

Christmas Message For Dignity 2023

The Four Candles burned slowly. Their Ambiance was so soft you could hear them speak...

The First Candle said, "I Am Peace, but these days, nobody wants to keep me lit." Then Peace's flame slowly diminishes and goes out completely.

The Second Candle said, "I am Faith, but these days, I am no longer indispensable." Then Faith's flame slowly diminishes and goes out completely.

Sadly, The Third Candle Speaks, "I Am Love and I haven't the strength to stay lit any longer. People put me aside and don't understand my importance. They even forget to love those who are nearest to them." Waiting no longer, Love goes out completely.

Suddenly...A child enters the room and sees the three candles no longer burning. The child begins to cry, "Why are you not burning? You are supposed to stay lit until the end!"

Then The Fourth Candle speaks gently to the little child, "Don't be afraid, for I Am Hope, and while I still burn, we can re-light the other candles."

With shining eyes the child took the Candle of Hope and lit the other three candles.

Never let the Flame of Hope go out of your life. With Hope, no matter how bad things look and are...Peace, Faith and Love can Shine Brightly in our lives.

In a world where love, faith, and peace can easily burn out...hope must stand strong for us all. Please be honest about what you think...you'll feel better in the long run.

Written February 15, 2004 ©

In the Christmas carol "O Little Town of Bethlehem" a verse proclaims "the fears of all the years have met in thee tonight". That looks and sounds like a very somber picture and even a peek at what's happening in the world today convinces so many of us that from Ukraine to Gaza and Israel, the whole world (our individual hearts included) is like that "little town of Bethlehem", overwhelmed by fears.

As we prepare to celebrate Christmas this year perhaps more words from that same carol can instill some glimmer of light and consolation to our hearts: "Yet in thy dark streets shineth **The Everlasting Light**". As we contemplate the Advent Wreath the candles of Peace, Faith and Love are extinguished. We can look upon the first one lit as the candle of HOPE that will rekindle the other three to bring light to the surrounding darkness as this year we wend our way to Bethlehem, the House of Bread.

We might ask ourselves: "How and for whom might I be a candle of hope or a slice of bread in this Advent/Christmas tide. In the Letter to the Galatians, Paul reminds us: "as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ". With Christ we shine as that "everlasting light", that "bread of Life", to bring Joy to the World seeped in so much grief and sadness, hungering for peace, faith, and love.

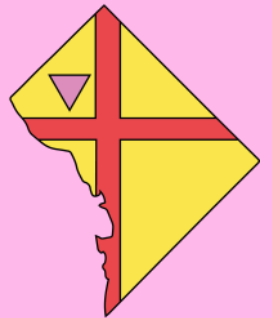
"Good tidings we bring to you and your kin" and all the world – we wish you a Blessed Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Fr. Alexei



The Bulletin

Catholic Mass is celebrated *every* Sunday at 6 pm
St. Margaret's Episcopal Church
1820 Connecticut Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20009
www.DignityWashington.org
(202) 546-2235



Our Mission

Dignity Washington (DW) is a community of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Catholics and other Christians, our families and friends. We provide a healing outreach to Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Catholics and other people by affirmation that they are beloved Children of God. We gather together to establish a nurturing community of worship, blessing, celebration, ministry, spiritual development, education, and fellowship. We are a prophetic witness to the Church, to the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender community and to society.

Pastoral Care

Our Pastoral Care Committee assists in ministering to the needs of our community. If you have a pastoral care need, please call the information line. A member of our Pastoral Care Committee will respond to you. If you are in need of the sacraments of Reconciliation or Anointing, please see one of our priests or sacristans before or after Mass. Dignity Washington is here to help couples discerning a Holy Union or Marriage. Please contact Jake Hudson at jakeghudson@gmail.com for more information.

The Dignity Center

The Dignity Center is conveniently located at 1601 18th, NW, Suite 1, Washington DC 20009-2505. It is within a short walking distance from Connecticut Avenue and Q Street, NW and the Dupont Circle Q Street Metro exit.

Our mailing address is: Dignity Center, 1601 18th Street, NW, Suite 1, Washington DC 20009-2505




All Are Welcome

We are an inclusive community of faith, and we invite you to use whatever reverent term for God you are most comfortable with during our Liturgy. We also welcome all who share in our belief in the sacramental nature of the Eucharist to receive the Holy Communion in the hand, to observe COVID-19 best practices.

As we gather, please help us keep a sacred space for prayer and reflection by keeping a quiet atmosphere in the church. Remember to silence all cell phones, pagers, and electronic devices.

Liturgical Ministries		
12/17/23	MINISTRY	12/23/23
Daniel Barutta	Sacristan	Rory Hytrek
Rory Hytrek	Acolyte	Jake Hudson
Jake Hudson	Lector (1)	Mike O'Donnell
Mike O'Donnell	Lector (2)	Bob Schmid
Bob Schmid	Bread	Tom Bower
Tom Bower	Wine	Allen Rose
Allen Rose	Grape Juice	Daniel Barutta
Myles Gallagher	Bread Baker	Myles Gallagher
Myles Gallagher	Greeter/Social	

Donate to Dignity Washington



We encourage you to make regular financial donations as you are able to support our in-person and online liturgical services and activities. Donate at Mass or by either sending a check payable to: Dignity Washington, **1601 18th Street, NW, Suite 1, Washington DC 20009-2505. OR**, go through the PayPal link found on our website. [Click here to set-up a recurring or one-time donation.](#)

Upcoming Dates to Remember

12/17/23	Third Sunday of Advent
12/23/23	Fourth Sunday of Advent (Saturday night)
12/25/23	Christmas Day
12/31/23	Feast of the Holy Family
12/31/23	New Years Eve
01/01/24	Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God - Please note: This is not a Holy Day of Obligation
01/07/24	Epiphany of the Lord

Weekly Community Calendar

Sunday, December 17	Third Sunday of Advent
6:00 pm	Mass and Social at St. Margaret's Church
Monday, December 18	
Tuesday, December 19	
Wednesday, December 20	
Thursday, December 21	
Noon	Pray the Rosary
7:30 pm	Book Club meeting via Zoom
Friday, December 22	
Saturday, December 23	Fourth Sunday of Advent
6:00 pm	Mass and Social at St. Margaret's Church
6:30 pm	D/NoVa Mass and Social at ICOH
Sunday, December 24	No Mass at St. Margaret's
6:30 pm	D/NoVa Mass and Social at ICOH
Monday, December 25	Christmas Day
6:00 pm	Christmas Day Mass at St. Margaret's Church

Stewardship

	Budget Goal (monthly)	Actual (October)
All Income	\$10,000	\$11,000
of which is Sunday Collections	\$3,500	\$2,600
	Budget Goal (FY2024)	Actual (FY2024)
All Income	\$10,000	\$11,000
of which is Sunday Collections	\$3,500	\$2,600

If you participate in the Combined Federal Campaign (CFC), please consider contributing to Dignity Washington. Our designation number is **46786**.

Donations to Dignity Washington are tax deductible. If you would like a year-end receipt for your cash donations, please use the offering envelopes provided in the back of the church.

December Celebrations

5 Ray Resendez	16 Brian Hinman
6 Bob Comiskey	18 Mark McKay
6 Thomas Yates	22 Bill Horton
7 Anthony Gryzmala	23 Glenn Slocum
8 Kevin Hennessy	27 Thomas McMahon
14 Nancy Comiskey	27 Larry Ranly
15 Elizabeth Wills	

Jake Hudson & Greig Stewart 12/1
Frank Reiner & Ray Resendez 12/13



Praying the Rosary

It was said that **through prayer, our faith comes alive.** A group of the faithful comes together via Zoom each **Thursday at 12 pm** to pray the Rosary. We pray for community members and loftier goals. Please join us, too.

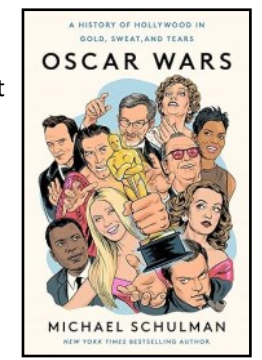
Zoom Link:
[Click here](#)



Book Club

The Book Club meets Thursday nights, at 7:30 pm via Zoom to discuss the book **"Oscar Wars: A History of Hollywood in Gold, Sweat, and Tears"** by Michael Schulman.

Contact Tom Yates for information and access to the Zoom meeting at tyates02.ty@gmail.com.



Committee on Aging

Dignity Washington's Committee on Aging offers a variety of services to our brothers and sisters who are aging or ill and in need of some type of special assistance. We depend on our fellow members to keep us informed. If you know of an individual who could use some special assistance and attention because of illness or aging, whether on a short- or long-term basis, please contact one of the members of the Committee on Aging:


Jim Sweeney (202) 320-6077 Jim@TheSweeneyTeam.com
Curt Thorstensen (847) 644-1679 curtthorstensen@gmail.com
David Lamdin (703) 243-2350 dalamdin@gmail.com
James Bedore (202) 667-3962 James9999@Verizon.net
Len Latham (202) 554-0531 leonardlatham100@gmail.com

A Christmas Day Gathering

On **Christmas Day**, Dignity Washington's Jim Sweeney and Jason Carson Wilson, will host an open house from **12 noon on into the evening**. All Dignity members are invited, and your friends are welcomed, too. Come over whenever is good for you and an RSVP is requested but not required. They live a short walk from the **Van Ness Metro Station** on the Red Line. They sincerely hope to see you on **Christmas Day**.

3003 Van Ness Street, NW #W1116
Washington, DC 20008
T: (202) 320-6077
E: Jim@TheSweeneyTeam.com

The Secret Santa Campaign 2023




The less fortunate and some homeless children from [Maury Elementary School](#) in NE Washington will have an opportunity to celebrate Christmas because of the generosity of Dignity Washington community members. This year's campaign raised \$2,100 from donations from about 35 people and \$500 from the Board of Director which is the largest amount we collected to date. You should be proud of the support we are providing to these children. Thank you very much for your generosity. We truly honored the work begun by Tom and Carl some 30 years ago.

Fourth Sunday of Advent: A DW Twist

As announced during Mass on Sunday, Dignity Washington will celebrate the **Fourth Sunday of Advent** on **Saturday, December 23, at 6 pm**. The congregation of St. Margaret's will host their **Christmas Eve** service on Sunday, December 24, which is why we will celebrate our Mass on Saturday night. Remember, plan to attend Mass on **Saturday, December 23, at 6 pm**.



Christmas Eve at Dignity Northern Virginia



Dignity Northern Virginia is celebrating Mass at **6:30 pm** on **Sunday, December 24, Christmas Eve** held at **Immanuel Church-on-the-Hill** located at **3606 Seminary Rd, Alexandria, VA 22304**. Following Mass, they will host a **potluck dessert social** in the church hall. All are welcome to attend and they will appreciate a preliminary count for the social. Contact David Lamdin to RSVP at dalamdin@gmail.com.