



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.



AUGUST 29 - 30, 2026 - 22ND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

SEPTEMBER 5 - 6, 2026 - 23RD 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

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.

SEEKING A DYNAMIC LEADER FOR OUR JUNIOR HIGH YOUTH GROUP (GRADES 7 & 8)

Do you love God, youth ministry, and the distinct daily thrill of communicating with beings whose primary emotional vocabulary is a heavy sigh? We need a brave soul to guide our Jr. High Youth Group (*comprised of 7th and 8th graders*) through **bi-monthly Sunday morning meetings (11:15 am-12:15 pm).**

Why You'll Love It

- **The Challenge:** Translate ancient scripture to humans who treat a two-minute car ride as a human rights violation.
- **The Energy:** Channel the intense, caffeinated mood swings of middle school into actual community.
- **The Vibe:** An open, progressive faith community that values questions over quietness.

What You Will Do

- Lead Sunday sessions for our Jr. High Youth Group during the FREP* year.
- Decode awkward silences and sudden outbursts of extreme laughter.
- Share snacks and snacks-based bribery.
- Help kids explore a loving, inclusive God.

For more information, contact **Susan Rutkowski, Susan@Paulistcenter.org** or **617-948-2426.**

* Family Religious Education Program



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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Living Water

SEASON OF CREATION 2026 - SEPTEMBER 1 - OCTOBER 4

The Creation Care ministry invites you to celebrate Creation and commit to prayer, action and advocacy:



Sunday Aug 30 - Interfaith Prayer & Fellowship on the banks of the Charles River. Bring a picnic blanket & snacks to the Arthur Fiedler Dock on the Esplanade, **12:45pm**. Organized by the Cathedral Church of St. Paul and BICA (Boston Interfaith Climate Allies).



Sunday, Sept 6 - A short pilgrimage to be with the elephants visiting Boston. Come experience the art installation through the lens of Creation Care and *Laudato Si'* including brief commentary by community member Sonia Caus Gleason, reflection questions to consider, & a walk through the elephant exhibit (45 minutes total). Meet us at the **back of the chapel after the 10 am Mass**, or join us at the **corner of Dartmouth and Commonwealth Avenue at 11:30**.



Sunday, Oct 4 - "The Crisis in Plastic" after the 10am Mass, presented by **Phil Landrigan, M.D.**, of Boston College, renowned pediatrician and public health expert. Phil's lifelong work has focused on protecting children and communities from toxic environmental exposures and advancing healthier public policy.

Sept 1 to Oct 4 - Daily Reflections - each reflection offers a 2-minute "pause-reflect-act" opportunity. These are the same reflections as last year; if you received them before, you'll receive them again (unsubscribing is easy). To subscribe (free), email: seasonofcreationdaily@gmail.com

WELCOME TO A NEW FREP YEAR - PHASE 2 OF RE-IMAGINING FREP

This phase includes more intentional ways to form the children of our community while strengthening the role of parents and families in that formation with new offerings such as **Family Pods** and **Parent Faith Formation**.



Traditional Religious Education Classes - Grade-based classes, as have existed in the past, 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.

Inclusive Confirmation Program - Our community includes neurodiverse children and teens and we all learn differently. We are shifting to 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! All are welcome!

2026-27 FREP calendar: <https://www.paulistcenter.org/wp-content/uploads/2026-2027-FREP-Calendar.pdf>
Sun, Sept 20 is our FREP Kick-off celebration and social!

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

You can pay the registration fee online [HERE](#) or send a check to Paulist Center, 5 Park Street, Boston, MA 02108.

If you have any questions or concerns, contact **Susan Rutkowski** at susan@paulistcenter.org or 617-948-2426.

25TH ANNIVERSARY

SEPTEMBER 11



Holy God,
Creator of all people and all nations,
It is with sorrow and apprehension we remember the tragic events that occurred on this day.

We lift to You in prayer all those who died
in the Twin Towers, at the Pentagon, and on United
Airlines Flight 93 in Shankesville, Pennsylvania.

We entrust them to Your loving care.
Console their families, friends, and all who mourn this
loss in the hope that all who trust in You find peace and
rest in Your Kingdom.

We pray for those who courageously responded to provide
aid and comfort to the afflicted.
May their painful memories of that day be healed and
transformed into strength and positive resolution.

We also pray for ourselves as we seek Your strength and
guidance.
We live in the aftermath of this tragedy and under the
shadow of future acts of aggression;
We stand in need of Your assistance.

Enable us, Dear God, to put an end to fear:
By resolving to live lives that are based on respect for one
another;
By resolving to abide in a peaceful manner and never settle
disagreements in our lives in a violent way;
By resolving not to fall into the trap of blaming entire
ethnic groups, races, or religions in response to acts of
hostility;
By resolving that justice, not revenge, prevail in our world.

Let us resolve that in the face of hatred, we will show love;
That in times of despair, we will be voices of hope and
creators of new dreams;
That in times of darkness, we will be sources of light.

Let us resolve that we never regard forgiveness as
weakness,
But rather as a source of strength in our lives and in our
world.

And, let us honor the memory of nearly 3,000 individuals
who died on September 11, 2001
by resolving, with Your help Almighty God,
to truly live this way so You may be glorified and Your
love made known to others through us.

Amen.

- Bro. Darrell Burns, S.J.

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

SUN, SEPT 27, 7PM AT THE PAULIST CENTER - SAVE THE DATE!

In a world increasingly driven by algorithms, what does it truly mean to love our neighbor? As artificial intelligence 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 Artificial Intelligence. 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.

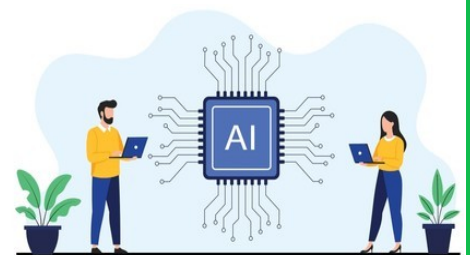
Richard Geruson Author and lecturer at Harvard Divinity School, will dive deeper into our moral obligations to harness technology for human liberation and systemic fairness.

<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!



LIVE-STREAMED MASS LINKS

Sun, Aug 30, 10am

YouTube [Link](#)

Sun, Sept 6, 10am

YouTube [Link](#)

The Paulist Center will be closed for Labor Day on Monday, September 7. There will be no 12 PM Mass that day.



BLESSING & COMMISSING OF COLLEEN BURNS - SEPT 12/13

We hope that many will be able to attend one of the Masses on the weekend of September 12/13, where **Colleen Burns** will be **blessed and commissioned** as the new **Executive Director at the Paulist Center**.

COMMUNITY SERVICE PROJECT: COME PAINT WITH US! 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!

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.

Aug 29 - 30 we raise up **Massachusetts Community Action Network** <https://www.mcan.us/>, a statewide faith and values based community organizing collective working for racial equity & economic justice.

Sept 5 - 6 is the **annual Mission Co-op Appeal**. This year, we welcome **Fr. Kenneth** from the **Benedict XVI Institute**.

Envelopes will be in the pews if you wish to make an additional donation.

Please make checks payable to "Propagation of the Faith" and in the check memo write "Mission Co-op Appeal".

Pastoral Staff: Normand Gouin; Gus Kellerman; 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](#) for staff contact information.)