

Spring 2018 at the Cathedral

Celebrating José V. Torres, ACT Superstar

This Spring, José V. Torres will retire after almost 45 years of work at the Cathedral, over 30 of which have been as Executive Director of Adults and Children in Trust, a program of the Cathedral that provides a safe haven where toddlers to teens from many faiths, cultures and economic backgrounds gather to learn, play, and grow through various programs and events.

José first became involved in ACT while working at the School, where ACT (then short for Athletics, Creativity, and Trips), served as the afterschool program for the School's students. José and his wife, Nancy, whom he met when the two worked at The Cathedral School in the 1970s, both had many roles and together saw the potential for growth in the types of activities ACT could offer. They launched mini-ACT, a first of its kind parent and toddler class; grew the afterschool program by expanding offsite at nearby P.S. 163 and P.S. 75; and created the highly popular camp program we know today.

Along the way, the two also fell in love. "I remember the first time I saw José," Nancy said. "I came into the School for my interview and José, who was the principal's assistant at the time, was the one who greeted me." For José, Nancy was just one of the many teaching candidates he met that summer. "It was when I became a teacher alongside Nancy and we started working together that I really got to know her." Eventually, the two decided to get married.

As ACT evolved, it became clear to most that it had outgrown its initial mission at the School and as the audience for the programs began to include children from the neighborhood in addition to those attending the School. In 1982, Cathedral and School leadership decided ACT could better serve its mission as a community-based program of the Cathedral.

"Since becoming a part of the Cathedral," José said, "ACT has been allowed to operate with a level of independence. We support the Cathedral's mission, of course, but it would have been very easy for a Bishop or a Dean to suggest we make changes to our methods. No one has ever done that. I'm proud of the mix of children that come to these programs. At summer camp, you could have the child of the doctors and lawyers that



José V. Torres receiving the Bishop's Cross from the Right Reverend Mark Sisk, 2012.
PHOTO: Cathedral Archives

live in the neighborhood in the same session as the child of the super across the street. Not only are we racially diverse, we are economically diverse. I wouldn't have stayed for so long if the Cathedral hadn't been supportive of that vision."

That diversity adds to the depth of ACT's programs, which are meant to teach children how to be successful people in this world. Each year's themed camping trip (Medieval, Harry Potter, Worlds of the Future, etc.), splits kids into different groups that compete against each other in independent living activities, teaching life lessons while allowing the kids to have fun.

Not only did José have a major impact on the children in ACT programs, but the youth and adults he hired and trained to lead them. "José is the master of having people establish goals," Nancy said, going into detail about his methods for helping his staff establish goals and supporting their execution of them. José added, "I learned that when I was working towards my Master's in social work."

"This is the type of manager José is," Nancy said. "He was interviewing someone for a summer camp position. José is really professional in interviews—he has the list of questions and goes down them one by one. At some point, this guy said

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 3)

WHAT'S INSIDE

[Dean's Meditation](#)

[Great Music in a Great Space](#)

[The American Poets Corner](#)

[CCC Holiday Donations](#)

[Looking Back](#)

[Looking Ahead](#)

[The Cathedral Invites You to Take a Pause to Support Workers' Rights](#)

[Staff Spotlight on David Briggs](#)

[Standing with the Coalition of Immokalee Workers](#)

[125 Years](#)

The Cathedral Church of Saint John the Divine

The Right Reverend
Andrew ML Dietsche
Bishop of New York

The Right Reverend
Clifton Daniel III
Interim Dean

Pentagram
Graphic Design

Rebecca Merrill
Isadora Wilkenfeld
Writers

Isadora Wilkenfeld
Editor

Newsletter ©2018
by The Cathedral Church
of Saint John the Divine

A non-profit institution;
contributions and gifts are
tax deductible to the extent
permitted by law.

Schedule of Daily Liturgical Services

Sunday

8 am

Morning Prayer
& Holy Eucharist

9 am

Holy Eucharist

11 am

Choral Eucharist

4 pm

Choral Evensong

Monday through Saturday

8 am

Morning Prayer

8:30 am

Holy Eucharist
(Tuesday & Thursday)

12:15 pm

Holy Eucharist

5 pm

Evening Prayer

Cathedral Information

(212) 316-7540
stjohndivine.org

Reaching the Cathedral

The Cathedral is located at
1047 Amsterdam Avenue,
at 112th Street.

By Subway:

#1 Train to 110th Street

By Bus:

#M4 to Amsterdam
& 110th Street

#M11 to Amsterdam
& 112th Street

#M104 to Broadway
& 112th Street

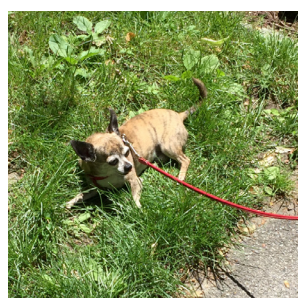


PHOTO: Isadora Wilkenfeld

Dean's Meditation

THE RIGHT REVEREND CLIFTON DANIEL III

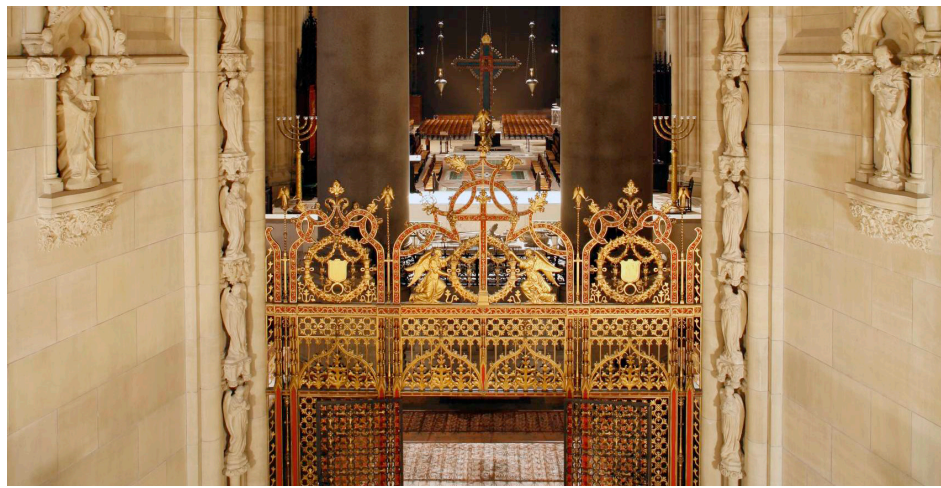


PHOTO: Cathedral Archives

Lent, the Christian year's season of reflection and introspection, began on Ash Wednesday (this year, Feb. 14). Lent is a good time to assess not only our individual life and journey but also our life and journey as a Cathedral community of worship, faith, and witness.

For me this year, Lent offers opportunity for a personal retrospective on my first year at the Cathedral.

I came to this Cathedral knowing it was founded on a great and continuing vision: to be a House of Prayer for all people. That vision is enshrined in the very fabric of the Cathedral in the "Chapels of the Tongues" around the High Altar, celebrating the streams of immigration in the early part of the 20th century. I wondered, though, what a Cathedral for the 21st century might look like, so I have begun to conduct my own "Stream of Wisdom" quest. I've begun consulting with leaders in various areas of the life and work of the city – government, business, art, education, etc. – to ask them what a 21st century Cathedral might look like, and the conversations so far have yielded some amazing and fascinating results.

Based on those conversations, as well as discussions with those from all areas of the Cathedral, we've already made a great deal of progress over the past year. I won't attempt to describe it all, but I want to name what I consider to be some significant moments or events (in no particular order).

- We have a new Visitor Center set up in the Narthex of the Cathedral, and space cleared in the tower area for an expanded gift shop.
- In early February of this year Kent Tritle, the Cathedral's Director of Music and Organist, presented a wonderful organ recital that included the debut of a large screen for all to watch Kent perform. The feedback from the audience was overwhelmingly positive and our plan is to include this screen in all future organ concerts while simultaneously imagining an upgraded sound and visual system for the Cathedral.
- In the Chapel of St. Boniface, we will open an exhibit entitled "Treasures of the Cathedral" featuring many lovely and meaningful items that have not been displayed for many years.
- Work on the North Transept exterior is nearing completion. If you have not seen it, I urge you to walk down 113th Street to see the simple, inviting and elegant entrance—a modern grace note to our grand Gothic construction. I have a dream for the interior of the North Transept: to use it as a bookstore and gift shop, as a major entrance to the Cathedral for tourists, and to include a simple sandwich and refreshment center.
- Thanks to a generous donor, this coming autumn will see the re-installation of the State Trumpets to their usual place below the Rose Window on the west front of the Cathedral.

- The Congregation of St. Saviour is working with Canon Malloy and me in the search for a new Vicar. Please keep the Congregation and its Vestry in your prayers for the successful completion of the search process in the appointment of the Vicar.
- The Cathedral's Fabric Committee (think "building and grounds") is in the final stages of planning for the installation of a new section of columbarium niches in the Chapel of St. Ansgar, expanding the Columbarium capacity significantly.
- We have found a new use for an unused stairway, made during construction of the Cathedral, but closed off and largely forgotten for many years. The staircase has a fairly large open space at the bottom and I have placed sturdy shelving in the area. Through the years, the Cathedral has become the custodian of a number of cremated remains (some of them simply left here, others unclaimed, some whose identity is unknown) which are now located in several places throughout the Cathedral. We will bring together all of the remains into this newly created area for a dignified repository of those who have no other place to be buried. Since our Lord was one of those who had no place to be buried except through the generosity of his friend Joseph, this area will be called the Chapel of Joseph of Arimathea.
- We are in the midst of a year-long celebration of the 125th anniversary of the laying of the cornerstone, which will include the annual Spirit of the City gala. This year's festivities will be themed as a birthday party for the Cathedral.

As a part of my "Stream of Wisdom," earlier this year I accepted an amazing invitation to take a journey to Abu Dhabi (United Arab Emirates) with John Sexton, President Emeritus of New York University, and a dozen or so others (including Pat Carey, Dean of Student Affairs at NYU and a member of this Cathedral family). President Sexton is creating a university for the 21st century, and the campus in Abu Dhabi is one outgrowth as it educates and forms "citizens of the world." What I learned from this visit is that if we are to move into the 21st century as a vital part, we must stretch beyond our comfort zone and expand the focus of our mission.

As this Cathedral strives to be effective in its mission for the 21st century many elements will be present: a spirit of openness to difference, a diversity of origin among its membership and those it serves, an ability to live in and serve the present, an ability to articulate questions and attempt to answer them with creativity, an ability to expand perspective beyond what is comfortable and familiar, a bent towards creating empathy, the spirit to "get out there," flexibility and adaptability, a spirit of adventure and a brave voice of leadership for the city and nation.

The Stream of Wisdom will continue for a time, and all are invited to be a part of it as we move steadily into the next chapter of our life, witness and mission as a Cathedral Church. I am proud to be a part. I hope you are, too.

Great Music in a Great Space



Kent Tritle
PHOTO: Anna Yatskevich

The 2017–18 season of Great Music in a Great Space showcases precisely what the Cathedral is best known for: masterful works of the Western choral and organ canon, paired with compositions of evocative beauty from around the world, and presented in our majestically acoustically-live space, beautifully capture the essence of this remarkable place in reaching back to our Anglican roots and forward towards an all-affirming, diverse present and future. Under the direction of Kent Tritle, the upcoming performances span genres from early Gregorian chant to contemporary American compositions. Join us!

On Tuesday, March 6, Musica Sacra presents *Light of Light*, featuring the music of Lassus and Lauridsen, with Gregorian chant. This musical tour through the Renaissance extends back to the earliest roots of polyphony, with performances of the great Flemish composer Orlando di Lassus's *Missa super Osculetur me* and Josquin Des Prez's extraordinary *Ave Maria*. Lassus' exhilarating motet *Surgens Jesus* and the vibrant American voices of Morten Lauridsen and Kevin Oldham make this program a sonic tour de force guaranteed to take you to another time and place.

The concert on March 20, foregrounding Arvo Pärt's *Miserere* with additional works by Stravinsky and Kodály, explores music by these great modern composers. A piece ideal for the spacious acoustics of the Cathedral, Arvo Pärt's *Miserere* utilizes sparse but intense harmonies, along with perfectly timed silences, to fill the space in a unique and mystical way. Accompanying this masterpiece are other choral gems: *Bogoroditse Dyevo* and *Otche nash'* by Igor Stravinsky, and Zoltán Kodály's *Laudes Organi*, a virtuosic extravaganza for chorus and organ, which will be accompanied by Associate Music Director Raymond Nagem.

We're particularly excited for the performance on April 9: *Immigrants – A Celebration of What Makes New York Great* takes up the Cathedral's proud mission to be a "house of prayer for all people." A pre-concert tour of the Cathedral's seven groundbreaking Chapels of the Tongues introduces this program, celebrating the immigrant communities that have made New York City one of the greatest cities in the world. Instrumental ensemble Rose of the Compass will present music from the cultures represented by Chapels of the Tongues, and the Cathedral Choir will answer with pieces by immigrants who composed in America, sharing their culture and their art. Composers will include Vincent Persichetti, whose parents came from Italy and Germany; F. Melius Christiansen, the great founder of the St. Olaf Choir; Rebecca Clarke and Tarik O'Regan, who both emigrated from the British Isles; Jean Berger from Germany; and Igor Stravinsky from Russia. The concert will culminate with a world premiere by Robert Sirota, on a libretto by the Reverend Canon Victoria Sirota, celebrating New York's identity as a melting pot of humanity.

Finally, the season wraps up with Great Organ: Raymond Nagem, featuring our own Associate Director of Music playing Marcel Dupré's set of preludes and fugues, paired with Sigfrid Karg-Elert's Symphony in F# minor. Dupré's jazzy, exuberant works are well-matched with Karg-Elert's masterpiece of a symphony, and we're anticipating a masterful and passionate performance.

If you're interested in learning more about performances at the Cathedral, please consider becoming a Friend of Music! Our dedicated and generous Friends help make each season of Great Music in a Great Space possible. We look forward to seeing (and hearing) what's to come next season!

Celebrating José V. Torres, ACT Superstar

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

that he was really good at telling campfire stories, so José asked him to tell one. The guy said, well I can't really without the campfire. So José took out a handful of matches and arranged them on the table like a campfire, lit them on fire, and said, 'How's that?' That's who José is. You better be able to do what you say."

As for what's next for ACT, José is leaving that in the hands of the Cathedral, which is currently conducting a search for his successor. "José has been the face of ACT for so long and he's leaving a great system he's set up in place for whoever comes next," Nancy said. "What's most important is that ACT exists, in whatever form."

While José knows he'll miss a lot about the Cathedral—from the grounds themselves to the people who work here—he's looking forward to spending more time with Nancy, their children, and their grandchildren. The two love to travel and José's retirement comes right before a trip to Panama followed by their annual trip to Jazz Fest in New Orleans. José also plans to spend time helping with voter registration for the 2018 and 2020 elections.

"Looking back, you always hope that you do something to change the world," José said. "I hope that I've done a little bit of that here. I'm leaving with a full heart—a tired heart—but a full heart."

José and Nancy will be missed, but their legacy is abundantly clear on the Cathedral Close...



José V. Torres cheering on ACT summer campers
PHOTO: Cathedral Archives

"José has been my source of inspiration for the past 27 years in my journey from educational director in neighboring preschools to this incredible spiritual institution, where I started as preschool director and, under Jose's guidance, have become Director of Programs many years later. Working under his leadership has been a challenging and fulfilling experience. José is the best example of a role model and teacher. He has challenged me to reach my goals, be patient, and go further than my comfort zone. Words cannot express how much his presence will be missed. ACT will miss this exemplary and visionary mentor—a great leader who has dedicated his life to the service of this community."

Marie Del Tejo, Director of Programs,
Adults and Children in Trust



Summer fun!
PHOTO: Cathedral Archives

"Running a camp is never an easy task, but running a day camp in the heart of New York City is a feat of astounding proportions. It takes an immense amount of hard work, logistical and organizational control and scheduling, a team of outstanding and dedicated staff, and an experienced leader who can adapt to an ever-changing environment.

I've known José Torres since I was 5 years old. I've known him as the goofy guy in a costume at Carnival who gave out ACT dollars, the guy in charge of the camping trips, the guy who we, as pre-teens, wanted to hate (the rule enforcer always has a tough job), but couldn't.

As a Counselor-in-Training, and later as a Counselor, I got to know José in a much more serious role, as my boss. I learned how much planning and structure went into activities and trips I had always taken for granted. The long hours. The preparedness for the unknown. The quick-thinking. The actual physical labor. He was more than in charge, he was involved.

He, along with Nancy Torres and Marie Del Tejo, was an unwavering and unshakable adult figure every summer of my childhood. ACT was a place a safety, trust, diversity, learning, adventure, and fun for generations of kids, and ACT was ACT because of José."

Julia Holden, ACT Alumni



Getting into the Halloween spirit
PHOTO: Isadora Wilkenfeld

"José Torres has been a remarkable teacher, mentor and friend since I first met him while working at ACT 35 years ago. Since then, my family has had the great pleasure of remaining close friends with the entire Torres family. The example that José and Nancy (for those of us who worked at ACT Summer Camp, it is difficult to separate the two) have set by the lives they lead at work, home and in the community is truly inspirational. They are living proof that the love and care you give the world around you comes back to you tenfold. My family wishes José happiness and adventure on a well-deserved retirement. ACT and the thousands of us who have had the pleasure of attending or working at ACT, are forever in your debt for the positive impact you have upon our lives."

Andy Schattner, ACT Staff & Parent



Nancy Torres
PHOTO: Cathedral Archives

"I have known José now for 32 years since the age of 6. It's was such a blessing to have José and ACT be part of my upbringing. I personally owe José so much. I learned work ethic way before I entered in the military thanks to his guidance. He is such a wonderful mentor as a CIT and a Counselor someone to look up to and emulate. I have been overjoyed and thankful to have been back for two summer seasons after my military service. This is bitter sweet an end of a great era. I can speak as a child in the programs and staff member when I say that José enriched our experience summer after summer."

Chris Robles, ACT Alumni

Spring events 2018

SERVICE TIMES

Sunday Services

8 am Morning Prayer & Holy Eucharist
9 am Holy Eucharist
11 am Choral Eucharist
4 pm Choral Evensong

Daily Services

Monday–Saturday
8 am Morning Prayer
8:30 am Holy Eucharist (Tuesday & Thursday only)
12:15 pm Holy Eucharist
5 pm Evening Prayer

TICKETS AND RESERVATIONS

Unless otherwise noted events do not require tickets or reservations. Tickets for all performances other than free or “suggested contribution” events may be purchased directly from the Cathedral’s website, stjohndivine.org, or by calling (866) 811-4111.

Your contributions make it possible for the Cathedral to offer the many programs listed below. Please fill out the enclosed envelope.

Please visit the Cathedral’s website, stjohndivine.org, or call the Visitor Center (212) 316-7540 for updates and additional event and tour information.

Don’t forget to become a fan of the Cathedral on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram!

ONGOING PROGRAMS, TOURS, WORKSHOPS

The Great Organ: Midday Monday

Cathedral organists provide a 30-minute break for mind, body and spirit at 1 pm with an entertaining and informative demonstration of the Cathedral’s unparalleled Great Organ.

The Great Organ: It’s Sunday

The Great Organ: It’s Sunday invites established and emerging organists from across the U.S. and around the world to take their turn at the Great Organ and present a free 5 pm concert.

PUBLIC EDUCATION & VISITOR SERVICES ONGOING TOURS & EVENTS

Public Education & Visitor Services offers Cathedral Highlights and Vertical Tours. All tours meet for registration at the Visitor Center inside the Cathedral entrance, at 112th Street and Amsterdam Avenue. Highlights Tours: \$14 per person, \$12 per student/senior. Vertical Tours: \$20 per person, \$18 per student/senior. Spotlight Tours: \$15 per person, \$12 per student/senior.

Highlights Tours

Mondays, 11 am–Noon & 2–3 pm

Tuesdays–Saturdays, 11 am–Noon & 1 pm–2 pm

Explore the many highlights of the Cathedral’s history, architecture, and artwork, from the Great Bronze Doors to the seven Chapels of the Tongues. Learn about the Cathedral’s services, events, and programs that welcome and inspire visitors from around the world. \$14 per person, \$12 per student/senior. No prior reservation necessary. Meet at Visitor Center.

Vertical Tours

Mondays, 10–11 am

Wednesdays & Fridays, Noon–1 pm

Saturdays, Noon–1 pm & 2 pm–3 pm

On this adventurous, “behind-the-scenes” tour, climb more than 124 feet through spiral staircases to the top of the world’s largest cathedral. Learn stories through stained glass windows and sculpture and study the grand architecture of the Cathedral while standing on a buttress. The tour culminates on the roof with a wonderful view of Manhattan. \$20 per person, \$18 per student/senior. All participants must be 12 years of age and older and reservations are recommended. For reservations visit the Cathedral website or call (866) 811-4111. Bring a flashlight and bottle of water. Meet at Visitor Center.

NIGHTWATCH

The Nightwatch series offers two exciting and innovative programs: Nightwatch Crossroads Christian and Nightwatch Crossroads Interspiritual. For more information visit stjohndivine.org or contact: (212) 316-7518 / nightwatch@stjohndivine.org.

ADULTS AND CHILDREN IN TRUST (ACT)

To learn about the many nurturing year-round programs for young people offered by ACT, please call (212) 316-7530 or visit www.actprograms.org.

Children’s Quest Fund

Help us to invite children from many countries, religions and economic levels under the shadow of the beloved Cathedral. While any amount will help, \$1,000 enables a child from a low-income family to participate in a premiere summer camp experience. Please send donations to the Cathedral, designated “ACT’s Children’s Quest Fund.”

Divine Saturday Celebrations

Celebrate good times with ACT’s new and improved Divine Saturday Celebrations, with a variety of birthday activities for kids to enjoy! It’s a great time for parents and children alike. Speak to a party manager for details at (212) 316-7530.

CATHEDRAL COMMUNITY CARES (CCC)

All programs meet in the CCC office, the Sunday Soup Kitchen or the Cathedral ACT gym unless otherwise specified. Please visit stjohndivine.org for more information on CCC programs.

Nutrition, Health and Clothing Center

The Center hosts monthly HIV testing (in partnership with Care for the Homeless), as well as blood pressure, heart health, diabetes, and other screenings throughout the course of the year. Please visit our website for upcoming screening dates or contact (212) 316-7581, ccc@stjohndivine.org.

Clothing Closet

Gently used men’s, women’s, and children’s clothing can be donated to the CCC office Monday through Friday 10 am–5 pm. Tax receipts available upon request. Contact: (212) 316-7581, ccc@stjohndivine.org.

Sunday Soup Kitchen

Every Sunday in the ACT gym. Breakfast, 10 am; Lunch, 12:30 pm. Contact: Robert Finn, Food Program Manager, (212) 316-7579 (T/W/Th after 12 pm).

SNAP/Food Stamps Program

(in partnership with the Human Resources Administration, The Food Bank for New York City, New York City Coalition Against Hunger, and Columbia University-SHOUT) Tuesdays and Wednesdays (by appointment only). Pre-screening and, if eligible, help with online applications and recertification is available. Contact: (212) 316-7581, ccc@stjohndivine.org.

PASTORAL EVENTS

2018 Baptism Dates

March 31, 2018 – Easter Vigil

May 20, 2018 – Pentecost

If you or a family member are interested in baptism, and you are new to the Cathedral community, we encourage you to attend church regularly to get to know us better. Then, if you wish to make the Cathedral your spiritual home, we will schedule a baptism date. In the weeks leading up to the baptism, there will be baptism preparation classes, as well as a baptism rehearsal. Please contact the Pastoral Care office at (212) 316-7483.

March

SELECTED PROGRAMS AND SERVICES

Brilliant Walls of Light

Saturday, March 3, 10 am

Each window contains a unique style of stained glass drawn from the English, French, and German traditions. Explore the beautiful narrative and geometric windows by modern English and American firms and view the memorial to a stained glass artist. Ascend over 100 feet of spiral stairs for a closer look at windows dedicated to medical and communications achievements. Led by Senior Cathedral Guide John Simko. Participants must be 12 years of age and older for the ascent. Tickets are \$18 per adult and \$15 for students and seniors.

Diocesan Adult Choir Festival

Saturday, March 3, 1 pm

Join singers from the New York area and beyond for an exciting day of rehearsals in one of the grandest cathedrals in the world. The day will begin at 1 pm, culminating in a 5 pm Choral Evensong in the Cathedral featuring the combined choirs led by Malcolm J. Merriweather, Bryan Zaros and Raymond Nagem.

Musica Sacra: Light of Light – Music of Lassus, Lauridsen, and Josquin, with Gregorian Chant

Tuesday, March 6, 7:30 pm

The luminous Gregorian chant propers for the Sunday after Easter alternate with the great Flemish composer Orlando de Lassus’s *Missa super Osculetur me*. Josquin Des Prez’s extraordinary *Ave Maria*, Lassus’ exhilarating motet *Surgens Jesus*, and the vibrant American voices of Morten Lauridsen and Kevin Oldham make this program a sonic tour de force guaranteed to take you to another time and place.

Nightwatch Crossroads: Interspiritual

Friday, March 9, 6:30 pm

Nightwatch Crossroads is a Friday evening and overnight spiritual retreat for middle and high school age students, youth groups and their adult chaperones. The Interspiritual program explores music, spiritual disciplines, stories and wisdom from a variety of the world’s religious traditions, including Buddhism, Hinduism, Judaism and Christianity. Visit stjohndivine.org for more information and to register.

Ordination of Transitional Deacons

Saturday, March 10, 10:30 am

Visit diocesen.org for more information.

The Last Crusade: World War I and the Cathedral of St. John the Divine

Saturday, March 17, 10:30 am

How does one align the will of God with the national interest? The Cathedral’s 125-year history parallels more than half of the history of the American Republic, with its art and architecture mirroring the life and times of this country during the periods in which they were created. Juxtaposing WWI propaganda images and images within the Cathedral, this tour provokes reflection about where church and state stand in relation to one other at times of armed conflict and the duties that people of faith, individually and in community, are often expected to render. Led by Senior Cathedral Guide Tom Fedorek. Tickets are \$18 per person, \$15 per student/senior.

Great Choir: Arvo Pärt’s Miserere; with additional works by Stravinsky and Kodály

Tuesday, March 20, 7:30 pm

A piece ideal for the Cathedral’s spacious acoustics, Arvo Pärt’s *Miserere* utilizes sparse but intense harmonies, along with perfectly timed silences, to fill the space in a unique and mystical way. Accompanying this masterpiece are other choral gems: *Bogoroditse Dyevo and Otche nash’* by Igor Stravinsky, and Zoltán Kodály’s *Laudes Organi*, a virtuosic extravaganza for chorus and organ, which will be accompanied by Associate Music Director Raymond Nagem.

Easter Eggstravaganza Children’s Workshop

Saturday, March 24, 10 am–Noon; 2 pm–4 pm

Join us for our popular, annual egg decorating workshop! Children can create colorful patterns on their eggs with tissue paper, glitter, glue, and paint, and build a nest for decorated eggs with twigs, feathers, and clay. Please bring two hard-boiled eggs per child. Recommended for children ages 4–8 years old. \$10 per child, with accompanying adult. Purchasing tickets in advance is highly suggested for both the 10 am and 2 pm workshop as there is limited space in the workshop and can be made online or by calling (866) 811-4111. Check in at Visitor Center upon arrival. Please note that this is an egg decorating activity, not an egg hunt!

OBSERVING THE SEASON: HOLY WEEK AT THE CATHEDRAL March 25, Palm Sunday

9 am The Blessing of the Palms & Holy Eucharist

11 am Choral Eucharist *with the Chorale*

Anthems: *Crux fidelis – Roger-Ducasse, Crucifixus a 6 – Lotti*
Note: the 11 am service will start with the Liturgy of the Palms outside, in front of the Town Building, on the south driveway between 111th & 112th Streets followed by a procession to Amsterdam Avenue, entering the Cathedral through the front entrance.

4 pm Choral Evensong

Responses: *Rose*

Service: The Westminster Service – *Howells*

Anthem: *Crux fidelis – Roger-Ducasse*

March 26 and 28, Holy Monday and Holy Wednesday

8 am Morning Prayer
12:15 pm Holy Eucharist
5 pm Evening Prayer

March 27, Holy Tuesday

8 am Morning Prayer
8:30 am Holy Eucharist
10:30 am Liturgy of Collegiality, The Holy Eucharist & Consecration of the Sacred Chrism
5 pm Evening Prayer

March 29, Maundy Thursday

8 am Morning Prayer (St. Martin's Chapel)
5 pm Evening Prayer (St. Martin's Chapel)
7 pm Maundy Thursday Eucharist & Stripping of the Altar *with the Choristers and Chorale*
Service: Mass for Four Voices – *Byrd*
Anthems:
Ubi caritas – *Mealor*
Jesu, the very thought of thee – *Halley*
O sacrum convivium – *Tallis*

9 pm The Reading of Dante Alighieri's *Inferno*
After the 7 pm liturgy, join poets, actors, and lovers of great literature for the annual American Poets Corner reading of Dante Alighieri's *Inferno*.

9 pm All-Night Vigil
Immediately following the Maundy Thursday liturgy, all are welcome to join in a centuries-old tradition of prayer and meditation in the Cathedral Baptistry.

March 30, Good Friday

8 am Morning Prayer
12:15 PM The Liturgy of Good Friday
Anthems:
Crucifixus a 8 – *Lotti*
O vos omnes – *Victoria*
2:30 pm Stations of the Cross or *Via Crucis*
Readings, in Spanish and English, and congregational chanting and hymns take participants through twelve stations, ending in the Biblical Garden. Begins in the Narthex.
7 pm Stations of the Cross featuring David Briggs
Travel through the twelve stations of the cross with organ improvisations by Artist in Residence David Briggs on the Last Seven Words of Christ.

March 31, Holy Saturday

7 pm The Great Vigil of Easter *with the Chorale*
The Bishop of New York celebrates, the Dean of the Cathedral preaches, and the Cathedral Choirs sing.
Psalm settings by *Hallock, Glenn, Neswick, and Nagem*
Anthems:
Sing ye to the Lord – *Bairstow*
Hæc dies – *Byrd*

Cathedral Community Cares Blood Drive

Saturday, March 31, 11:30 am, Synod Hall
Hosted by Cathedral Community Cares in partnership with the Columbia University Red Cross Club.

April

Easter Day

Sunday, April 1
8 am Holy Eucharist
11 am Festal Eucharist for Easter Day
The Cathedral will be brimming, as we sing together great hymns for Easter with glorious brass accompaniment. The Cathedral Choirs sing and the Bishop of New York celebrates and preaches.
Service: Messe Solennelle – *Vierne*
Anthems:
Laudate Dominum de cælis – *Langlais*
Hæc dies – *Byrd*
4 pm Festal Choral Evensong *with the Cathedral Brass*
Responses: *Radcliffe*
Service: *Friedell* in F
Anthem: Hæc dies – *Byrd*

Nightwatch Crossroads: Christian

Friday, April 6, 6:30 pm
Nightwatch Crossroads is a Friday evening and overnight spiritual retreat for middle and high school age students, youth groups and their adult chaperones. This Christian-oriented evening focuses primarily on the wisdom teachings of Jesus. Visit stjohndivine.org for more information and to register.

Great Choir: Immigrants – A Celebration of What Makes New York Great

Monday, April 9, 7:30 pm

A pre-concert tour of the Cathedral's fabulous and groundbreaking Chapels of the Tongues introduces this program, and celebrates the immigrant communities that have made New York City one of the greatest cities in the world. This concert by Rose of the Compass and the Cathedral Choir will present from many of these diverse cultures, and culminate in a world premiere by Robert Sirota on a libretto by the Reverend Canon Victoria Sirota celebrating New York's identity as a melting pot of humanity. Also features compositions by Rebecca Clarke, Jean Berger, F. Melius Christiansen, and Pablo Casals.

I Love NY: Spotlight on the City

Saturday, April 14, 10 am

Celebrate New York City and its indomitable spirit with a special tour of the Cathedral. Learn how the Cathedral and City serve as places of diversity, tolerance, and human achievement. Hear stories of New York's immigrants, inventors, and artists who have helped shape the City and the world. Led by Senior Cathedral Guide John Simko. Tickets are \$18 per adult and \$15 for students and seniors.

Secrets of St. John the Divine: Spotlight on Hidden Images

Saturday, April 14, 12:30 pm

What are a stripper and the signs of the zodiac doing in our stained glass windows? Find out on this tour that puts the spotlight on surprising images in glass and stone. Led by Senior Cathedral Guide Tom Fedorek. Tickets are \$18 per adult and \$15 for students and seniors.

The Cathedral in Context: Spotlight on Morningside Heights

Sunday, April 15, 1 pm

The Cathedral spurred the growth of Morningside Heights into becoming one of Manhattan's most unique neighborhoods. Go back in time on an illustrated walking tour of the neighborhood and its historic architecture and institutions, and learn about its development into the "Acropolis of Manhattan." The tour begins at the Cathedral and ends at Riverside Church. Led by Cathedral Guide Bill Schneberger. \$25 per person, \$20 per student/senior. All participants must be 12 years of age or older and reservations are recommended. This tour requires extensive outdoor walking and use of stairs.

Juilliard Organ Recital

Thursday, April 19, 7:30 pm

The Cathedral of St. John the Divine is pleased to host the organ department of The Juilliard School on the Great Organ at the Cathedral for a free public recital. The event is open to the public and admission is free. Visit juilliard.edu for more information.

Nightwatch Crossroads: Interspiritual

Friday, April 20, 6:30 pm

Please see details for March 9.

The Cathedral in Context: Spotlight on Morningside Heights

Saturday, April 21, 1 pm

Please see details for April 15.

Great Organ: Raymond Nagem

Thursday, April 26, 7:30 pm

Marcel Dupré's set of preludes and fugues struck the musical world like a jolt of electricity when they were published in 1920. Jazzy, exuberant, atmospheric, and notoriously difficult to play, they have been audience favorites ever since. Joining them on this program is Sigfrid Karg-Elert's Symphony in F# minor. This mammoth piece was written in 1930, but lay undiscovered in a publisher's archive until 1984. Come hear Karg-Elert's little-known masterpiece, one of the summits of the organ repertoire, in a dramatic and passionate performance by the Cathedral's Associate Director of Music, Raymond Nagem.

With Angels and Archangels: Spotlight on Angelic Images

Saturday, April 28, 10:30 am

Discover images of angels in the Cathedral's glass and stone. Learn about the role of angels in the Hebrew, Christian and Islamic scriptures, the angelic hierarchy and how to identify angels by their field marks. The tour concludes with an ascent to the triforium for a birds-eye view of the breathtaking Archangels Window. Participants must be 12 years of age and older for the ascent. Led by Senior Cathedral Guide Tom Fedorek. Tickets are \$18 per adult and \$15 for students and seniors.

The Cathedral in Context: Spotlight on Morningside Heights

Sunday, April 29, 1 pm

Please see details for April 15.

May

Nightwatch Crossroads: Christian

Friday, May 4, 6:30 pm

Please see details for April 6.

Blessing of the Bicycles

Saturday, May 5, 9 am

A Cathedral tradition, this special blessing ceremony, open to all, celebrates the lives of bike riders and cycling in its many forms.

The Cathedral in Context: Spotlight on Morningside Heights

Saturday, May 5, 12 pm

Please see details for April 15.

Nightwatch Crossroads: Christian

Friday, May 11, 6:30 pm

Please see details for April 6.

Ordination of Permanent Deacons

Saturday, May 12, 10:30 am

Please visit dioceseny.org for more information.

Within the Walls: Exploring Hidden Spaces

Saturday, May 19, 10–11:30 am & 12–1:30 pm

This extended vertical tour features "behind-the-scenes" climbs in both the eastern and western ends of St. John the Divine. In the east, descend into the unfinished crypt and then ascend Rafael Guastavino's beautiful spiral staircase to incredible views high above the altar. The western climb presents an amazing view down the entire length of the world's largest cathedral. Led by Senior Cathedral Guide John Simko. Tickets are \$25 per person, \$20 per student/senior. Must be 12 years of age or older. Flashlight and bottle of water recommended. Participants are responsible for carrying all belongings throughout the tour. Photography is welcome, though tripod use during the tour is prohibited. If you have concerns regarding claustrophobia, vertigo, or a medical condition, please call (212) 932-7347 before purchasing tickets.

Gateway to the New Jerusalem: Spotlight on the Iconography of the West Front

Saturday, May 19, 11:30 am–12:30 pm

The Cathedral's western façade provokes much comment and curiosity as well as the occasional conspiracy theory. This stimulating one-hour tour decodes the thematic programs underlying its art and architecture. Led by Senior Cathedral Guide Tom Fedorek. Tickets are \$18 per adult and \$15 for students and seniors.

The Cathedral in Context: Spotlight on Morningside Heights

Sunday, May 20, 1 pm

Please see details for April 15.

Cathedral Chorister Alumni Evensong

Sunday, May 20, 4 pm

Alumni from the Cathedral Chorister program will join the choir at Evensong to show us they've still got the chops! Come hear music of Vaughn Williams, Dyson, and Jennings.

The Last Crusade: World War I and the Cathedral of St. John the Divine

Saturday, May 26, 10:30 am

Please see details for March 17.

The Cathedral in Context: Spotlight on Morningside Heights

Sunday, May 27, 1 pm

Please see details for April 15.

Memorial Day Concert

Monday, May 28, 8 pm

The New York Philharmonic presents the first in their series of free summer concerts at the Cathedral, one of our most cherished signature events. Tickets for seating are provided on a first-come, first-served basis on the day of the performance. The audio of the performance will also be broadcast onto the adjacent Pulpit Green, weather permitting.

The American Poets Corner: Willa Cather



PHOTO: Cathedral Archives

PRAIRIE SPRING

Evening and the flat land,
 Rich and sombre and always silent;
 The miles of fresh-plowed soil,
 Heavy and black, full of strength and harshness;
 The growing wheat, the growing weeds,
 The toiling horses, the tired men;
 The long empty roads,
 Sullen fires of sunset, fading,
 The eternal, unresponsive sky.
 Against all this, Youth,
 Flaming like the wild roses,
 Singing like the larks over the plowed fields,
 Flashing like a star out of the twilight;
 Youth with its insupportable sweetness,
 Its fierce necessity,
 Its sharp desire,
 Singing and singing,
 Out of the lips of silence,
 Out of the earthy dusk.

Willa Cather (1873–1947) was born near Gore, Virginia, in 1873. She is perhaps best known for her works of fiction, including *Death Comes for the Archbishop* (Alfred A. Knopf, 1927); *One of Ours* (Alfred A. Knopf, 1922), which won the Pulitzer Prize; *My Antonia* (Houghton Mifflin, 1918); and *O, Pioneers!* (Houghton Mifflin, 1913). She was inducted into the American Poets Corner in 1990.

The Cathedral appreciates the generosity of the Drue Heinz Trust and Mrs. Edward T. Chase, whose support ensures that poetry continues to be an important part of arts at the Cathedral.

Stations of the Cross: Art, Passion, Justice

The Cathedral is one of 14 locations around Manhattan participating in an interdisciplinary art exhibition this Lent. Co-curated by Dr. Aaron Rosen, The Rev. Dr. Catriona Laing, and The Rev. John W. Moody, *Stations: Art, Passion, Justice* explores the Stations of the Cross and the figure of Christ on the day of his crucifixion through the lens of contemporary art.

In the work on view at the Cathedral, Station Four: Jesus Meets His Mother, artist Dua Abbas' cut-out animation combines Christian iconography with original photographs of her family members observing mourning rites during the Islamic month of Muharram, a time when Shiite Muslims commemorate the seventh-century martyrdom of the Imam Husayn ibn Ali (grandson of the Prophet) at Karbala in modern-day Iraq.

The artist comments: "I was interested in similarities between the figures of Mary (mother of Jesus) and Fatima (mother of Husayn) and the cultures of remembrance that have developed around the sufferings of their sons. I have tried to explore themes of maternal devotion, travel and transformation, and the fluidity of faith and its expression."

Looking Back

2017, for many of us, felt like a whirlwind of a year. Political turmoil was in the headlines seemingly every day, and our cohesion as a country felt strained almost to the breaking point. Yet our commitments to our communities—diverse and multifarious in all the ways that matter—emerged strengthened in the face of these threats. We came together to discuss resistance strategies, protect the vulnerable, and reaffirm the importance of conversations around citizenship, compassion, and consent.

At the Cathedral, the hectic pace of the daily news was steadied by the comforting regularity of the liturgical calendar and our annual signature events. This year, we celebrate the 125th anniversary of the laying of our corner stone, and we intend to weather at least another 125 years here, providing a spiritual home for people of all backgrounds and a convening-space for the important conversations of the day.

Beginning the winter season with a much-needed dose of joy, **Crafts at the Cathedral**, sponsored by the **Congregation of St. Saviour**, truly lived up to its name. This year's fair was held in the Nave itself, and vendors and visitors mingled cheerfully in the grand setting. A special opening-night reception on November 30 featured music by the Bloomingdale School of Music MAP Jazz Combo, further enlivening festive gathering.

On December 5, we braved the rain to unveil the latest sculpture on the Cathedral Close: *Homeless Jesus*, by artist **Timothy P. Schmalz**, is installed directly to the South of the Cathedral façade on Amsterdam Avenue, and serves as a reminder that "whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me."

Ensemble in Residence **Early Music New York**, led by **Frederick Renz**, frequently serves as the herald of Advent events. Their 2017 series of Christmas concerts, beginning December 10, this year explored Burgundian musical traditions ranging from the sacred to the secular.

December at the Cathedral is a banquet for music lovers! The **Cathedral Christmas Concert**, on December 9, enchanted listeners with brilliant choral music by **Britten** and **Vivaldi** and New York composer **James Bassi's** radiant *Quem pastores laudavere*. The **38th Annual Winter Solstice Celebration**, from December 14–16, brought out Artist in Residence **Paul Winter**, the Paul Winter Consort, vocalist Theresa Thomason, and the dancers and drummers of the Forces of Nature Dance Theatre for a series of performances welcoming back the strengthening winter sun.

Christmas at the Cathedral is of course a major highlight of the season, a holiday celebrated in ways both intimate and epic in scale. The **Cathedral Peace Tree** is a perfect symbol: **Lore Schirokauer**, a friend of the Cathedral, was the first to suggest this unique Christmas tree in the mid-1980s, and since that time, friends and volunteers, particularly Congregation member **Catherine Skopic**, have taken up the charge of adorning it each year with hundreds of origami cranes, symbolic of our united wish for universal harmony.



Christmas Eve Lessons and Carols
 PHOTO: Ken Yanagisawa



Kent Tritle
 PHOTO: Jennifer Taylor

We celebrated Christmas Eve with two services: for **Lessons and Carols**, the Cathedral Choristers were joined by members of the Cathedral Choir in this family-friendly service featuring readings, Christmas carols, and larger-than-life puppets to tell the Christmas story. Director of Music **Kent Tritle** and Associate Choirmaster **Bryan Zaros** led the Choristers. Later that evening, **the Bishop of New York, The Right Reverend Andrew ML Dietsche**, celebrated **The Christmas Eve Festival Eucharist**. The Cathedral Choirs and Orchestra performed a festive mass setting and anthems, as well as classic Christmas carols, and special guests Paul Winter and **Susanna Phillips** joined to celebrate the Christmas spirit.

Christmas Eve fell on a Sunday in 2017, and our **Cathedral Community Cares** staff offered a special **CCC Sunday Soup Kitchen Christmas Eve Meal** (SEE BOX), ensuring that no one went hungry or without companionship that day.

The **New Year's Eve Concert for Peace** is one of the Cathedral's most beloved annual events, bringing friends together for over thirty years. Led by Kent Tritle, the 2017 concert included

Handel's *Water Music, Suite No. 3*, then flowed into a moving set of contemporary pieces, including the U.S. premiere of **See the Wretched Strangers** by **Lucas Wiegerink**, and excerpts from **Leonard Bernstein's Mass** in celebration of his centennial year. Artists in Residence **Jason Robert Brown** and **Judy Collins** made their own musical offerings, and the evening concluded with **Joseph Haydn's Te Deum**, welcoming the new year with affirmation and joy.



New Year's Eve Concert for Peace
 PHOTO: Helena Kubicka de Bragança

On January 11, the Cathedral was treated to a performance of a slightly different sort. Organized by curator and author Elizabeth Howard, **The Buzzard & the Peacock Project: An Evening of Poetry, Music and Dance** reimaged a collaboration between composer **Lucia Dlugoszewski** and poet and educator **Ned O'Gorman** that also showcased the innovations of their friend and contemporary, modern dance pioneer **Erick Hawkins**. **Destinee Ross**, **Quemuel Arroyo**, and **Nicholas Birns** portrayed the creative trio; **Adeena Karasick** read the poem "The Buzzard and the Peacock," and the **Erick Hawkins Dance Company**, led by **Katherine Duke**, performed two pieces set to thrillingly unusual scores.

The Cathedral's annual **Martin Luther King, Jr. Sunday** service and events were held on January 14, and we were delighted to again host an afternoon **Spiritual Sing** with **Alice Parker**, Artistic Director of Melodious Accord. On the following Monday, a bevy of volunteers from **Macy's** and the **New York Urban League Young Professionals** came out in force to sort donations in the **CCC Clothing Closet**, pack hygiene kits and prepare meals for our CCC clients, and offer inter-generational workshops for kids, families, and seniors.

Our most newly-minted Artist in Residence, **David Briggs**, performed his transcription of **Mahler's 5th Symphony** for organ on January 16. Friends of Music were invited to a pre-recital gathering and talk, at which Briggs described his passion for the instrument and the meticulous work that goes into transcribing music. (An excerpt of an interview with Mr. Briggs is included in this newsletter—visit the Cathedral's blog for the full conversation!)

Nightwatch Crossroads, beginning on January 19 this year, continued to bring fresh young faces to the Cathedral, as youth groups joined us to explore their spiritual leanings. The **Diocesan Chorister Festival**, on January 27, likewise brought out some of the brightest and best young singers from across the Diocese of New York for a full day of activities and rehearsals, culminating in a festive Choral Evensong.

On January 29, the Cathedral presented **Faith, Hope, Reconciliation: The Church's Role in Prison Reform**, a panel discussion moderated by **The Reverend Winnie Varghese**, Director of Justice and Reconciliation at Trinity Church Wall Street. The conversation between Reverend Varghese, **The Reverend Canon Petero Sabune**, former Protestant Chaplain of Sing Sing Prison and Liaison for Reentry for the New York Department of Corrections and Community Service, and **Ms. Cheryl Wilkins**, Senior Director of Education and Programs at Columbia University's Center for Justice, focused on ways we can all push for change in the criminal justice system from both inside and outside the church.

Kent Tritle presented his much-anticipated organ recital on February 6. Performing pieces ranging from the elegance and swagger of the French Baroque composers **Marchand** and **Couperin**, to the subtlety and virtuosity of the 20th century organist **Jehan Alain**, to the dramatic and moving *Sonata No. 5* by Romantic virtuoso **Alexandre Guilmant**, Tritle brought an exciting flair to this extraordinary program.

On February 9, singers and musicians from across New York traveled to the Cathedral to join us for **Refuge in Music: Global Solidarity**. We're proud to be part of the global community, and this event provided a wonderful opportunity to reaffirm the values we believe in and imagine the America we want to live in: one where everyone and anyone can contribute to the creation of our shared world.

Ash Wednesday, on February 14, was observed with the liturgy of the Holy Eucharist and the Imposition of Ashes at four services throughout the day. At the afternoon and evening services, the Cathedral Choir offered contemplative music befitting this solemn occasion, including pieces by **Allegri**, **Tompkins**, **Adelmann**, and **Dawson**. This year, we're also pleased to be one of the fourteen institutions hosting **Stations of the Cross: Art, Passion, Justice** (SEE BOX).

The Cathedral Invites You to Take a Pause to Support Workers' Rights

“Early one morning a few weeks ago, I stood in a tomato field and witnessed something that looked mundane on the surface but was miraculous: the Coalition of Immokalee Workers was training a group of workers on their rights under the Fair Food Program. As I listened to the CIW explaining the protections gained under the FFP—including the right to report abuses without fear of retaliation, and zero tolerance policies for wage theft, violence, and sexual harassment—the relaxed attitudes of both workers and management suggested a normalcy to the presentation on human rights I was hearing. But actually this presentation about worker rights—happening on company property on company time, given by a worker-led organization to their peers—was remarkable, both within the history of labor organizing as a whole and knowing the decades-long struggle of CIW that led to this moment. For years, the CIW—the supposedly powerless workers—had faith that if they demanded that the

powerful growers recognize their fundamental dignity and the need for human rights in the field, that they could win against all odds. Partnering with allies—consumers, students, and many thousands of people of faith—the few became the many, and the faith that change was possible became the celebration of a new day for farmworkers under the Fair Food Program.

...Who will retell the great deeds of the workers, who will count them? In every generation, heroic leaders arise to continue leading workers towards their redemption. As the prophet Hosea said, ‘Plant righteousness for yourself, harvest the fruits of goodness.’ (10:12)”

Rabbi Rachel Kahn-Troster, Director of Programs of T’ruah: Rabbinic Call for Human Rights. The Cathedral is proud to support the Coalition of Immokalee Workers, most recently in their March 2018 Freedom Fast and Time’s Up Wendy’s actions.

Looking Ahead

Winter has its joys: festive music and services abound during the Christmas season at the Cathedral, and taking down the Peace Tree and decorations is always a bittersweet reminder of the changing seasons and return to everyday life. But there’s so much to look forward to in the next three months!

Spring is a time of renewal, when we celebrate the great mystery of Holy Week, temperatures rise, and the first new blades of grass and bright daffodils and tulips poke their heads above the dirt. Read on for some of the programs, concerts, events, and services taking place this season (and don’t forget to check the calendar for further information).



Great Music in a Great Space
PHOTO: Anna Yatskevich

On March 3, the **Diocesan Adult Choir Festival** brings crowds of singers from across New York for an exciting day of workshops and performances. The next few months are packed with performances to tempt all music-lovers: in particular, the spring season brings a fresh crop of **Great Music in a Great Space** performances to the Cathedral. On March 6, **Musica Sacra** joins us once again for **Light of Light: Music of Lassus and Lauridsen, with Gregorian Chant**. This musical tour through the Renaissance extends back to the earliest roots of polyphony with pieces by **Josquin Des Prez and Orlando di Lassus**, then brings us back to the present with works by **Morten Lauridsen and Kevin Oldham**.

Brian Tate, creator/producer of the Dark Harvest Film Festival, the Brooklyn New Music Festival, the Full Spectrum Panel Discussion Series, and many other projects, comes to the Cathedral on March 14 for a discussion of modern history, cultural exchange, and the progressive ideas underpinning his many collaborations.

On March 20, Great Music in a Great Space presents **Arvo Pärt’s Miserere**, with additional works by **Igor Stravinsky and Zoltán Kodály**. Each of these works is ideal for the Cathedral’s spacious acoustics, allowing the voices of our choir and the Great Organ to fully inhabit the space.

Holy Week begins on March 25 with **Palm Sunday**. Our Palm Sunday liturgies, at 9 and 11 am, take participants on a journey from Jesus’ triumphal entry into Jerusalem through the Passion story of his betrayal, persecution and death. At the 11 am service, participants are invited to join us as we begin the Liturgy of the Palms outside, followed by a procession to Amsterdam Avenue.



Celebrating Easter at the Cathedral
PHOTO: Helena Kubicka de Bragança

On **Holy Monday and Holy Wednesday**, March 26 and 28, we offer a meditative, spoken Eucharist at 7 pm in addition to our regular daily worship schedule. **Holy Tuesday**, March 27, is a special day in the life of the Church, as the clergy of the Diocese of New York gather to reaffirm their ordination vows and observe the consecration of sacramental chrism oil. **The Maundy Thursday Eucharist & Stripping of the Altar**, the first of the three days of solemn remembrance of the events leading up to and immediately following the crucifixion of Jesus, begins at 7 pm on March 29. The Maundy Thursday Service is followed by the annual reading of selections from **The Inferno** of Dante Alighieri. This annual event welcomes all to listen to one of the great poems of the Western tradition. Distinguished poets, eminent translators, visiting scholars and Dante enthusiasts read cantos in the Crossing. Good Friday offers the **Good Friday Liturgy**, and, later that evening, Artist-in-Residence David Briggs performs an organ improvisation on the Last Seven Words of Christ. We observe the **Great Vigil of Easter** on Saturday; the following morning at 11 am brings the **Festal Eucharist for Easter Day** on April 1.

Cathedral Community Cares, in partnership with the American Red Cross Club at Columbia University Blood Drive, hosts a blood drive in Synod Hall on March 31.



Rose of the Compass
PHOTO: Isadora Wilkenfeld

On April 9, Great Music in a Great Space presents **Immigrants – A Celebration of What Makes New York Great**. Noted world music ensemble **Rose of the Compass**, together with the Cathedral Choir, will perform music from many of the cultures that passed through Ellis Island on their way to becoming the

origins of modern America. Prior to the performance, a tour of the Cathedral’s Chapels of the Tongues—each dedicated to the patron saint of one of these formative ethnicities—grounds the celebration in the rich heritage of the Cathedral.

Nightwatch Crossroads overnights continue throughout spring, and on April 20, young people are invited to experience **Nightwatch Crossroads Interspiritual**. The Interspiritual retreat is an inclusive program created for youth of all faiths, exploring music, spiritual disciplines, stories and wisdom from a variety of the world’s religious traditions, including Buddhism, Hinduism, Judaism and Christianity.

On April 26, **Raymond Nagem**, the Cathedral’s Associate Director of Music, gives a recital on the Great Organ. **Marcel Dupré’s** jazzy and exuberant preludes and fugues are joined on this program by **Sigfrid Karg-Elert’s** Symphony in F# minor, a hidden gem of a piece that went unheard until 1984.

The **Blessing of the Bicycles**, on May 5 this year, is one of the quintessential Cathedral events. For those who have never attended, it’s an only-in-New York confluence, bringing bikers, rollerbladers, and anyone who gets around the city on two wheels into this sacred space for a (surprisingly brief) service of goodwill and hopes for safe travels in the year to come.

At time of press, the official date for the Cathedral’s 37th annual **Spirit of the City Awards Gala** had not yet been confirmed. More information on the ceremony will be available on our website in the coming weeks.

As spring transitions into summer, the Cathedral salutes the final days of May with our annual **Memorial Day Concert** on May 28. The first of the New York Philharmonic’s series of free summer performances, this beloved concert is particularly grand when experienced on the fresh green lawns of the Close—the music, performed live in the Crossing, is broadcast on speakers outside. We recommend bringing a blanket, a snack, and a friend (or two), and making an evening of it, as the late May sun slowly sets to the accompaniment of luscious orchestration.



Cathedral life in full swing
PHOTO: Helena Kubicka de Bragança

Stay in Touch

We welcome your suggestions and thoughts on the newsletter. Please write us at editor@stjohndivine.org.



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

125
YEARS

1047 Amsterdam Avenue
at 112th Street
New York, NY 10025

Non-Profit Org.
US Postage Paid
Bellmawr, N.J.
Permit No. 1239

Gifts from Cathedral friends and supporters allow the Cathedral to plan for the future. Please take the time to fill out the contribution envelope in the pages of the newsletter. Your generosity is needed and is always appreciated.

Spring 2018 at the Cathedral

Staff Spotlight on David Briggs



PHOTO: courtesy David Briggs

The following is excerpted from an interview published on the Cathedral's website. To read the full article, visit stjohndivine.org/blog.

Name: David Briggs
Title: Artist in Residence
Neighborhood/Town you live in: Washington Heights, NYC
Length of time the Cathedral: Since October 1, 2017

What is your Cathedral origin story?

I first performed at the cathedral in April 2013 for the premiere of my transcription of Gustav Mahler's Second Symphony, the 'Resurrection Symphony'. I completely fell in love with the wonderful Aeolian-Skinner Opus 150A organ, with its almost limitless resources of color and power. At that time, I was Artist in Residence at St. James Cathedral, Toronto. My 5-year tenure in Toronto came to an end last summer and I'm thrilled now to be based at St. John the Divine.

What is your favorite event or ongoing program at the Cathedral?

Each liturgy is a favorite event! I also greatly enjoyed performing in the New Year's Eve concert—what an enormous privilege to share the stage with the great Judy Collins! I was struck by the diversity and powerful sense of unity through diversity which overflowed from that iconic concert.

What is your favorite item in the Cathedral or on its grounds?

The wonderful Aeolian-Skinner Opus 150A organ, intrinsically linked to the glorious acoustic of the cathedral. I have the privilege of quite frequent rehearsals alone in the building and always start by spending 10 minutes walking from the High Altar to the West End and back to the organ tribune. The word 'awesome' is often used rather colloquially these days, but every time this word sums up the experience. You're really aware of the infinite grandeur, warmth and serenity of God.

Standing with the Coalition of Immokalee Workers

At our annual convention this past November, the Episcopal Diocese of New York voted to endorse a boycott of the fast food restaurant chain Wendy's, joining churches and communities across the country in speaking out against the human rights abuses rife in Wendy's current produce-harvesting system, and in favor of a more equitable, just system, organized by the Coalition of Immokalee Workers and the Alliance for Fair Food.

The Coalition of Immokalee Workers, a farmworker-led group of activists, educators, and everyday workers, returns to New York City this spring to continue their campaign for fair treatment. Between March 11–15, dozens of farmworker women and men and consumer allies will come together for a five-day Freedom Fast. The fast is the next step in the Wendy's boycott, calling on Wendy's to join the CIW's Fair Food Program, a social responsibility initiative designed by

farmworkers that has finally put an end to the harassment and assault for tens of thousands of workers by harnessing the purchasing power of more than a dozen of the world's largest retail food companies. The Freedom Fast will culminate in a major Time's Up Wendy's March on Thursday, March 15.

The Cathedral is proud to stand with the Coalition of Immokalee Workers in their actions to implement a system that works for everyone: farmworkers, consumers, families, and agricultural communities. If you're interested in volunteering with the CIW this March, please get in touch with patricia@allianceforfairfood.org for more information on how to help out!

CCC Thanks You!

Cathedral Community Cares, the Cathedral's outreach and advocacy arm, brings seasonal cheer to our friends and neighbors over the Christmas holidays with warm and nourishing meals and clothing and toy drives.

This year, CCC served over 500 individuals at breakfast and lunch on Christmas Eve. We'd like to thank everyone who helped provide CCC with delicious treats for the Christmas meal! Many people donated, and a few truly rose to the occasion, bringing racks of roast beef, roast chickens, pies, and cakes to the Soup Kitchen. Roop Metharamni, T. Hollosi, Gail Felix, Percy Lambert, Richard Moore: our hardworking CCC staff thanks you for helping make the season bright!