

Lent at the Paulist Center



A SEASON OF CONVERSION... A TIME OF FREEDOM

“God has not grown weary of us. Let us welcome Lent as the great season in which God reminds us: “ ‘I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery’ (Ex 20:2). “Lent is a season of conversion, a time of freedom.”

Pope Francis’ 2024 Lenten Message

Lent, the solemn 40-day period before the celebration Easter, holds profound significance in our Christian tradition. Starting on Ash Wednesday and concluding on Holy Thursday, it is a season of penitence and preparation. Throughout Lent we are invited to engage in the spiritual disciplines of prayer, fasting, and almsgiving. These practices serve to deepen our connection with God, our awareness of Jesus’ sacrificial love, and to prepare our hearts and minds for the Paschal Mystery—the journey of Jesus’ passion, death, and resurrection.

Lent is an invitation to reflect, repent, and renew one’s commitment to living a life of faith, ultimately leading to the joyful celebration of Easter.

Here at the Paulist Center the richness of our liturgical celebrations, the many prayer and faith sharing opportunities, and most especially our commitment to being companions and witnesses to those preparing for the sacraments of Easter, are all ways for us to enter fully into this time of reflection, recommitment, and renewal – a chance for us to remember who we are and where we have come from and why. The journey of Lent is the promise of mercy and the guarantee of new life.

Lent and Holy Week WORSHIP SCHEDULE

ASH WEDNESDAY • FEBRUARY 14

- 7:55 a.m. Mass (no music)
- 12:05 p.m. Mass (with music)
- 5:15 p.m. Lay-led Service (with music)
- *7:00 p.m. Lay-led Service (with music)

All four liturgies include the imposition of ashes.

FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT

- Saturday, February 17 - 5:00 p.m.
- Sunday, February 18 - *10:00 a.m.
- Sunday, February 18 - 6:00 p.m.

SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT

- Saturday, February 24 - 5:00 p.m.
- Sunday, February 25 - *10:00 a.m.
- Sunday, February 25 - 6:00 p.m.

THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT

- Saturday, March 2 - 5:00 p.m.
- Sunday, March 3 - *10:00 a.m.
- Sunday, March 3 - 6:00 p.m.

FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT

- Saturday, March 9 - 5:00 p.m.
- Sunday, March 10 - *10:00 a.m.
- Sunday, March 10 - 6:00 p.m.

FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT

- Saturday, March 16 - 5:00 p.m.
- Sunday, March 17 - *10:00 a.m.
- Sunday, March 17 - 6:00 p.m.

PALM SUNDAY OF THE LORD’S PASSION

- Saturday, March 23 - 5:00 p.m.
- Sunday, March 24 - *10:00 a.m.
- Sunday, March 24 - 6:00 p.m.

THE PASCHAL TRIDUUM

Holy Thursday, March 28

Mass of the Lord’s Supper - *7:00 p.m. (Live streamed)

Good Friday, March 29

Seven Last Words Ecumenical Service- *12:00 noon

Celebration of the Lord’s Passion and Death - *3:00 p.m.

Holy Saturday, March 30

Easter Vigil, March 30- *8.00 p.m.

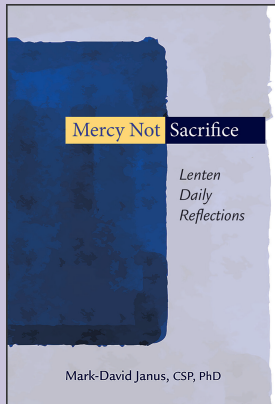
*Live-streamed

Visit our YouTube Channel to join us online.

www.youtube.com/thepaulistcenter

Lenten Offerings

PRAYER & FAITH SHARING



LENTEN SMALL GROUPS

Lenten Small Groups will be meeting throughout Lent! We will be using the book *Mercy Not Sacrifice* by Mark-David Janus, CSP.

If you did not previously register but would like to participate, please email Amy Logan alogan940@gmail.com for possible registration based on availability.

Mark-David Janus' book "Mercy Not Sacrifice" is available at: www.paulistpress.com

YOUNG ADULT LENTEN BIBLE STUDY

Thursday, February 15 and Thursday, March 21, young adults (18-39) will meet in room 13 on the 6th floor of the Paulist Center. Feel free to come by any time after 5:30pm for light snacks and conversation! **Please email Gus** at youngadults@paulistcenter.org to RSVP. Walk-ins are welcome!

WEDNESDAY LENTEN PRAYER ([Zoom link](#))

Led by the *LGBTQIA Ministry*

February 21 -7:00 p.m.

February 28 - 7:00 p.m.

March 6 - 7:00 p.m.

March 13 - 7:00 p.m.

SERVICE OF RECONCILIATION AND REFLECTION

Wednesday, March 20 - 7:00 p.m.

- Individual Confession will be available -

LENTEN FAMILY SOCIAL & BOOKLETS

Sunday, March 3 at 11:15 am in the auditorium

All families are invited to join this social to connect with other families, learn about Lent, and participate in a Lenten craft.

Lenten booklets specifically for children, teens, and parents will be available at the social or beforehand on the 6th floor during the FREP hour or by contacting Susan Rutkowski at susan@paulistcenter.org.

Service and Stewardship

EMERGENCY FOOD PANTRY

In addition to the food that community members bring in, the Paulist Center teams up with the Greater Boston Food Bank to collect additional food for a nominal fee. Three volunteer shoppers make weekly visits.

The food pantry is located on the first floor, two doors down from the reception area. There, four volunteers spend one and one-half hours on Tuesday afternoons (1:00 - 2:30pm) distributing food that three different volunteers have previously shelved and bagged. We give out bags of groceries that feed over 500 people a month.

Please contact Raoul Vincent at karlenevincent@gmail.com for more information on how to get involved.

WEDNESDAY NIGHT SUPPER CLUB

Every Wednesday night in the Paulist Center auditorium since 1969, at least 25 volunteers serve a hot, delicious, dignified, sit-down meal for our neighbors who are hungry.

Funding comes from a variety of individuals and groups, including Project Bread's Walk for Hunger.

If you are interested in becoming a cook, contact Emily Hankle, ekayhankle@gmail.com. To arrange for a group to volunteer, contact the Supper Club Team.

Individuals looking for more information or to volunteer with set-up, serving, or clean-up can contact Jeff Buckley, da_red_dogg@hotmail.com, but know that it is also fine for an individual to just pop in to help any week without pre-arranging a visit.

Creation Care Ministry

This year try a different **Greener** Lent

Join a Laudato Si'- focused Lenten Program:

Prayer, Fasting, and Almsgiving

hearing "the cry of the earth and the cry of the poor."



COMMIT TO PRAYER

Make a commitment to pray for the poor most affected by the climate crisis.

CHOOSE YOUR FAST

There are 4 levels of fast to choose from, giving up beef, meat, or cheese.

HELP THE POOR

Give \$ saved by fasting to dig water wells in Africa, for people without access to clean water.



Use the QR code or go to: tinyurl.com/agreenerlent

The Journey to Easter

The symbols of Lent are acts, not things. We hear in the Gospel on Ash Wednesday, the first day of Lent, that these 40 days are a time to commit to fasting, prayer, and almsgiving. These practices do not direct us to retreat from the world; instead these acts of Christian compassion help us to focus on fulfilling our baptismal promises in our daily living.

Our Catechumens and Candidates for Full Communion are symbols to us of how dramatic such a change that can be and call us to reflect more deeply on our own baptismal faith.

We should not limit welcoming people into our midst to those preparing for the Sacraments of Initiation. All of us are ambassadors for Christ, charged with the ministry of hospitality. By greeting all who enter our doors, the stranger and individuals who have been away from the church for any length of time, as well as our friends and regular community members, we help to build up the Body of Christ, and make the resurrection all the more real.

RITE OF SENDING • RITE OF ELECTION

On Sunday, February 11, we will celebrate the **Rite of Sending**, when the community affirms and endorses our catechumen's readiness to move forward toward full initiation into the Catholic Church. We not only recognize her faith and commitment, but we pledge our continued prayers and support. As an expression of our community's support, she is sent forth to the Cathedral of the Holy Cross to celebrate the **Rite of Election** which will take place the following Sunday.

On February 17, the First Sunday of Lent, will be the **Rite of Election**, a milestone in the faith journey of our catechumen who, since this past Fall, has been part of the OCIA (Order of Christian Initiation for Adults) program here at the Paulist Center. Under the guidance of Fr. Rich Andre, CSP and Chuck Ferrara, in collaboration with numerous members of our community, she has been preparing for the sacraments of initiation this Easter Vigil.

Presided over by the bishop, this liturgical ceremony is a public affirmation of the readiness of those who have been preparing for the sacraments of initiation (Baptism, Confirmation, Holy Eucharist.) Here, all who have been preparing for these sacraments throughout the Archdiocese of Boston will be presented to the bishop and declare their readiness and intention to more fully embrace the Catholic faith by signing their name in the Book of the Elect. They will be sent forth in prayer and song to return to their communities to continue their formation and faith journey.

SCRUTINIES OF THE ELECT

On the 3rd, 4th, and 5th Sundays of Lent, we will celebrate "the Scrutinies" at the liturgies where the Elect will participate. Scrutinies are rites of self-searching and repentance. The purpose is not for us to examine the Elect; instead we offer public prayers of intercession and our support for them.

In the Scrutinies, along with the Elect, we are each called to examine our own lives as well this Lent. Where do we need healing? What is weak or sinful? What needs to be strengthened in us? What is good and strong? Where are we especially in need of God's grace?

So these three weeks are opportunities for our Elect to study her own heart and find ways to be even closer to God. As members of the Christian community, it is our responsibility to support her as she deepens her relationship with God. We pray with her and for her.

RITE OF PENANCE

On Sunday February 25, our Candidate for Full Communion in the Catholic Church celebrates the **Rite of Penance** with our community.

Already a baptized member of the Body of Christ, this rite asks that the Candidate (and we ourselves) humbly acknowledge our sins and failings and be freed of whatever might stand in the way of our fully embracing our faith and the presence of Christ in our lives, asking for the healing and strength of the Holy Spirit.



THE PASCHAL TRIDUUM

The word "TRIDUUM," the celebration of the Lord's passion, death and rising, means "three days." In the biblical keeping of time, great days of celebration begin on the evening before the feast. Thus, the Triduum begins on Holy Thursday evening and ends with the liturgical celebrations on Easter Sunday.

Because the celebration of the Paschal Triduum - in its entirety- is the most important liturgical expression of our faith and because it is most important to celebrate as one community, please consider joining us for all three days.

Holy Thursday – March 28

Evening Mass of the Lord's Supper – *7:00 pm

Good Friday – March 29

Seven Last Words Ecumenical Service – *12 noon

Celebration of the Passion and the Death of the Lord – *3:00 pm

Holy Saturday – March 30

Easter Vigil – *8:00 pm

Easter Sunday - March 31

Mass of the Resurrection - *10:00 am • 12:00 pm

**Live streamed*

Visit our YouTube Channel to join us online.

www.youtube.com/thepaulistcenter

MASS SCHEDULE

SATURDAY

5:00 p.m.

SUNDAY

10:00 a.m. (Live streamed)

6:00 p.m.

WEEKDAYS

Monday through Friday

12:05 p.m.

CONFESSIONS

**Monday and Friday 11-11:45 a.m.
and by appointment**

Prayer of the Community

O Christ, we began our Lenten journey with the sign of ashes, reminding us that this is no ordinary walk. Strengthen our desire to be free of all that keeps us from following you - the Way, the Truth, and the Life. Guide our steps and help us to return to you with our whole being.

IN YOUR MERCIFUL LOVE, HEAR US!

O Christ, division among the political and religious leaders of your day eventually led to your crucifixion. As discord continues to escalate in our world, our country, and our Church, help us to remember that you gave your life for ALL people. Empower us to be your loving presence for one another.

IN YOUR MERCIFUL LOVE, HEAR US!

O Christ, at the Last Supper you washed the feet of your disciples and instructed them to go and do likewise. Help us to be your loving hands, serving all those in need with humility and joy.

IN YOUR MERCIFUL LOVE, HEAR US!

O Christ, who in Gethsemane faced your approaching passion and death alone, be with those suffering from physical or mental illness, anxiety, fear, grief, hunger, and poverty, especially those who suffer alone. Equip us to be your balm of compassion, healing, and love.

IN YOUR MERCIFUL LOVE, HEAR US!

O Christ, who died that we may have life, bind up the wounds of your broken world. Strengthen us to be conduits of your grace and mercy and vessels of your light and peace.

IN YOUR MERCIFUL LOVE, HEAR US!

O Christ, as we move one step closer to the promise of your light, help us to see that suffering and death are never the end, but the way to the fullness of life in you. With your help, may we find new meaning in the Easter that awaits us all.

AMEN.