

**DignityUSA 25<sup>th</sup> Biennial Conference:** Plan now to be part of our 25th Biennial conference, in San Diego, CA. The conference will be held at the Westin Gaslamp from 8/19/21 to 8/22/21. Preregister today! Your \$100 deposit holds your spot and guarantees you a 10% discount on the registration fee. If you'd like to be part of the conference planning committee, please email your interest area for serving as a volunteer to [info@dignityusa.org](mailto:info@dignityusa.org)

**Dignity/Boston Music:** If you enjoy the music each Sunday here at Dignity/Boston, you'll love the "Music" section of our website. Just log on to [www.dignityboston.org](http://www.dignityboston.org) Under the "Music" header, you'll find samples of our music including many of Chris C.'s song such as "There is Another Way", "Prophets to the World", "Open Our Hearts", and "One Woman's Welcome".

**Save the Date:** Our Christian Unity Sunday celebration will be on Sunday, 1/26.

**Equally Blessed:** Equally Blessed is a coalition of three Catholic organizations that have spent more than 120 years working on behalf of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, and intersex Catholics and their families. Collectively and individually, Call To Action, DignityUSA, and New Ways Ministry are devoted to informing, supporting and giving voice to the growing majority within the Catholic Church in the United States that favors equality under law for LGBTQI people. Equally Blessed seeks to educate, to inspire, and to prompt Catholics to take action in the church and in the wider culture on behalf of LGBTQI people, their families, and friends. The work, as organizations and as a collective, encompasses the pastoral, the political, and the theological.

The Bulletin is a weekly publication of Dignity/Boston. Listings are at the discretion of the Dignity/Boston Board. The chapter does not endorse nor will be responsible for any personal views expressed in these announcements. In unusual circumstances, such as when the Governor declares a State of Emergency because of bad weather, Dignity/Boston may cancel its events, including the regular Sunday liturgy. Cancellations will be posted on our website and recorded on our voicemail message at 617-421-1915. We will email the cancellation to the listserv. Dignity/Boston is a progressive and inclusive Catholic community for people of all sexual orientations, genders and gender identities, including gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender, queer, and intersex persons, our family, friends and supporters. Board meetings and Liturgy Committee meetings are open to all members of Dignity/Boston. Both groups meet monthly year-round. All meetings are announced in the bulletin, during announcements at the end of liturgy each Sunday, and at [www.dignityboston.org](http://www.dignityboston.org) To place an issue on the agenda for the next board meeting, please see Chris Lawrence, email [dignityboston@gmail.com](mailto:dignityboston@gmail.com), or call 617-421-1915. Please leave a detailed message. For bulletin submissions, send an email to Dave Houle at [houlivan@gmail.com](mailto:houlivan@gmail.com) The Bulletin deadline is every Wednesday at 9 p.m.



*gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender, queer and intersex Catholics & allies*

## December 22/24, 2019 Fourth Sunday of Advent/Christmas Eve

### First Reading

Isaiah: 7:10-14 (9:1-6 Christmas Eve)

### Second Reading

Romans: 1:1-7 (Titus 2:11-14 Xmas Eve)

### Gospel

Matthew: 1:18-24 (Luke 2:1-14 Christmas Eve)



*"Christmas is love in action. Every time we love, every time we give, it is Christmas."*

*--Dale Evans*

*a progressive and inclusive Catholic community for people of all sexual orientations, genders and gender identities, including gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender, queer, and intersex persons, our family, friends and supporters.*



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## Our Songs

**Gathering:** Christ, Circle Round Us (sheet)  
**Christmas Eve Gathering:** O Come All Ye Faithful (341)  
**Psalms:** We Long to See Your Face (34—Psalm 24)  
**Christmas Eve Psalm:** Today Our Savior is Born  
**Preparation:** Within Our Hearts Be Born (329)  
**Christmas Eve Preparation:** Nativity Carol (365)  
**Communion:** Lead Us to Your Light (sheet)  
**Christmas Eve Communion:** Night of Silence/Silent Night (342/352)  
**Sending Forth:** Walk in the Reign (319)  
**Christmas Eve Sending Forth:** Awake, Awake (346)  
*Note: Music selections may vary depending on available singers. Samples of our music can be found on the Dignity/Boston website.*

## Our Readings

With profound simplicity the evangelist invites us into the Great Mystery: “This is how the birth of Jesus came about.” Joseph wrestles with his dilemma until an unexpected sign moves him to decisive action (Gospel), in contrast to King Ahaz who wearies God and the prophet and refuses a sign with his feigned piety (Reading I). St. Paul opens his letter to the Romans by reiterating his call to boldly proclaim the Good News promised long ago and fulfilled in Christ the Savior (Reading II).

## Our Liturgy

*The glass chalices contain consecrated grape juice, for those who wish to abstain from alcohol. Gluten-free wafers are available as well.*

*Dignity/Boston continues to grow in awareness about gender diversity, and we recognize and welcome a spectrum of gender identities and expression. Unfortunately, our current hymnals do not reflect that well. As we strive to do a better job, we encourage you to change language as needed. We also encourage you to identify the pronouns you use on your name tag. During our liturgy each Sunday, we ask you to please silence your cell phone.*

**Find us on:**



## Our Announcements

**Last Week's Second Collection:** Our Second Collection last week raised \$218 for St. Stephen's Youth Programs. Our appeal is ongoing. We'll give you updated totals in a future Bulletin.

**Advent:** If you are joining us on Sunday, 12/22, it is the Fourth Sunday of Advent. Advent is a season observed in many Christian churches as a time of expectant waiting and preparation for both the celebration of the Nativity of Jesus at Christmas and the return of Jesus at the Second Coming. The term is a version of the Latin word meaning "coming". The term "Advent" is also used in Eastern Orthodoxy for the 40-day Nativity Fast, which has practices different from those in the West. Advent is the beginning of the Western liturgical year. In the Roman Rite of the Catholic Church, the Western Rite of the Orthodox Church, and in the Anglican, Lutheran, Moravian, Presbyterian, and Methodist calendars, Advent commences on the fourth Sunday before Christmas—the Sunday nearest to St. Andrew's Day (11/30). Thank you for joining us tonight for our final Advent celebration. Here at Dignity/Boston we will again be doing a music prelude at the start of our liturgy. We begin with the chime of the bell, in order to start our liturgy in a contemplative way. We will also be lighting candles on the Advent wreath as well as including a prayer.

**Officers for the 2020 Executive Board:** Our new 2020 Dignity/Boston Executive Board is Mary Beth C., April C., Mark H., Aidan H., Chris L., Bert O., and Julia S. Our outgoing board members are Mike S. and Abdel S. Thank you for your service!

**Dignity/Boston's Christmas Liturgy:** Our Dignity/Boston Christmas liturgy will be on Christmas Eve, 12/24, at 9:00 p.m. here at St. Stephen's Church. Merry Christmas!

**First Event:** This year's First Event, one of the longest running conferences in the United States for transgender, gender expansive people, and allies, will be held from Wednesday, 1/29 to Sunday, 2/2 at the Boston Park Plaza Hotel. Dignity/Boston is planning to participate in the event. We hope to have more details over the next few weeks. Thank you for your attention to this. We hope to see you at First Event!