE LGBTQIA MINISTRY

Join us this **Tuesday, December 19 at 7 pm** in an online opportunity for shared prayer, reflection, and song.



All are welcome to this event, whether you identify as LGBTQIA or not.

Zoom Link: [ADVENT PRAYER](#)

JESSE TREE

Jesse Tree gifts should be returned to the Center by **Monday, December 18** in time for them to be delivered before Christmas.

If you don't bring your gifts to Mass this weekend, please drop them off between 10:30am and 4:30pm Monday, December 18.



Thank you so much for your generosity toward those in need!

CHRISTMAS FLOWERS

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.

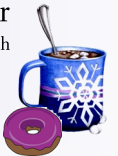


LAST COMMUNITY COFFEE OF 2023!

Join us for one last Community Coffee this year after the 10am Mass.

Thanks to Kate & Jim Stewart for tending to the beverages and set-up; thanks to the family of Marianne & Thomas Saccardi for providing the goodies in honor of their 50th wedding anniversary.

Congratulations, Marianne & Tom!



WITH DEEPEST GRATITUDE

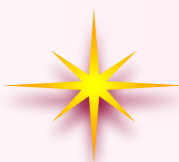
My heart is filled with immense gratitude as I reflect on the Advent-Christmas "concert" celebration of song and story, pageant, prayer and reflection, and, most importantly, the opportunity it provided to bring our community together during this holy season.

Over 260 people attended between Saturday and Sunday. In addition, almost 80 devices viewed in real-time during the livestreaming, and we have had almost 700 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, pageant participants, parents and assistants, 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 grossed over \$14,000 for the Center. - a new financial record by several thousands of dollars. Thank you all!

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



We can never fully express our gratitude for all the time and diverse talents Norm Gouin brought to the 2023 Advent-Christmas Concert and Pageant! We're so fortunate to have you as the Paulist Center Community's Pastoral Minister of Liturgy and Music, Norm.

We pray that you get a well-deserved rest after the holidays!

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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LIVE-STREAMED MASS LINKS

Sunday, December 17, 10am

3rd Sunday of Advent

YouTube [Link](#)

Order of Worship [Link](#)



Sunday, December 24, 10am

4th Sunday of Advent

YouTube [Link](#)

Order of Worship [Link](#)



Sunday, December 24, 5pm

Christmas Eve

YouTube [Link](#)

Order of Worship [Link](#)



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,
- * remember the Paulist Center in your will, or
- * make a qualified charitable distribution,

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!



MASS SCHEDULE FOR THE WEEK OF CHRISTMAS

4th Sunday of Advent:

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

Solemnity of the Nativity:

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

Weekdays of the Octave of Christmas:

- Office closed Tuesday, December 26. No Mass that day.
- 12:05pm Wednesday, December 27 through Friday, December 29

Feast of the Holy Family:

- 5pm Saturday, December 30 and 10am & 6pm Sunday, December 31

Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God (no obligation in 2024):

- 10am Monday, January 1

Please note that the office is closed December 25, December 26, and January 1.

There is no 12:05pm on any of those 3 days, and there are no confessions 11:00-11:45am on either Monday.

LOW-GLUTEN HOSTS



Low-gluten hosts are available upon request. Please see the presider in the Chapel or Sacristy fifteen minutes before Mass and indicate where you will be seated in the Chapel so the communion minister in that section will have the low-gluten host for you at communion.

ADVENT EXPRESSIONS OF FAITH

Fr. Rick Walsh, CSP
Associate Director

I enjoy reading books and watching programs that impart information of old customs and traditions from various cultures. Our own Advent season has a rich history of unique traditions particularly in those countries and regions that were predominantly Catholic.

I have a small book in my library by a Jesuit, Fr. Francis X. Weiser called "Handbook of Christian Feasts and Customs." In this small book, Fr. Weiser shares a tradition that has variations depending upon the country.

The customs involve honoring Mary and Joseph. Years past, in Central and South America, the nine days before Christmas included a popular novena in honor of the baby Jesus called "La Novena del Nino." The nine days of prayer and carol singing were held in local churches which had a designated area dedicated to the nativity complete with all the figurines with the exception of the baby Jesus (who arrived on Christmas Eve) and the three kings (who made their appearance known on January 6).

After each novena prayer service, the children would go outside and light firecrackers and bottle rockets in the streets expressing their delight at the approach of Christmas.

Germany has brought us many seasonal treats and customs. We think of the Advent wreath, the Advent calendar, Advent and Christmas carols (Stille Nacht, O Tannenbaum) wooden nutcracker figurines, stollen and other tasty treats, and of course the Christmas tree.

But there was also a novena of sorts there too called "Josephstragen" (Carrying St. Joseph) that involved having one boy carry a statue of St. Joseph from the local Church to his home on the first night. There he and his family would offer prayers in honor of the saint. The next night, a boy from the next home to receive the statue joined the first boy in processing from the first home to his family. Each evening, the number of boys grew until the evening of December 24 when they were joined by nine girls, each dressed in white, who joined the nine boys in bringing the statue through the town to the Church where they helped put up the Christmas crib.

It makes me wonder whether in our own time, in our unique situation with virtual gatherings, if we could perhaps create some 21st century worship experiences that connect us over the internet home to home.

Maybe you'd be interested in helping the Paulist Center create such prayerful, communal expressions of faith, not just in Advent, but throughout the year?

Let me know.

Fr. Rick

FAMILY RELIGIOUS EDUCATION PROGRAM

This week K-6 grades will meet in their classrooms on the 2nd and 6th floors as usual.

Jr. High will meet in room 13 on the 6th floor.

Sr. High will meet in the 3rd floor Library.

There are no classes on Sunday, December 24 or 31 due to Christmas Break.

Classes resume on January 7.



NEW WINTER ACCESSORIES FOR SUPPER CLUB GUESTS



The Wednesday Night Supper Club is collecting new hats, socks, scarves, gloves, and mittens for holiday gifts for our guests. Donations can be left in **the receptionist office**.

We also will **need extra volunteers** for the weeks around Christmas to distribute both food and the gifts.

Thanks for your support!

Contact supperclubfood@gmail.com with questions.



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 we raise up **Urban Edge** (urbandedge.org) which builds affordable housing, creates community, and works to close the racial wealth gap through fellowships for people starting a new career and first-time homebuyer coaching, paired with incentives such as matched savings and downpayment assistance for families of modest means.



Urban Edge needs volunteers this tax season to file returns for low-income families at their Roxbury office — so if you are good with numbers, this might be an excellent opportunity for you!

MARRIAGE PREPARATION NEEDS YOUR HELP

Fr. Rick Walsh is looking for **individuals (no need to be married!)** willing to help in the production of our monthly Marriage Preparation sessions. This involves **preparing and mailing materials** to be sent to couples for our on-line sessions. There are aspects to this that involve some heavy lifting.

In addition, Fr. Rick would like to increase the number of **couple presenters**. If we have enough couples, the time commitment would be just **four hours of your time twice a year!**

Couples that help Fr. Rick present the material are not asked to teach and they do not preach. Rather, couples are asked to **share their experiences of married life** with the engaged couples who attend our popular program in person

In person sessions are usually May through September, and on-line usually October through April.

Please contact **Fr. Rick** with any questions you might have:

rick@paulistcenter.org or 617-948-2424.



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.)