

# CATHOLIC CHAPLAINCY

## 2025-2026 newsletter



**Catholic Chaplain  
Lynn Cooper**

### Greetings!

**"Rejoice in the Lord always. Again I say: Rejoice!"**  
—Philippians 4:4

This single verse in Paul's letter to the Philippians is one of my favorites in all of scripture. He is writing from prison, experiencing deep adversity and yet he is steadfast in his message: followers of Jesus must rejoice. It is, after all, an imperative! We must rejoice in God as the vessel and object of our joy/gladness. This is not easy. Life is hard and joy can be fleeting. And yet, there is practical wisdom in turning toward God, allowing ourselves to be known. Paul is known for his focus on community and so when we place this call to rejoice in his context, we see that it is through mutual support—showing up for one another—that we cultivate sustaining joy. On Sunday evenings, when our Catholic community gathers for Mass, we do our best to live into this call to rejoice—in God and in the gift of being together.

The Catholic Chaplaincy provides students with the space to grow in their spiritual lives, asking hard questions about what it means to be Catholic in 2025. We are committed to community, journeying together and being the bridge builders Pope Leo calls us to be. Through liturgy, retreats, meals, community service, the work for justice, small group conversations and shared spiritual practice, we do our best to equip students for a lifelong journey of faith.

The University Chaplaincy is grounded in an intentional interfaith ethic wherein we learn with and from folks from other religious and philosophical traditions and folks from no tradition as well. That work begins from a place of genuine curiosity and trust. Our students have the opportunity to expand their religious literacy and to explore the sacrament of interfaith friendship. The saints here at Tufts are always teaching us, and we, as chaplains, are blessed to walk beside them.

Warmly,  
**Lynn Cooper**  
Catholic Chaplain

### Regular Programming

- Sunday 5 PM Catholic Mass
- Community Dinners
- Student-Led Weekly Rosary
- Student-Led Lectio Divina
- Weekly Shift at Harvard Square Homeless Shelter
- Fall and Spring Retreats
- Sacraments Class (RCIA, Confirmation Prep)



**Sacraments Class at Easter Vigil at  
St. Leonard's Parish in Spring 2025**



**The Catholic Chaplaincy supports sacramental and spiritual life on campus—providing innovative opportunities to deepen relationship to tradition, holding space for difficult questions, and challenging students to expand their worldview so as to live more intentionally, justly, and wholeheartedly in community.**

## Program Spotlight: Fall Retreat

Each fall, Catholic Chaplain Lynn works with student leaders to design a day retreat in November. This accessible offering is a chance for students to rest and to build connections among one another. Chinoye Hycent, A27 led her classmates in a praise and worship singing session in the morning and then we made a pilgrimage to the Shrine of Saint Anthony at Downtown Crossing. Fr. Jay Wood, OFM was our host and guide. He unpacked the theme of spiritual journey- sharing from his own and that of Saint Francis of Assisi. This accessible fall offering compliments our two-night off-campus retreat in February.



Fall retreatants in Davis Square



"The Catholic Chaplaincy has proved to me that I do not need the picture-perfect relationship with God that I had idealized. Every week that I come as I am is another week that I get to see how good God is to have brought me into such an accepting community."

-Elaine Garcia, A27

## SUPPORT CATHOLIC LIFE AT TUFTS UNIVERSITY

A vital portion of our programs are made possible by community donations. Here are some suggestions for how you can help make a difference in students' lives:

- **\$25** contributes to post-Mass fellowship refreshments and liturgical supplies
- **\$75** provides books and resources for Sacraments Class and retreats
- **\$150** funds guest speakers and workshop leaders



Give Today!

To give to the Tufts Catholic Chaplaincy Fund online, please visit <http://go.tufts.edu/giveCatholic>. To discuss a major gift, endowment, or bequest, please contact University Chaplain Elyse Nelson Winger:

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Thank you for your generosity and support.