



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.



JANUARY 6 - 7, 2024 - THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

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



CHRISTMAS DAY GREETINGS

to all Christians who use the Julian calendar, including the **Coptic Community** who meets here at the Paulist Center weekly for Bible study and Divine Liturgy!

EVENTS AT THE PAULIST CENTER JANUARY 7 - 9

- ✿ **Family Religious Education Program (FREP)** classes start up again this Sunday, January 7 at 11:15am. Grades K & 1, Grades 4 - 6, and Jr. High are on the 6th floor. Grades 2 & 3 are on the 2nd floor. Sr High is on the 3rd floor. *Please note that there are no classes next Sunday, January 14, due to the Martin Luther King Jr. holiday.*
- ✿ **Community Coffee** after 10am Mass on Sunday, January 7.
- ✿ **Creation Care** online meeting at 5pm on Monday, January 8. *All are welcome!* For Zoom link, please email Creation Care at paulistcentercreationcare@gmail.com.

LENTEN SMALL GROUPS - PLEASE RESPOND BY WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 17

We are excited to convene Lenten small groups for 5 sessions between Ash Wednesday (February 14) and Palm Sunday (March 24) if we can make the logistics work! We hope most of these will be in-person meetings in people's houses, or possibly online if people can offer their Zoom accounts, and possibly a few groups meeting at the Center dependent upon space availability.

Fill out the form at tinyurl.com/PCCLentenGroups2024 by Thursday, January 17 and we will endeavor to create groups and inform everyone of the plans by January 31. No groups will be offered on Wednesday evenings because there will be Zoom prayer services offered by our LGBTQIA group for the entire community, or on Sundays immediately following the 10am Mass because there are not spaces available during religious education classes.



We will be using the book *Mercy, Not Sacrifice* by **Paulist Mark-David Janus**. You can go to paulistpress.com to order a hard copy or an e-book, but copies at a lower price have been seen on Amazon and other used book sellers. We look forward to many folks participating in this prayerful, community-building Lenten opportunity. Any questions, please reach out to **Amy Logan** at alogan940@gmail.com.

STILL LOOKING FOR AUCTION CO-CHAIRS

One of the biggest community celebrations of the year is the **Annual Auction**. It's a lot of fun, and it's the major fundraiser of the Paulist Center year. The 2024 Auction is scheduled for **Saturday, April 27**.

We are hoping to recruit 3 - 4 Co-Chairs, but unfortunately, none of the Paulist Center Community members we've approached thus far are available. If no one comes forward in the next 3 - 4 weeks, we will likely have to cancel the 2024 Auction, which will add to our projected deficit for FY 2024. **Can you think of members who may have the organizational skills and the time over the next 4 months to serve as Auction Co-Chairs?**

With improvements to technology, some proposed deadline changes, and a very early date for Easter Sunday this year, we believe that the work can be more easily distributed over the 4 months than in years past. If you know anyone who might fit the bill, **contact Fr. Rich**.



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, January 7, 10am
Solemnity of the Epiphany

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



Sunday, January 14, 10am
2nd Sunday of Ordinary Time

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

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION

This is a reminder to **register** your child for our first holy communion preparation program that begins on **Sunday, January 28 from 11:15am to 12:30pm**. This is a meeting for both parents and children looking to celebrate their first holy communion on Sunday, April 7 at the Paulist Center.

For questions, please contact **Susan Rutkowski** at susan@paulistcenter.org.



MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. DAY OBSERVED

The Paulist Center will be closed on Monday, January 15 in observance of Martin Luther King, Jr. Day. There will be no Family Religious Education Program classes on Sunday, January 14. There will be no confessions or Mass on Monday, January 15.

ANNUAL PAULIST APPEAL

We're happy to welcome back Paulist **Fr. Ed Nowak** on the weekend of January 20 and 21 to give the Annual Paulist Appeal! We'll have more Paulist-related news in next weekend's bulletin.

THE RACIAL JUSTICE ADVOCACY GROUP & MLK, JR. DAY

The Racial Justice Advocacy Group (RJAG) invites community members to **A Day of Service** at the Isabella Gardner Museum on Monday, January 15 from 11am - 4pm to honor the legacy of Martin Luther King, Jr. There will be storytelling, impactful conversation, art making, and music! Artists and thought leaders will share reflections on themes of social justice, equity, art, and empowerment and invite participation in activities throughout the day.

Entrance to the museum is free but you **must register for tickets** and an estimated entrance time at this link:

<https://www.gardnermuseum.org/calendar/dr-martin-luther-king-jr-day-service-01152024>.

Each registration is for 2 tickets so you may have to register more than once for larger families.



OCTAVE OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY

Please plan to join us at **7pm** on **Thursday, January 25** for "**You shall love the Lord your God... and your neighbor as yourself**," a prayer service for the Octave of Prayer for Christian Unity.

This service will be planned jointly with the Episcopal Cathedral Church of St. Paul, and we hope many Christians from other denominations will join us.



Please invite your friends to join us. There will be a light reception afterwards.

REQUEST FROM IAG

We have an urgent need to find housing for a Haitian family currently occupying emergency housing with Paulist Center Immigrant Advocacy Group (IAG) members Carol and Bill Mitchell.

The family consists of the father and mother and three children: 12-year-old boy, 4-year-old girl, 10 month-old boy.



They are under pressure to move to another location soon, even if it is for a limited time, while permanent housing is located.

If you can help, and/or have questions, contact **Bill**, 727-641-9407; bmitch@gmail.com.

RAISE YOUR EYES AND LOOK ABOUT: AN EXHORTATION FOR 2024 by Bob Bordone

With war raging in Israel, Gaza, and Ukraine, with political polarization rising and the possibility of violence in an election year growing, and with government shutdown once again on-the-horizon, I have found it hard to say, "Happy New Year!" with a straight face during the past week.

That's why Isaiah's message in today's first reading spoke to me so powerfully:

*See, darkness covers the earth,
And thick clouds cover the peoples;
But upon you the Lord shines,
And over you appears his glory.*

Whaaat? How can this be?

It can be easy to gloss over this first reading from Isaiah to get to the familiar Gospel story of the Epiphany with the Magi, the star, and the gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh that complete the Nativity scene. But in preparing for this reflection, I felt myself drawn to Isaiah in prayer: What might it mean to know that, as darkness covers the earth, the Lord God shines upon me? And what might it mean for you and, more broadly, for our Paulist Center Community in the year ahead?

A glimpse of the answer might be in the verses that follow. Isaiah tells us, "Raise your eyes and look about you; they all gather and come to you; your sons come from afar, and your daughters in the arms of their nurses."

As an active member of a closely-knit and deeply intentional Catholic community like the Paulist Center, I often find myself gazing inward, on the Center's needs, concerns, worries, hopes, and struggles.

But as I prayed over these Scriptures, I am sitting with the imperative from Isaiah: "Raise your eyes and look about!" Right outside the doors of the Paulist Center is a world of hunger, need, and desire for the mercy of God, the welcome of community, and the embrace of real belonging. Pope Francis has urged the faithful of the Church to be a field hospital to the vulnerable, the weak, the sick, and the excluded over and over during his pontificate. Indeed, Isaiah tells us that when we raise our eyes and look about us, we will be radiant at what we see.

But looking about us isn't always easy. And it doesn't always feel radiant at first blush.

It can mean letting go of control, stepping away from routine, and acting boldly and prophetically. It might mean ruffling some feathers (in a Christlike, gentle, yet persistent way) to lull people from complacency and comfort.

But Pope Francis has urged us to be a Church that is "concerned more with those who suffer than with defending its own interests, taking the risk of novelty, in order to be more faithful to the Gospel." This is no time for handwringing over scruples. And, sometimes, authorities are to be flouted in the name of the God's love in the same way the Magi in today's Gospel wisely heeded the message of their dream, defying Herod's command to provide Jesus's GPS location as they journeyed home to spread the Good News.

As I read Isaiah and consider the Feast of the Epiphany – when Christ was revealed to the gentiles and the larger world – I wonder how I can better extend a welcome and an embrace to those who are seeking an inclusive and authentically Catholic community.

And I wonder at what we as a broader community can do to raise our eyes collectively and look about us? Who is missing at our table? And how would we need to change ourselves to make space for them?

The sign that hangs outside the Paulist Center describes us as an "Outreach" ministry.

What could 2024 be like for each of us – and for our community – if we acted in a prophetic way – as if nations walked by our light? Isaiah tells us that if we raise our eyes, our hearts will throb and overflow. When was the last time our experience of faith, outreach, and the Paulist Center Community made our hearts throb and overflow? And how can we create more of that in 2024?

As you pray about what our community may offer and be in the year ahead – and what role you may have in that – I invite you to imagine the Paulist Center as the star in the sky above Bethlehem guiding the Magi—all those outside our community – to the peace, love, and saving grace of Jesus.

I pray and hope that each of us, in our own way and according to the promptings of the Spirit, might raise our eyes and look about in outreach to invite others in the Boston-area who yearn for a faith home that welcomes them with the love, joy, inclusion, and saving grace of Jesus.

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.

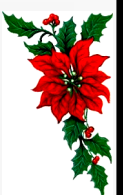
The weekend of **January 6 and 7** we raise up **Bridge Over Troubled Waters** which provides effective and innovative services to runaway, homeless and high-risk youth.



THANK YOU!

We extend our thanks to those who donated to the **flowers** and **art and environment** for the Christmas season.

There is an insert in this bulletin listing the donors and their loved ones. Additionally, here is a [link](#) to an online version of this list.



YOUNG ADULT MINISTRY

Welcome to Young Adult Ministry! We are a community of young adults (18-39 years old), focused on living out our faith through community, service, and spirituality. We host events every month, and we hope you stop by! Our first event in 2024 is Wednesday, January 17.



Wednesday Night Supper Club: Come join other young adults in service of our Paulist Center Community on **Wednesday, January 17 at 5:30pm** to serve, and/or **7:00pm** for clean-up. Afterward, we'll go out for drinks together nearby!

Schedule a 1-on-1 Meeting with Gus: If you're a young adult looking for community, please reach out to our Young Adult Minister, **Gus**, at youngadults@paulistcenter.org to express interest in a 1-on-1 meeting. 1-on-1's are a great way to learn more about Young Adult Ministry, to share your ideas and past experiences, and to talk about getting involved at the Paulist Center!



RECENT VATICAN DECLARATIONS REGARDING PEOPLE WHO IDENTIFY AS LGBTQIA

The Vatican has issued a number of high-profile declarations regarding sexuality in the past three months, including a November 8 statement that transgender people are allowed to be baptized and serve as godparents/witnesses at baptisms and weddings, and a December 18 declaration that priests can offer a blessing to a same-sex couple as "a means to increase their trust in God" and "nurture openness to the transcendence, mercy, and closeness to God... which is no small thing in the world in which we live. It is a seed of the Holy Spirit that must be nurtured, not hindered." It will take time for us to discern the practical implications in parts of these declarations, but let us be absolutely clear in the meantime: the Paulist Center continues to embrace and support our beloved LGBTQIA members and their families & allies, as we have done for decades. Stay tuned. Happy New Year!

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

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