



SAINT MARK'S EPISCOPAL CATHEDRAL PARISH PROFILE SEATTLE WASHINGTON

Situated on a prominent bluff high above Lake Union, Saint Mark's Cathedral is Seattle's most visible symbol of faith. Through the years, the venerable lantern-like structure has been a beacon of hope for the entire community, a literal shelter for homeless women at night and a figurative shelter and inspiration for the city in times of both crisis and celebration.

Saint Mark's is the cathedral church for the Episcopal Diocese of Olympia, which includes all of Western Washington. Despite the downturn of church attendance throughout the country, the growth statistics for Saint Mark's parish have remained consistent for each of the many services held throughout the week. And while we are specifically a Christian and Episcopal community, we pride ourselves on our interfaith events, which draw Buddhists, Muslims, Jews and Native Americans to celebrate a deep and broad understanding of God.

We seek a Dean with a vision for urban ministry, a heart for pastoral care, and a sense of the worldwide church unfolding in this 21st century. If what we are seeking resonates with your calling to ministry, and if your experience as a priest has honed your skills to work with a complex and passionate congregation, we **invite** and **encourage** you to consider **Saint Mark's Cathedral**.

SAINT MARK'S EPISCOPAL CATHEDRAL



Recent Transition

The parish at Saint Mark's has gone through a challenging period of transition, but we have persevered. Our liturgies and stellar music program have nurtured and sustained us, and the deep commitment of our leadership and community has inspired us and kept us moving forward. Like our physical surroundings, we show some signs of aging and settling, and while we are aware of our fault lines we are optimistic about the future, and anticipate with joy the generations to come.

In the spring of 2008, following the departure of the former dean, our Bishop—the Rt. Rev Gregory H. Rickel—gave our parish time for self-reflection. We worked with many consultants and various tools to gather data about ourselves, much of which is available [here](#).

Most recently, under the leadership of the Rev. Canon Rebecca McClain, and with the guidance of our Bishop and Diocesan consultants, we completed a three-year deep listening process whereby we intentionally engaged with some of the confusion and issues of the past decade.

Going Forward

The healing process is well underway. We have learned that we are a place of contradictions. We live in the tension of being a parish church and being a Cathedral. We live in the creative tension between encouraging strong lay leadership and being clergy-driven. We long to live into and contribute to a culture of trust. Through our grounding in Christ, we cherish our tradition, yet at the same time we accept and embrace complexity as we seek opportunities for transformation through ongoing conversation among ourselves and with other faith traditions.



SAINT MARK'S WORSHIP AND LITURGY



As a worshipping community, we span the spectrum from cradle Episcopalians to those who have never before set foot in any church. Saint Mark's has long been an open and welcoming place of worship for the lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgendered community. Our worship sustains and grounds us in the presence of God both in our lives and in the world. There is room for everyone at the Eucharistic Table. By coming together as a community to share bread and wine, we all experience God's free flowing and freely given grace and mercy.

A unique liturgical expression at Saint Mark's is the Office of Compline. Sung on Sunday nights, the average attendance is around 500 people, most of whom are college students and young adults. At this weekly service, the Saint Mark's community expands to include people all across Seattle, as well as across the globe through a live broadcast. Over the past 50 years Compline has provided an introduction to the Cathedral's liturgies; we often hear of a new parish member's first experience being that of this service.

Click [here](#) to learn more about Compline.



Weekly Liturgies at Saint Mark's:

Sunday Morning

- 8am Rite II
- 9am Rite II (family-oriented mass)
- 11am Rite II (traditional mass with full choir, organ)
- 7pm Integrity service, co-sponsored by the LGBT community of the Episcopal Church

Weekday Holy Eucharist

- Wednesday 12pm, Thursday 7am

Evening Prayer Mon - Fri 6:30pm

Evensong Sunday 5:30pm

Centering Prayer Monday 7:15pm

Compline Sunday 9:30pm

SAINT MARK'S MUSIC AND ARTS



Saint Mark's has a strong reputation for superb music, in both liturgies and secular events. The appeal of the music programs is wide reaching, impacting not only the congregation but also the City of Seattle, the Diocese of Olympia, and the greater Northwest region. Saint Mark's has four adult and three youth choirs, and hosts two choir festivals each year.

As a ministry of the Cathedral, the mission of The Arts at Saint Mark's is to celebrate the creative human spirit by presenting outstanding musical programs. The 2010-2011 season included organ and instrumental concerts, artist-in-residence Choral Arts, and the Choir School spring gala, in addition to Choral Masses during the 11a.m. services.

Of the Cathedral's three organs, the landmark Flentrop tracker organ in the nave is the most spectacular. Built in 1965 by the Dirk Flentrop Orgelbouw of Zaandam (Netherlands), its thousands of pipes and thrilling sound attract organists from around the world.

Each year ArtSpace hosts several exhibits of visual arts in the nave, such as painting, sculpture, and photography. International exhibits, including the recent Icons of Transformation and the Keiskamma Altarpiece, drew area-wide attention. The Cathedral holds major lectures and readings, featuring nationally known theologians and writers.

Click for more details about [Music](#) or [Arts](#).



SAINT MARK'S FAITH FORMATION



Adult Faith Formation at Saint Mark's has evolved in recent years, due in part to the changes in vision that come with changes in leadership. However, there has been a steady commitment on the part of clergy and lay leadership to offer opportunities to deepen the spiritual lives of Saint Mark's parishioners. Adult faith formation includes Sunday morning and afternoon forums, and occasional evening classes on scripture, liturgy and environmental work.

Children and youth are active participants in our services, joining the congregation in the liturgy, passing the peace, and bringing the bread and wine to the altar. They serve as greeters, ushers, acolytes, and lectors. Children and Youth programming includes Church School for 3-year-olds up to 5th graders through Godly Play. The youth program for 6th–12th graders includes the exploration of faith and arts. Throughout the year Saint Mark's holds a number of special events and festivals that appeal especially to children, including Saint Nicholas Day, the Christmas pageant, a Mardi Gras party, an Easter Egg Hunt on the Great Lawn and four Baptism Celebrations per year.

Middle- and high-school classes take field trips to other faith communities, participate in service projects (such as serving meals to Tent City III residents), and gather regularly to socialize and have fun. Under adult supervision, youth also serve the community as caregivers in the childcare center, and as mentors for other children's activities. Our youth join other young people in Diocesan-wide camps and retreats. One of the highlights of the senior-high program is the two-year process of planning a pilgrimage, which includes choosing a location, the means of transportation, and fundraising. Past pilgrimages have been made to New York City, Puerto Rico, Belize, and most recently to Vancouver Island, British Columbia.

Saint Mark's Cathedral Preschool

Saint Mark's operates a joyful preschool program for children aged three to five. Founded in 1991, the Preschool is a thriving, self-sustaining institution that recently celebrated its milestone twentieth birthday.



SAINT MARK'S CHURCH IN THE WORLD



Saint Mark's has long been a place of prophetic preaching and social action. Among the issues it addresses are homelessness and poverty (both local and global); environmental sustainability; the Israeli-Palestinian conflict; fear and misunderstanding following 9/11 and the Muslim, Christian and Jewish conversation.

Social justice ministries provide a point of entry into church life for many newcomers. The Saint Mark's community—both clergy and laity—has spearheaded and collaborated with other faith-based organizations to bring real change in solidarity with the poor in the city, region, and world.

Among the Church in the World Ministries are the AIDS care team, in conjunction with Multifaith Works; Eco-Justice Ministry, which educates, advocates, and serves in several areas of environmental and economic justice; Oikocredit Support NW, an international cooperative supporting responsible, sustainable development; and Habitat for Humanity, which provides a team of volunteers to work with Seattle Habitat and Habitat International. Mideast Focus fosters peace and justice issues in the Middle East region, often in partnership with Sabeel. Transformational Travel educates and transforms us through being present and listening deeply to indigenous people whose lives are different from our own.

In addition, we address homelessness and hunger through the Hunger Offering, supporting six feeding programs in the city; shelter for up to 30 homeless women in the parish hall Sunday through Thursday nights in conjunction with Noel House; and the Homeless Advocacy Ministry, which works with the Interfaith Taskforce on Homelessness and hosts Tent City III.

More information on Saint Mark's Church in the World Ministries can be found [here](#).

Sustainability

Saint Mark's is committed to sustainability and being a "green" Cathedral. Most recently, the Cathedral has chosen to participate in the GreenFaith Certification Program. Participation in this process will provide the Cathedral congregation with structure and resources to launch the first two years of a comprehensive Sustainability Plan. The program assists lay leadership with integrating an ecological perspective into all aspects of the community's life and enhancing what is already being done to make sustainable and ecologically sound choices in both facility management and congregational life. The program also offers multiple ways for the community to incorporate environmental themes into worship, education, facility maintenance and social outreach. Saint Mark's is the first cathedral to participate in this interfaith program, marking the Cathedral as a leader on this path.

Click [here](#) for more information about the GreenFaith program and its certification requirements.

SAINT MARK'S PASTORAL CARE



Care of our community extends well beyond the ministry of clergy. Pastoral care at Saint Mark's depends on members of the congregation at all levels. Examples include Eucharistic Visitors, who take communion to homebound members or to those who cannot attend worship due to illness; Healing Rail Ministers, who offer prayers for healing to individuals at the regular Sunday services; the Prayer Chain, which prays for members, family, and friends who have requested prayer for various reasons; and Parish Friends, who bring fellowship and spiritual care to members disconnected from the community, such as those who are homebound, hospitalized, in long-term care, or are otherwise struggling and request calls or visits.

Clergy and Staff

The Canon Missioner, our current Priest-in-Charge, is assisted by two full-time clergy: a priest who oversees our Church in the World Ministry, and our Curate who assists in many of the facets of ministry at the Cathedral. Our Liturgist assists with worship services and supports the clergy and liturgical ministers. We are also blessed to have two deacons and several members of the clergy who assist on a non-stipendiary basis as needed.

At the time of publication of this profile, full-time staff positions also include the Clerke of the Works, Accounting Manager, Development/Stewardship Associate, Communications/Vestry Liaison, and both a Manager and an Assistant Manager at the Cathedral Shop. Our stellar music program is headed by the Canon Musician; working with him are the Assistant Organist, the Associate Musician, and part-time Director of Children's Choir. There is also one part-time sexton who tends to the buildings and grounds.

Devoted to the needs of younger members of our parish are the part-time positions of Children's Youth Director, the lead Childcare Support, and a number of other childcare assistants as needed. Saint Mark's Cathedral Preschool is staffed by a full-time director and four part-time teachers.



SAINT MARK'S PARISH HISTORY



Despite its impressive stature, Saint Mark's Cathedral is not the structure envisioned by its planners. Construction of the building now considered a city landmark began in 1928. It was intended to be the greatest neo-Gothic cathedral of the Pacific Rim, but the Great Depression intervened and funding ceased. Saint Mark's Cathedral was dedicated on April 25, 1931 in an unfinished state. The Cathedral's first dean and members of its parish struggled valiantly to keep the doors open to a badly depressed community and diocese during the 1930s. The tragedy of foreclosure finally came in 1941, when the doors were closed and padlocked. During World War II, the U.S. Army used the building as an anti-aircraft training center.

Although the congregation dwindled following foreclosure, a group of loyal parishioners never gave up. Services were held in off-site locations until 1944, when Bishop Simeon Arthur Huston traveled to St. Louis and convinced the bankers who held the mortgage on the empty building to allow worship services to resume there. Over the next three years, a group of civic leaders joined members of the parish in raising the funds needed to retire the Cathedral's debt. In 1947, all indebtedness was retired, and on Palm Sunday of that year, the mortgage was symbolically burned before the altar. In the decades that followed, the parish grew and flourished. A parish hall was added, as was the magnificent Flentrop organ.

But as the years went by, the ravages of time and exposure to the elements took their toll on the structure affectionately dubbed "The Holy Box." In 1989, the Century II effort was launched to renovate and complete Saint Mark's Cathedral to meet its current and future needs. During the following decade, nearly \$8 million was spent on improvements to the building, including a new roof and a stone-clad wall. Despite the significant achievements of Century II, many of its objectives were not realized.

Over the past two and a half years, \$200,000 worth of deferred maintenance has been accomplished. The building is clean, the air quality is healthy, the boiler is functioning well, and all areas have been restored and painted. However, the needs of the building remain great. Maintenance and upkeep will demand the attention of the next Dean. Realization of long-held dreams—like sealing exterior walls, replacing windows, completing the nave's interior, and integrating the entire campus—will require inspired vision, determination and a successful capital campaign.



SAINT MARK'S BUILDING, GROUNDS, AND REGION



Saint Mark's Cathedral is located on Capitol Hill, one of Seattle's oldest neighborhoods. It sits at the edge of a steep wooded ravine once owned by Saint Mark's, now a protected greenbelt belonging to the City of Seattle. The Cathedral's 7-acre campus encompasses two additional buildings. The Saint Nicholas Building on the north side is rented to long-term tenants, Bright Water School and Gage Academy. Leffler House, on the southeast corner, is home to the Saint Mark's Counseling Service and the Cathedral Shop, as well as Saint Mark's Cathedral Preschool.

Saint Mark's Foundation

The Saint Mark's Cathedral Foundation was founded in September 1995 as an independently governed, tax-exempt organization. Its sole purpose is to support the future of Saint Mark's by receiving, raising, and managing capital and endowment funds for the Cathedral's buildings and grounds. In January 2011 the Foundation became affiliated with the Bishop's Office and is now headquartered in Diocesan House. The Foundation's assets totaled \$1,062,939 at the end of 2010. Each year, the Foundation makes a distribution to the Vestry for buildings and grounds. The 2011 distribution was \$38,744.

An electronic copy of the 2010 financial review of the Foundation can be found [here](#). More information about the Foundation is available [here](#).

Seattle and the Pacific Northwest

Seattle, known as "The Emerald City," is situated at the heart of the Puget Sound region. The natural beauty is astounding, as the Olympic Mountains boldly thrust into the sky to the west on the Olympic Peninsula and the Cascade Mountains rise more gradually to the east. Mount Rainier, a massive dormant volcano referred to simply as "The Mountain," is part of the Cascade Range. Water is everywhere; Seattle terra firma is like an hourglass between Lake Washington on the east and Puget Sound on the west. The area features an extensive network of biking and walking trails. Snow skiing, sailing, power boating, and kayaking are also popular outdoor pastimes. The climate in Western Washington is fairly temperate. On average, snow falls on Seattle once or twice a year, which tends to bring this hilly city to a halt, but it usually melts quickly. A heat wave is considered anything above 85 degrees Fahrenheit. Like snowfalls, heat waves are short-lived.



The following links provide detailed information about the city's [demographics](#), [quality of life](#), [cost of living](#), and [seasonal events](#).

FINANCIAL OVERVIEW AND STEWARDSHIP



The Cathedral conducts independent financial audits annually and reports results combined with related entities to the Diocese, the Vestry, and the Congregation. With assets of \$17,990,874 and liabilities of \$1,930,398 the Cathedral's balance sheet is fundamentally sound. However, approximately two-thirds of our assets consist of land, buildings and equipment and, as such, are both illiquid and non-income generating.

The Cathedral holds just over \$2,000,000 in permanently restricted endowments under professional management. We have a beneficial interest in an additional \$2,300,000 held in restricted endowments by both the Diocese of Olympia and the Saint Mark's Cathedral Foundation. Our assets include a non-controlling interest in a partnership, Saint Mark's LLC, which owns the 40,000-sq-ft Saint Nicholas Building currently leased to two private educational institutions.

A mortgage held by Saint Mark's LLC, which is financially self-sustaining, represents 75% of the liabilities on our combined balance sheet.

The Cathedral has seen its operating budget contract over the past three years. Pledge revenues have held steady within historical norms but special gifts and investment income have declined significantly. As a result of these pressures, we adopted a policy of budgeting against only recurring, predictable sources of income.

The combined operating revenues for the Cathedral and related entities for the 2010 financial year totaled \$2,792,005; expenses were \$2,913,188 leading to an operating deficit of \$184,024.

The 2011 budget includes further changes to operations in order to bring the budget back into balance. Information from recent annual campaigns is available [here](#).

An electronic copy of the 2010 audit report can be found [here](#).

Stewardship

For the people of Saint Mark's, being good stewards means stewardship of all our resources, including our gifts of time, talent, and treasure. For the past few summers, the Stewardship Committee has sponsored Gratitude Gatherings where members of the congregation come together for fellowship. These gatherings have included picnics, sing-alongs and meeting for conversation and fun. The Stewardship Committee also sponsors classes and forums on stewardship throughout the year.

SAINT MARK'S VESTRY & THE DIOCESE OF OLYMPIA



The Vestry of Saint Mark's Cathedral includes 17 members: the Dean (ex officio), the Bishop of the Diocese of Olympia (ex officio), 12 Parish Representatives (four to be elected at each annual meeting of the parish), and three Diocesan Representatives (one to be elected at each annual convention of the Diocese of Olympia). The officers of the Cathedral include the Dean, the Senior Warden, one or more Junior Wardens, the Clerk of the Vestry, the Chancellor and the Treasurer.

The Diocese of Olympia covers the geographical region of Western Washington stretching south from Canada to Oregon and west from the foothills of the Cascade Mountains to the Pacific Ocean. It is home to 106 congregations that provide parish community for over 31,000 Episcopalians. The parishes in the diocese cover all stages of development and size imaginable. Almost 400 clergy reside in the Diocese of Olympia. Clergy days, a clergy conference, clergy association and affinity group gatherings offer support and encouragement.

Our Bishop, the Rt. Rev. Gregory H. Rickel, was elected on May 12, 2007 and became the eighth Bishop of Olympia that September. He embraces a radical hospitality that welcomes all, no matter where they find themselves on their journey of faith. He envisions a church that is a safe and authentic community in which to explore God's infinite goodness and grace as revealed in the life and continuing revelation of Jesus Christ.

Bishop Rickel has worked extensively with our parish at Saint Mark's since his arrival four years ago. It is our desire that our next Dean will continue to connect closely with the Bishop and the Diocese as we continue to grow into our role as parish and Cathedral in the city of Seattle. The offices of the Bishop and the Diocese are located at Diocesan House just one block north of the Cathedral.



SAINT MARK'S - THE DEAN WE SEEK



The call of a new Dean—who will be the seventh in the 90 years of Saint Mark's history—clearly marks an important threshold. The next Dean will need to build on the positive work of our time of transition to inspire the parish, while having his or her feet firmly planted on the ground. This requires someone who is deeply aware of the spiritual and symbolic power that lies in the priesthood, and who honors that position with grace and humility, as well as a sense of humor.

We seek a Dean with experience in organizational and congregational development, which includes experience in building and maintaining trust with the staff, the Vestry and with the members of the parish community. We are a diverse community full of different ideas and points of view, making experience in conflict resolution essential. We seek a Dean with knowledge of complex organizations and skills in the stewardship of resources, management and fundraising.

We seek a Dean who recognizes the need for cooperative and collegial relationships with the Bishop, the clergy and colleagues in the Diocese, and who will work to build those relationships.

We seek a Dean with experience in and a deep commitment to a visible and effective pastoral care program.

We seek a Dean who understands the intimate relationship between the spiritual life and a life committed to justice.

We seek a Dean who can lead through his or her strongly grounded presence—and prophetic preaching—while at the same time affirming and developing a strong leadership among the laity. Our new Dean will be aware of and committed to the development of the ministry of all the baptized people in the parish.

We seek a Dean who believes that the Episcopal Church is truly positioned to be a Church for the 21st century, deeply rooted in liturgical and theological tradition, yet open to developments in science and welcoming conversation with other faith traditions.

Underlying all of the above, we seek a God-centered Dean: someone who has a committed spiritual practice, who is intentionally working to grow in the Spirit, who understands the importance of listening and the need for silence. We are looking for a person who takes seriously the living reality of Christ and who inspires us to do the same.

Our Commitment

We recognize that all of the above is not the work of the Dean alone. As the Body of Christ, it is our work too. We will be partners with you as we all do the work of Christ. We are praying for you, wherever you are, as you consider this call. We look forward to your presence among us.