

**About Christian Unity Sunday:** Dignity//Boston celebrates Christian Unity Sunday on Sunday, 1/26. At least once a year, Christians are reminded of Jesus' prayer for his disciples that "they may be one so that the world may believe" (see John 17.21). Hearts are touched and Christians come together to pray for their unity. Congregations and parishes all over the world exchange preachers or arrange special ecumenical celebrations and prayer services. We hope to have more information in the Bulletin as it becomes available.

**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!

**New to Dignity:** If you are new to Dignity/Boston, we invite you to make a New Year's Resolution to become a member. Membership shows your commitment to Dignity's purpose of advocating for the full inclusion of LGBTQI Catholics. It's easy to become a member too! Just go [www.dignityboston.org](http://www.dignityboston.org) and click on the "Join" header. Thank you, in advance, for your commitment.

**When is my membership up for renewing?** If you have a difficult time remembering when your membership is up for renewal, you might consider renewing as a New Year's resolution. As above, you can go to [www.dignityboston.org](http://www.dignityboston.org) and click on the "Join" header.

**Save the Date:** Ash Wednesday is 2/26. More details soon!

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 29, 2019 Feast of the Holy Family

**First Reading**  
**Sirach:** 3:2-6, 12-14

**Second Reading**  
**Colossians:** 3:12-21

**Gospel**  
**Matthew:** 2:13-15, 19-23



*"Cheers to a new year and another chance for us to get it right."*

*--Oprah Winfrey*

*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:** Carol at the Manger (369)

**Psalms:** Blest Are Those Who Love You (125—Psalm 128)

**Preparation:** As Gently as New Fallen Snow (sheet)

**Communion:** It Came Upon a Midnight Clear (367)

**Sending Forth:** Joy to the World (343)

*Note: Music selections may vary depending on available singers. Samples of our music can be found on the Dignity/Boston website.*

## Our Readings

The evangelist Matthew generously cites Old Testament prophetic passages to demonstrate that the events unfolding in the life of Jesus are the fulfillment of ancient promises and hopes. Even Joseph the “dreamer” reminds us of the Joseph who interpreted the Pharaoh’s dream. The gospel story situates Jesus and his parents as refugees, seeking safety from Herod’s savagery (Gospel). The Book of Sirach belongs to Israel’s Wisdom tradition; today’s reading is an instruction for family life (Reading I). St. Paul offers an eloquent exhortation to virtuous living applicable to communal life, including families (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

**Officers for the 2020 Executive Board:** Our new 2020 officers for the Dignity/Boston Executive Board are Mary Beth C. (president), April C. (vice-president), Mark H. (secretary), and Aidan H. (treasurer). Chris L., Bert O., and Julia S. continue to serve as additional board members. Thank you for your service!

**About Epiphany:** Next Sunday, 1/5/20, is Epiphany. Epiphany is a Christian feast day that celebrates the revelation of God incarnate as Jesus Christ. In Western Christianity, the feast commemorates principally (but not solely) the visit of the Magi to the Christ Child, and thus Jesus’ physical manifestation to the Gentiles. It is sometimes called Three Kings’ Day, and in some traditions celebrated as Little Christmas. Moreover, the feast of the Epiphany, in some denominations, also initiates the liturgical season of Epiphanytide. Eastern Christians, on the other hand, commemorate the baptism of Jesus in the Jordan River, seen as his manifestation to the world as the Son of God. The spot marked by Qasr el Yahud in the West Bank and Al-Maghtas in Jordan on the east bank is considered to be the original site of the baptism of Jesus and the ministry of John the Baptist. The traditional date for the feast is 1/6. However, since 1970, the celebration is held in some countries on the Sunday after 1/1. Those Eastern Churches which are still following the Julian calendar observe the feast on what, according to the internationally used Gregorian calendar, is 1/19 because of the currently 13-day difference between the Julian and Gregorian calendars. In many Western Christian Churches, the eve of the feast is celebrated as Twelfth Night (Epiphany Eve). The Monday after Epiphany is known as Plough Monday. Popular Epiphany customs include Epiphany singing, chalking the door, having one’s house blessed, consuming Three Kings Cake, winter swimming, as well as attending church services. It is customary for Christians in many localities to remove their Christmas decorations on Epiphany Eve (Twelfth Night), although those in other Christian countries historically remove them on Candlemas, the conclusion of Epiphanytide. According to the first tradition, those who fail to remember to remove their Christmas decorations on Epiphany Eve must leave them untouched until Candlemas, the second opportunity to remove them; failure to observe this custom is considered inauspicious.