



Tufts

UNIVERSITY CHAPLAINCY

E-NEWS 5.14.24



A Reflection from your University Chaplain

Dear Tufts community,

As we prepare to welcome graduates' families and friends from around the world and to celebrate their accomplishments and aspirations in coming days, I have been drawn once again to one of the historic stained-glass windows at Goddard Chapel (pictured above).

The artisans who designed and hand-painted the window, etching multicolored hues onto glass oak leaves, acorns, sky, and sunbeams, were not just creating a beautiful piece of art. They were telling a story. The wreath of leaves surrounding a scroll evokes the prophet Isaiah's promise and call to his community that they would one day become "oaks of righteousness." This window was designed to be a memorial to two key Tufts founders, Charles Tufts and Silvanus Packard. Today, I believe, it's an invitation to all of us who enter the chapel or gaze at it from underneath the Dawn Redwood tree outside to ourselves become "oaks of righteousness" - people who bind up the brokenhearted, who repair their communities and our world, who raise each other up.

At its heart, Commencement Weekend is about raising one another up – raising up every graduate from all of our programs and schools, raising up the faculty and staff devoted to their learning and flourishing, raising up the beloved family and friends who have supported them along the way.

The University Chaplaincy gets to play a special role in this raising up, particularly with AS&E (Arts, Sciences, and Engineering) graduating seniors, as we host our annual multifaith Baccalaureate Ceremony. This gathering reflects the contours of ceremonies through the generations with contemporary twists. A jazz processional of campus leaders and students; petitions of thanks and joy crafted by this year's seniors; a video of students reflecting on their time at

Tufts; photo montages of the Class of 2024 accompanied by a student string quartet; and multifaith blessings from our chaplains: all provide the scaffolding for two central addresses—the Wendell Phillips Award winner Saffiyah Coker, A24, and the Baccalaureate speaker, President Sunil Kumar.

In addition to Baccalaureate, the University Chaplaincy is hosting many events in the coming days. If you are a graduating student, a friend or family member of a graduate, or an alum celebrating one or sixty years since your graduation, I hope you will join us! All events at Goddard Chapel and the Interfaith Center are open to all Tufts community members and friends.

Pax et Lux,
Elyse Nelson Winger
University Chaplain

Baccalaureate Ceremony for the Class of 2024



Baccalaureate Ceremony for the Class of 2024

Saturday, May 18, 2024, 3:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m., seniors please arrive by 2:15 p.m.

We are so looking forward to hosting the Class of 2024 and their guests for the 160th Baccalaureate Ceremony. Seniors, please wear your cap and gowns! The hour will include the Wendell Phillips Address from Saffiyah Coker, A24, live music, and the Senior Video and slideshow. See below for some common questions, and you can email the [University Chaplaincy](#) with any additional questions.

What is the Baccalaureate Ceremony?

The Baccalaureate Ceremony celebrates the graduating class the day before the Commencement Ceremony. The Baccalaureate Ceremony is a unique multifaith celebration that incorporates music, speeches from President Monaco and a graduating senior, and chaplains' blessings into one celebration that has been personalized for your class. This tradition began in 1864 at Tufts.

How is the Baccalaureate Ceremony different from Commencement?

While the Commencement Ceremony is launching you fully into your post-Tufts experience, the Baccalaureate Ceremony is the last time your class will be together to connect over your shared experience as Tufts students. Baccalaureate features student voices, song, and opportunities to reflect; we invite you throughout the Ceremony to reflect on your own experience of Tufts. Commencement is also for all graduating Tufts students, including graduate and professional students, while the Baccalaureate Ceremony is just for undergraduates and their guests.

You can find more information, including an extended FAQ about the event, through the link below.

Religious and Philosophical Programs

Our regular weekly gatherings are now paused for the semester. Please follow us on Instagram for upcoming summer events and gatherings. The events and gatherings below are for graduates and their guests over Commencement Weekend. Please email the University Chaplaincy with any questions.



Senior Week and Commencement Weekend Gatherings

The University Chaplaincy and associated chaplaincies are hosting a number of events over Commencement Weekend and Reunion Weekend. You can find more information about each event by following the link below. A brief summary is included here:

Thursday, May 16

Hindu Chaplaincy Senior Lunch, 12:00 p.m. - 1:00 p.m., Goddard Chapel

Friday, May 17

Buddhist Chaplaincy Meditation and Tea, 12:00 p.m. - 1:00 p.m., Interfaith Center

Muslim Friday Prayer Service (Jumma) and Lunch, 1:00 p.m. - 2:30 p.m., Interfaith Center

Goddard Chapel Alumni and Guests Open House, 3:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m., Goddard Chapel

Hillel Open House Reception and Student-Led Services, 5:15 p.m. - 6:45 p.m., Granoff Family Hillel Center

Shabbat Dinner at Hillel, 7:00 p.m., Granoff Family Hillel Center

Saturday, May 18

Hillel Student-Led Shabbat Morning Services, 10:15 a.m. - 11:45 a.m., Granoff Family Hillel Center

Shabbat Buffet Lunch at Hillel, 12:00 p.m., Granoff Family Hillel Center

University Chaplaincy Interfaith Graduate and Family Lunch, 12:15 p.m. - 1:30 p.m., Interfaith Center

Baccalaureate Ceremony for the Class of 2024, 3:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m., Gantcher Convocation Center

Hindu Chaplaincy Open House, 4:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m., Interfaith Center

Catholic Mass for Graduates, Family, and Alumni, 5:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m., Goddard Chapel

Illumination for the Class of 2024, 10:30 p.m. - 11:15 p.m.

[See all Commencement Weekend Activities](#)



Interfaith Graduates Luncheon

12:15 p.m. to 1:30 p.m.
Saturday, May 18, 2024
Interfaith Center, 58 Winthrop St.

All graduates and families are welcome!

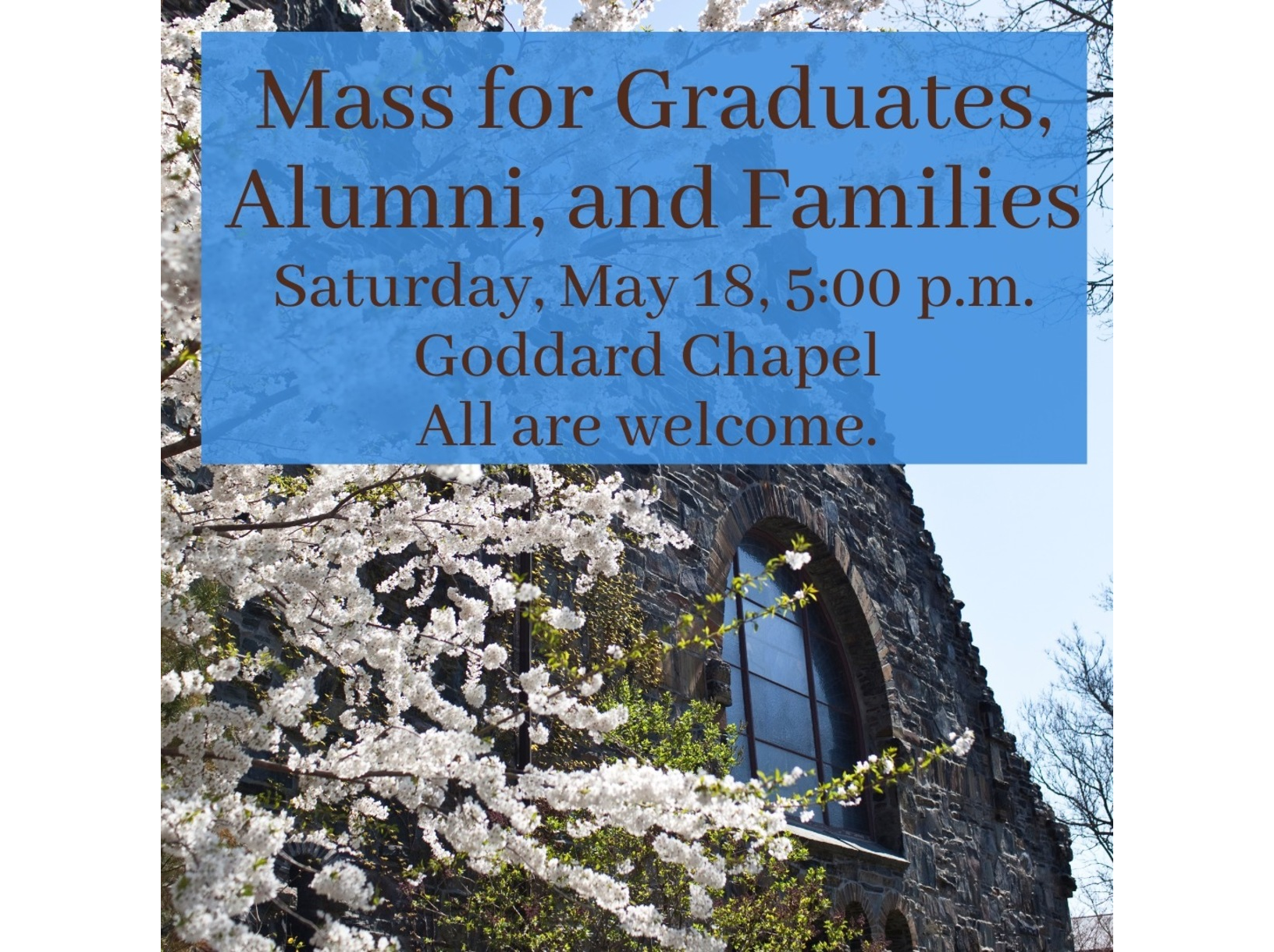
Hosted by Humanist Chaplain Anthony Cruz Pantojas
and Protestant Chaplain Dan Bell

✦ Please RSVP by Friday, May 10
through the form below

Interfaith Graduates Luncheon hosted by the Protestant Chaplaincy and the Humanist Chaplaincy
Saturday, May 18, 2024, 12:15 p.m. - 1:30 p.m.

All graduates and guests are welcome to attend the Interfaith Graduates Luncheon the Saturday before Commencement! Lunch and festivities will be provided. Please RSVP below by Friday, May 10 with the total number of guests in your party. You can contact Humanist Chaplain [Anthony Cruz Pantojas](#) or Protestant Chaplain [Dan Bell](#) with any questions.

[RSVP to the Interfaith Graduates Lunch](#)



Mass for Graduates, Alumni, and Families

Saturday, May 18, 5:00 p.m.
Goddard Chapel
All are welcome.

Catholic Mass for Graduates, Alumni, and Families

Saturday, May 18, 5:00 p.m., Goddard Chapel

All are welcome as we celebrate the last Mass of the academic year and the Feast of Pentecost! Our Alumni Choir will be singing and Fr. Angelo will be presiding. Graduates, please join us with your family and friends as we lift up your accomplishments, send you forth, and give thanks for this vibrant community that continues to bless us through the decades. Please email Catholic Chaplain [Lynn Cooper](#) with any questions.

Summer Opportunities

Frontiers of Democracy



Frontiers of Democracy Conference, hosted by Tisch College

Thursday, June 13 through Saturday, June 15

Frontiers of Democracy is an annual conference hosted by the Jonathan M. Tisch College of Civic Life at Tufts University since 2019. This year's special theme is "Violence, Nonviolence, and Robust Democracy." Please hold the dates for this summer's conference (June 13-15) and register and purchase tickets below. Cost: \$240 for a standard ticket with discounts for current students. This includes hors d'oeuvres on June 13, breakfast and lunch on June 14, and breakfast and lunch on June 15. Other meals and lodgings are not provided. Please find more information and register below.

[Find more Information about Frontiers of Democracy](#)

A promotional banner for the "Kindling the Humanist Spark" conference. The background is dark with a subtle pattern. The main text is in white and blue. On the right side, there is a QR code, a calendar icon with the date "August 2-5 2024", and a location pin icon with "Tufts University". At the bottom, there is a blue bar containing logos for Tufts University, University Chaplaincy Humanist Chaplaincy, Atheists United, American Humanist Association, and the First Unitarian Society of Minneapolis.

KINDLING THE HUMANIST SPARK: IGNITING A NETWORK OF YOUNG LEADERS

Join our emerging ecosystem to access the international humanist movement, learn from peers, and inspire collaborative initiatives for socially just and sustainable futures.

August 2-5 2024
Tufts University

Tufts University | University Chaplaincy Humanist Chaplaincy | Atheists United | AMERICAN HUMANIST ASSOCIATION | First Unitarian Society of Minneapolis

Frontiers Kindling the Humanist Spark: Igniting a Network of Young Leaders

Friday, August 2 through Monday, August 5

Students and Young Professionals are invited to the inaugural Kindling the Humanist Spark Leadership Convention, hosted by the Humanist Chaplaincy at Tufts University and Atheists United. The convention will take place at Tufts University on the Medford, Massachusetts campus. The aim of this convention is to bring together students and young professionals (aged 18-35) from across North America to cultivate a vibrant ecosystem for young humanist

leaders. At the heart of this event are mentorship, networking, and the establishment of strong relationships within the humanist community. As we envision the emergence of this ecosystem committed to work and inspire the next generation of humanist leaders. We hope you can join us in building an inclusive and empowering community where individuals can access resources, network with seasoned leaders from the humanist movement, learn from peers, and initiate collaborative initiatives for socially just and sustainable futures.

Find more information about Kindling the Humanist Spark

Upcoming Religious Celebrations and Observances

To see more upcoming religious holidays and festivals, including information about seeking religious accommodations at Tufts, please follow the link to the [Tufts Multifaith Calendar](#).

Ascension of Jesus

Thu., May 9, 2024

Tradition: Christianity-Protestant, Christianity-Roman Catholic

The celebration of Jesus' ascension into heaven and enthronement as universal sovereign. It comes 40 days after Easter. The date observed by Protestants and Roman Catholics is often different from the date observed by Orthodox Christians.

Wesak (Buddha Day)

Wed., May 15, 2024

Tradition: Buddhism

The commemoration of Buddha's birth, enlightenment, and parinirvana, celebrated on the day of the full moon of the sixth lunar month in Southeast Asian cultures; in Tibetan culture, Wesak commemorates only the the enlightenment and parinirvana. The dates of this celebration vary significantly among Buddhist cultures and communities.

Pentecost

Sun., May 19, 2024

Tradition: Christianity-Protestant, Christianity-Roman Catholic

(Or Whitsunday.) The commemoration of the coming of the Holy Spirit upon the disciples of Jesus following his ascension, Pentecost is considered the "birthday" of the Christian church (Acts 2:1-11). It comes 50 days after Easter (Pascha, Orthodox Easter). Roman Catholic and Protestant Christians often observe Pentecost on a different date from Orthodox Christians.

Support the University Chaplaincy

Supporting dynamic programs at Tufts University in religious, spiritual, ethical, and cultural life is easy and vital to our work. To donate, please click on the button below. Thank you for your generosity.

Give Today

ABOUT US

The University Chaplaincy is a dynamic hub supporting religious, spiritual, ethical, and cultural life for all members of the Tufts community. We provide spiritual care, support religious and philosophical communities, educate about spiritual and ethical issues in society and the world, and promote multifaith engagement.

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