



# 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.



DEC 6 - 7, 2025 - 2<sup>ND</sup> SUNDAY OF ADVENT

### 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 ED PROGRAM - SUN, DEC 7

- Christmas Pageant rehearsal during FREP hour, 11:15am - 12:15pm in the Chapel.
- Jr. & Sr. High meeting at Mosaic Interfaith, 2 - 5pm.



## SOLEMNITY OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION



Please join us on **Mon, Dec 8** for the **Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception**

Masses will be celebrated at **8am and 12pm**.

## COMMUNITY COFFEE / MCAN POSTCARD WRITING - THIS SUN, DEC 7 @ 11:15AM

Join us during **community coffee** to urge **Governor Healey to take Bold Executive Action** to protect the civil rights of all MA residents from ICE. Our Immigration Advocacy Group, together with the Mass Community Action Network (MCAN), is supporting the **Protecting the People and Sovereignty of Massachusetts** campaign.

Come to coffee hour to learn more and **write postcards to the Governor**.

Postcards will also be available in the chapel for those who cannot come to coffee hour.



## COME TO SET US FREE: A FESTIVAL OF READINGS AND CAROLS



- **Sat, Dec 13 at 8:00pm** 
- **Sun, Dec 14 at 2:00pm**

Join us as we gather for our annual Advent-Christmas Program. The Sunday program begins with a Christmas Pageant presented by the youth of the Paulist Center.

### Donations and Sponsorships

We are not "selling" actual tickets, but donations and sponsorship level contributions are most welcome.

- Click [here](#) to donate online: select Advent/Christmas Concert and write how many people, and which concert you plan to attend.
- For mail-in donations, please make checks payable to "**The Paulist Center**" with "**Come To Set Us Free**" in the memo.

### Sponsorship Levels

- **Angelic:** \$100 - \$149
- **Celestial:** \$150 - \$199
- **Archangel:** \$200 and above

You do not need to donate in order to attend! *Consider inviting family and friends to sponsor the concert!*

Both performances will be live-streamed: **Dec 13 [Link](#) ~ Dec 14 [Link](#)**

A **reception** will follow each concert.

*We look forward to celebrating with you!*



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

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

## LIVE-STREAMED MASS LINKS

Sat, Dec 6, 5pm

2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Advent

YouTube [Link](#)

Order of Worship [Link](#)



## WORSHIP MATTERS

Weekend of December 7, 2025 – Issue #12

### SIGNS AND SYMBOLS: The Advent Wreath



The Church's liturgy is rich in symbols. Bread and wine, water and fire, the altar, the ritual books, the cross; bowing, singing, standing; the interplay of color, texture, light, darkness, sound, and silence—all form a living matrix through which God communicates. These symbols do not stand alone. Like the universe described by quantum physics—where everything is interconnected and interrelated—liturgical symbols interact with each other, transferring and increasing energy, shedding light and unfolding meaning. They reveal who we are as Christians, our relationship with God and one another, and our shared participation in the paschal mystery of Christ.<sup>1</sup>

Simple in form and rich in meaning, the Advent wreath—which marks our four-week pilgrimage towards the Feast of the Incarnation—gathers our longing for Christ into a circle of evergreen branches and growing light. The circle, like the galaxies in our universe, reminds us of God's eternal promise, without beginning or end. The evergreens speak of life that persists even in winter's barrenness and harshness. Into this circle are set four candles—traditionally three violet and one rose—echoing the colors of the season's vesture. Violet invites us into quiet hope and repentance; rose, lit on the Third Sunday, proclaims the message that joy is at hand!

The wreath's most powerful symbol is its increasing light. As the days of December darken, we kindle more candles: one on the First Sunday of Advent, two on the Second, and so on until all four burn brightly the week before Christmas. The growing flame mirrors our growing readiness to welcome the Light of the World.

The origin of the Advent Wreath and candles can be traced back to pre-Christian Germanic cultures who would light candles during the winter solstice to honor the return of the light. This practice was adopted by Christians in the Middle Ages as a way to mark the season of Advent.

At church or at home, the Advent wreath becomes a gentle ritual of preparation. Blessed at the beginning of the season and lit during Mass, evening prayer or the evening meal, it steadies our hearts, slows our pace, and reminds us—week by week—of the hope, peace, joy, and love that Christ brings. Through this simple circle of light, the great language of the liturgy speaks once again: Emmanuel, God-with-us, is drawing near.

<sup>1</sup>Judith M. Kubicki, "More than Words: The Many Symbols of the Liturgy," *America Magazine*, vol. 198, no. 18 (May 2008)

## CHRISTMAS FLOWERS TO HONOR YOUR LOVED ONES

Honor your loved ones, living or deceased, by making a donation towards the Christmas decorations with which we'll adorn the Chapel. The suggested donation is \$10.

Contributions can be made:

- at the front desk Mon - Fri from 10:30am - 4:30pm
- by going to [Donate Online](#), and choose "Flower Donation" and note who it is "in honor of" or, "in memory of"
- by using the envelopes in the pews

Please write legibly when notating your name and your loved ones' names. ✨



DAILY REFLECTIONS *for*

# Advent & Christmas

Waiting in Joyful Hope 2025-2026

Pick up your copy in the vestibule of the Chapel.  
Suggested donation per booklet is \$3.

## ADVENT SERVICE OF RECONCILIATION AND REFLECTION

*Our God Will Come to Save Us*



Please join us for this annual lay-led service of prayer, song, and reflection.

Opportunities for individual confession will be available.

Thursday, December 18 @ 7pm

### JESSE TREE/GIVING TREE

The **Jesse Tree**, the Paulist Center's Advent Giving Tree, is now up in the Mary Alcove. This is an opportunity for community members to support the families our Immigration group has resettled from Ukraine, Afghanistan, and Haiti. We also support families living at Crossroads Family Shelter, the Catholic Worker House in Worcester, and the Agape Community, as well as some of the families who come to our food pantry and supper club.



Many of our agencies request **gift cards** for their guests, as they afford people the dignity to choose what they'd like.



If you feel so moved, please take a tag and bring the **unwrapped** gift/giftcard back to the Center by **Sunday, December 14**.

Gifts/giftcards can be **dropped off at the Food Pantry** (elevator lobby) or **mailed to Susan Rutkowski at the Center**.

Please do not leave any gifts under the tree or anywhere that is unsecured.

**Thank you in advance for your generosity!**

### LGBTQ+ MINISTRY ADVENT VIRTUAL PRAYER - MONDAY EVENINGS



The Paulist Center's LGBTQ+ Ministry will be leading virtual prayer sessions **via Zoom during the Advent Season**.

The sessions are on **Mon, Dec 15 and Mon, Dec 22 from 7:00 - 7:30pm**.

The access link is <https://tinyurl.com/ysccxudn>. **All are welcome!**

### NOMINATE YOUR FAVORITE CATHOLIC FOR THE ISAAC HECKER AWARD FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE!

Since 1974, the Paulist Center Community has presented the **Isaac Hecker Award for Social Justice** to an outstanding North American Catholic. Please consider **nominating** a North American Catholic.

**Deadline has been extended to Sun, Dec 7.**

**Guidelines** are on our website: <https://www.paulistcenter.org/hecker-award/>

Please send nominations to **Susan Rutkowski** at [susan@paulistcenter.org](mailto:susan@paulistcenter.org)





**Thank you SO much for your generous donations  
to our Food Pantry  
this past month during the SNAP crisis!**



### **THE WEDNESDAY NIGHT SUPPER CLUB HOLIDAY GIFT DRIVE**



We are collecting **NEW** hats, gloves, scarves, and socks of all sizes to prepare small gifts for our guests this holiday season. Items can be dropped off at the Paulist Center by **Sun, Dec 21**.



Contact [supperclubfood@gmail.com](mailto:supperclubfood@gmail.com) if you would like to volunteer. *Thank you!*

### **CALENDAR YEAR-END GIFTS TO THE CENTER WARMLY WELCOMED**

*Are you required to take minimum distributions from your IRA?* Consider making a year end, tax advantaged donation through a qualified charitable distribution (QCD) to the Paulist Center.



We are a qualified 501c(3) organization, tax ID 04-2012978.

Check is **payable** to the “**Missionary Society of St. Paul the Apostle in MA**” at 5 Park St, Boston, MA 02108.

Contact **Deborah Heibel** at [deborah@paulistcenter.org](mailto:deborah@paulistcenter.org) with any questions or consult your tax professional.

*Thank you for ALL you give in so many ways to the Center!* 

### **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](http://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](http://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](http://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 **Dec 6 and 7** we raise up **Urban Edge** - a national leader in the community development field, dedicated to strengthening communities and families. Together, they build affordable housing and vibrant, prosperous neighborhoods.

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

**Administrative Staff:** Barbara Dunay; Liz Framski; Deb Heibel;  
Dorothy Messenger; Rob Smyser; Sal Whooley

**Custodial Staff:** Alvaro Enamorado; Timmy Valle

**Pastoral Council Chair:** John Domino  
[pccouncil@paulistcenter.org](mailto:pccouncil@paulistcenter.org)

**Finance Committee Chair:** Mary Lesko

**Worship Committee Chair:** Barbara Lapinskas  
[worship@paulistcenter.org](mailto:worship@paulistcenter.org)

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