

**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. We wish all a very Merry Christmas and holiday season.

**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!

**Cancellation of Dignity/Boston Liturgy and Events:** Sometimes we miss the small print. We just wanted to call your attention to the small print at the bottom of this page which states the Dignity/Boston policy in connection with "bad weather" cancellation of events and liturgies.

**Bulletin Information:** Your Bulletin is only as good and as accurate as the information received by the Bulletin editor. If you know something happening in the community, please contact the Bulletin editor at [houlivan@gmail.com](mailto:houlivan@gmail.com). The information will also be shared on the website.

**Across the Country:** DignityUSA has chapters all across the country. If you're escaping on vacation and going somewhere warm this winter, please feel free to ask a member of the Executive Board if there will be a Dignity chapter near you. Chances are, there just may be!

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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*

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## December 15, 2019 Third Sunday of Advent

**First Reading**  
Isaiah: 35:1-6, 10

**Second Reading**  
James: 5:7-10

**Gospel**  
Matthew: 11:2-11



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*"Mark the season of Advent by loving and serving the others with God's own love and concern."*

*--Mother Teresa*

*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.*



Dignity/Boston  
PO Box 170428  
Boston, MA 02117  
617-421-1915  
[dignityboston@gmail.com](mailto:dignityboston@gmail.com)  
[www.dignityboston.org](http://www.dignityboston.org); [www.dignityusa.org](http://www.dignityusa.org)

## Our Songs

**Gathering:** O Come, Divine Messiah (333)

**Psalm:** Love, Come and Save Us (140—Psalm 146)

**Anointing:** Your Mercy Like Rain (330)

**Preparation:** God of All People (331)

**Communion:** My Soul in Stillness Waits (328)

**Sending Forth:** Canticle of the Turning (556)

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

## Our Readings

The dry desert bursts forth with life, as the jubilant prophet speaks hope to those broken by the hardships of life, those whose hearts are fearful and who have suffered exile in a foreign land (Reading I). There is an echo in Jesus' reassurance to the imprisoned John: the blind, the crippled, the deaf, those with leprosy, and the poor are healed and made whole, clear signs that the Messiah has appeared (Gospel). Worry over when the Messiah would return compels the author of James to encourage patience, hope, and a steady heart (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

**Bambinelli Sunday:** Thank you for joining us tonight for our Advent celebration. We appreciate your following our online request to bring in your Christ Child figurine for blessing as we celebrate "Bambinelli Sunday". We will again be doing a music prelude at the start of each of our Advent liturgies. We begin with the chime of the bell, in order to start our liturgy in a contemplative way. Candles will also be lit on our Advent Wreath and accompanied by prayer.

**Announcement of the 2020 Dignity/Boston Executive Board:** We welcome Mark Huntington to our 2020 Dignity/Boston Executive Board. Continuing service are Chris Lawrence, Aidan Hennigan, Bert Ouellette, Julia Spiegelman, Mary Beth Cummings, and April Cummings. We thank Abdel Sepulveda and Michael Sullivan for their past leadership!

**Second Collection:** There will be a Second Collection this evening for St. Stephen's Youth Programs (details under "St. Stephen's Appeal" below). If you're writing a check, please make it payable to Dignity/Boston. Dignity will then write one larger check for the organization. Thank you for your generosity.

**Liturgy Committee Meeting:** The next meeting of our Dignity/Boston Liturgy Committee is tonight (12/15) following our liturgy here at St. Stephen's. All are welcome to attend.

**St. Stephen's Appeal:** We are grateful for our space here at St. Stephen's church and collaborate and assist with St. Stephen's as we can. Hope that you received an envelope in the mail for our St. Stephen's Appeal, one way of helping. This year the appeal focuses on the St. Stephen's Youth Programs. The mission of the programs is to promote equity in education, employment, and opportunity through long-term relationships with youth and their families and communities. St. Stephen's Youth Programs (SSYP) began in 1999 as the church's effort to provide neighborhood elementary students with a safe place to go when school is not in session. Today, this successful, cost effective, out-of-school time programming serves 850 young people in grades K-12+. We appreciate your generosity for this special program to help youth.