



MARCH 9 - 10, 2024 - 4TH SUNDAY OF LENT

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

LENTEN PRAYER SERVICES - NEXT 2 WEDNESDAYS



Please join us for the last **Online Prayer Service**, this Wednesday, **March 13** at 7pm led by our LGBTQIA Ministry. Zoom link: tinyurl.com/LentenPrayer2024

On Wednesday, **March 20** at 7pm, please join us **in the Chapel** for a **Lay-led Service of Reconciliation and Reflection**. The service will be live-streamed, here is the [link](#).

There will be an opportunity for individual confession with a Paulist or Franciscan priest.

MARK-DAVID JANUS, CSP SPEAKS IN BOSTON!



Our Lenten small groups have given rave reviews of the book they're reading, ***Mercy Not Sacrifice*** by Paulist Fr. **Mark-David Janus**.

At 6:30pm on Thursday, **March 14**, the **Rainbow Ministry** of St. Cecilia Parish (18 Belvidere St) hosts Mark-David for an in-person talk. (Many Paulists consider him to be one of their best preachers.) Take along your copy of the book to have it signed!



LENT AT THE PAULIST CENTER - 2024

We continue our Lenten Journey over the next few weeks drawing ever closer to the celebrations of Holy Week culminating in the joyous celebration of Easter.



Over the next two Sundays, our Elect will participate in the final two of three rites known as the Scrutinies. Scrutinies are rites of self-searching and repentance. The purpose is not for us to examine the Elect; instead we offer public prayers of intercession and our support for them.

In the Scrutinies, along with the Elect, we are each called to examine our own lives as well this Lent. Where do we need healing? What is weak or sinful? What needs to be strengthened in us?

What is good and strong? Where are we especially in need of God's grace?

So these three weeks are opportunities for our Elect to study her own heart and find ways to be even closer to God. As members of the Christian community, it is our responsibility to support her as she deepens her relationship with God. We pray with her and for her.



Please plan to join us for the celebration of the Paschal Triduum, the highpoint of the liturgical year! The word "TRIDUUM," the celebration of the Lord's passion, death and rising, means "three days." In the biblical keeping of time, great days of celebration begin on the evening before the feast. Thus, the Triduum begins on Holy Thursday evening and ends with the liturgical celebrations on Easter Sunday.

Because the celebration of the Paschal Triduum - in its entirety- is the most important liturgical expression of our faith and because it is most important to celebrate as one community, **please consider joining us for all three days.**

FAMILY RELIGIOUS EDUCATION PROGRAM (FREP) - THIS SUNDAY, MARCH 10

First communion gathering is this Sunday at 11:15am in the 3rd Fl Library. All families involved in our **first communion preparation** program will meet to work on the next phase of our program.

FREP Classes: **K - 1** will meet in Rm 17 on the 6th Fl. **Grades 3 - 6** will meet in Rm 22 on the 6th Fl.

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.

LIVE-STREAMED LITURGY LINKS

Sunday, March 10, 10am
4th Sunday of Lent

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



Sunday, March 17, 10am
5th Sunday of Lent

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



Wednesday, March 20, 7pm
Reflection & Reconciliation Service

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

FLOWER DONATIONS FOR THE EASTER SEASON



Help us decorate with a lily or other Easter flower in honor of a family member or friend, living or deceased. **Suggested donation is \$10.**

You can contribute: 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 that it is "in honor of, or in memory of" in the space provided. **Thank You!**

RACIAL JUSTICE ADVOCACY GROUP (RJAG)



The next RJAG meeting is **Tuesday, March 19** at 7pm via **Zoom**.

For the Zoom link, email **Tom Sharkey** at sharkey.te@verizon.net. **All are welcome!**

We pray that our Muslim neighbors may have a happy, holy and peace-filled **Ramadan!**



March 10 - April 9

"FORWARD IN FAITH: 2024 CATHOLIC APPEAL"

The Archdiocese of Boston takes up the Catholic Appeal the weekends of **March 2-3 and 9-10.**

In the words of Cardinal Sean O'Malley, "The Appeal is the primary means by which we carry Christ's light into darkness and care for our brothers and sisters spiritually, emotionally, and physically."

We at the Paulist Center especially commend that the **Appeal helps to fund Mission Grammar School (MGS) in Roxbury and the iTHIRST program for addiction recovery.** MGS serves children as young as three months old, offering a support system for families in an underserved community. iTHIRST has grown into a worldwide ministry, providing training and ongoing support for laity and clergy to become Certified Spiritual Companions to accompany addicted individuals and their families along the road to recovery. You will find envelopes in the vestibule for the Catholic Appeal.

PLEASE NOTE: Checks should be made payable to "The Catholic Appeal". You may also give electronically by going to the Archdiocese of Boston's Catholic Appeal giving page: <https://bostoncatholicappeal.org/ways-to-give/>

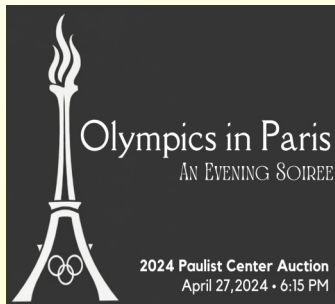
In the "Parish" drop-down menu, select "Chapel of the Holy Spirit, Paulist Center Boston."



THE OLYMPICS IN PARIS! AN EVENING SOIREE



Paulist Center Auction Updates: Sponsor the Auction!



Join us Saturday, April 27 for our 41st Annual Paulist Center Auction: **Olympics in Paris: An Evening Soiree!** This is a fun-filled community event and is our largest fundraiser of the year. Your support will make this evening a huge success. Please consider becoming a sponsor. Financial sponsors are crucial to our Auction's success and we welcome and are grateful for sponsorships- large and small. You also have the opportunity to earn an Olympic medal with a sponsorship! Sponsors will be recognized in the program as follows:

Bronze Medal \$100-\$199 **Silver Medal** \$200- \$299 **Gold Medal** \$300 and above

Our website www.paulistcenter.org/Auction2024/ has more information, including a link for sponsoring.

Please email Auction Co-chairs, **Maggie Keefe** and **Mairead Nolan** with any questions at auction@paulistcenter.org. **Merci beaucoup!**

IN VITRO FERTILIZATION AND THE FORMATION OF CONSCIENCE

Rev. Richard R. Andre, C. S. P., Director

We currently sit in something of a “Holy Saturday” moment, awaiting news from the General Council of the Paulist Fathers. (See Paulist.org/letter to catch up on the news.) We can’t make any promises on when we’ll receive word about the fate of the Paulist Center, but our best guess is that we’ll most likely be emailing you on Tuesday, March 12.

While we wait, I’m addressing another timely and controversial topic.

Since the Alabama Supreme Court ruled last month that all embryos created by *in vitro* fertilization (IVF) should be considered humans, a lot of Catholics were surprised to learn that the Church opposes IVF. This is likely confusing to Catholics who know of the Church’s desire for married couples to have children, and distressing to those who have used the procedure to conceive a child.

The Church has several concerns about IVF, but the main one is about the fate of the extra embryos that might not be implanted. The Church doesn’t go as far as saying that they are the same as human beings that have been born or as fetuses carried in the womb. Nevertheless, the Church holds that those embryos are *beings*, not objects.

And there’s a real possibility that some people in our community — including our young adults — were themselves conceived via IVF. Let me state this emphatically as possible for anyone who needs to hear it: the Church cherishes and loves every person born via IVF, just like everyone else. You are beloved by God!

But what is a couple to do if they are struggling to conceive a child who shares their DNA, and now they know about the Church’s opposition to IVF? As when facing any difficult ethical decision, people of faith are called to **follow their conscience**, but only after sufficiently **forming their conscience**. Here’s a paraphrase of what renowned bioethicist Kevin O’Neil, C.Ss.R. teaches regarding the steps in conscience formation:

1. Recognize that God has created each of us with the capacity to know what is good.
2. Ask to what extent our character is informed by the desire to do God’s will.
3. Gather information from as many sources as possible, including Church teaching.
4. After gathering sufficient information from a variety of reputable sources, prayerfully filter everything through our lived experience.
5. Stand before God, saying, “This is what I believe I must do in this situation.”
6. After making the decision, look back over time and evaluate the consequences. These in turn serve as additional information in step #3 for future discernment.

For difficult decisions, Catholics should take the time to truly understand not only **what** the Church teaches but also **why** it teaches as it does. For those couples considering the use of IVF, it would be good to consult specialists with experience in many kinds of fertility treatments, parents who have adopted and fostered children, and people who have both experienced the joys of having a child through IVF and shouldered the pain, financial burden, & stress of going through IVF.

When helping people face difficult decisions, the book I most often consult is *By What Authority? A Primer on Scripture, the Magisterium, and the Sense of the Faithful* by longtime friend of the Paulist Center, Rick Gaillardetz (1958-2023). For those willing to slog through it, there are great rewards in a chapter near the end titled, “Is There a Place For Disagreement in the Church?” The answer is a qualified yes, but you’ll have to read the whole book to get the general gist!

THREE UPCOMING EVENTS FOR YOUNG ADULTS (AGES 18-39)



All young adults are welcome to help serve a dignified, sit-down meal for hungry people at our **Wednesday Night Supper Club** at **5:30pm**, Wednesday, **March 20**.

At **7:00pm**, some of us will head up to the chapel for the **Reflection & Reconciliation Service**.



We’ll have a **Bible Study** for young adults 6-7pm on Thursday, **March 21**. Come by any time after 5:30pm to hang out. (We’ll have Trader Joe’s takis!) Walk-ins are welcome, but please email youngadults@paulistcenter.org if you know in advance that you’re coming.

Our next **Monthly Dinner** (open to people of **any age** who bring a dish) will be after the 6pm Mass on Palm Sunday, **March 24**. RSVP at tinyurl.com/YAMPotluck by Friday, March 22.



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!*

See paulistcenter.org/give/ways-to-give for a variety of ways to give to the Paulist Center. Two options include:



Give a one-time or recurring donation using your bank account or credit card by visiting tinyurl.com/DonatePaulistCenter or scanning the QR code on this page outlined in **blue**. You can use this method for donations for specific programs, too, and, if you are a registered member with us, these donations will be included in a year-end tax statement sent to you for any donations that are tax deductible per IRS regulations. Giving by this method helps us with our budgeting and stewardship efforts.



Use **Apple Pay** or **Google Pay** by visiting donorbox.org/paulistcenter, scanning the QR code on the red cards in the pews, or scanning the QR code on this page outlined in **red**. Please note that these donations will **not** be included in any year-end giving tax records, and they solely support our general operations.

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 **March 9 and 10**, we raise up **Health Care For All** which advocates for health justice in Massachusetts by working to promote health equity and ensure coverage and access for all.

PARENT PREPARATION FOR INFANT/CHILD BAPTISM

The Paulist Center offers a preparation session on **Saturdays**, from **10am - 12pm**. The next three (3) dates are **April 13**, **May 11** and **June 8**, at the Paulist Center in the 3rd Fl Library and in the Chapel.



Expecting parents are invited to attend before their child is born/adopted.

To register for the session, please contact **Fr. Rick** at rick@paulistcenter.org.

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**.



For the **Zoom** link to the **March 17** meeting, please email lgbtqministry@stanthonyshrine.org

CAN YOU HELP BUY SUPPLIES FOR OUR SERVICE PROJECT?



Please support the grade 4-6 FREP class, the Junior and Senior Youth Groups and the Immigration Advocacy Group in a **service project to create women's hygiene kits for the migrant shelters** supported by Catholic Charities in **Brighton** and **Newton**.

Kits will be assembled after the 10am Mass on **March 24**. We need clean reusable grocery bags, new socks, packs of hair ties, new hair brushes, new hand towels and menstrual pads to assemble **200** kits. You can shop directly for these items on our Amazon wish list (tinyurl.com/yvppcsaj) or you can drop items off in the Mary alcove. We appreciate your help! This QR code will also bring you to the Amazon wish list!



PLEASE PRAY FOR ...

Please pray for former Paulist Center member **Columban Sister Claire O'Rourke** who passed away this past Sunday.

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

(See our [website](http://paulistcenter.org) for staff contact information.)

Pastoral Council Chair: Deb Heimel
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Finance Committee Chair: Mary Lesko

Worship Committee Chair: Claire Byrne
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