



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.



SEPTEMBER 20 - 21, 2025
25TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

WEEKEND IN-PERSON MASSES
Saturday 5pm
Sunday 10am
6pm

WEEKDAY IN-PERSON MASSES
Monday – Friday
12:00pm

CONFESSIONS
Friday, 11:00-11:45am, and by appointment

FAMILY RELIGIOUS EDUCATION PROGRAM (FREP) KICKS OFF THIS SUN, SEPT 21!

Please join us for a joyous celebration **this Sun, Sept 21 at the 10am Mass** to kick off all programming for FREP: religious education classes, sacramental preparation classes, intergenerational catechetical sessions, socials, and teen youth groups.



The registration form for our 2025-2026 year is posted on our [website](#).

Questions: contact **Susan Rutkowski**, Pastoral Minister

of Family Religious Education and Social Justice, at susan@paulistcenter.org or 617-948-2426.

COMMUNITY COFFEE IS BACK!

Please join us in the auditorium **after the 10am Mass** for yummy refreshments, games, and social time to catch up with community members you missed over the summer. Please extend a warm welcome to any new faces who may be joining us for the first time.



DO YOU LIKE SHARING YOUR FAITH WITH OTHERS?

We are still looking for co-teachers for two grades, and substitute teachers. We provide training, materials, and support. Classes/group gatherings take place on Sundays, 11:15am – 12:15pm. For more information, contact **Susan Rutkowski** at susan@paulistcenter.org or 617-948-2426.

YOUTH LITURGICAL MINISTRY PROGRAM (YLM) – 2025-2026

We are excited to once again offer ministry opportunities through our Youth Liturgical Ministry Program. If interested, please visit this [link](#) for the **YLM Interest Form**, or scan the **QR code**.



Youth Liturgical Ministry Opportunities:

Lector Ministry; Assistant Sacristans; Liturgical Dance; Music; Audio-Visual Ministers



Schedule of YLM Masses

- Sun, Sep 21
- Sun, Oct 19
- Sun, Nov 2
- Sun, Dec 7
- Weds, Dec 24 (4 pm)
- Sun, Jan 11
- Sun, March 8
- Sun, April 19
- Sun, May 17 (First Communion)

Come To Set Us Free: FESTIVAL OF READINGS AND CAROLS 2025 - CALL FOR MUSICIANS

Join the Paulist Center Music Ministry for our annual Festival of Readings and Carols.
Rehearsals: Thursdays, 7 - 9pm, in the Chapel, beginning **Oct 2**.



Performance dates:

- * **Sat, December 13 at 8pm**
- * **Sun, December 14 at 2pm**



Interested in participating? Please contact **Norm Gouin** directly at norm@paulistcenter.org.

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.

PAULIST CENTER BOSTON
5 PARK STREET
BOSTON MA 02108

PHONE 617-742-4460
FAX 617-720-5756
EMAIL INFO@PAULISTCENTER.ORG

paulistcenter.org
[Facebook.com/PaulistCenter](https://www.facebook.com/PaulistCenter)
[youtube.com/ThePaulistCenter](https://www.youtube.com/ThePaulistCenter)

LIVE-STREAMED MASS LINK



Saturday, September 20, 5pm
25th Sunday in Ordinary Time



YouTube [Link](#)

WORSHIP MATTERS

Weekend of September 20 - 21, 2025 – Issue #2

Sacred Space: The Baptismal Font

“You have put on Christ; in him you have been baptized.” These words of the apostle Paul are proclaimed at every baptism celebrated here at the Paulist Center. They express the core Christian belief that through the sacrament of baptism we not only become members of the Christian community, but also a new creation in Christ, baptized into his life, death, and resurrection.

Water is both destructive and life-giving. It can overwhelm and destroy, yet it also sustains, cleanses, and refreshes. From the earliest days of the Church, baptism by immersion in water stood as the central ritual of Christian initiation, making water itself one of the most powerful symbols of our sacramental life.

Through the centuries, the baptismal font took on many shapes and forms. After the Edict of Milan legalized Christianity in the early fourth century, baptistries were often built beside churches, underscoring baptism as the gateway into Christian life. Fonts were commonly:

- **Octagonal (eight-sided):** symbolizing the “eighth day,” a sign of resurrection and new creation.
- **Circular:** representing eternity and perfection.
- **Cruciform (cross-shaped):** signifying one’s participation in the life, death, and resurrection of Christ.

Fonts were typically made of stone or marble, often large enough for full immersion, which was the standard practice in the early Church. Many were placed below floor level to emphasize descent into a kind of tomb, symbolizing death and resurrection, and were frequently enhanced with steps, columns, or mosaics.

As part of the renovation of our chapel in 2000, careful research and discernment guided the design and placement of our baptismal font. While many churches throughout the centuries—even in the decades following Vatican II—have smaller, freestanding fonts intended only for the pouring of water over one’s head, our community sought to recover the fuller symbolism of immersion. Our eight-sided marble font, affixed to the chapel floor, with a water depth of about two feet, was conceived to allow for baptism by immersion in keeping with the tradition of the early Christian Church.

Its placement is distinctive. Due to the unique and somewhat limited floor plan of our chapel, the decision was made to locate the font directly behind the altar, beneath the Cross and Corpus. Although this differs from the more common placement near the entrance, it ensures that the font is visible and accessible to the entire assembly during baptismal liturgies, highlighting baptism as a central act of our shared faith.

Please visit www.paulistcenter.org/worshipmatters for the current and future reflections.

WORSHIP



MATTERS



RESPONDING TO ASSAULTS ON THE DIGNITY OF LIFE

This year we hold up the theme – **the life and dignity of the human person** – front and center in all of the Paulist Center’s programming.

Our hope is that this theme meets the range of the community where we are and will create opportunities for prayer, learning, and responding as this assault on the dignity of human life worsens. Please click the link to read the entire announcement: <https://www.paulistcenter.org/dignityoflife/>

The next two events to help us on this journey are:

- SUN*Day Pilgrimage and Interfaith Service and Celebration - Sept 21 (*see below*)
- Adult Faith Formation: Lecture/book signing with Chris White on his book *Pope Leo XIV* - Sept 25 (*see below*)

SUN*DAY PILGRIMAGE & PRAYER SERVICE: THIS SUN, SEPT 21

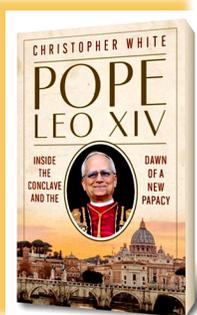
Join us as the Paulist Center community joins an interfaith celebration of the power of Sun and Wind! SUN*Day is a national day of action on Sept 21, celebrating the unstoppable rise of clean energy.



Three ways to participate:

- Join us at **12pm at St. Clement's Basilica**, 1105 Boylston St, for a light lunch, brief sending forth prayer, and a "Pilgrimage of Hope" to Old South Church.
 - Or, join Paulist Center friends making our way to the Basilica **after the 10am Mass**.
- Join us at **1pm at Old South Church**, 645 Boylston St, for an interfaith procession to Boston Common with music, banners, and brief prayer proclamations along the way. The procession (.9 mile) will be down Newbury St. which is closed to traffic that day.
- Join us at **2pm on Boston Common**, near the State House steps, for a 30-minute multi-faith celebration of hope.

St. Clement to the Common is 1.8 miles. Alternate: take Green Line along the route, or join a procession from King's Chapel (.3 mile), at 1:30pm.



POPE LEO XIV - THIS THURS, SEPT 25 @ 7PM

Christopher White, who spent four years covering Pope Francis as Vatican correspondent for the National Catholic Reporter, will be **at the Center** to discuss his new book and provide a behind-the-scenes look at the conclave that elected the first American Pope.

Paulist Center member **Bill Mitchell**, a former NCR publisher, will interview Christopher, followed by audience Q and A.

Event will be held in the **Chapel**. Please **RSVP** here: chriswhite.eventbrite.com.

PASTORAL PLANNING UPDATE

The slides from the initial meeting back in August can be found on our website: <https://tinyurl.com/Augustpastoralplanning>.

Later meetings added!

Sun, Sept 28

11:15am to 12pm - Lunch; Meeting will follow
7pm: Meeting - with pizza

Sun, Oct 26

11:15am to 12pm - Lunch; Meeting will follow
7pm: Meeting - with pizza



WELCOME TO THE PAULIST CENTER!

The Paulist Center warmly welcomes recently registered members:

Erik Baker
Somerville, MA



Abigail Gannon & Trevor Davis
Boston, MA



Connor Rockett
Boston, MA



Solar Energy Seminar - Sun, Oct 5

During the coffee hour **after the 10 am Mass** on Sun, Oct 5, the **Creation Care Committee** will present a seminar for community members interested in learning about **solar energy**.

There will be information on:

- the Center's recent shift to the purchase of solar-generated electricity at 5 Park St
- how community members can capture similar benefits without needing to install solar panels on their home

Members will describe their experience using solar and answer questions.

Please join us for a sun-filled presentation!



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. See paulistcenter.org/give/ways-to-give for ways to give. Two options:



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.



Use **Apple Pay** or **Google Pay** by visiting donorbox.org/paulistcenter, scanning the **QR code** on the red cards in the pews or 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 charitable organizations with missions consonant with our own. These organizations receive an equal amount from our annual offertory.

The weekend of **Sept 20 and 21** we raise up **Massachusetts Council of Churches**, which witnesses to our oneness in Christ among local churches and with our neighbors in Christianity.

Pastoral Staff: Normand Gouin; Gus Kellerman; Susan Rutkowski;
Rick Walsh, CSP

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

Custodial Staff: Alvaro Enamorado; Timmy Valle

Pastoral Council Chair: John Domino
pccouncil@paulistcenter.org

Finance Committee Chair: Mary Lesko

Worship Committee Chair: Barbara Lapinskas
worship@paulistcenter.org

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