BULLETIN – March 15, 2026

Our Liturgies

Palm Sunday

Please join us for our Dignity Boston Palm Sunday Service. This service will be on Sunday, 3/29 at 5:00 p.m. EDT. It will be an in-person Eucharistic Liturgy at St. Stephen's with live streaming. The service marks the beginning of Holy Week.

Triduum

For the first time since the pandemic, Dignity Boston will be doing the Triduum in-person this year with eucharistic liturgies at St. Stephen's and with live streaming. The Triduum begins on Thursday, 4/2 at 8:00 p.m. EDT with our Holy Thursday liturgy. The Triduum continues with our Good Friday service on Friday, 4/3 at 7:00 p.m. EDT. We conclude the Triduum with our Easter Vigil on Saturday, 4/4 at 7:30 p.m. EDT. Please note that we will not be holding an Easter Sunday service.

Liturgies for Sundays in Lent

Sunday, 3/15
In-Person
Eucharistic Liturgy
@St. Stephen's
Live Streaming via Zoom
Healing/Blessing of Oils
Fourth Sunday in Lent
5:00 p.m. EDT

Sunday, 3/22
Remote
Liturgy of the Word
Zoom Only
Fifth Sunday in Lent
5:00 p.m. EDT

Information About Liturgies During Lent

As part of our Sunday liturgies during Lent, there are a few things to note: there will be suggested text to recite the Confiteor each week, the Kyrie will be sung, and there will be a period of extended silence following the homily/shared reflection. In addition, when we are in person at church, we request no applause after the Song of Sending Forth, and that people leave the church quietly at the end to enable others to remain and pray. During Lent, there will an opportunity for healing/anointing at today's (3/15) Eucharistic Liturgy at St. Stephen's (live streaming). Within that same liturgy, we will have a blessing of oils ritual (in which the oil/balm to be used in the coming year will be blessed by the community). Please note that whenever anointing is offered, we will have an abbreviated Prayers of the Community.

Our President's Message

From the Desk of Ron, Dignity Boston President

Aloha kākou (hello and love to all)! This week on the Big Island of Hawai'i, there was a spectacular volcanic eruption 38 miles from where we are staying in my hometown of Nā'ālehu, the southernmost community in the USA. What's more, as I write this, we await a Kona storm coming from the west, which will dump over 10 inches of rain over the next few days (the equivalent of about 100 inches of snow)! Perhaps Madame Pele, the goddess of fire, lightning, wind, and volcanoes, and Lono, the primary Hawaiian god of rain, agriculture, fertility, and peace, are expressing their discontent with all that is not right in the world today. While there is much in our world to be frightened, worried, and angry about, we can find ways to counterbalance the negative energy. We can find ways to do charity. Currently, Dave Houle and I just signed up to join the Friday Night Supper Program (FNSP) team for the Walk for Hunger on the Boston Common on 5/3/2026, to raise money for Project Bread! Dignity Boston members will support the FNSP team. Consider joining the FNSP team at https://give.projectbread.org/team/805536 or making a donation to support my walk, Dave's walk, or other team members walks:

Ron: https://give.projectbread.org/fundraiser/7070088.
Dave H: https://give.projectbread.org/fundraiser/7070540

Other ways to support the Friday Night Supper Program include purchasing something at one of these links: Amazon 2026 Clothing Wishlist, Amazon Grocery Wishlist, or support Chris Connors in her campaign to support the CASAN (Chittenden Asylum Seekers Assistance Network): https://www.zeffy.com/en-US/fundraising/chris-connors

We can each do our part to "Tikkun olam" (Hebrew for "repairing the world"). What can you do?

--Mahalo (thank you), Ron

Our Socials

March Zoom Social: A Personal Event That Changed Your Life

Our next Dignity Boston Zoom Social is this Thursday night (3/19) at 7:00 p.m. EDT. Robin is host. The focus is a personal event that changed your life. We hope to see you on Zoom. Be watching for a link sent to your email.

Easter Vigil Social Hour with Special Potluck Breakfast

As we move from "darkness" to "light, we will have a special "Potluck Breakfast" planned for our Easter Vigil Social Hour following the liturgy. So far, we have such items as Danish and spinach squares on the menu. What item would you like to bring? Please be in contact with Dave H. at houlivan@gmail.com or see Dave at an upcoming in-person service. Thanks, in advance, for contributing!

Coffee Angels Needed

Dignity Boston is in need for community members to sign up to provide beverages and treats following our in-person Sunday liturgies. Sunday, 4/26 is currently in need of "angels". To find out how you can help, please see Kathy Ann or Alice or contact them via dignityboston@gmail.com

Our Meetings

Upcoming Board and Liturgy Committee Meetings

Dignity Boston Executive Board Meeting
Thursday, 4/9
7:00 p.m. EDT
To attend a board meeting as a guest, email dignityboston@gmail.com
Meeting minutes are also available per request via the above email.
All are welcome!

Dignity Boston Liturgy Committee Meeting
Sunday, 4/19
following our Remote Liturgy of the Word service
All are welcome!

Our Social Justice Work

Dignity Boston Organizes No Kings Rally

Are you planning on attending the next No Kings Rally on Saturday, 3/28? Would you like to join your fellow Dignity Boston members at the rally? There will be a group of us gathering at the corner of Park Street and Tremont Street (near the Park Street T Station) at 11:30 a.m. For more information you can contact Chris Lawrence at chrislwrnc@aol.com Click here for more information about the No Kings rally in Boston. If the Boston rally is not convenient for you there are dozens of others you can attend. Not required but feel free to mention to Chris that you're coming. You can find other locations by clicking here.

Our Parent DignityUSA

Maddie Marlett Joins DignityUSA's Board

At a recent meeting the DignityUSA Executive Board welcomed Madeline (Maddie) Marlett of our own chapter, Dignity Boston, for a term beginning 3/1/26. Madeline has served as a chair of the Young Adult Caucus for the past five years, just completed service on the Boston Chapter Board, and was part of DignityUSA's Leadership Academy 2021-2022. She has also been an educator and media spokesperson on issues impacting transgender people, and has preached for a number of our communities. DignityUSA is grateful for her "yes" to Board service.

Our Reminders

Early Pride

Just a reminder that Boston Pride for the People, the Dyke March, and the Catholic Collective All Are Welcome Mass, and the Dignity Boston Pride Liturgy will all be one week earlier this year to accommodate World Cup activities in Boston. The events run from Friday, 6/5 to Sunday, 6/7. More details on all of these Pride events as we get closer.

Our History

Did You Know?

…that Dignity Boston went through a bomb scare? It was 1983 and Dignity Boston had a Eucharistic liturgy at 5:30 p.m. every Sunday in the basement of Arlington Street Church. Then, we would have a congregation of 200+ LGBT people. That day was no different. At the beginning of liturgy the police and bomb squad came in. Our President, Michael Scally, greeted them and then interrupted the liturgy to make an announcement. The police had been called with the tip that there was a bomb on the premises. We looked at each other with consternation and fear. Michael then told us that the police were going to do a search and that anybody who wished to could leave, but that the liturgy would continue. Nobody moved. Two or three people left. The rest of this very large community stayed and actively participated in the liturgy while the bomb squad went around our space and part of the building checking for a bomb. They found nothing. There was a lot of emotion in the room and a lot of hugs, and a silent pride about having confronted our fear and stayed together as a community putting our lives in the hands of God. As more than one person said: "If I was going to die, this was the place I wanted to be and the people I would want to be with." A short time later we were visited by then Boston Police Commissioner, Mickey Roache, a practicing Catholic. He came early and talked to people and then stayed for the entire liturgy. Some swear they saw tears in his eyes a couple of times. Then he spoke with us to make sure we had the assurance that the Boston police would always be there to protect us. His visit made an impact on many. Our presence at the liturgy made an impression on him. Years later he would say he remembered that day and noted "you all sang very enthusiastically, and you all went to communion." The early 80s were not easy for most. Coming out felt like a risk. Many were afraid and not publicly out. But in that basement at Arlington Street Church, brought together by our faith, looking for solidarity and friendship, wanting to shed our fears, and perhaps even our shame, we were a resilient community claiming that we were proudly gay and Catholic, even if there might have been a bomb in our midst. *–Lourdes Rodriguez-Nogues*

Our Community

Trans Youth Summit

The Trans Youth Summit will take place on Saturday, 3/28 from 9:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at the Florida Ruffin Ridley School in Brookline. Created for trans, non-binary, and gender-expansive youth and young adults (25 and under), the Summit will feature a keynote speaker, interactive workshops, discussion groups, a resource fair, and free gender-affirming wear. The event is sponsored by BAGLY, Massachusetts Transgender Political Coalition, Greater Boston PFLAG, and OUT MetroWest. Registration information is here.

Identity Document Assistance Available

The Massachusetts Trans Political Coalition's (MTPC) Identity Document Assistance Network (IDA Network) provides guidance, support and financial assistance for trans, nonbinary, and gender expansive people living in New England who are seeking to update their legal name and/or gender on federal and state documents. Not everyone needs an attorney's assistance in this process, but it can still be very overwhelming and complicated so the IDA Network can help. MTPC does not currently provide legal representation or legal counsel, however, they will refer you to an appropriate legal resource if necessary. Upcoming in-person ID clinics are being held on 3/23 at the Trans Day of Visibility, 4/3 with PFLAG Cape Cod, and 5/7 with Safe Homes Worcester. Details are available here.

Our Collections

New Info About Second Collections

The collection basket is passed around for our Second Collections during the first Sunday that we meet in-person each month. Additional in-person liturgies will have a basket available at a specific location in the church for donations. The location of the basket will be announced at the liturgy. At our remote Liturgy of the Word, Zoom only services, the Second Collection link will be put into the chat at the beginning of the service.

Collections During the Triduum

During our Holy Thursday liturgy, there will be a collection for the Friday Night Supper Program. During our Easter Vigil liturgy, we will have our usual regular Sunday collection since there will be no Easter Sunday liturgy.

March Collection

GLAD LAW
GLBTQ Legal Advocates & Defenders

Our March Collection benefits GLBTQ Legal Advocates and Defenders (GLAD Law). Through strategic litigation, public policy advocacy, and education, GLAD Law works in New England and nationally to create a just society free of discrimination based on gender identity and expression, HIV status, and sexual orientation. To donate, please click here.

Collection Total

Thanks to your generosity our February collection raised $373 for Dignity Twin Cites to help in the aftermath of everything that's happened in Minneapolis.

A Thank You

We received a nice “thank you” from the Massachusetts Breast Cancer Coalition for our community’s recent donation. You can find the letter as an addendum to this Bulletin on p.12.

Our Reports

Monthly Treasury Reports

Our monthly treasury reports are available upon request. A summary of our finances will be published as an addendum to the Bulletin on a quarterly basis.

Our Ongoing Announcements

Zoom Socials

Our Dignity Boston community has monthly socials that bring our community together online. If you have an idea for a topic for the social and would like to lead the event, please contact Ron, Peggy B., or Robin at dignityboston@gmail.com

Subscribe to Dateline

If you are enjoying the “Our Parent DignityUSA” section of the Bulletin, you can get even more DignityUSA information by subscribing to the DignityUSA newsletter, Dateline. Click here to subscribe to Dateline.

Dignity Boston Mailing Address

Our Dignity Boston mailing address is: Dignity Boston, P.O. Box 262, Belmont, MA 02478. For questions, contact dignityboston@gmail.com .

A Blessing Offering

From time to time, Dignity Boston has blessed members of the community who are embarking on a particular mission, journey, or life transition. Some examples of this have included blessing a Dignity Boston team before a fundraising event, those making a geographical move, and those attending a Dignity conference or making an important trip on behalf of Dignity. We want the community to be aware that this type of blessing is available. If you have an upcoming significant transition, you may wish to send an email to dignityboston@gmail.com to request such a blessing at an upcoming virtual or in-person liturgy.

Inclement Weather

Dignity Boston may move in-person services to online due to inclement weather or an emergency. Please be sure sign up for our listserv at dignityboston@gmail.com so you can be notified.

DignityUSA Contact Information

Please note that DignityUSA's address is: DignityUSA, 51 Pleasant St. #1107, Malden, MA 02148. The phone number is 781-309-7686. Contact us anytime!

Donate In-Person or Via Mail

Please consider supporting Dignity Boston by contributing at our in-person liturgies or by sending donations to Dignity Boston, P.O. Box 262, Belmont, MA 02478. Please make your checks payable to "Dignity Boston". If it is for one of our Second Collections, write "Second Collection" in the memo field.

Please contact dignityboston@gmail.com if you have any items that you would like to suggest for our next Bulletin (3/30/26) by Noon on Saturday, 3/28.

Addendum

Dear Friends,

On behalf of Massachusetts Breast Cancer Coalition, I am writing to thank you for your donation in the amount of $237 on December 9, 2025. We are grateful to you for sharing our commitment to prevent the devastating disease of breast cancer. It was so kind of you to devote your monthly collection to MBCC.

With your generous gift and those of others in our caring community of supporters, MBCC will continue to meet the growing demand for our programs and resources that are available to anyone free of charge on our website, mbcc.org.

Your support will help us to continue our efforts to reach as many people as possible with our message of cancer prevention, through our "Let's Talk Prevention" program that includes brochures available in eleven languages, downloadable student modules, and science-based webinars. With our supporters' encouragement, we also work to raise awareness and closely follow key legislation aimed at reducing exposures to PFAS and other environmental contaminants and protecting public health in Massachusetts.

Our loyal donors inspire us and strengthen our dedication to our mission to create a brighter and healthier future for all.
We could not do this without you!

With deep appreciation,

Cheryl Osimo, Executive Director
cosimo@mbcc.org
508-246-3047