

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 20,000 meals annually; social service outreach has an increasingly varied roster of programs; the distinguished Cathedral School prepares young students to be future leaders; Adults and Children in Trust, the renowned after school and summer program offers nurturing activities; the outstanding Textile Conservation Lab preserves world treasures; concerts, performances, exhibitions and civic gatherings allow conversation, celebration, reflection and remembrance—such is the joyfully busy life of this beloved and venerated Cathedral.

#### CATHEDRAL PROGRAMS, EVENTS AND INITIATIVES

##### WORSHIP AND MINISTRY

Life on the Cathedral Close revolves around worship and ministry. Bringing together people of all ages, backgrounds and faiths, the Cathedral hosts daily services and festive services throughout the year, including choral evensongs—services of readings, prayers and music.

##### ARTS AND EDUCATION

Cathedral Arts and Events hosts dozens of events every year, from performances, visual art exhibitions, poetry readings, lectures and forums, as well as our big special events like the St. Francis Day Celebration with the Blessing of the Animals, Broadway Blessing, the Halloween Extravaganza, the Maundy Thursday reading of Dante's Inferno, the free New York Philharmonic Memorial Day Concert, the Paul Winter Solstice Concerts, and the free New Year's Eve Concert for Peace.

##### COMMUNITY OUTREACH

**Cathedral Community Cares (CCC)** operates and coordinates several different direct outreach programs and advocacy campaigns through its Nutrition, Health, and Clothing Center, and Sunday Soup Kitchen, which serves over 20,000 meals a year.

##### Adults and Children in Trust (ACT)

offers year-round, nonsectarian, socially enriching educational programs and special events for toddlers to teens.

##### Nightwatch

weekend retreat program, founded in 1975, hosts youth groups and people of all ages for sleepovers at the Cathedral.

##### Textile Conservation Laboratory

is a world-renowned institution for the conservation of tapestries and fabrics of antiquity. Although the Laboratory primarily treats European tapestries from the Cathedral's collection, works from leading museums and private collectors are always coming and going.

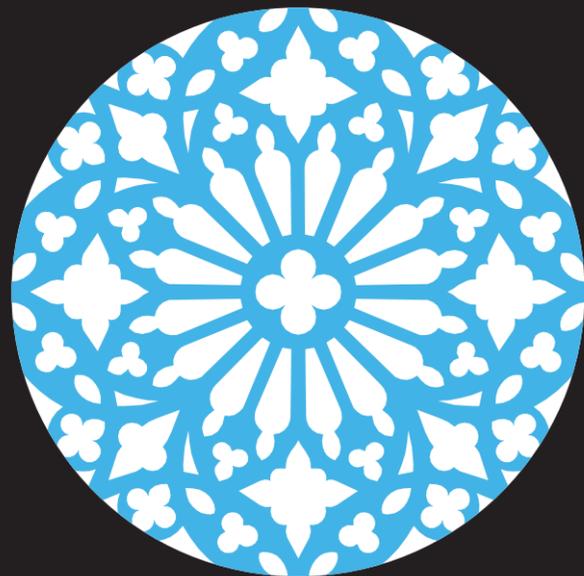
##### Public Education and Visitor Services

offers visitors a menu of opportunities to discover the Cathedral by making its history come alive through tours, programs, and workshops for people of all ages.

##### THE CATHEDRAL SCHOOL

The Cathedral School, founded in 1901, is an independent, Episcopal, K-8 school for boys and girls of all faiths. The School is committed to a rigorous academic program that integrates the arts, athletics and leadership development. Located on the Cathedral's 12-acre Close, the School prides itself on being a diverse community in partnership with families who take an active role in their children's intellectual, ethical, social and emotional growth.

For information on services and programs please visit [stjohndivine.org](http://stjohndivine.org) or call (212) 316-7540.



You  
are always  
welcome.



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

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 a unifying center of intellectual light and leadership." That's a powerful interfaith statement today, and a visionary one when it was penned in the 19th century. The Cathedral cornerstone was laid in 1892, the year Ellis Island opened. The Founders, early in the new century, built the seven Chapels of the Tongues to commemorate the major immigrant groups that were pouring into and building the city. Passionately committed to being a place where people experience the immense possibility of the human spirit, the Cathedral actively seeks out different voices.

Anchored in Episcopal and Anglican traditions, the Cathedral is nourished by the ideas and liturgies of other faiths. Priests, Rabbis, Monks and Imams share the pulpit as together we seek understanding. Equally important are the frequent appearances by artists, writers, musicians and philosophers who help educate our imaginations. Art is a window into the minds of others, fostering the empathy that is necessary for community and spiritual growth.

From Martin Luther King, Jr. to Vaclav Havel, Nelson Mandela to the Dalai Lama, the Cathedral has, since its earliest days, hosted the most prophetic and eloquent leaders to challenge injustice in America and abroad. These are the people who bring us to our feet and out into the streets, who change our lives.

The Cathedral also encourages private experiences: personal communion with the art, with the stones and echoing spaces, with the still, small voice within. The Cathedral is a sanctuary. It is where people come one by one, quietly, each bringing the next, all of us over time 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 music of the Great Organ, built by the E. M. Skinner Company in 1911. At the annual Blessing of the Bicycles, hundreds of cyclists, including the vulnerable bike messengers who keep our city working, wheel into the Great Crossing. At the Feast of St. Francis, dogs and cats, even camels 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, artist in residence Paul Winter gathers musicians from around the world to share joyous music, reminding us that 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 liturgy 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](http://stjohndivine.org) or call (212) 316-7488.

Join us on Facebook, where previews of events are listed and the adventures of resident peacocks Phil, Jim, and Harry, can be followed in detail!

**11** The Cathedral's treasures include the Barberini Tapestries, Scenes from the Life of Christ, created in the 17th century on the Papal Looms in Rome.

**12** The pair of teak Siamese Book Cabinets were presented to the Cathedral in 1930 by the Minister from Siam (today Thailand), Major General Prince Amoradat Kridakara, a gift from His Majesty the King of Siam. The two cabinets required eight months work by craftsman especially selected by the King himself.

**13** The 8,500 pipes of the Great Organ surround the Cathedral's choir stalls, which feature sculptures of musicians and composers of sacred music. The organ pipes range from the size of a pencil to 32 feet tall.

**14** The Baptistry was given by descendants of Peter Stuyvesant, the last Dutch Director General of the New Netherlands, today New York. Sculpted windmills and tulips symbolize its Dutch heritage.

**15** The sculpture of Martin Luther King Jr., Albert Einstein, Susan B. Anthony, and Mohandas Gandhi, carved by Cathedral Artist in Residence, Chris Pellettieri, are the most recent addition to The Historical Parapet, representing revered icons of the first twenty centuries of the Christian era.

**6** The Firemen Memorial sculpture by Ralph Feldman, a New York City firefighter, is made from the remains of various fire scenes. The memorial was dedicated to all firefighters in 1976.

**7** The Nave floor, known as the Pilgrim's Pavement, includes bronze medallions, representing pilgrimage sites throughout the world.

**8** The Nave features 14 themed bays honoring professions and human endeavor, including Communications, Medicine, Law, and Sports. Stained glass windows depict thematic scenes with religious and secular images, including a 1925 prototype television, a human skeleton, St. George and the Dragon, and Michelangelo carving David.

**9** The 24 bronze plates compose Peter Gourfain's Fate of the Earth. Created in 1988, they depict scenes of environmental destruction.

**10** The shallow dome that covers the Crossing was erected as a temporary roof by Rafael Guastavino in 1909 and took only 15 weeks to complete. The Statue of Liberty — without her pedestal — would fit comfortably under the structure.

**1** The Great Bronze doors cast by Barbedienne of Paris, who also cast the Statue of Liberty, are each 18 feet high, 6 feet wide, and weigh 3 tons. The doors' 60 bas-relief panels depict biblical stories.

**2** 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 more than 10,000 pieces of glass. The central figure of Jesus is life-sized.

**3** Master woodworker George Nakashima's Altar of Peace was crafted from the trunk of a 300-year-old Black Walnut tree and consecrated to world peace in 1986. It was Nakashima's dream to provide "Altars of Peace" for each of the seven continents on earth. Today there is also one in Russia and one in India.

**4** The 15th century German choir stalls are on loan from The Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York.

**5** The Poets' Corner salutes America's literary greats, whose names are inscribed on stone plaques. Among the writers honored are Mark Twain, Emily Dickinson, Langston Hughes, and Tennessee Williams.

**19** The Chapels of the Tongues surrounding the High Altar are dedicated to seven immigrant groups that settled in the United States during the late 19th and early 20th centuries. Their architectural styles range from Norman to High Renaissance. From north to south: Scandinavia, Germany, the British Isles, Eastern Europe and Asia, France, Italy, and Spain.

**20** The Life of Christ, a bronze and white-gold triptych altarpiece, is the last work of Keith Haring (1958-1990), noted New York artist, completed just weeks before his death from AIDS.

**21** The figures bordering the entrance to the Chapels of Saints Savior and Columba were sculpted by Gutzon Borglum, sculptor of the Mount Rushmore National Memorial.

**16** The two large Japanese cloisonné vases were presented to the Cathedral in 1926 by His Excellency Ambassador Tsuneo Matsudaira on behalf of his country. The design on the vases represents the hibiscus mutabilis and Japanese birds (Ruricho, Jushimatsu, and Hiwa.)

**17** The two 12-foot Menorahs were given to the Cathedral by the New York Times publisher, Adolph Ochs.

**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 130 tons.

