



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 12 - 13, 2026

24TH 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



BLESSING & COMMISSIONING OF COLLEEN BURNS - THIS WEEKEND, SEPT 12/13

We hope that many will be able to attend one of the Masses this weekend when **Colleen Burns** will be **blessed and commissioned** as the new **Executive Director at the Paulist Center.**

THANK YOU, GUS!

It is with much gratitude for the past three years of loving service as our **Young Adult Minister**, that we bid **Gus Kellerman** farewell.



Through his work at Harvard Divinity School, he has enrolled in the **International Masters in Screenwriting program at the Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore in Milan.**

We trust he will be a great success there!



For all your tremendous work with our **Young Adult Group**, **Gus - thank you!!**

HAVEN'T SIGNED UP FOR REALM CONNECT, OUR NEW CHURCH MEMBERSHIP DIRECTORY YET?



You'll receive a new invitation email this Fri, Sept 11 and we hope to see you after one of the Masses this weekend so we can tell you more about it and help you create a profile. You can find more information at <https://www.paulistcenter.org/realm/>.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION AND SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION FOR YOUR CHILD(REN) STARTS IN A WEEK - **SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 20**

Families, if you have not yet signed up for either formal religious education or sacramental preparation classes (1st Reconciliation, 1st Communion, and/or Teen Confirmation), **please do so this week!** Our **kick-off liturgy and celebration** are **Sunday, September 20 at 10:00 am!** Directly below are the details for signing up:



FREP calendar: <https://www.paulistcenter.org/wp-content/uploads/2026-2027-FREP-Calendar.pdf>

Register: <https://www.paulistcenter.org/wp-content/uploads/FREP-Registration-Form-2026-2027.pdf>

You can pay the registration fee online **HERE** or send check to Paulist Center, 5 Park St, Boston, MA 02108.

Questions or concerns, contact **Susan Rutkowski** at susan@paulistcenter.org or 617-948-2426.

Traditional Religious Education Classes – Grade-based classes will meet approximately twice per month.

Family Pods – Families will be assigned to a group (pod) which will include children, parents and grandparents and will meet five times over the course of the year. The intention is to offer an opportunity to get to know one another better and create community learning in a smaller intergenerational group. Families in each pod will share family traditions, holiday ideas, best practices on how to raise children in the Catholic faith, etc.

Parent Faith Formation – Four times a year, parents will get together during their child's class time to drink coffee, eat food, and discuss faith formation topics that interest them.

1st Reconciliation and 1st Communion (Grades 2-3)

Inclusive Confirmation Program – (Grades 8-11) Our community includes neurodiverse children and teens. We are creating a supportive environment built on inclusive language, flexible learning spaces, and multimodal options for exploring faith. Your teens can engage through art, discussion, or movement, and we will collaborate directly with you to meet their unique sensory and processing needs. The Body of Christ is glorious, beautiful, and neurodiverse!



We are **still looking for a leader(s) for our Jr. High Youth Group (Grades 7-8).** Please contact Susan Rutkowski, susan@paulistcenter.org, if you would like to explore this exciting volunteer position!

Welcome! If you are considering becoming a member, please fill out a membership inquiry form that can be found on our [website](https://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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[paulistcenter.org](https://www.paulistcenter.org)
[Facebook.com/PaulistCenter](https://www.facebook.com/PaulistCenter)
[youtube.com/ThePaulistCenter](https://www.youtube.com/ThePaulistCenter)

LIVE-STREAMED MASS LINK

YouTube [Link](#)

Saturday, September 12, 5:00 pm
24th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Order of Worship [Link](#)

LITURGY AND MUSIC

Called to Proclaim the Word?

Have you ever considered serving as a lector at the Paulist Center? Proclaiming Scripture at Mass is a wonderful opportunity to deepen your relationship with God's Word, share your gifts in service to the community, and grow in faith alongside other ministers.

Join us for a **Lector Ministry Information Session on Tuesday, September 22 or Tuesday, September 29 at 7:30 PM on Zoom**. Come learn more about the ministry, formation, and what it means to serve as a proclaimer of the Word. There is no commitment—just an invitation to listen, learn, and discern!



Youth Liturgical Ministry Program

We are excited to once again invite the young people of our community to share their gifts through the **Youth Liturgical Ministry (YLM) Program!** Young people are invited to serve as **lectors, liturgical dancers, musicians, and audio-visual ministers** at designated YLM Masses throughout the year.



Participating in YLM is a wonderful way for our young people to become more actively involved in the life and worship of our community, deepen their faith, develop their gifts, and experience the joy of serving alongside others.

Interested? Please complete the [YLM Interest Form](#) using the link or QR code provided. New and returning participants are warmly welcome!



Festival of Readings and Carols — Call for Musicians

Come, share your voice and make music with us! Preparations are beginning for the Paulist Center's annual **Festival of Readings and Carols**, and we invite singers from throughout our community to join the Festival Choir.

Rehearsals are **Thursdays from 7:00–9:00 PM in the Chapel, beginning September 24**, with performances on **Saturday, December 12 at 8:00 PM** and **Sunday, December 13 at 2:00 PM**.

Whether you are a longtime member of our Music Ministry or have been thinking about joining for the first time, we would love to have you! Come experience the joy of making music together and helping create this beautiful celebration of Scripture, prayer, and song.



Interested in participating? Please fill out the [Musician Information Form](#) using the link or QR code provided. For more information please contact Norm Gouin at norm@paulistcenter.org.

COMMUNITY SERVICE PROJECT: COME PAINT WITH US! NEXT SAT, SEPT 19, 9AM - 4PM

Join the Paulist Center St. Joseph Society for a painting project at **Christo Rey High School in Dorchester**, a high school created by the Society of Jesus to serve students from families with limited financial resources. We will scrape and paint the old metal fence to create a more inviting entrance for students.



NO SKILLS required. Lunch will be provided.

St. Joseph Society members can assist as needed; **volunteers needed** to help work flow. We're also looking to borrow as many paint scrapers and electric grinders as people can spare. Contact **Vincent Rocchio** at vfrocchio@gmail.com if you have any questions or would like to participate!

THE 2025 ISAAC HECKER AWARD FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE WILL GO TO COLLEEN SHARKA!



Please join us on **Saturday, September 26** to celebrate **Colleen Sharka, LMHC, co-founder of "CAN WE TALK" (CWT)**, a community sharing program on trauma and healing based at the Social Impact Center of Roxbury Presbyterian Church. Colleen will receive the Hecker Award in our chapel **at our 5 PM Mass on September 26.**

Colleen's commitment to healing and reconciliation took root before her professional career began, when she co-founded a grassroots racial dialogue group connecting a Black Catholic church and a white Catholic church, building understanding through shared stories. That conviction — that healing happens in community, across lines has shaped her work ever since.

In 2014, Colleen partnered with Rev. Liz Walker to co-found CAN WE TALK, a spiritually grounded, peer-led program for trauma survivors. Colleen developed the program's curriculum and built its network of sites nationwide; as of May 2025, CWT operates in 20 locations across six states and Washington, D.C. Since 2014, CWT has offered urban neighborhoods a peer-centered path through trauma, helping individuals move from surviving to actively helping others heal.

Colleen's dedication to justice also spans her work at Still Harbor: Center for Discernment & Action, where she developed retreats on purpose and social action, and Trinity Boston Counseling Center, where she provided therapy to multi-ethnic populations in Roxbury, Dorchester, and Mattapan.

At a moment of deep polarization and daily violence in our communities, Colleen's work offers a model for healing that is spiritually rooted, clinically sound, and empowering. Isaac Hecker was committed to faith in action — Colleen Sharka lives that same commitment today.

Please join us on September 26 at the 5pm Mass to celebrate Colleen Sharka! A reception will follow.



SEASON OF CREATION 2026 - SEPTEMBER 1 - OCTOBER 4

St. Francis Day at Agape Community – Saturday, October 3, 10:00 am to 4:00 pm

Every year the **Agape Community** <http://agapecommunity.org>, a non-violent, sustainable faith community founded in 1982, celebrates St. Francis Day with a gathering for individuals and communities committed to Peace and Justice. This year, on Saturday, October 3 from 10:00 am to 4:00 pm, long-time non-violence activist Shane Claiborne will lead the morning session. Marysol Castro, an immigrant attorney and Maritza Cruz, an anti-racism activist, will lead the afternoon session. (Click on the above link to learn more about AGAPE and the event.) Agape Community, founded by Hecker Award winners Suzanne and Brayton Shanley, has carried the faith torch of love and justice for many years. Consider traveling with others from the Paulist Center and come celebrate, connect and learn! Questions, email paulistcentercreationcare@gmail.com

The Crisis in Plastic – Sunday, Oct 4 11:30am, Auditorium



Plastics are a grave and growing threat to human health. The harms from plastics fall most heavily upon the most vulnerable. These harms can be prevented through the same types of intelligent, evidence-based interventions that we have used to control air pollution, reduce lead poisoning, and protect ourselves and our children against other environmental dangers. - actions that place protection of the vulnerable and advancement of the common good above short-term gain." Session led by **Philip J. Landrigan, MD, MSc, FAAP**, a pediatrician, epidemiologist and Professor at Boston College where he directs the Global

Observatory on Planetary Health. Dr. Landrigan's research examines the impacts on human health, especially children's health, of hazardous exposures in the global environment. He co-chaired the *Lancet* Commission on Pollution and Health, which found that pollution causes 9 million deaths per year. He led the Minderoo-Monaco Commission on Plastics and Human Health, which found that plastics cause disease, disability and premature death at every stage of their life cycle. He is now co-leading The *Lancet* Countdown on Health and Plastics. He serves as Editor of *Annals of Global Health* and is a member of the National Academy of Medicine.

A.I. ETHICS THROUGH A CATHOLIC LENS: CAN A.I. BE ETHICAL?

Sun, Sept 27, 7pm at the Paulist Center

In a world increasingly driven by algorithms, what does it truly mean to love our neighbor? As artificial intelligence (A.I.) reshapes our society, how do we ensure it serves the common good rather than leaving the most vulnerable behind?

Join us for an intriguing discussion at this first in a series of seminars on Catholicism and the ethics of A.I. We will look at tech through the framework of Catholic Social Teaching—exploring how ancient wisdom can help us guide tomorrow's tools.

Dr. Raúl Zagarra will introduce the historic new papal encyclical, *Magnifica Humanitas*, which directly addresses the protection of human dignity and labor in the age of automation.

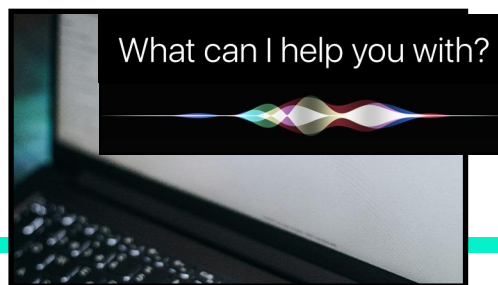
Richard Geruson, lecturer at Harvard Divinity School, will dive deeper into our moral obligations to harness technology for human liberation and systemic fairness.

<https://bulletin.hds.harvard.edu/ai-harms-are-not-ethically-inevitable/>

Following these two dynamic presenters, the evening will open up to a robust Q&A session with YOU! —the public.

Doors Open: 6:45pm **Refreshments:** Will be served before the event.

We hope to see you there as we explore how to build a more just and inclusive future!



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: tinyurl.com/DonatePaulistCenter, or scan the **QR code** in **blue**. This method can also be used for donations for specific programs, and, if you are a registered member, 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**: donorbox.org/paulistcenter, scan the **QR code** on the **red** cards in the pews or on this page. 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.

Sept 12 - 13 we raise up **Voices Center for Resilience** (*formerly known as VOICES of September 11th*) in their mission to provide resources and mental health care to the 9/11 community, as well as those impacted by subsequent tragedies in the U.S. and abroad.

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

Executive Director: Colleen Burns

Administrative Staff: 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](https://paulistcenter.org) for staff contact information.)