December 2026

The Center gives people of all faiths, backgrounds, and ages the space to dream, grow, and become fully alive- physically, mentally, emotionally, and spiritually.



The Chicago Southwest Suburban Community
Parish and Community Center Foundation
Sunday services: 8:30am and 12:30pm
http://www.thecenterpalos.org 708-361-3650

IT'S CHRISTMAS ALL YEAR

A popular Christmas carol contains the words, "why can't there be Christmas the whole year around?" Well, the answer is, at least in certain places and at certain times, there is Christmas the whole year around, and The Center is one of those places.

Awhile back, I came across this story in an old file of resources: During the winter of 1993, construction workers at the Baseball Hall of Fame in Cooperstown, New York, made a discovery.

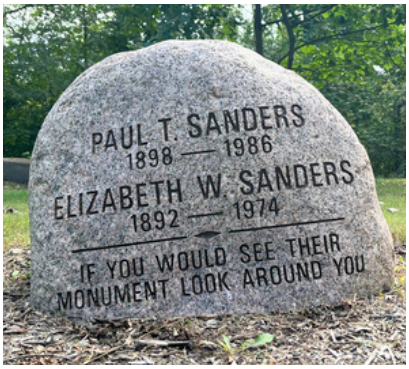
While remodeling a section of the museum, they found a photograph that someone had stuck in a crevice underneath a display case. The man smiling in the picture has a bat resting on his shoulders; He's wearing a baseball uniform with the words "Sinclair Oil" emblazoned across the chest.

Stapled to the picture was a note, scribbled in pen. It read:

> "You were never too tired to play ball. On your days off, you helped build the little league field. You always came to watch me play. You were a Hall of Fame dad. I wish I could share this moment with you. Your son, Peter."



A son named Peter had managed to find a way to put his father into the Baseball Hall of Fame. Reading that story, my first thought was: What a great tribute! Then, with Christmas rolling around, I thought: What a great Christmas card that would be, just as it is. Even if the picture and note were in a card showing the "Field of Dreams" players coming out of the corn to stand around a manger with the baby Jesus, it wouldn't be any better, because by itself it's filled with the Christmas spirit of love, family, support, and sacrifice.



And then my mind jumped to The Center's Annual Meeting a couple of weeks ago, where a year's worth of photos showing people and activities here at The Center was shared, and it hit me: There's our Christmas card- in all the ways people at The Center do what the baby Jesus grew up to do: Give God's love to all people, in all ways, all year long!

The memorial stone to Paul and Elizabeth Sanders up by the Chapel reads: "If you would see their monument, look around you." It could also read, "If you would see Christmas, look around you."

May you all have a very blessed Christmas,

Rev. Rich Stoma

Rev. Rich



SPIRITUAL OFFERINGS

SERVICES

8:30 a.m. in the Parlor
This early morning Vespers is an informal gathering each Sunday that incorporates silence, prayer, Scripture, and conversational reflection. It's a time of sharing collective wisdom and building community, and you are invited!

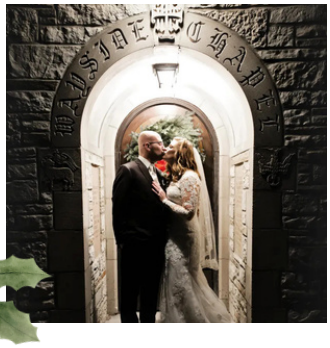
12:30 p.m. in the Chapel
Each Sunday, we have a non-denominational service of music, meditative message, and prayer. Immediately following Vespers, we gather in The Great Hall of The Lodge for a time of fellowship and light refreshments. We would love to have you join us!

Advent Chapel Services
Sundays in December, 12:30 p.m.
Our beloved Wayside Chapel takes on the special beauty of the Christmas season as it is decorated with greenery and candlelight. Join us in song and prayer as we celebrate Christ's coming and reflect upon the stories of Christmas.

Communion Sunday
Sunday, December 6 and January 3, 8:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m.
Join us as we gather for Communion. Non-alcoholic juice and gluten-free bread are provided, and all are welcome at the Lord's table.

A Prayer for Peace at the Labyrinth
The first Tuesday of each month, December 1, January 5, 3:00 p.m. at the Labyrinth
Let us meet at the Labyrinth to walk in silence with Love for peace. All are welcome! No registration is necessary. We will walk rain or shine! Email revc.spirituality@gmail.com with any questions.

Anniversary Dinner and Renewal of Vows
Sunday, December 13 at 4:30 p.m.
Whether or not you were married in our Wayside Chapel, we invite you to celebrate your October, November, or December wedding anniversaries here at The Center on Sunday, December 13. Beginning with fellowship in the Great Hall at 4:30 p.m., enjoy a delicious candlelight dinner followed by a meaningful Renewal of Wedding Vows ceremony in the Chapel. For reservations, please contact our front office at 708-361-3650 to make your payment of $110 before December 8.



SPIRITUAL DIRECTION

Spiritual Direction (Companionship) is a long time non-denominational practice that offers a person confidential space to reflect on the connection between life and God's presence. A Spiritual Director is trained to listen with compassion and to help navigate through life's challenges from a divine perspective. To make an appointment, call The Center at 708-361-3650, and one of our spiritual directors will return your call to schedule a meeting. **The fee is $30 per session.**

MINDFULNESS

Sunday mornings 11:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. in the Forest View Room (FVR)
Mindfulness: the practice of being present to what is with kindness and curiosity. We invite you to come and find the support, guidance, and companionship that you need to be present wherever you are in life. Please contact Dan Morley with any questions you may have at 708-280-3945.

MEDITATION

Loving-Kindness Meditation (Metta)
Every Monday, 9:00 a.m. - 9:45 a.m. in the Forest View Room (FVR)
All are welcome to gather in the Forest View Room for 45 minutes of getting centered. Metta includes a silent meditation, but it is primarily a group prayer for peace in the world, beginning with ourselves. No registration is necessary. Questions may be directed to Peggy Quinn at 773-841-3203.

Zen Meditation
Tuesday nights, 5:15 p.m. - 6:15 p.m. in the Parlor
Jim Matson, a Zen Buddhist Priest, is teaching a class on the background and practice of Zen Meditation. He comes with 24+ years of experience and describes Zen Meditation as "the art of becoming aware of the movement of the mind. It permits an understanding and realization of the deeper and more subtle aspects of our lives and points toward a compassionate and more confident way of living." Please note: There will be no session on December 29.
Class fee: $5 suggested donation per session

CHRISTMAS SERVICES AND EVENTS

Christmas Eve Children & Family Service
Thursday, December 24, 10:00 a.m. in the Lodge
All families with younger children are invited! We will celebrate Jesus' birthday with a real birthday cake, read the Christmas story, and sing a Christmas carol or two. In lieu of birthday gifts, please bring a non-perishable food item to this service. Donations will be brought to local food pantries. Please register on our website at thecenterpalos.org/christmas_eve_family_service

Candlelight Christmas Eve Service
Thursday, December 24 at 5:00 p.m. in the Lodge
Join us as we celebrate Jesus' Birth in the Great Hall of The Lodge with candlelight and Communion. If you plan on attending, please register on our website (thecenterpalos.org/christmas_eve_rsvp_2026) since seating is limited.

PLEASE NOTE

THERE ARE NO CHAPEL SERVICES ON CHRISTMAS DAY. SUNDAY VESPERS RESUME ON DECEMBER 27TH.



Pilgrimage to the Manger
Saturday, December 12 at 5:30 p.m.
We start in the Lodge, where we will dress with Judean head scarves in order to follow Mary and Joseph on their pilgrimage to the manger. Bring warm coats and mittens for the walk across the bridge to the farm. The shepherds with their sheep and the Magi on horseback will join us on the pilgrimage. Rev. Rich will lead us in Scripture, and carols will be sung as we each experience again the miracle of that First Christmas. It is truly a special night for both children and adults. A free-will donation is greatly appreciated! All proceeds support the mission of The Center.

Yule Log Service
Wednesday, December 23 at 2:30 p.m. and 6:30 p.m. in the Great Hall
New this year, we're offering two Yule Log Services!
Advance registration required. Sign up at thecenterpalos.org/yule_log_rsvp_2026



Join us for two special Christmas services at The Center! Our 2:30 p.m. service will be geared toward families and children, featuring a special performance by our Youth Christmas Choir. At 6:30 p.m., join us for our traditional Yule Log Service. Both services will feature Christmas carols, Scripture, stories, and a variety of old-fashioned traditions, including the sharing of wassail. The highlight is the lighting of the huge Yule log and the opportunity for each participant to add their own twig to the blazing fire, symbolizing a fresh start for the New Year. Enjoy group singing, a reading of the Christmas story from Luke 2 and "Night Before Christmas." A free-will donation is greatly appreciated! We kindly ask that you RSVP so we can plan accordingly and have enough refreshments for our fellowship gathering following each service. We look forward to celebrating Christmas with you!



The Bob Cratchit Candlelight Dinner
Sunday, December 6, 5:15 - 8:15 p.m.
In the tradition of Charles Dickens' Christmas Carol, we'll feast on turkey and plum pudding, just as Tiny Tim's family did in merry old England. Both before and after dinner, we'll be entertained by the delightful storyteller/drama teacher, Greg Weiss, as he reads from Dickens' classic tale of the Christmas spirits visiting Scrooge. The tradition of reading The Christmas Carol at The Center dates back to the 1930s. In the 80s, we added the dinner, and have enjoyed this as one of the nicest evenings of the year at The Center ever since. Dinner tickets are $56 per person and are limited in number. Reservations required. Please reserve early.

RETREATS

Awake at The Center: A Day of Mindfulness in the Outdoors
Saturday, January 9, 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.
Feeling stressed after the holidays? Looking for some peace and space to ponder the New Year ahead? Then consider joining this day of Presence and Mindfulness. The grounds of The Center have always held a peaceful energy that can be palpably felt when we take the time to be aware. This retreat is led by Sharon and Dan Morley, and the other leaders of our Sunday morning mindfulness team. You will be invited to sit, to walk, to listen, to see, and to share all the beauty and wonder that abounds. In the afternoon, you will experience the healing sounds of crystal bowls offered by Jalima Cuesta. Please wear clothing and shoes appropriate for the weather. Don't worry about the cold: there will always be a warm fire awaiting us when we come in from the outdoors.
Retreat Fee: $70. Includes leadership, lunch, and retreat supplies.

PROGRAM

Toastmasters
Wednesday, December 2 and 16, 6:00 - 8:00 p.m.
Want to stimulate your mind? Expand your social circles? Find new interests? And most of all, have some fun? If so, Toastmasters at The Center is the place for YOU! We do so much more than give speeches. We welcome you to come and see for yourself! You will be glad that you did. For more information, go to https://5312.toastmastersclubs.org/

WomanTalk Discussion Group
Tuesday, December 8, 10:00 - 11:30 a.m.
December's introduction notes, "Where there is Love, there are always miracles." Sarah adds that with miracles, one may find great joy. Consider ways to create joy this month. Perhaps explore December's Joyful Simplicities, such as enjoying a favorite food, volunteering or donating time or gifts, or recreating your favorite seasonal rituals. It may be time for snowshoeing, or spending time outdoors.

"WomanTalk" is a gathering of women who meet monthly in the Parlor to nurture and support each other on their personal journeys of creativity and self-discovery. Rooted in Sarah Ban Breathnach's *Simple Abundance*, the group, founded in Spring 1997, seeks ways to live authentically and joyfully.

We hope that you'll be able to join us in the Parlor. We often plan a group outing together each month during the meeting. If you have any questions about the group, or the outing, please contact the Center office by e-mail at tarag@thecenterpalos.org.

LUNCHEONS

Luncheons run from noon until 2:15 p.m., cost $40 per person, and offer a delicious meal and the best in entertainment and educational programming.

Tuesday, December 1 "An Afternoon of Stories" with Mary Lou Edwards
Mary Lou Edwards is an accomplished storyteller and a longtime friend of The Center. She has been sharing her stories with our community for many years, weaving tales that inspire, entertain, and connect. Her passion for storytelling has touched the hearts of innumerable individuals and her genuine love for The Center makes her an invaluable part of our family. Her coming-of-age stories and life experiences combined with her zany sense of humor guarantee a very fun time.





Tuesday, December 8. Christmas Tea Around the Tree Luncheon
Registration is within the Christmas Teas
The tea luncheon will have our typical hearty luncheon-style buffet meal, as well as Christmas Tea. All guests will have the chance to make their own blend of Holiday potpourri. Megan Wells will take us on a storytelling journey through the tender nostalgia of 1947 Illinois. Essie's Christmas follows twelve-year old Lacy through the ups and downs of a Christmas Eve snowstorm.
Event Price: $48

Tuesday, December 15. A Live Indoor Nativity
Come join us for this special luncheon, as we'll have live animals and characters in costume played by our fellowship and staff. You won't want to miss this spiritual, sacred, and tender narrative tradition here at The Center.



FARM AND NATURE DISCOVERY SCHOOL



We are wrapping up our fall season and rapidly heading into winter. This December is a quick month for us! We will be learning all about winter holiday traditions as we prepare for Christmas and winter break. Winter brings many celebrations from different cultures, and what an exciting topic to learn about and explore!

We will start off by looking at holiday traditions from around the world. We will explore traditions in Germany, Mexico, the Philippines, Sweden, India, and more! While exploring other cultures, we can learn to respect what and how others celebrate during this time.

We will also be exploring family traditions in our classrooms to see how our friends celebrate holidays in their homes. We are looking forward to learning about our students' family traditions while finding similarities and differences among them. Every family and every celebration looks a little different, and how interesting that can be!



We will celebrate together by having our traditional school Nativities for our families right before winter break. Each session will choose a Mary and Joseph to lead out the angels , shepherds, and wise men to the manger. After singing a few songs for our families, we will all join and celebrate together with coffee, hot chocolate, and cookies!

We are excited to open up enrollment for the 2027-2028 school year in January! We are also still enrolling for the second half of our current school year for morning and afternoon sessions. If you or someone you know would like to learn more about our school, or would like to set up a tour, I, Danielle Bell, can be contacted at 708-361-8933 or by email at FarmandNature@TheCenterPalos.org





AN APPEAL TO THE CENTER'S FELLOWSHIP

When you need a break from all the hustle and bustle of the commercial side of Christmas, I invite you to come to The Center.

The Center is a beautiful place to celebrate holiday spirits, without all that hustle and bustle. Spend a few minutes of your day at The Wayside Chapel; it is always open. The Wayside Chapel is God's gift to us to help us find the true meaning of Christmas in your life. Next stop, the Lodge.

The Lodge has a huge tree decorated with Queen Anne's Lace, a Center tradition started by Blanche Sanders, carried on by Dave Sanders, and continues today through the care of The Center's current staff. The natural beauty of Queen Anne's Lace is magical. Next stop, the Labyrinth.

The Labyrinth is another place where you can walk its path and meditate about all the beautiful things The Center has to offer. Be sure to stop and listen as the breeze rings the wind chimes in perfect harmony. Next stop, the Farm.

The Farm offers you a place to step back and enjoy the natural beauty all around you. If you time it right, you just might catch a group of children participating in a live nativity reenactment. The live nativity is really what Christmas is all about: being thankful for all things in your life that bring you joy and happiness.

Christmas is also a time of giving, and I hope you will consider making a gift to The Center this season. There are many ways to give. You can use the enclosed envelope, scan the Christmas Appeal QR code, mail a check, become a monthly pledge donor, or explore whether your employer offers a charitable giving or matching gift program. You may also be able to support The Center through a qualified charitable distribution from your IRA or other planned giving options.

Whatever way you choose to give, and whatever amount feels right for you, your generosity makes a difference. Your gift helps keep the doors of the Wayside Chapel open, supports the men in our Pathway to Sobriety program as they work towards a healthier future, welcomes visitors into the Lodge to enjoy our beautiful Christmas tree, provides a peaceful place for reflection along the Labyrinth, and allows us to care for the farm and the natural beauty that makes this place so special.

These are the experiences, spaces, and traditions that make The Center what it is. Your support helps ensure they remain here for our community, today and for generations to come. Thank you for being part of this place and for giving in whatever way you are able.

Merry Christmas,



Stephen Greene
Chairperson of The Center's Board of Trustees

The Log Cabin Center for the Arts

DECEMBER 2026 & JANUARY 2027

ART CLASSES FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILY ART WORKSHOPS

AFTERSCHOOL FUN WITH CLAY Instructor: Heaven Newsom
Three Tuesdays starting January 12, 4:30 - 5:30 p.m.
Class fee: $48 Plus a $13 Materials fee
Students will work with clay each week creating a variety of sculptures and pottery pieces. Open to students in grades K-6.

FAMILY ART WORKSHOPS



Pricing includes one child and one guardian, open to all ages.

FAMILY CERAMICS WORKSHOP: GINGERBREAD HOUSES
Thursday, December 3, 6:00 - 7:30 p.m. Instructor: Heaven Newsom
Class fee: $40 Plus a $10 Materials fee
Learn the steps to create a gingerbread house sculpture from terra cotta clay that will last for many years.

FAMILY HOLIDAY ART WORKSHOP: ORNAMENTS AND DECOR
Thursday, December 17, 6:00 - 7:00 p.m.
Class fee: $32 Plus a $5 Materials fee. Instructor: Heaven Newsom
Have fun creating ornaments and holiday decor together. Some items you can create are: cute snowman ornaments, cards and art with buttons that will represent members of your family, as well as mini wreath ornaments and paper chains.



FAMILY HOLIDAY ENAMELED ORNAMENT WORKSHOP Instructor: Aimee Leang
Wednesday, December 9, 6:00 - 8:00 p.m.
Class fee: $45 Plus a $16 Materials fee
Create festive holiday ornaments using copper shapes in which you will enamel with a base color of your choice. We will decorate the surface with a variety of seed beads, stones, sequins, and glitter, then seal with a permanent UV resin coating.



FAMILY HOLIDAY RESIN ORNAMENT WORKSHOP Instructor: Aimee Leang
Wednesday, December 16, 6:00 - 8:00 p.m.
Class fee: $45 Plus a $16 Materials fee
With UV resin and holiday-shaped molds, students will create Christmas ornaments embedded with glitter, sequins, seed beads, stone chips, and more!



FAMILY SEWING WORKSHOP: CHRISTMAS STOCKINGS
Monday, December 7, 6:00 - 7:30 p.m. Instructor: Angela Gonzalez
Class fee: $40 Plus a $15 Materials fee per workshop.
Sew memories with your family while you create a holiday keepsake stocking with your choice of festive Christmas fabric.

KIDS SEWING CLASS: GNOME ORNAMENT
Sunday, December 6, 10:00 a.m. - Noon
Class fee: $32 Plus a $6 Materials fee
Learn to sew a cute holiday gnome ornament for your Christmas Tree, or the perfect holiday gift. Open to students in 3-8th grade. Bring your own sewing machine, or use one of ours.



DECEMBER 2026 & JANUARY 2027
SCHEDULE OF ART CLASSES FOR ADULTS

Teens are able to register for most adult classes. Please inquire with interest.



BOOK PAGE ORNAMENTS AND DECORATIONS Instructor: Barb Thompson
Friday, December 4, 9:30 - 11:30 a.m.
Class fee: $26 Plus a $3 Materials fee
Use book pages to create ornaments and decorations for the holidays.

CALLIGRAPHY FOR THE HOLIDAYS WORKSHOP Instructor: Marge Boyd
Thursday, December 3, 1:00 - 3:30 p.m.
Class fee: $31 Plus a $5 Materials fee
Learn creative lettering styles using calligraphy pens and ink. We'll create some colorful gift tags for the holidays.



CARD WORKSHOP: ROTATING CIRCLE CARD Instructor: Barb Thompson
Friday, January 15, 10:00 a.m. - Noon
Class fee: $26 Plus a $5 Materials fee
Create a unique card with circular line designs that rotate once the card is opened. Can also be framed as art.



CERAMICS WORKSHOPS AND POTTERY CLASSES

CHRISTMAS TREE SCULPTURES Instructor: Robin Power
Two-day Workshop on Tuesday, December 1 and 8, 10:00 a.m. - Noon
Class fee: $55 Plus a $16 Materials fee
Sculpt a Christmas tree from clay on the first day of class, then paint colorful glazes on the second day.



FATHER CHRISTMAS SCULPTURES Instructor: Robin Power
Two-day Workshop on Wednesday, December 2 and 9, 10:00 a.m. - Noon
Class fee: $55 Plus a $16 Materials fee
On the first day, you will create a "Father Christmas" sculpture that will look perfect on your mantel this holiday season. Paint with colorful glazes on day two.

POTTERY CLASSES
Instructor: Robin Power
Four Tuesday mornings starting January 5, 10:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.
Class fee: $127 Plus a $38 Materials fee
Instructor: Chris Matusek
Four Tuesday nights starting January 12, 6:00 - 8:30 p.m.
Class fee: $127 Plus a $38 Materials fee
In this multi-level class, students will take turns on the pottery wheel and create pieces by hand, learning the art of ceramics. Students will create with clay each week and then glaze on the last day. Pottery will need to be picked up after a final kiln firing.

COLLAGE Instructor: April Schabes
Six Wednesday mornings beginning January 6, 9:30 a.m. - Noon. Class fee: $160
Experiment with color and composition to create your own mixed-media collages... an opportunity to "play in your own world of artistic expression with a fun and easy art form!"

EXPRESSIVE ARTS WORKSHOPS Instructor: Karen Signore

LAYERS OF COZY, WINTER SOLSTICE MIXED MEDIA ART WORKSHOP
Sunday, December 13, 12:30 - 3:30 p.m.
Class fee: $40 Plus a $12 Materials fee
This workshop blends guided meditation, reflective journaling, and mixed media art to celebrate cozy winter moments and the magic of the upcoming solstice. After a calming meditation to ground yourself in the season's stillness, you will journal about winter memories, traditions, and the symbolic renewal the solstice brings. Next, you will explore layering paints, textured papers, natural elements, and a variety of embellishments to create a mixed-media art piece that illustrates your winter story

THE ART OF WORDS- WHAT'S YOUR WORD FOR 2027?
Sunday, January 10, 12:30 - 3:30 p.m.
Class fee: $40 Plus a $12 Materials fee
Having a guiding word for the year can be a powerful practice for clarifying priorities, creating focus, and cultivating growth. Through guided meditation and reflective journaling, you will choose a word to guide and inspire your decisions and experiences for the year, then you will choose from a variety of materials to create a mixed-media collage that reflects your word and what you are wanting to experience and create in 2027.



FELTED ANGEL WORKSHOP Instructor: Barb Simon
Thursday, December 3, 1:00 - 3:00 p.m.
Class fee: $26 Plus a $8 Materials fee
Learn the art of felting and create a charming angel that can be used as a tree topper or to decorate this holiday season.



INTRODUCTION TO DRAWING Instructor: Sandy Safranek
Four Wednesdays beginning January 6, 1:00 - 3:30 p.m.
Class fee: $110 Plus a $20 Materials fee
Become familiar with the Art of Drawing through guided practice exercises in contour line, still life, perspective, and portrait drawing. Graphite (pencil), black-and-white charcoal, and colored pencils as drawing mediums, along with a variety of techniques designed to develop observational and technical skills, will be explored. All supplies will be provided.

KNITTING Instructor: Beverly Gayles
Three Friday mornings starting January 8, 9:30 - 11:30 a.m.
Class fee: $80
A class for beginners to learn how to knit or intermediate students who would like to advance their skills. Beginning students will work on knitting a scarf, intermediate students can work on projects of their choice with teacher's assistance. Knitting needles and yarn will be provided to get started, students working more prolifically will need to purchase further supplies.

LAPIDARY (ROCK POLISHING)
Four Monday mornings starting January 4, 9:00 - 11:00 a.m. Instructor: Larry Rothenberg
Four Monday nights starting January 4, 6:00 - 8:00 p.m. Instructor: Aimee Leang
Four Thursday nights starting January 7, 5:00 - 7:00 p.m. Instructor: Jackie Burger.
Class fee: $115 per four-week session
Learn the art of rock polishing as you turn rough chunks of rock into beautifully polished gemstones. Create a pair of round or oval stones and then advance to more complex designs. Stones are not included but can be purchased from our instructor for projects.



LITHUANIAN STRAW ORNAMENTS Instructor: Ann Marie Jagiella
Monday, December 7, 10:00 a.m. - Noon
Class fee: $26 Plus a $10 Materials fee
Learn to construct your own ornaments from straw in geometric designs.



METALSMITHING FOR JEWELRY Instructor: Mary Michaelson
Five Tuesday nights beginning January 5, 6:30 - 8:30 p.m.
or Five Thursday mornings beginning January 7, 9:30 - 11:30 a.m.
Class fee: $140 Plus a $52 Materials fee per 5-week session
By working with silver, copper, or brass, students can create either a silver ring or pendant. Students will learn the basics of metalsmithing such as sawing, filing, sanding, and soldering to create their own original jewelry pieces. Students are welcome to bring in stones for which to create their own settings. Advanced instruction will be given to continuing/advanced students.

SEWING WORKSHOP: HOLIDAY TABLE TOPPER Instructor: Angela Gonzalez
Sunday, December 13, 10:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.
Class fee: $39 Plus a $12 Materials fee
Sew a winter-themed mat to accent your holiday table decor.
The finished project is a medium-sized hexagonal table runner.



STAINED GLASS WORKSHOP Instructor: Savannah Kristof
Sunday, December 13, 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.
Class fee: $100 Plus a $50 Materials fee
Learn the steps to create a stained glass sun catcher from start to finish using the copper foil method. Students will choose glass colors and cut their glass, then grind, foil, and solder to finish their project. There will be multiple designs from which to choose, and they will be able to take their project home by the end of class. All supplies provided. Please wear closed-toe shoes.

WATERCOLOR PAINTING Instructor: Lenox Wallace
Six Tuesday mornings starting January 5, 10:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. (Advanced Class)
Six Thursday mornings beginning January 7, 10:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. (Beginner Class)
Class fee: $160 per class
Structured lessons for beginning watercolorists with critique and guidance in composition, values, textures, negative painting, brush stroke usage, and more. Experienced painters work individually with occasional guidance and critique. Materials list can be accessed through this link: www.thecenterpalos.org/watercolors

WAX MELT WORKSHOP Instructor: Kim Taylor
Saturday, December 19, 10:00 - 11:30 a.m.
Class fee: $20 Plus a $20 Materials fee
Join this wax melt candle class for a fun experience creating your own scented soy wax melts. This class will cover the basics of wax melts, waxes, fragrances, melting, and pouring molds. Students choose from a variety of scents to customize wax melt creations, making two to four 8-pack shaped wax melts. A great holiday gift idea or a keepsake for oneself!



WINTER LANDSCAPE DRAWING WORKSHOP Instructor: Sandy Safranek
Wednesday, December 16, 10:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.
Class fee: $30 Plus a $10 Materials fee
Become familiar with both black and white charcoal as a drawing medium, while completing a drawing of a winter landscape scene. Please bring some pictures of winter scenery to work from. The instructor will also have some available for students to use.

WOODCARVING Instructor: Larry Rothenberg
Six Thursdays starting January 7, 9:00 - 11:00 a.m.
Class fee: $112
Learn and practice the tools and techniques of woodcarving in basswood. New students will gain knife-handling skills and create beautiful, simple relief, or three-dimensional projects such as a star, shoe, or bird. If you are experienced, you may design your own projects. Wood and bench knives are available for purchase in class from the instructor (approximately $25 for wood and bench knives)



WREATHMAKING Instructor: George Mitchell
Tuesday, December 1, 6:30 - 8:30 p.m.
Class fee: $26 Plus a $18 Materials fee
Let professional floral designer George Mitchell help you to create a beautiful fresh balsam fir wreath complete with pinecones and a red velvet bow, just in time for the Christmas holidays. ***Bring your own pruners***

REJUVENATE YOURSELF AT THE CENTER, YOGA, AND MORE!

Class will take place in the beautiful Forest View Room in The Lodge. Bring your own yoga mat and props.

GENTLE YOGA Instructor: Maura Therese
Three Friday mornings starting December 4, 9:30 - 10:45 a.m.
or Three Friday mornings starting January 22, 9:30 - 10:45 a.m.
Class fee: $48 per three-week session
These 75-minute hatha yoga classes are perfect for releasing tension, connecting with the breath, and helping students gain strength and flexibility.

GONG BATH Facilitator: Debbie Jacob, Vibrational Sound Therapy Certified Practitioner
Sundays, December 13 or January 10, 6:00 - 7:00 p.m. Fee: $26 per event
Spend an evening immersed in the serene sounds and vibrations of the gong, accompanied by singing crystal and Tibetan bowls. Relax on your yoga mat and allow these ancient healing sounds and vibrations to wash over and through your body to deepen your state of relaxation. Don't forget to bring your yoga mat, pillow and blanket to maximize your relaxing experience. Will take place in the Forest View Room. Advance registration required.

SLOW FLOW YOGA Instructor: Danielle Schaar
Three Thursday nights starting December 3, 6:00 - 7:15 p.m. Class fee: $48
or Four Thursday nights starting January 7, 6:00 - 7:15 p.m. Class fee: $64
This 75-minute yoga class combines Hatha Yoga and functional mobility to help students gain strength, flexibility, and ease in movement. We'll finish by settling into a restful meditation, finding peace in body and mind.

SUNDAY MORNING YOGA Instructor: Maura Therese
Two Sundays beginning December 6, 9:00 - 10:00 a.m.
or Two Sundays beginning January 24, 9:00 - 10:00 a.m. Class fee: $32
Treat yourself to a yoga class that's "Easy like Sunday Morning", a gentle session to help you ease into your Sunday. Expect mindful, breath-led movement at your own pace, and leave with that "good morning stretch" feeling. Bring your own yoga mat and yoga blocks if you have them.

TRANQUIL YOGA Instructor: Debbie Jacob
Four Monday nights starting January 4, 6:15 - 7:15 p.m. Class fee: $64
Invest in your health through gentle yoga and a sprinkling of Qigong and natural movements for simple challenges to your everyday posture transitions. Bring your own yoga mat and yoga strap.

WINTER SOLSTICE WORKSHOP: RETURN TO THE LIGHT Instructor: Carolyn Harms
Saturday, December 19, 9:30 - 11:30 a.m. Class fee: $40
A two-hour gentle yoga flow, yoga nidra, and candlelight ritual to release 2026 and call in your light for 2027.

Pre-registration is required 24 hours in advance for all Log Cabin classes and workshops. Class and materials fees are due at time of registration; we cannot reserve space without payment. No refunds or transfers of fees are available for cancellations made less than 72 hours prior to the beginning of class. Any cancellations made by students will subtract a $10 administration fee. To register you can visit our website at thecenterpalos.org You can also call 708-361-3650 or visit our main office between the hours of 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. daily.

Rustic Holiday Market & Art Show

Saturday, December 5, 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Mark your calendar for this huge art show and do your Christmas shopping here at The Center! Our art teachers and students will have a wide variety of fine art and holiday crafts for sale. The Fellowcrafters gift shop will be stocked and spread out to the Great Hall. SAGE, our sustainable agriculture program, will be selling meat and farm goods as well! And of course, we will have our popular log reindeer for sale! This event is spread throughout the Lodge and Art Center cabins.






The Center



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The Chicago Southwest Suburban Community
Parish and Community Center Foundation
12700 Southwest Highway, Palos Park, IL 60464
708-361-3650
Website: http://www.thecenterpalos.org
Email: admin@thecenterpalos.org

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Christmas Tea Around the Tree

A lovely chance to gather with friends or family in the Great Hall of the Lodge, around our beautiful twenty-foot-tall Christmas tree! We will serve you punch and a delicious tea that was grown in our garden. Guests will help themselves to a wide assortment of tea party treats. A musician plays piano throughout. All guests will have the chance to create their own holiday potpourri to take home. Holiday storytelling will conclude the event.



Christmas Teas will take place on:

Tuesday, December 8 **SOLD OUT**
(this luncheon tea is also listed within the Tuesday Luncheons and is Noon - 2:00 p.m.)
Wednesday, December 9
Thursday, December 10
Friday, December 11
Saturday, December 12

Event Time: 2:00 - 4:00 p.m.
Event Price: $48 per person

