



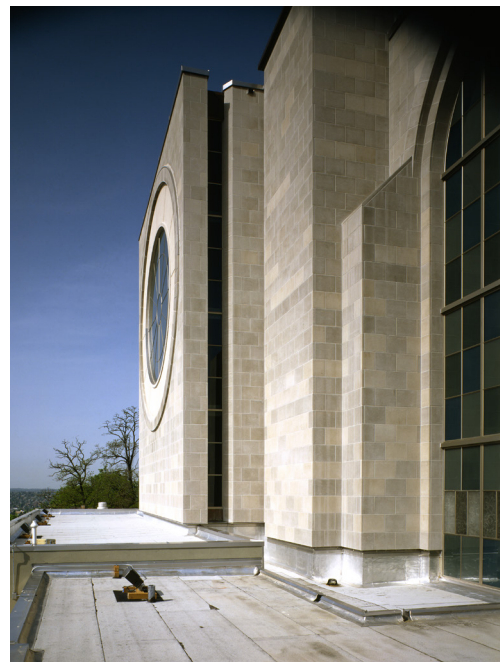
# SAINT MARK'S

## EPISCOPAL CATHEDRAL

### CAPITAL CAMPAIGN

*Saint Mark's Cathedral is a symbol of faith for the whole community*

Saint Mark's Episcopal Cathedral is the centerpiece of the Diocese of Olympia, and for many in the Seattle area, it is a reassuring landmark for our city and region. Saint Mark's is a house of prayer for all people; a loving, welcoming, and inclusive community that nurtures faith, encourages service, and promotes social and environmental justice; and a sacred gathering place for the Diocese of Olympia and the broader community in times of crisis, sorrow, and celebration. In the great tradition of historic European cathedrals, Saint Mark's Cathedral serves as a commons for the Diocese, and a center for reasoned discourse and respectful dialogue for the whole community.



## THE HISTORY OF SAINT MARK'S

**Saint Mark's Episcopal Church was founded in 1889**—the second Episcopal parish in Seattle. Founders Hiram and Henry Burnett wanted a church that would be “free to all, with no distinction as to wealth, color, race, or station.” The first location for Saint Mark's was downtown at 5th Avenue and Stewart Street. There, in December 1891, Rector David Claiborne Garrett gave a sermon that challenged the people of Saint Mark's to rally their neighbors and co-workers to a meeting, out of which came the first social justice agency in Seattle—the Bureau of Associated Charities, now known as Wellspring Family Services. From its very origins, the community of Saint Mark's has had social justice and human dignity at its core.

**In 1927 Saint Mark's was designated as the Cathedral for the Diocese of Olympia**, and in 1928 construction began on a new building at the present location on Tenth Avenue East. It was designed to be the greatest neo-Gothic cathedral of the Pacific Rim. But the stock market crash of 1929 and the Great Depression interrupted construction, and only Thomsen Chapel was ever finished in the style meant for the whole cathedral.

Saint Mark's first dean, John D. McLaughlan, and parish members struggled valiantly to keep the cathedral doors open during the 1930s, but **financial problems caused the loss of the building to bank foreclosure in 1941**. During World War II, the facility was used by the U.S. Army as an anti-aircraft gun training center, while the parish worshipped in a small space on Federal Avenue East. Ownership of the cathedral was regained in 1944 and for the next three years, civic leaders joined members of the parish in raising funds to retire the cathedral's debt. **In 1947, all indebtedness was paid off, and the mortgage was symbolically burned before the altar.**

Several building and renovation projects have taken place since then. **In 1958-59, Cathedral House was constructed at the west end of the cathedral.** This addition contains Bloedel Hall, the kitchen, parish offices, classrooms and meeting rooms. Under the guidance of organist/choirmaster Peter Hallock, **the magnificent Flentrop organ was purchased and installed in 1964-65**, with a brick revision of the East Wall to accommodate the new organ loft. **In 1997 the West Wall was sealed and clad in limestone**, with a new rose window and interior glass reredos installed. But chunks of concrete breaking away from exterior walls that were never designed to be exposed to the elements have posed a safety risk, and it is now urgent that we finish cladding the exterior of the cathedral in stone in order to preserve the structure.



## ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE

Saint Mark's Cathedral is situated on a prominent bluff high above Interstate 5, and is Seattle's most visible symbol of faith. Architect Jim Olson (of Olson/Kundig) has noted that its monumental scale is similar to the ancient temple of Karnak on the Nile. The cathedral's majestic and elemental proportions combined with the raw, unfinished quality of the interior create a very powerful space.



## REVITALIZING FOR MINISTRY

Saint Mark's Cathedral serves as a **house of prayer**, open to all people, wherever they are on their spiritual journey. The cathedral also serves as a **staging ground for social justice**, to which this parish and the Episcopal Church have been fervently committed for decades. And in the great tradition of historic European cathedrals, Saint Mark's strives to serve as a commons—a **place of worship and gathering for the Diocese of Olympia, and a center for reasoned discourse and respectful dialogue for the broader community**. Diversity is welcomed here, and we are the richer for it.

Saint Mark's Cathedral serves the Pacific Northwest region and the world in many ways:

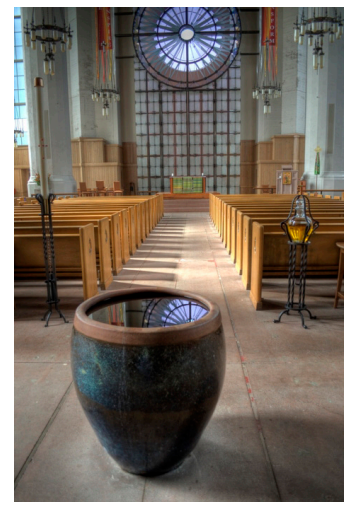
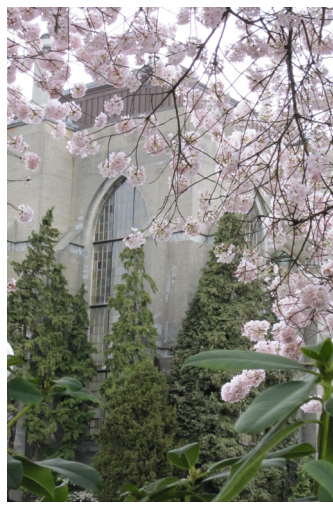
- The rich **music and liturgies** draw thousands each year into the sacred space, where the magnificent Flen-trop organ accompanies worship. The musical tradition of Peter Hallock and the unique **Compline service** that he initiated draw hundreds of thousands more to experience Saint Mark's annually through radio and internet broadcasts. Musical groups of all kinds present concerts and arts events in the Cathedral. We have hosted Tibetan monks, whirling dervishes, and Native American dancers. Organ, chamber music, and choral concerts, and visual arts exhibits take place under the auspices of The Arts at St. Mark's.
- The **work of justice** has been integral to Saint Mark's identity from the beginning. Since the 1890s, when Saint Mark's helped found what is now Wellspring Family Services, the cathedral has sponsored countless initiatives through the decades. The Cathedral was active in Vietnamese refugee resettlement in the 1970s, took the lead in establishing the Committee to End Homelessness in King County in the 2000s, and has been the starting point for numerous peace marches over the years. Currently, Cathedral ministries focus on issues of **hunger and homelessness**, hosting Noel House women's shelter in Bloedel Hall; issues of **peace and reconciliation**, with a very active Mideast Focus group; and issues of **eco-justice and sustainability**—we gained certification as a "Green Cathedral" in 2013.

- Saint Mark's Cathedral serves as a **venue for ecumenical and interfaith efforts**, including prayer vigils, marches, and as a **community gathering place** in times of crisis, such as 9/11. We are members of the statewide Faith Action Network.

- Saint Mark's **renowned Faith Formation** ministry regularly draws participation from the broader community and features internationally known speakers—spiritual leaders, authors and dignitaries, including Karen Armstrong, Parker Palmer, Desmond Tutu, the Dalai Lama, and former Archbishop of Canterbury Rowan Williams.

- Our longstanding **commitment to full inclusion** for the LGBTQ community spans nearly four decades.





## CURRENT NEEDS

While the ministry of Saint Mark's is vibrant and growing, our facilities are showing significant signs of an aging infrastructure in need of revitalization and improvement. In recent years, exposed concrete breaking away from exterior walls that were never designed to be exposed to the elements has posed a safety risk, and there continue to be significant energy inefficiencies that are neither cost-effective nor in tune with the call to be good stewards of creation.

In order for St. Mark's to live out its mission and serve the Diocese and broader community for the years ahead, several construction projects are needed, including:

### Securing the cathedral's structural integrity and improving its accessibility by:

- Sealing and cladding the exterior of the building in stone;
- Replacing windows in the nave with new insulated glass;
- Repairing the cathedral roofing and soffits;
- Installing an elevator to connect various levels of the cathedral; and
- Creating a more inviting east façade.

ESTIMATED COST: \$10.5 MILLION

### Making the cathedral more welcoming and inviting by:

- Redesigning and expanding the narthex entry to provide a more spacious gathering area;
- Adding a meditation garden and improving the cathedral grounds and parking.

ESTIMATED COST: \$5 MILLION

### Improving the cathedral's sustainability and functionality by:

- Replacing the existing boiler system with a fuel-efficient one;
- Installing a radiant in-floor heating system and new flooring in the nave and narthex;
- Improving the cathedral interior, with new wainscoting and flexible seating.

ESTIMATED COST: \$4 MILLION

The membership of Saint Mark's Cathedral parish has already begun the work of raising funds toward these important building projects, through the highly successful capital campaign, "Living Stones: Building for Ministry." **To date, the membership has raised in excess of \$8.1 million.**

The magnitude of the projects, however, will require significant funds beyond the capacity of Saint Mark's membership. Because of the importance of the cathedral in the life of the Diocese of Olympia and the critical role it plays in the greater community, it is appropriate to seek additional gifts and donations on an expanded scale.



SAINT MARK'S  
EPISCOPAL CATHEDRAL

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