



# DIGNITY/WASHINGTON

A Community of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Catholics, Our Families, and Friends

April 29, 2021

Dear Dignity/Washington Community, Our Family, and Our Friends,

With great joy and excitement, I would like to welcome you to our first in-person worship in over a year! **Please consider joining us to celebrate Pentecost Sunday on May 23, 2021, at 6:00 pm at St. Margaret's Episcopal Church.**

Our community is fortunate to have the opportunity to worship in-person in our spiritual home. We are thrilled to gather in a risk-aware and responsible manner.

As with many other rituals in our daily lives, Mass will necessarily look different than it has in the past. We are introducing a set of guidelines and expectations to follow for the foreseeable future to ensure that the risks of in-person gatherings are mitigated to keep our community safe. These guidelines are based on the current Centers for Disease Control and Prevention guidance and take into account the regathering plans of other local churches, the evolving data, and best practices. We thank you in advance for your understanding and adherence to these guidelines for the safety of our entire community.

Additionally, accompanying this letter, under separate cover, you will find a *"Regathering Plan"* that was submitted and approved by Reverend Mariann Edgar Budde, Episcopal Bishop of Washington, and their *"Covenant for Regathering in Worship."* The Regathering Plan provides specific details on how Dignity/Washington will conduct itself at St. Margaret's while the covenant signifies your commitment to our safety protocols for in-person worship. We ask you to prayerfully consider the elements therein; acceptance of the covenant is a requirement of the Episcopal Diocese of Washington for all those who wish to join us at St. Margaret's and your signature is required.

Everyone will be required to register in advance through our **EventBrite** link, where you will be asked to acknowledge that you have read and understood this plan and digitally accept the covenant.

Conducting in-person worship is a huge step for our community, and for many, it will be a welcome chance to gather for the sacrament of the Eucharist. The plan below carefully adheres to the latest guidance to safeguard our community. However, no activity is without risk. **We ask each member to seriously consider the level of personal risk they are willing to undertake to attend a Dignity/Washington event**, taking into consideration transit to and from Mass, or any potential risk to household members you may be in contact with afterward.

Online worship will continue to be available as an equally blessed way to participate. We are committed to providing weekly online Masses to be joined from home. In any weeks we gather in-person, such as this Pentecost Mass, the Mass will be live-streamed via the Dignity/Washington Facebook page. I extend continued thanks and appreciation to the team that comes together each week to produce our online Masses until we can be together in person safely every week.

Currently, we are only scheduling an in-person Mass for Pentecost Sunday, though it is Dignity/Washington's hope that our community remains spiritually fulfilled and consistently connected to the God that loves us so dearly. Whichever mode of worship that you choose, we are grateful for your presence in our lives.

Yours in Christ,

Christopher Flow  
President

Attachments