



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.



OCTOBER 11 - 12, 2025
28TH 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

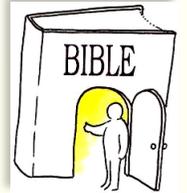
FAMILY RELIGIOUS EDUCATION PROGRAM (FREP)

Classes have officially begun for our formal religious education program, and are about to begin for our Sacramental preparation classes.

Please make sure your child(ren) is/are registered! You can find the registration form [here](#).

Please check the FREP calendar [here](#) for all classes/meeting dates.

- * Please note that **all classes are OFF next Sun, Oct 12**, in honor of Indigenous Peoples' Day.
- ** The first gathering for our **First Reconciliation program** is a virtual meeting on **Wed, Oct 15 at 7pm**. Link will be provided via email.



Junior and Senior High Teen Youth Group

The first teen session with **Mosaic Interfaith** will take place **next Sun, Oct 19, 2 - 5pm**.

EACH FAMILY MUST REGISTER THEIR CHILD here at the **Center AND at Mosaic**, with this Link: <https://forms.gle/pVRHE3SLCrPAHwhA7>

MOSAIC

Please reach out to **Susan Rutkowski** at susan@paulistcenter.org with questions and concerns about any details of our Family Religious Education Program. The calendar and registration form are found on our website at www.paulistcenter.org.



NO KINGS DAY - OCTOBER 18 @ 11AM

Please join the Paulist Center community on **Sat, Oct 18, at 11am to gather for prayer** in our Chapel.

Afterwards, join us as we march for justice in Boston. All are welcome!

SAVE THE DATE!

COME TO SET US FREE: FESTIVAL OF READINGS AND CAROLS



- **Performances:**
 - * **Saturday, December 13 at 8pm**
 - * **Sunday, December 14 at 2pm**
- Join us for this cherished annual tradition as we come together to celebrate Advent and Christmas at the Paulist Center.

THE PAULIST CENTER WILL BE CLOSED MONDAY, OCTOBER 13, IN OBSERVANCE OF INDIGENOUS PEOPLES' DAY. WE WILL NOT HAVE MASS THAT DAY.

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



Sunday, October 12, 10am
28th Sunday in Ordinary Time



YouTube [Link](#)

WORSHIP MATTERS

Weekend of October 11 - 12, 2025 – Issue #5

Sacred Space: Why No Kneelers?

For those who have worshiped at the Paulist Center for years, the absence of kneelers often goes unnoticed; for those new to the space, it can be a surprise and a source of curiosity. This feature of our chapel sets it apart from most Roman Catholic churches.

In the early Church, standing was the common posture for prayer—a sign of respect, unity, and Easter joy. The Council of Nicaea (325) even prescribed that prayers on Sundays and during the Easter season be offered standing. Kneeling, by contrast, symbolized penitence, humility, and private prayer and was generally reserved for Lent or other penitential times. Over time, however, kneeling became the norm throughout much of the Mass.

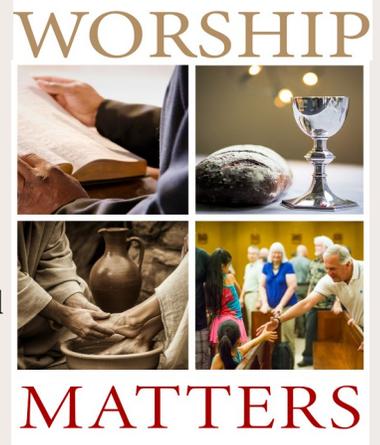
Following the Second Vatican Council, the 1969 *General Instruction on the Roman Missal* (GIRM) emphasized posture as a communal sign of unity and restored the ancient custom of standing during most of the liturgy, especially for the Eucharistic Prayer. While many countries adopted this norm, the U.S. Bishops retained the custom of kneeling from the *Sanctus* through the conclusion of the Eucharistic Prayer. This adaptation was reaffirmed in 2000, though the GIRM notes that the universal practice of the Church is to stand throughout the Eucharistic Prayer, kneeling only at the consecration.

When the chapel was renovated in the mid-1970s, and again in 2000, the Center followed the local tradition of standing and chose not to reinstall kneelers. This decision reflected the early Church's practice of standing as a sign of unity, joy, and thanksgiving.

With the most recent renovation, however, the Paulist Center did not intend to eliminate kneeling altogether. Several chairs in the chapel are now fitted with kneelers for those who wish to kneel in private prayer or adoration before the Blessed Sacrament.

Our posture in worship matters because our bodies express the attitude of our hearts. Just as body language reveals our disposition toward another, our posture in prayer expresses our spirit before God and one another. During the Eucharistic Prayer especially, standing together—physically or in spirit for those who due to physical or other limitations are not able — embodies our unity, our thanksgiving, and our participation in the Paschal Mystery.

Also, for the current and past reflections in our *Worship Matters* series please visit www.paulistcenter.org/worshipmatters



PRAYER AND ACTION IN TROUBLED TIMES: LESSONS FROM CATHOLIC SOCIAL TEACHINGS

The first sessions at the beginning of September were a smash hit! Please join us for **future sessions** (*see below*) as we reflect on key documents that have challenged and inspired our faith tradition over time.

We will learn about them and consider what insights and actions they inspire as we face myriad assaults on social justice today.

Raúl E. Zegarra, a community member and Asst. Prof. of Roman Catholic Theological Studies at Harvard Divinity School, will lead the sessions.

Future Meeting Dates:

- Oct 19 @ 11am (Auditorium)
- Nov 23 @ 11am (Auditorium)
- Feb 8 @ 7pm (Library)
- April 12 @ 7pm (Library)
- May 31 @ 11am (Auditorium)
- June 7 – Time & Location TBA



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 event to help us on this journey is:

• **ReVision: What Do We Do with Christianity?** Webinar - Fri, Oct 24 - Sun, Oct 26

We have purchased admission to this event, sponsored by the Center for Action and Contemplation (CAC), for the entire community. Here is the [link](#) for information about the conference.

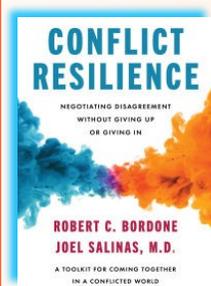
The link to join the conference will be offered next week.

The watch party for October 24th has been cancelled due to the conference’s earlier start time.

We encourage you to watch as individuals or in your small community of faith groups.



BUILDING CONFLICT RESILIENCE: TOOLS FOR BETTER DISAGREEMENT



Join us on **Sun, Nov 16, 11:30am-1pm** for a talk and conversation with community member **Bob Bordone** as he shares from his recently published book, the USA Today Bestseller "*Conflict Resilience: Negotiating Disagreement Without Giving Up or Giving In*".

Bob's work speaks to the urgency of this time, in the United States and in the Catholic Church, in which many people find themselves challenged to live and work next to people they are in disagreement with. Bob will offer insights and faith filled ways we can all move forward with curiosity and self-reflection.

Please help us plan by registering at <https://tinyurl.com/BordoneNov16registration>.

And please note: the first fifteen people who **register to attend** will receive a free copy of the book:

You may also order a copy of the book at a discounted rate of \$24 (including tax) **here by Nov 13** and Bob will bring the copy with him to sign and give to you. You can purchase the book at <https://tinyurl.com/BordoneBookPaulistCenter>. Please note: books will not be available for purchase at the event.

IMPORTANT MESSAGE ABOUT VOTING FROM OUR RACIAL JUSTICE ADVOCACY GROUP (RJAG)

What will you be doing **November 3, 2026**? Although 13 months away, it will be a day to exercise your fundamental **constitutional right to vote!** The **Voting Right Act of 1965** secured that right for all US citizens.

In some states, efforts are underway to **change voting districts** and the impact of certain votes. Usually evaluated every ten years after the US census, changing districts more often in representative electoral systems like ours can be seen as an effort to advantage one party, group, or socioeconomic class within the constituency. This is sometimes called "**gerrymandering**". Did you know that this term came about when Elbridge Gerry who, as MA governor, signed a bill in 1812 creating a partisan district in Boston that was compared to the shape of a mythological salamander?

In the RJAG section of the Paulist Center website, there is an **article by Heather Cox Richardson** where you can learn the history and struggle of the right to vote for all US citizens.



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 **Oct 11 and 12** we raise up **Hearth**, a non-profit organization dedicated to ending elder homelessness through housing, outreach, prevention, and advocacy.

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](http://paulistcenter.org) for staff contact information.)