

FROM: The Cathedral of St. John the Divine

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COVERAGE INVITED

**THE CATHEDRAL OF ST. JOHN THE DIVINE
TO CELEBRATE NEW YORK'S ANIMAL KINGDOM ON SAINT FRANCIS DAY
WITH SERVICE AND OUTDOOR FAIR
ON SUNDAY, OCTOBER 2nd**



The service will return to the inside of the Cathedral for the first time since before the pandemic, followed by an outdoor fair with pet blessings, musical performances and outdoor activities.

A longtime New York City tradition, The Cathedral of St. John the Divine celebrates the Feast of St. Francis with an in-person service and outdoor festival to honor the animals of the city and the world **on Sunday, October 2nd from 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at the Cathedral of St. John the Divine, located at 1047 Amsterdam Avenue (at 112th Street) in Manhattan.**

The Cathedral's Feast of St. Francis pays tribute to Saint Francis, the patron saint of animals and the environment. This year, the celebration will return to the Nave of the Cathedral after two years of virtual and physically-distanced services due to the COVID-19 pandemic. While this year's service will not include a procession of animals, community members are invited to bring pets of all sizes to the service.

Following the service, the Cathedral will host an afternoon of celebration for all creatures and the natural world. Pet owners are invited to bring their furry, feathered, or scaly companions for a blessing by Cathedral clergy, and families can enjoy outdoor activities on the Cathedral's Pulpit Green. The Mettawee River Theater Company, led by master puppeteer Ralph Lee, will perform joyous music in magical animal costumes. Visitors will have an opportunity to learn about neighborhood organizations and environmental programs as well as the Cathedral's ecological initiatives, including the care of its resident honeybees and wildlife.

For animal lovers who wish to enjoy St. Francis Day, more information can be found on stjohndivine.org.

Passes are needed to participate in the St. Francis Day festivities this year. Please note, there is a limit of four passes per person. To ensure the safety of all participants, and in line with the Cathedral's COVID-19 guidelines, all attendees are required to wear a mask on the Cathedral grounds.

EVENT: St. Francis Day Service and Fair

DATE: Sunday, October 2, 2022

TIME: St. Francis Day Service: 10:30 AM – 11:30 AM
Outdoor Fair with Pet Blessings: 11:30 AM – 2:30 PM

PLACE: The Cathedral of St. John the Divine
1047 Amsterdam Avenue (at 112th Street), Manhattan

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