



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.



JANUARY 31 - FEBRUARY 1, 2026
4TH 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

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION 2026 AT THE PAULIST CENTER



The **Rite of Enrollment for First Communion** will take place this **Sun, Feb 1 at the 10am Mass**. Our First Holy Communion **preparation classes** will **begin this Sun, Feb 1 from 11:15am - 12:30pm in the auditorium**.

This is a **meeting for both parents and children** looking to celebrate the Sacrament of First Holy Communion at the 10am Mass on Sun, May 18 at the Paulist Center. Primarily a home preparation program using **Pflaum Publication's *Together In Jesus*** curriculum, families join in larger group activities over the course of the 5-month preparation period. Additionally, participants share a Seder meal (date TBD), learn experientially, and reflect on the significance of the Eucharist at a retreat and rehearsal.

If you have not signed up and would like to register, the registration form is posted on our website. Here is the **link**. Please contact **Susan Rutkowski** at susan@paulistcenter.org with any questions.

FAMILY RELIGIOUS EDUCATION PROGRAM (FREP) CLASSES

All FREP classes resume **this Sun, Feb 1 after the 10am Mass** in their usual locations.

- ◆ Kindergarten - 1st grade: 6th Fl, Rm 17
- ◆ Grades 2 - 3: 2nd Fl Seminar Rm



- ◆ Grades 4 - 6: 6th Fl, Rm 22
- ◆ Jr & Sr High: Mosaic 2-5 pm, off-site

FREP 3RD ANNUAL COMMUNITY SERVICE PROJECT

FREP students will once again be **collecting items for hygiene kits to be donated to Catholic Charities**. These kits are even more important this year as federal funding cuts are hitting people hard. Our goal is to assemble 400 hygiene kits. **You can help by:**

- ◆ donating items through our Amazon wish list
- ◆ decorating ***You Are Loved*** cards
- ◆ assembling kits next **Sun, Feb 8 after the 10am Mass**.

The Amazon wish list can be accessed through this website: <https://tinyurl.com/2kssp9sf> or by using the **QR code**. More information, including a link to ***You Are Loved*** cards, and other ways to donate, is here: <https://sites.google.com/view/frep-service-project/home>. Or, contact **Brigid Rowlings: brigidrowlings@gmail.com**.



YOUNG ADULT MINISTRY FAITH SHARING GROUP - THIS SUN, 7PM

Young Adults (21-39) are invited to join the weekly faith sharing group after the 6:00pm Mass this Sunday in the 3rd floor library. Continuing through the end of May, the Young Adult group will meet after the 6:00pm Mass in the 3rd floor library for some light snacks, conversation, and communal reflection. We hope to see you there!



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

LIVE-STREAMED MASS LINK

Sunday, February 1, 10am
Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time

YouTube [Link](#)



Order of Worship [Link](#)

WORSHIP MATTERS

February 1, 2026, Issue #15

LITURGY AND JUSTICE: To Be the Mystical Body of Christ

For those who have worshipped at the Paulist Center for any length of time, the deep connection between liturgy and justice is well known. Yet it is worth remembering that for the leaders of the early twentieth-century liturgical movement—the movement that eventually gave rise to the reforms of Vatican II—this relationship was not simply complementary. It was inseparable. To celebrate the liturgy was to be formed for mission and sent forth for the transformation of the world.

Born amid profound social and ecclesial upheaval, Benedictine monk and theologian Virgil Michel emerged as one of the movement's most influential voices. Writing in a time marked by war, economic instability, and deep social division, Michel insisted that the Church's worship could never be detached from the work of justice.

For Michel and his contemporaries, the renewal of society depended on the Church truly living as the Mystical Body of Christ. The place where this identity is most deeply formed is the celebration of the Eucharist, where the community becomes the means through which Christ continues his saving work in the world. From this perspective, liturgical renewal and social transformation are inseparable.

This vision reemerges in Pope Leo's recent encyclical, *Dilexi Te*, in which he names poverty as the result of pervasive and entrenched "structures of sin"—social, economic, and political systems that wound human dignity. Poverty, he reminds us, takes many forms, extending beyond material deprivation to include those who are marginalized, vulnerable, or oppressed. The encyclical draws these realities into the heart of worship, insisting that the poor are not merely a sociological category but "the very flesh of Christ." Thus, works of mercy, including almsgiving, are not optional but essential acts of authentic worship—practices that cultivate empathy, deepen encounter, and shape moral responsibility.

Revisiting this vision today is both timely and necessary. In an age marked by fear and anxiety, it can be tempting to reduce liturgy to something that merely comforts or soothes. Full, conscious, and active worship does more. It equips us to live as the Mystical Body of Christ, bearing responsibility for one another and all God's creation. When we gather to celebrate the Eucharist, each time we proclaim "Amen" or "Thanks be to God," we do more than affirm our faith—we commit our lives to Christ's way of love, becoming bearers of peace, workers for justice, conduits of grace, and witnesses of light in a wounded world.

In the weeks ahead, we will continue exploring this vital relationship between liturgy and justice as it unfolds in the Liturgy of the Word, the Eucharist, and the Dismissal—where we are sent forth to become what we pray and live what we profess.

WORSHIP



MATTERS

TAX DONATION LETTERS

If you gave to the Center in an identifiable way this past calendar year, you will be sent a **tax donation letter** by **the start of February**. There is no need to specifically request a letter, unless you don't receive one by early February. Please note, per the IRS, retired folks who give directly from their retirement accounts receive their tax deductible donation documentation from their retirement plan provider, not from us. If you have any questions, contact **Deborah Heimel** at deborah@paulistcenter.org
Thank you so much for your generosity to the Center. **We are greatly appreciative!**



PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS ...

Please pray for long time community member **Jane O'Connor** as she enters hospice care.

Jane was a 20+ year Wednesday Night Supper Club chef, and past recipient of the Isaac Hecker Award for Social Justice. Please keep Jane and her family in your thoughts.

If you would like to send cards, or visit, this is Jane's address:

Care Dimensions Hospice House, 125 Winter St, Lincoln, MA 01773

Please **TEXT Nancy Griffin** at **617-877-1990** or **TEXT Jane's daughter Beth** at **617-877-6812** to make arrangements for a time to visit.



Annual Paulist Appeal 2026



BUILDING BRIDGES THROUGH CHARITY



paulist.org/apa

From Fr. Rick

The weekend of Feb 7 & 8, the Paulist Center is joining Paulist communities nationwide to lift up the Paulist mission: caring for senior priests, fostering vocations, and funding ministries that lift up women in leadership, engage young adults, honor the gifts of people of color, and welcome our LGBTQ+ sisters and brothers with compassion - reaching even those beyond church walls.

As I mentioned last year, the rate of participation is important because it is a consideration used when making decisions about Paulist priest assignments.

Let us continue to let the Paulists know that we are supportive of our shared mission here in Boston.

Many of you have received materials from the Paulist Fathers with regard to our Annual Paulist Appeal. If you received one of these brochures and reply envelopes it means that you are known for your support of our unique mission. *Thank you.* So please once again, fill the reply envelope with your contact information along with a donation.

If you have not received material from the Paulists in your mail, we have them available (as of Feb 7) in the vestibule at the Chapel entrance.

BRAINS & BLESSINGS TRIVIA NIGHT - FEB 6

The Pastoral Council is hosting **Brains & Blessings Trivia Night on Fri, Feb 6, 7 - 9pm** in the auditorium.



\$20 per person at the door includes pizza, salad, and non-alcoholic beverages.

RSVP: email Mares

at supperclubfood@gmail.com.

Teams will be decided on Feb 6.

PRAYER AND ACTION IN TROUBLED TIMES:

Join us for our next session on key documents from our **Catholic Social Teachings** that have challenged and inspired our faith tradition over time.

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

Next Sun, Feb 8 at 7pm in the 3rd Fl Library.

Pizza will be served.



CORI

The Paulist Center appreciates everyone in our community who donates their time and volunteers with us in our ministries, projects, events, and more. For those of you who have volunteered with us in the past, you know what time of year it is!

All volunteers and staff must fill out a CORI (**C**riminal **O**ffender **R**ecord of **I**nformation) form with the Commonwealth of Massachusetts every year in order to comply with our safety guidelines.

This background check helps us ensure the safety of our community and those we serve. We are grateful for all the time and effort you all already put into our community, and ask you to take the time to fill out the CORI form with us.

Liz will be available before and after Mass on Saturdays and Sundays through January and February to assist everyone. Part of this process includes ID verification, so please bring a government-issued identification with you if you intend on filling out a CORI form. An email will be sent out to previous volunteers explaining this process in more detail.

If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to reach out to Liz Framski via email at liz@paulistcenter.org

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 **January 31 - February 1** we raise up **The Saintly Seven Campaign** - the recipient is TBD. Currently, seven African American men and women are on the path toward sainthood. Each has demonstrated a life of virtue and deep faith, and their causes have been officially opened. Their lives stand as powerful testimonies to the pursuit of racial justice and reconciliation—both within the Church and in the broader society.

Thank You!

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

Administrative Staff: Barbara Dunay; Liz Framski; 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.)