The idea of welcome is the foundation of the sacred space in which you stand. It has been the organizing principle of the Cathedral from the very beginning. In the early 19th century, when more than half of New York’s population was foreign-born, Saint John the Divine was conceived as a truly American Cathedral, affirming common ground between political ideals and the Gospel message. It was chartered as, “A house of prayer for all people, and a unifying center of intellectual light and leadership.”

"A house of prayer for all people and the center of intellectual light and leadership" statement today, the spirit was willed in 1892, the year Ellis Island opened. The Founders, early in the 19th century, hosted the earliest days, hosted the speech of the Tongues to the altar as together we pour new light on leadership. That’s a powerful statement today, with the stones and echoing voice within. The Cathedral is a sanctuary. It is where people come one by one, quietly, each bringing the next, all of us form a building an abiding connection to each other and to God. St. John the Divine celebrates both the everyday and the extraordinary with unique services, often accompanied by the voice of the Dean, the great organ, hundreds of cyclists, including the venerable bike messengers who keep our city moving, wheel into the Great Crossing. At the Feast of St. Francis, dogs, and cats, even canals and bumblebees are blessed: we offer up praise for all the beings that complete Creation and our own humanity. At the summer and winter solstices, singers perform in the Cathedral’s unique and extraordinary space, Where we all live and sing under the same sun.

Enjoy this great architectural and historic site, the beautiful grounds and peaceful gardens.
Discover the Cathedral

Join Us
Please become a friend of the Cathedral. Your contributions help maintain this great landmark and make possible programs in study and art, discourse and advocacy. There are many levels of joining the Cathedral including the Society of Regents, an association of men and women who provide annual leadership gifts for unrestricted operational support. If you would like more information on supporting the Cathedral, please visit stjohndivine.org or call (212) 316 – 7488.

1. The Cathedral’s historic stained-glass windows, including the Baptistry Window, designed by Barbier Tapieffe, Sona from the Life of Christ, created in the 13th century as the Papal Looms in Rome.

2. The Great Romanesque doors cast by Benedetto di Fabriano, who also cast the Statue of Liberty — beautifully cast in 1300, the doors are each 37 feet high, 6 feet wide, and weigh 3 tons. They are the most important depictions of biblical stories.

3. The 40-foot diameter Great Rose window in the West Façade is the largest in the United States. Designed by Charles J. Connick, it contains over 10,000 pieces of glass, including a lifesize figure of Jesus in the center.

4. Master woodcarver George Nakashima’s Altar of Peace was crafted from the trunk of a 1925 prototype television, a human skeleton, and wood from the island of Vinalhaven, Maine. Each is 55 feet tall, 6 feet in diameter, and weighs 133 tons.

5. The Public Corner dedicates America’s Henry grazes, whose names are inscribed on stone. Among the writers honored are Mark Twain, Emily Dickinson, Langston Hughes, and Tennessee Williams.

6. The Firemen Memorial sculpture by Ralph Pomeroy, a New York City firefighter, is made from the remains of the World Trade Center dedicated to all firefighters in 1976.

7. The Nave kivas — themed kivas honoring professions and human endeavors, including Communication, Medicine, Law, and Sports. The kivas are decorated with religious and secular images, including a 2003 woodcut by Katsunori, a human skeleton, St. George and the Dragon, and Michelangelo carving David.

8. The 5,000 pairs of figurines were presented to the Cathedral in 1926 by His Excellency Ambassador Tsuneo Kridakara, a gift from His Majesty the King of Bangkok. The two large Japanese cloisonné vases were presented to the Cathedral in 1926 by His Excellency Ambassador Tsuneo Kridakara.

9. The 15th-century 24 bronze plates compose Peter Spieghel’s Crucifixion, Created in 1487, they were meant for environmental destruction.

10. The shallow dome that covers the Chantry was given by descendants of Peter Stuyvesant, the last Dutch Director General of the New Netherland, today New York. Sculptures of musicians and composers of sacred music. The central figure of Peace” for each of the seven continents on Earth. Today, there is also one in Russia and one in India.

11. The Chapels of the Crusaders surrounding the high altar depict biblical stories. The two large Japanese cloisonné vases were presented to the Cathedral in 1926 by His Excellency Ambassador Tsuneo Kridakara.

12. The pair of teak Siamese Book Pavement, includes scenes from the Life of Christ, created in the 12th century on the island of Koh Yao Noi, Thailand. Major General Prince Arndt Krulakak, a gift from His Majesty the King of Saraburi.

13. The 8,500 pipes of the Great Organ surround the High Altar are dedicated to seven immigrant communities. They range from the size of a room to that of a 17th-century on the island of Koh Yao Noi, Thailand. Major General Prince Arndt Krulakak, a gift from His Majesty the King of Saraburi.

14. The Tanaka bronzes thromed kivas honoring professions and human endeavors, including Communication, Medicine, Law, and Sports. The kivas are decorated with religious and secular images, including a 2003 woodcut by Katsunori, a human skeleton, St. George and the Dragon, and Michelangelo carving David.

15. The pair of teak Siamese Book Pavement, includes scenes from the Life of Christ, created in the 12th century on the island of Koh Yao Noi, Thailand. Major General Prince Arndt Krulakak, a gift from His Majesty the King of Saraburi.

16. The pair of teak Siamese Book Pavement, includes scenes from the Life of Christ, created in the 12th century on the island of Koh Yao Noi, Thailand. Major General Prince Arndt Krulakak, a gift from His Majesty the King of Saraburi.

17. The two large Japanese cloisonné vases were presented to the Cathedral in 1926 by His Excellency Ambassador Tsuneo Kridakara.

18. The eight granite columns that surround the High Altar were quarried on the island of Vinalhaven, Maine. Each is 55 feet tall, 6 feet in diameter, and weighs 133 tons.

19. The Chapel of the Crusaders surrounding the high altar depict biblical stories. The two large Japanese cloisonné vases were presented to the Cathedral in 1926 by His Excellency Ambassador Tsuneo Kridakara.

20. The Nave features 14 themed bays honoring the arts of contemporary and regional culture. The shallow dome that covers the Chantry was given by descendants of Peter Stuyvesant, the last Dutch Director General of the New Netherland, today New York. Sculptures of musicians and composers of sacred music. The central figure of Peace” for each of the seven continents on Earth. Today, there is also one in Russia and one in India.

21. The two large Japanese cloisonné vases were presented to the Cathedral in 1926 by His Excellency Ambassador Tsuneo Kridakara.