

Ash Wednesday: We ask that you please consider joining us on Sunday, 2/26 at 7:00 p.m. as we join with the St. Stephen's community for our Ash Wednesday Service. Dignity/Boston will have a member of our community read the First Reading. The Responsorial Psalm will also be offered by Dignity/Boston. All are welcome to attend this service!

DignityUSA Strategic Priorities Announced: DignityUSA is proud to announce the strategic priorities that will be the focus of our time, talent, and treasure as we move into a new year and decade. These priorities were developed by the Board of Directors and represent the key learnings of the Jubilee local community conversations and the key outputs of the visioning session conducted during the 2019 50th anniversary conference in Chicago.

DignityUSA Strategic Priorities: The DignityUSA Strategic Priorities are (1) amplifying our prophetic voice and embracing global justice advocacy (speaking truth to power and nurturing new leaders). (2) connecting in new ways across our communities, members, allies, and broader audiences (working from the model of radical hospitality, investing in digital infrastructure and expertise, and broadening channels/social media to reach new audiences). (3) ensuring our future vitality and optimizing our available human resources (ensuring financial sustainability, maximizing the value of staff, and ensuring the required talent and leadership needed to take us into the future). (4) nourishing all LGBTQ/ally life experience, gender expressions, and identities with educational resources (making our collective wisdom accessible and building catechetical and theological content).

Lent Begins: Lent begins on Wednesday, 2/26.

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. To place an issue on the agenda for the next board meeting, please see Mary Beth Cummings, email 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. The Bulletin deadline is every Wednesday at 9 p.m.



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

February 2, 2020 Feast of the Presentation of the Lord

First Reading
Malachi: 3:1-4

Second Reading
Hebrews: 2:14-18

Gospel
Luke: 2:22-40



"The groundhog is like most other prophets. It delivers its prediction and then disappears."

--Bill Vaughn

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Dignity/Boston
PO Box 170428
Boston, MA 02117
617-421-1915
dignityboston@gmail.com
www.dignityboston.org; www.dignityusa.org

Our Songs

Gathering: Bless the Feast (752)

Psalm: We Long to See Your Face (34—Psalm 24, refrain 2)

Preparation: Diverse in Culture, Nation, Race (739)

Communion: I Myself Am the Bread of Life (824)

Sending Forth: The People of God (653)

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

Our Readings

The Feast of the Presentation is one of two Christmas feasts outside the Christmas cycle (the other being the Feast of the Annunciation, March 25 th). In keeping with the prescriptions of Jewish law, Mary and Joseph travel to Jerusalem for the consecration of their child Jesus. The infant captures the attention of the devout temple elders Simeon and Anna, who see messianic promise in the infant (Gospel). During a period of profound disillusionment, the prophet Malachi promises a messenger who will prepare the way for God to rest again in the temple (First reading). The Letter to the Hebrews, intended for a community of believers under persecution, reminds them of the solidarity they have in and with Christ (Second reading).

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

About the Feast of the Presentation: Today is the Feast of the Presentation of the Lord. The Presentation of Jesus at (or in) the Temple is an early episode in the life of Jesus, describing his presentation at the Temple in Jerusalem in order to officially induct him into Judaism, that is celebrated by many Christian Churches on the holiday of Candlemas. It is described in the chapter 2 of the Gospel of Luke in the New Testament of the Christian Bible. Within the account, "Luke's narration of the Presentation in the Temple combines the purification rite with the Jewish ceremony of the redemption of the firstborn (Luke 2:23–24)." In the Eastern Orthodox Church, the Presentation of Jesus at the temple is celebrated as one of the twelve Great Feasts, and is sometimes called Hypapante (Ἵπαπαντή, = "Meeting" in Greek). In Western Christianity, the additional name for the Service the day, Candlemas, is added. This Feast-day is also known as the Feast of the Purification of the Virgin or the Meeting of the Lord. In some liturgical churches, Vespers (or Compline) on the Feast of the Presentation marks the end of the Epiphany season. In the Church of England, the Mother Church of the Anglican Communion, the Presentation of Christ in the Temple is a Principal Feast celebrated either on February 2nd or on the Sunday between January 28th and February 3rd. In the Catholic Church, especially since the time of Pope Gelasius I (492-496) who in the fifth century contributed to its expansion, the Presentation is celebrated on February 2nd and is the fourth Joyful Mystery of the Rosary. In the Latin Rite of the Catholic Church, the Anglican Communion, and the Lutheran Church, the episode was also reflected in the once-prevalent custom of churching new mothers forty days after the birth of a child.

Second Collection: Last week's Second Collection raised \$384 for the Leadership Conference of Women Religious. Thank you for your generosity.

Aging with Dignity: Last April Dignity/Boston met for a community conversation on aging in collaboration with the DignityUSA Aging with Dignity Caucus. Please join us for part II of our conversation on Sunday, 2/16 following liturgy. We'll review our first discussion (part I) and set our sights on "next steps". Dinner will be provided. For information see Jon S.