DIGNITY
BOSTON

www.dignityboston.org dignityboston@gmail.com

BULLETIN – June 30, 2026

With the anniversary of the Stonewall Rebellion (also known as the Stonewall Riots or Stonewall Uprising), we are reminded of those who fought hard for social justice and the civil liberties we now enjoy. Stonewall was 57 years ago, starting on 6/28/69 and concluding on 7/3/69.

Our Liturgies

Sunday Liturgies

Sunday, 7/5
Remote
Liturgy of the Word
Zoom Only
14th Sunday in Ordinary Time
5:00 p.m. EDT

Sunday, 7/12
In-Person
Eucharistic Liturgy
@St. Stephen's
Live Streaming via Zoom
15th Sunday in Ordinary Time
5:00 p.m. EDT

Our President's Message

From the Desk of Ron, Dignity Boston President

- I love these early days of summer, the longest days of the year! I hope that we can all take some time this season to rest, rejuvenate, and recommit to all the things that are important to us, including this Dignity Boston community. This is also wedding anniversary season for many. Jon and I are celebrating 22 years since our first ceremony and 21 years since our big church wedding in 2005. Congratulations to all who celebrate marriage equality.

- Listening Night: Thank you to everyone who joined us for the Listening Night on Thursday, 6/25. If you missed it and want to view the recording, please email dignityboston@gmail.com. It was a fitting opportunity for the Board and the community to share ideas. We acknowledged all who are working on our committees and ministries. We reviewed all that is going on now and what we are expecting for the rest of the year including our Zoom socials, in-person gatherings, Pride events, and social justice work. Our membership is up 24% since the beginning of the year!

- At the listening night we introduced Faith Teams, church management software that the Board and a subcommittee are in the process of

testing and evaluating to see if it is a good fit for our community. This software has many useful functions including to help keep track of member information including contact information and donations, to communicate with members via text message or email, and to provide a webpage with a calendar of events and an avenue for online donations. Check it out at https://dignityboston.faithteams.com or make an online donation at https://dignityboston.faithteams.com/give. Please note that there is a fee associated with each online donation, and the donor has the option of covering the fee. You'll hear a lot more about Faith Teams over the next few months.

- We discussed the financial state of the chapter. We are in good shape; we are financially stable. However, our fixed expenses have increased over the years. For example, our church rent is up 28% since 2020, and our storage rental fees are up 34% since 2020. At the same time, member donations are below what we projected for the year. We understand that this is a challenging time economically. We value all your contributions of time and talent, as well as treasure. We will work to find ways to increase member donations as much as possible so that we can fulfill our pledges to our Peace and Justice budget which supports DignityUSA and the Friday Night Supper Program. Marianne Duddy-Burke, executive director of DignityUSA, gave a presentation about all the ways that DignityUSA works to build an LGBTQIA+ inclusive Catholic Church. As always, email dignityboston@gmail.com with your ideas.

Our Meetings

Upcoming Board and Liturgy Committee Meetings

Dignity Boston Executive Board Meeting
Thursday, 7/9
7:00 p.m. EDT
To attend a board meeting as a guest, email dignityboston@gmail.com
Meeting minutes and treasury reports are available per request.
All are Welcome!

Dignity Boston Liturgy Committee Meeting
Sunday, 8/2
following our Remote Liturgy of the Word service
All are welcome!

Our Socials

Pizza in the Park

Please join us for a special outdoor in-person social, Pizza in the Park, on Sunday, 7/12 following our in-person Eucharistic liturgy. We'll have access to Blackstone Square Park, across the street from St. Stephen's. There are benches but you're also welcome to bring a blanket for eating on the lawn. There will be pizza, beverage, and a light dessert with lots of time and space for socializing! If our "God of Good Weather" doesn't happen to be with us that day, we have a rain date set (Sunday, 8/23). We hope you enjoy!

Show and Tell for Justice

Please join us on Thursday, 7/16 at 7:00 p.m. EDT for "Show and Tell for Justice". Share something that sustains you in your work for justice. As an example, it might be a physical keepsake from a demonstration you've attended or something related to a saint, person, or community that inspires you. Join our leaders Carl T. and Rachel E. for this very meaningful online social!

Our Location

Dignity Boston is on the Move!

No worries, we are not going far. During July and August our in-person eucharistic liturgies will move to our much cooler social hall within St. Stephen's. Liturgies in comfort are always a blessing!

Our Parent DignityUSA

Outreach 2026

DignityUSA was thrilled to participate in the Outreach 2026 conference taking place on the campus of Georgetown University from 6/19 to 6/21. DignityUSA Executive Director Marianne Duddy-Burke, Board President Meli Barber and Director of Operations Darby DeJarnette attended and were supported by three DignityUSA ambassadors and joined by members of Dignity Washington. To learn more about this, check out the DignityUSA newsletter, Dateline! If you haven't already subscribed to Dateline, you can do so here.

Conference 2027

Don't forget to pre-register for DignityUSA's Conference 2027. With a deposit of $100.00, you can secure your spot and get a discount off the registration cost. The conference will be held from Friday, 7/2 to Sunday, 7/4 the at Embassy Suites in Dublin, OH just outside of Columbus. Pre-registration is valid through 4/30/27. Full refunds will be given through 4/15/27. After that date, there will be a $50 service fee. The registration link is here.

Our History

Did You Know?

… that Dignity Boston won the "most creative living float" at Pride in 1993? Oh, yes, we did! We made an impression, and we were so proud (pun intended). You should hear Tony A. tell the story! Then Dignity Boston President, Will M. wanted to create a more "festive banner." He recruited Tony. Together they designed and made a huge banner that said "Praise God with Pride". The banner was colorful and very visible from afar. Dignity Boston members Chris L. and Philip W. add "it was very hard to carry in the wind, but awesome!" The best part is that Will M. and Tony A. also made maypoles! Every time there was a stop we would run around with the streamers on the maypoles and make a lot of noise. Dignity Boston became known for the maypoles and every time we stopped, people on the sidewalks called "Maypoles" and we would run around once again. It was a lot of fun, and it made us very popular. That banner did not say "Catholic" anywhere so, in 1997, Tony added the horizontal banner that we still use today. Many in our chapter have proudly carried that banner at the Pride March for almost 30 years now. Our late Dignity Boston member Bill Gilligan always felt it was an honor to be a carrier of that flag. A lot of our members around today remember the 1990's as the year when they first marched with Dignity. The words "awesome" and "powerful" and "intense" and "amazing" are often heard as many tell their story: David H, Jane P., Tom W., Chris L., and David R. all used similar words to describe their experience. Jon S says: "It was empowering. I felt that it was for me the right thing to be doing. It was real and I belonged right there in that place, at that moment." Things had gotten easier by then, but not completely, some were still afraid, and rightfully so. Mike S. remembers that the protesters made him uncomfortable. David R. was "afraid that my face would be on the news. I

was not ready for that." David H. was afraid that his mother would see him on TV since he was not out to his family. We had gained some ground by then but there were risks and there were fears that we were still holding on to. As we got closer to some legal wins, the Pride March started to become more of a celebration and party. "We fought hard, moving forward with strong resolve and faith," says Barbara G. Carl T. reminds us that he had just heard about Dignity Boston at the Dyke March in 2025. This year, Carl says, "I participated and I worked the information table. I feel like I went full circle," big smile. So many experiences, so many stories, so many memories! And we are not done!

Our Collections

June Collection

Our June collection benefits Strides for Action. This is Fenway Health's annual peer-to-peer fundraising event, bringing together community members to raise critical funds for health equity, advocacy, and essential care. Building on the legacy of the AIDS Walk Boston, which for decades mobilized thousands in the fight against HIV/AIDS, Strides for Action continues this tradition of activism while expanding its focus to address broader public health challenges, including LGBTQIA+ health, racial justice, and access to affirming care. To donate, please click here.

July Collection

Our July Collection benefits the Mass Coalition for Suicide Prevention (MCSP). MCSP is a broad-based inclusive alliance to prevent suicide. To donate, please click here. 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 labeled and available at the back of the church during church and moved to the Information Table during the post-liturgy social hour for Second Collection donations. At our remote Liturgy of the Word, the Second Collection link will be put into the chat at the start of service.

Our Ongoing Announcements

Monthly Social: Ideas and Hosting Needed

Monthly socials bring our community together online. Have an idea for a topic or a social? Perhaps you'd like to lead an event. If so, contact Ron, Peggy B., or Robin at dignityboston@gmail.com.

Donate In-Person or Via Mail

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, please write "Second Collection" in the memo field.

Contact Us!

Our Dignity Boston mailing address is: Dignity Boston, P.O. Box 262, Belmont, MA 02478. For questions, contact dignityboston@gmail.com . Please note that DignityUSA's address is: DignityUSA, 51 Pleasant St. #1107, Malden, MA 02148. The phone number is 781-309-7686.

Check Out Our Information Table

We have lots of information vehicles including but not limited to Dateline (the DignityUSA newsletter), emails through our listserv, the semi-monthly Bulletin, and our Information Table in our social hall at St. Stephen's where you'll find printed copies of our latest Bulletin as well as other materials. Check it out when you visit Dignity Boston in person next time around.

Please contact dignityboston@gmail.com if you have any items that you would like to suggest for our next Bulletin (7/15/26) by Noon on Monday, 7/13/26.