



Catholic Information Center

Connecting Faith and Life

CATHOLICINFORMATIONCENTER.ORG

NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER 2024

FRIENDS OF THE CENTER



Fr. Dat Tran, CSP
Executive Director

PRAY FOR

Sr. M Anita Holzmer, OSF
Deacon Johnson
Eleanor May
Geri Patis
+Mary Ann Schuurn

December Mass for CIC intentions:

Sunday, December 8
5:30 p.m. at the
Cathedral of Saint Andrew
*Please include your prayer
intentions with your green
envelope or email them to*
[cicoffice@catholic
informationcenter.org](mailto:cicoffice@catholicinformationcenter.org)

Dear Friends,

As we approach the end of 2024, we reflect on a year filled with growth, learning, and community. Your unwavering support has enabled us to connect with so many people. This year, we are thrilled to share that over 1,800 individuals participated in our various programs, including 153 who attended online, extending our reach far beyond Grand Rapids. These numbers are a testament to the vibrant and engaged community we are building together.

Looking ahead, we are excited to introduce several new initiatives that will shape our mission and ministry in the coming year. First, we are honored to have received a Lilly Endowment grant. This project is dedicated to forming and equipping lay people to lead new ministries within their parishes and their wider community. Collaborating with the Diocese of Grand Rapids, this new initiative will empower individuals to take on leadership roles, fostering a vibrant and engaged faith community. We believe that by investing in lay leadership, we can cultivate a more dynamic and responsive Church to meet the needs of our times.

Secondly, our recent visioning process has been instrumental in defining our new areas of focus in our mission of evangelization. We are committing to addressing polarization, providing training in dialogue skills, and promoting inter-cultural diversity. These priorities reflect our dedication to fostering understanding and unity within our community and beyond.

By focusing on these areas, we aim to create spaces where all voices are heard and respected, and where differences are seen as strengths rather than divisions.

Lastly, we are excited to unveil our new logo. This fresh visual identity represents our journey forward, embracing new opportunities while staying true to our core values. The new logo is more than just a symbol; it reflects our mission to be a beacon of hope and a source of inspiration for all who seek to grow in their faith.

As we celebrate these milestones, we are deeply grateful for your continued generosity. Your partnership is vital to our mission, and we invite you to consider contributing on Giving Tuesday, December 3rd, or including the Catholic Information Center in your year-end charitable giving. Your donations enable us to continue offering valuable programs and resources to our community. Every contribution, no matter the size, makes a significant impact and helps us to continue our work of spreading the Gospel and serving those in need.

Thank you for being an integral part of our journey. We wish you a blessed and hope-filled holiday season, and please know that you are in our prayers.

With gratitude,

Very Rev. Dat Tran, CSP
Executive Director



**Catholic
Information
Center**
Connecting Faith and Life

UPCOMING EVENTS

DECEMBER 2024

CONTRIBUTE

Your generous and regular contributions help ensure a vibrant and enduring future for the Paulist ministry at the CIC.

All donations, no matter the size, make a significant impact.

Become a monthly contributor through online giving by scanning the QR code below or visiting our [website](#).



An Evening in December

Monday, December 2

6:30 – 8:30 p.m. ET

Attend Onsite or Online

Hope is a compass pointing to true north as we navigate these times of change. And a new hope is the gift that Jesus brings as we prepare to celebrate his birth and the advent of his Kingdom.

Join us for this ecumenical dialogue on our shared faith as Christians as we prepare to celebrate the incarnation of Christ at Christmastime.

Co-sponsored with Bethlehem Lutheran, Cathedral of Saint Andrew, First United Methodist, St. Mark's Episcopal, and Westminster Presbyterian.

Advent Morning of Reflection

Thursday, December 12

10 – 11:30 a.m. ET

Attend onsite or online

An opportunity to slow down and take a moment during the busy holiday season. **Paulist Father Ryan Casey** will offer reflections on why it's worth the waiting in our preparations for Christmas.

For those attending in-person, we will be hosting an ornament exchange.

This presentation is part of the 55plus Series, exploring spirituality and vitality in the second half of life.

To register for upcoming events, call (616) 459-7267 or visit catholicinformationcenter.org.

New Logo Unveil

We are excited to unveil our new logo. At the center of the logo is the Holy Spirit, who represents the active presence of God within each person and indeed permeates all of our ministry at the CIC. The Holy Spirit guides each of us in our spiritual journey culminating in a world transformed by Christ.

What appears as the white "callout" is the

letter "P" for Paulist. As a ministry of the Paulist Fathers, the CIC creates spaces for encounter, dialogue, and community at the intersection of faith and life.

The "C" stands for Catholic Information Center. The color sky blue traditionally represents hope. This theological virtue is the driving force that helps us navigate challenges and uncertainties with a sense of purpose and optimism.



Click the QR Code to Give
**DECEMBER
3RD**



Giving TUESDAY

The Catholic Information Center is committed to inspiring and equipping Catholics for discipleship, but we need your help to take our technology to the next level! Click the QR code to give!