



The Cathedral  
Church of **Saint John**  
**the Divine**

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**RELEASE**

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**THE CATHEDRAL OF ST. JOHN THE DIVINE  
CELEBRATES LGBTQ+ COMMUNITY  
WITH *ICONIC PRIDE***



*Cathedral kicks off Pride season with art and celebration on May 31*

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**New York (XXX)** – The Cathedral of St. John the Divine honors NYC and worldwide LGBTQ+ community throughout the summer with a series of events for *Iconic Pride*, beginning with Pride Eve on **Wednesday, May 31 from 6 - 8 PM, at the Cathedral of St. John the Divine, 1047 Amsterdam Avenue (at 112<sup>th</sup> St.).**

The Cathedral has long celebrated and supported LGBTQ+ people, with a legacy of Pride events stretching back several decades. For 2023, over a month of events, programs, and gatherings are planned, beginning on May 31 and extending through the beginning of July.



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Pride Eve, on May 31, kicks off Pride Month with an evening featuring the opening of a season-long art installation by Gabriel Garcia Roman. The artist's *Queer Icons* depict contemporary people from across the LGBTQ+ spectrum, using the symbolism of religious iconography to emphasize the dignity and divinity inherent in each individual. Throughout the evening, attendees will be invited to create their own icons, drawing upon their own experiences and identities. The celebratory evening will conclude with the rainbow illumination of the Cathedral's magnificent columns, lighting up the night in the colors of the LGBTQ+ flag.

The celebration continues on Saturday, June 3 with the Cathedral's Pride Family Day. Kids and people of all ages are invited to enjoy a festive day on the Cathedral's verdant grounds, taking part in an ice cream social and engaging in art activities inspired by the *Queer Icons* on view in the Cathedral. Music will be provided by the Queer Big Apple Corps, an LGBTQ+ marching band, leading a joyous and inclusive procession into the Cathedral.

On June 5, the Cathedral convenes a panel of faith leaders to discuss the intersections of religion and LGBTQ+ life. The ecumenical panel includes The Rev. Dr. Charlie Bell, The Rev. James Martin, SJ, The Rev. Dr. Patrick Cheng, and The Rev. Dr. Mary Barber. The Very Rev. Patrick Malloy, Dean of the Cathedral, will lead and moderate the discussion, centering the spiritual lives of LGBTQ+ communities within The Episcopal Church and other Christian denominations.

Music is at the heart of life at the Cathedral, including during Pride season. On June 18, a community choir, made up of singers from around New York, will join the Cathedral Choir for a 4 pm Pride Evensong service. Members of the community and allies are all welcome to be part of this joyous choral gathering. The Evensong service will feature music of Ethel Smyth, Daniel Ficarri, Craig Phillips, David Hurd and Kristina Rizzotto, in addition to hymns from "Songs for the Holy Other," a collection by The Hymn Society of hymns affirming the LGBTQ+ community. The Queer Horn Collective, a newly-formed group of LGBTQ+ NYC instrumentalists, will perform a prelude at the beginning of the service.

The Cathedral's Pride celebration concludes on July 1 with a special day honoring St. Pauli Murray. Pauli Murray, who blazed a bright path as a proudly gender nonconforming lesbian and an activist for the rights of African Americans, women, LGBTQ+ people, and all oppressed people, was the first Black woman ordained a priest in The Episcopal Church, and is now regarded as a saint, with her feast day falling on July 1. The Cathedral will screen "My Name is Pauli Murray," a documentary about the saint's life and legacy, as the closing gathering for Pride 2023.

Throughout the season, all, whether members of the LGBTQ+ community or allies, are warmly welcomed to take part in services and events within the Cathedral's sacred



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embrace. The Cathedral's Pride events are generously supported in part by the Friends of the Cathedral, formerly known as the Laymen's Club.

For more info on all of the Iconic Pride gatherings, visit [stjohndivine.org/iconic-pride](http://stjohndivine.org/iconic-pride).

**About The Cathedral**

Over one hundred years ago, the trustees of the Cathedral Church of Saint John the Divine conceived its mission to be a house of prayer for all people, an instrument of church unity, and a center of intellectual light and leading in the spirit of Jesus Christ.

Today, as the mother church of the Episcopal Diocese of New York and the seat of its bishop, the Cathedral Church of Saint John the Divine serves the many diverse people of our diocese, city, nation and world through the worship of God; pastoral, educational and community outreach activities; cultural and civic events; international ecumenical initiatives; and the preservation of the great architectural and historic site that is its legacy.

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