

JUNETEENTH 2026

Freedom • Reflection • Celebration

A MESSAGE FROM THE PAULIST CENTER RACIAL JUSTICE ADVOCACY GROUP

This year, Juneteenth carries extraordinary weight — a moment for remembrance, solidarity, and renewed commitment.

What Is Juneteenth?

Juneteenth — June 19 — is the national holiday commemorating the end of slavery in the United States. On that date in 1865, enslaved people in Galveston, Texas finally received word of their freedom, more than two years after the Emancipation Proclamation. It is a day of profound joy, cultural pride, and sober reflection on the long arc of justice.

Pope Leo XIV and the Historic Apology for Slavery

This Juneteenth is especially poignant in light of Pope Leo XIV's recent encyclical, in which he takes full responsibility for the Catholic Church's historic complicity in the slave trade. His words deserve to be heard:

*“Neither can we deny or diminish the delay with which both society and the Church came to denounce **the scourge of slavery**... It is impossible not to feel deep sorrow when contemplating the immense suffering and humiliation endured by so many in stark contrast to their immeasurable dignity as persons infinitely loved by the Lord. For this, in the name of the Church, I sincerely ask for pardon.”*

— Pope Leo XIV

The encyclical acknowledges that Church authorities historically regulated, legitimized, and participated in the subjugation of enslaved people — calling this “**a wound in Christian memory, one from which we cannot consider ourselves detached.**” Leo notes the Church reached a formal, universal condemnation of slavery only in the 19th century under Pope Leo XIII, after a long era of inconsistency. In chapters on the digital economy, he warns that algorithmic control and tech monopolies threaten to create “**new forms of slavery.**”

A Call to Vigilance and Action

The resurgence of white supremacy and profound racism in US political culture makes Juneteenth more important than ever — calling us as a faith community to heightened vigilance and courageous action. We stand with all who work for racial justice, reconciliation, and the full dignity of every human person.

Celebrate with your neighbors! See the back of this insert for Juneteenth events across Greater Boston this week.

GREATER BOSTON JUNETEENTH EVENTS

June 13 – 20, 2026

JUNETEENTH FLAG RAISING CEREMONY

June 18, 2026

12:00PM - 1:03PM

1 CITY HALL SQUARE
BOSTON, MA 02201-2006

Contact: LORI NELSON

Join the City of Boston for our annual Juneteenth Flag Raising Ceremony as we honor Black liberation, resilience, culture, and community.

A JUNETEENTH CELEBRATION

Featuring string students from the Sphinx Performance Academy

SATURDAY, JUNE 20TH, 2026
3:00PM

FREE CONCERT!

The Salvation Army Ray and Joan Kroc Corps Community Center

650 Dudley St., Boston, MA 02125

Register online at landmarkorchestra.org

Hyde Park's 6th Annual Juneteenth Joy Celebration

2026 Theme: Dance, Dance, Dance - The Diaspora!

Featuring: Boston Rhythm Riders

Saturday, June 13, 9:30 am - 2:30 pm

Francis D. Martini Memorial Shell Park and Moynihan Recreation Area, 1015 Truman Parkway, Hyde Park

Register: <https://bit.ly/44XK9CUE>

The Boston Juneteenth Committee & The National Center of Afro-American Artists

proudly present **The 16th Annual JUNETEENTH Emancipation Observance**

Friday, June 19, 2026

THE SHAPE OF THINGS TO COME

"The Future Is In Our Hands"

100th Anniversary at Dilaway-Thomas House, Eliot Square Roxbury Heritage State Park, 183 Roxbury Street MA 02119

12:00 PM Parade from Eliot Square to the Museum, National Center of Afro-American Artists, 300 Walnut Avenue, Roxbury MA 02119

1:00 PM Museum Grounds Open

1:30 PM Emancipation Observance Program

Always Celebrated on the 19th of June

All events held in Roxbury

WE CREATE THE WORLD: A JUNETEENTH CELEBRATION

IS A PROJECT CONCEIVED BY THE **BOSTON UJIMA PROJECT, INC.**

THIS YEAR, IN PARTNERSHIP WITH THE **MUSEUM OF AFRICAN AMERICAN HISTORY & ICA/BOSTON** WE BRING YOU A DAY-LONG CELEBRATION OF BLACK JOY, EXPRESSION & ART ACROSS 2 HISTORIC SITES.

ART SHOP DANCE HEAL

JUNETEENTH-UJIMABOSTON.COM

FREEDOM!

A JUNETEENTH CELEBRATION

JOY STREET BLOCK PARTY

MUSIC & POETRY PERFORMANCES
ART WORKSHOPS - FAMILY ZONE
DYNAMIC ACTIVATIONS - DRUM CIRCLE
UJIMA VENDOR FAIR

FRIDAY JUNE 19

10AM - 5PM

FREE TO ALL!

FROM MYRTLE TO CAMBRIDGE STREET

FIND YOUR JOY WITH US!

ONE FREEDOM, MANY FLAGS

JUNETEENTH

Brookline Carnival

JUNE 19

12:00 PM - 4:00 PM

CYPRESS FIELD - 289 DAVIS AVE

Jam to the rhythm of the Caribbean with Brookline For The Culture!

Sponsored by the Town of Brookline & Brookline Recreation

BALLET

More events: meetboston.com/events/holidays/juneteenth