



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.

November 2023

Dear Paulist Center friends:

For decades, the Annual Advent-Christmas Concert has been a hallmark of the community's observance of Advent and Christmastide. I, along with our music ministers – who have been rehearsing since late September – are thrilled to come together once again for this time-honored tradition as we prepare for Advent and look forward to the Feast of the Incarnation.

The performances will be held on **Saturday, December 9 at 8:00 p.m.** and **Sunday, December 10 at 2:00 p.m.** A *Christmas Pageant* presented by the children of the Paulist Center will begin Sunday's concert.

This year's theme, Love Incarnate, Love Divine, highlights carols and readings pointing us to the reality that everything starts with God. God is the source of all life and goodness, the initiator, the Alpha and Omega. We hear in the first letter of John, "Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God." This love, Love Incarnate, Love Divine, was present before all time and is eternal.

Love Incarnate, Love Divine, the Word made flesh, is the embodiment of love. Through song and story we celebrate the humanity of Jesus, who shares our lives from beginning to end, who understands us because he is one of us. We recall the prophetic witness of John the Baptist, the voice of one crying out in the desert, "Prepare the way of the Lord." We acclaim Mary, whose courageous "yes" reminds us that nothing is impossible for God. We remember that through the Incarnate Word, God's love lives in us and God's love is perfected in us. Christ is the bearer of good news and great joy, who, as author and teacher Joan Chittister states, "is the Child who lives only to do the will of God, who opens His arms to love the entire world, who lives in hope of the coming of the reign of God by giving His life to bring it."

Historically, the concert has been both a community builder and a fundraising event for the Center. In the spirit of encouraging everyone to invite many friends and family to attend, we will continue our practice from last year and not "sell" any actual tickets for this year's event. We will however, gladly welcome voluntary donations both electronically online through our website at any time (use the Advent/Christmas Concert category and write how many people, which concert, and, if you are contributing at a sponsor level, how you wish the name to appear in the program in the comment area) and by cash or check (made to the Paulist Center with "Concert" noted in the memo) at the concerts.

If you are making a donation and would like some guidance, we would suggest \$20 in advance, \$25 at the door for an individual and \$40 in advance, \$50 at the door for a family. Should you wish to make a special sponsorship-level contribution, we invite you to join the Celestial Choir at the following levels: Archangel for \$200, Celestial for \$150 and Angelic for \$100. Sponsorship donations received by November 30 will be noted in the concert program. The concert is open to all, whether or not a donation has been or will be made.

Your support helps us to continue the important spiritual work and mission of the Paulist Center in Boston. We look forward to seeing you, your family, and friends at this year's concert. May the coming season of Advent be a time of grace and renewal as we prepare our hearts to experience the joy of salvation and celebrate Christmas with love, renewed hope, and thanksgiving.

Yours in Advent hope,

Normand Gouin, Pastoral Minister of Liturgy and Music