



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 2024

Dear Paulist Center friends:

As the days grow shorter and cooler temperatures hint at winter's approach, we find ourselves on the cusp of both a new liturgical year and the holy season of Advent. In keeping with our cherished tradition, I am delighted to invite you to this year's Advent-Christmas celebration, *God With Us: A Festival of Readings and Carols*.

Our world is deeply in need of Advent's promises—light, hope, peace, and love. During this four-week pilgrimage, we are all invited to welcome Emmanuel into our hearts, homes, communities, and every encounter and relationship. *Emmanuel*, the Hebrew word meaning "God With Us," is not merely a name or title but an affirmation of faith—a reminder of our belief that God's profound desire for us is to know that we are never alone, that we are all interconnected, and that each and every one of us is born out of an unfathomable, unconditional, and all-encompassing love.

My friends, this is the truth we must cling to, especially in moments of darkness, division, fear, and anxiety that threaten to overshadow our call to live as a people redeemed and commissioned to bear Christ's light, peace, hope, and love.

The readings, carols, and prayers in this year's program illuminate the themes of hope, waiting, preparation, and rejoicing. They remind us that the story of Advent calls us to join Jesus as living embodiments of God's peace on Earth—no matter how long the journey may take. Through Christ, our God walks in deep solidarity with humanity, sharing in both our sufferings and our moments of joy. Amid life's challenges, we are reminded that ours is a God who is always with us.

Since early October, over 30 musicians have been rehearsing, and more than 35 youth, under the guidance of Christine Tardiff, have been preparing to share song, dance, prayer, and story. This beloved tradition offers us an opportunity to embark on our Advent pilgrimage together, culminating in the joyful celebration of the Feast of the Incarnation.

Performances will take place on **Saturday, December 14, at 8:00 p.m.** and **Sunday, December 15, at 2:00 p.m.** Sunday's performance will begin with, *A Christmas Story*, presented by the children and the liturgical dance ministry of the Center.

Historically, this concert has served as both a cherished community-building event and a vital fundraiser for the Paulist Center. In the spirit of inclusivity and encouraging everyone to invite friends and family, we will continue our practice from the past two years and not "sell" tickets for this year's event. Instead, we warmly welcome voluntary donations, which can be made electronically through our website at any time.
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When donating online, please select the *Advent/Christmas Festival of Readings and Carols* category and include in the comment section the number of attendees, the concert you plan to attend, and, if contributing at a sponsorship level, how you would like your name to appear in the program. Donations can also be made by cash or check (payable to the Paulist Center with “Festival” noted in the memo) at the events.

For those seeking guidance on donation amounts, we suggest \$20 in advance or \$25 at the door for an individual, and \$40 in advance or \$50 at the door for a family. If you wish to make a special contribution at a sponsorship level, we invite you to join the *Celestial Choir* at one of the following tiers:

- **Archangel:** \$200
- **Celestial:** \$150
- **Angelic:** \$100

Sponsorship donations received by **December 4** will be acknowledged in the concert program. Please note that the concert is open to all, regardless of whether a donation has been or will be made.

Your generous support enables us to continue the vital spiritual work and mission of the Paulist Center in Boston. We look forward to welcoming you, your family, and your friends to this year’s program. May the coming of Emmanuel—*God With Us*—bring comfort, renewed hope, and lasting joy and peace throughout this holy season and beyond.

Yours in Advent hope,



Normand Gouin, Pastoral Minister of Liturgy and Music