

1047 Amsterdam Ave.
at 112th Street
New York, NY 10025
T (212) 316-7490
stjohndivine.org

RELEASE

For further information please call

Julie Robinson, Rubenstein Communications
(212) 843-9341 / jrobinson@rubenstein.com

Isadora Wilkenfeld, Cathedral of St. John the Divine
(212) 316-7468 / iwilkenfeld@stjohndivine.org

**THE CATHEDRAL OF ST. JOHN THE DIVINE CELEBRATES
ANIMALS AND THE NATURAL WORLD
WITH VIRTUAL ST. FRANCIS DAY FESTIVITIES**

Beloved annual service welcomes participants of all species



The Cathedral of St. John the Divine's annual Feast of St. Francis and Blessing of the Animals, honoring St. Francis of Assisi, patron saint of animals and the environment, takes on a new form adapted for the current times on **Sunday, October 4, 2020 from 10 am – 4 pm** on the Cathedral's website and Facebook page.

Held on the first Sunday of October for more than 30 years, the service is an integral part of life at the Cathedral. This year, the Cathedral has adapted the joyous event into a fully virtual celebration, featuring a full day of interactive content, children's activities, and videos spotlighting the Cathedral's commitment to animals and the natural world. The Cathedral's 11 am online Sunday worship service will be followed by pet blessings at noon, officiated virtually by members of the Cathedral clergy.

In addition to paying tribute to the role pets and other animal companions play in our lives, the Cathedral has long championed environmental causes. As a green oasis in Manhattan, the Cathedral grounds are home to many animal inhabitants, including red-tailed hawks and three resident peacocks. Part of this year's St. Francis Day festivities will spotlight these avian neighbors, along with the individuals and organizations whose work cares for and supports New York wildlife.

Past services, held amid the Cathedral's soaring Gothic architecture, included the dramatic Procession of Animals down the length of the Cathedral Nave. While this year's service will be held remotely, furry, feathered, or finned animal companions are still invited to take part in this celebratory day. Pet owners are invited to email photos, names, social media handles and stories to stfrancisday@stjohndivine.org to have their animal friends included in the St. Francis Day festivities.

For more information and to RSVP, please visit [this page](#).

About the Cathedral

The Cathedral of St. John the Divine is the Cathedral of the Episcopal Diocese of New York. It is chartered as a house of prayer for all people and a unifying center of intellectual light and leadership.

People from many faiths and communities worship together in services held more than 30 times a week; the soup kitchen serves roughly 25,000 meals annually; social service outreach has an increasingly varied roster of programs; the distinguished Cathedral School prepares young students to be future leaders; Advancing the Community of Tomorrow (ACT), the renowned preschool, afterschool and summer program, offers diverse educational and nurturing experiences; the outstanding Textile Conservation Lab preserves world treasures; concerts, exhibitions, performances and civic gatherings allow conversation, celebration, reflection and remembrance—such is the joyfully busy life of this beloved and venerated Cathedral.

###