

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

125
YEARS

Winter 2019-2020
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1047 Amsterdam Avenue
at 112th Street
New York, NY 10025
(212) 316-7540
stjohndivine.org

Winter at the Cathedral

2019- 2020

“The Joyfully Busy Life...”

Here at the Cathedral, winter brings a sense of warmth and closeness even as temperatures drop and days shorten. There’s prep happening for our Christmas services and concerts, and multiple programs and events serving the diverse members of our community. This December, we’re particularly happy to report that the lengthy period of cleaning and restoration work—following this past spring’s Palm Sunday fire—has at last drawn to a close, and most of the previously inaccessible areas of the Cathedral, like the Great Choir, Ambulatory, and chapels, have now been reopened to the public.



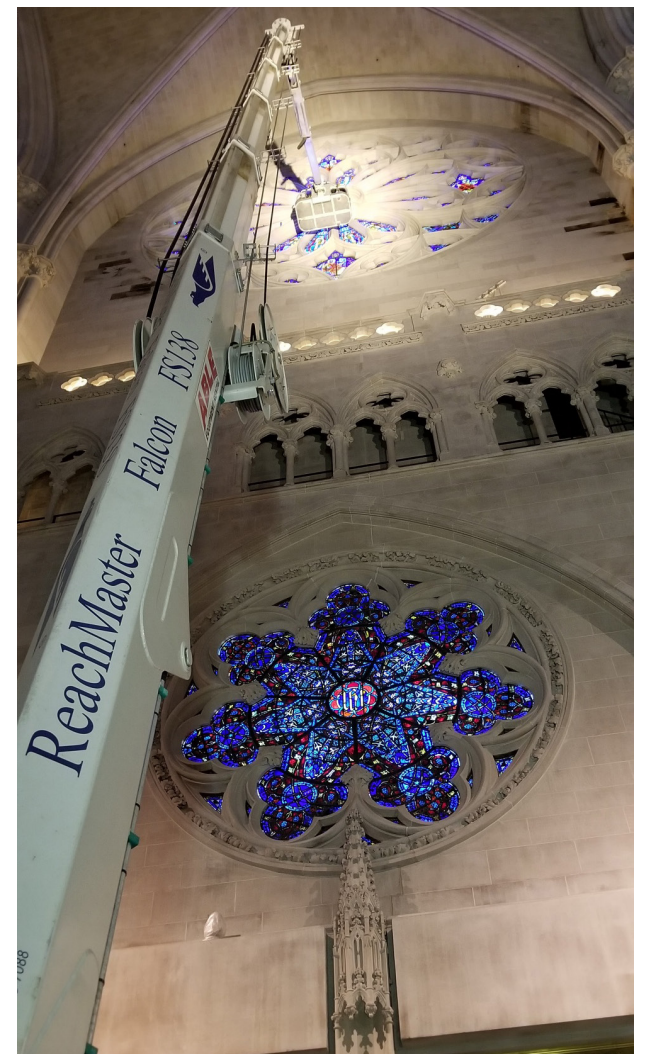
Left: PHOTO Helena Kubicka de Bragança
Right: PHOTO Cathedral Archive

While the most intensive phase of cleaning and restoration work has finished, thanks to the tireless labor of the crews from Maxons and Maquette, there still remains some work to be done. The Great Organ must be carefully inspected, each pipe removed, laid out, and cleaned, before it can return to use at services and concerts. This means some areas of the Cathedral will still be closed to the public in the early months of 2020, as the pipes will be disassembled and placed in the Crossing before returning to their rightful ranks.

However, the majority of what needed to be done has successfully taken place, revealing newly-cleaned walls and ceilings just in time to be decorated for the Advent season. This means it’s the perfect time to take a closer look at the intricate details of stonework, sculpture, and masonry that add such beauty to our Cathedral. All around are the hand-carved flourishes individually crafted by artisans and masons, some dating back to the earliest years of Cathedral construction.

Work is meanwhile progressing on the Cathedral dome, the exterior of which will eventually be surmounted by a copper covering. The interior ceiling of the dome is a major example of Rafael Guastavino’s “Tile Arch System,” patented in 1885. Guastavino originally intended this tile ceiling to be a temporary fix; the architectural vision at the time suggested a central tower would be constructed atop the Crossing. More than a hundred years later, the tile ceiling is one of the city’s great architectural landmarks: the largest dome Guastavino ever constructed, and one of the finest examples of his system.

The current dome project will help stabilize and restore the tile, strengthening it for—we hope—at least another hundred years of Cathedral life still to come.



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Schedule of Daily Liturgical Services

Sunday

8 am

Morning Prayer

9 am

Holy Eucharist

12:15 pm

Choral Eucharist

4 pm

Choral Evensong

Monday through Friday

8 am

Morning Prayer

12:15 pm

Holy Eucharist

5 pm

Evening Prayer

Saturday

12:15 pm

Holy Eucharist

Cathedral Information

The Cathedral is open daily

from 7:30 am–6 pm

For information:

(212) 316-7540

stjohndivine.org

Reaching the Cathedral

The Cathedral is located at
1047 Amsterdam Avenue,
at 112th Street.

By Subway:

#1 Train to 110th Street

By Bus:

#M4 to Amsterdam

& 110th Street

#M11 to Amsterdam

& 112th Street

#M104 to Broadway

& 112th Street

Dean's Meditation: Giving Thanks

THE RIGHT REVEREND CLIFTON DANIEL III



PHOTO: David Rider

2019 has been a positive and significant year of development and moving ahead in mission and ministry. The great negative was, of course, the fire in the Cathedral crypt on Palm Sunday which necessitated the ongoing cleaning of the entire interior of the Cathedral. This process has called for great flexibility on the part of the staff and many changes and rearrangements in liturgical practice and programming for the Cathedral.

The Cathedral staff is a wonderful, committed and highly skilled group of people. Our staff brings energy, wisdom, commitment and competence to their work. The broad range of activities at the Cathedral requires an efficient and competent team to keep the Cathedral and its many pieces moving ahead. For all of the hard-working staff—from the Cathedral Chapter to department heads, to security and facilities workers, to greeters at the Visitor Center and office administrators, to all the volunteers who serve in various liturgical and educational functions—ocean depths of thanksgiving lie beneath a simple word of thanks.

I am now in my third year as Dean. I am thankful for the opportunity to serve in this way, and have come to love the Cathedral, its staff and people. I pray daily with thanksgiving for the mission of our Cathedral and urge you to do so as well.

Looking back over the past year, many significant events, programs, and new developments stand out. Of course, there are many more important pieces of the great Cathedral jigsaw, too many to include in one letter—but may these few stand as representative of the whole:

The ACT Program saw quite a bit of change this year! We've gained a new director, Jen Gowers, and a new name. Retaining the ACT acronym, the program name and logo has been updated to "Advancing the Community of Tomorrow," which illuminates and most closely reflects the great mentorship of staff and young people in the program.

ACT was the recipient of a \$25K grant from the West Harlem Development Corporation for our Indoor Play Space (ACT PlayStation), making it free this winter for community residents to bring their children and play. The whole community has benefitted from a newly-strengthened relationship with Community Board 9; from new enrichment courses from community partner organizations and teachers (now including Music, Soccer, Spanish, Art, Engineering, Chess, Yoga, Figure Making, Crochet, Drama and Toddler Basketball); and from enhanced inclusivity and accessibility through free

family focused community events at the Cathedral.

The continued growth of the Congregation of St. Saviour has been a wonderful thing to witness and help support. This past November, we celebrated the installation of the Pastor and Vicar, the Rev. Canon Steven Lee, as a Cathedral Canon, another wonderful milestone. The Congregation has added 30+ new members in the past 12 months, through a combination of increased evangelism, social offerings, and community cohesion. In addition to the above, the way the liturgical volunteers (and through them the Congregation) came together to manage Palm Sunday, literally while the embers were still smoking inside, was an incredible thing. Every person involved, from attendees to volunteers to the folks who get paid to be there turned on a dime and made it one of the most moving services we have ever had.

Art and music continued to be at the heart of all we do at the Cathedral. *The Value of Sanctuary: Building a House Without Walls*, on view from February – June of this past year, reaffirmed the Cathedral's commitment to social justice and inter-community dialogue through the medium of contemporary art. At the Textile Conservation Lab, the staff (ably assisted by Rebecca Merrill, the Cathedral's webmaster) raised its online profile, attracting a new generation of textile enthusiasts and collectors in need of their expert advice and attention. Our music programs, particularly as exemplified by the Cathedral Choristers, had an exciting year: the choristers spent part of their summer in residence at St. Paul's Cathedral and Canterbury Cathedral in the U.K., honing their musical skills. The Cathedral's music team also launched a new initiative this year: the Schola Cantorum, offering access to the Cathedral music program for students who are not enrolled at The Cathedral School. Work in and around the School itself was also completed this past year—now the building contains 20% more space, with additions including a new library and innovation lab to spur on the imaginations of the students to yet greater heights.

The Cathedral's Development Office produced a new donor acknowledgment event for the Cathedral called *Spirit of Giving*. A new donor acknowledgment program and a revival of the Cathedral's bequest society, rebranded as the Ralph Adams Cram Society, are more exciting new ways of recognizing and honoring those who contribute towards the Cathedral's material growth.

To our tireless security, facilities, and front-of-house staff, our profound thanks! Our Visitor Services

team took on the challenge of a partially-inaccessible Cathedral with great aplomb, helping direct and guide visitors while cleaning and restoration work was in full swing, interfacing with the tourism industry, members of the public, and internal Cathedral departments alike. Our security team never flinched in the face of potential threats, keeping us all safe and secure. And our facilities workers, on the job from sun up to sun down, coordinated daily tasks and the larger requirements of Cathedral-wide work with amazing ease.

My deepest thanks, as well, go out to you, the reader of this newsletter. Without our visitors, our congregants, our volunteers, and our friends throughout the city and beyond, this Cathedral simply would not, could not be all that it is. You are our treasure and the reason for our thanks. This is, after all, *your* Cathedral—and we hope you will continue to return, year after year.

Ice Skating and Art at the Cathedral

On Saturday, January 25 from 3 – 6 pm, kids and their families are invited to join ACT Programs and the Department of Public Education and Visitor Services at the Cathedral for a free and open to the public ice skating event!

This afternoon of winter fun will celebrate the kickoff for both ACT summer camp registration and of children's art in celebration of Black History Month. Throughout February, the Cathedral host *Children's Creations of Color: A Celebration of Black History Month*, a children's art exhibition and fundraiser honoring great people of color. Art workshops and activities will be available on the 25th, and any art made during the day is welcome to be included in the exhibition (or taken home)! This event is a great way to earn more about the youth enrichment activities offered by the Cathedral all year round. All are welcome!

Holiday Concerts at the Cathedral

The Cathedral's Christmas and New Year's Eve concerts are annual delights, perfect for music lovers of all ages. *Fantasias and Carols: A Cathedral Christmas* features music by Ralph Vaughan Williams, George Frideric Handel, and Giovanni Gabrieli performed by the combined Cathedral Choirs, Orchestra, and soloists all under the direction of Kent Tritle and Bryan Zaros. The whole audience is warmly invited to join in singing favorite Christmas carols, led by the choirs and orchestra!

The New Year's Eve Concert for Peace, founded by Leonard Bernstein in 1984, is likewise a signature Cathedral event anticipated all year. Hosted by Harry Smith, the special guests this year will include Artists in Residence Paul Winter, Jason Robert Brown, and David Briggs, plus soloist Jamet Pittman. General admission seats are free and open to the public on the night of the show. For reserved seats, visit us online at stjohndivine.org.



Celebrating Advent and Christmas

The Advent season and the Christmas holidays are always magical on the Cathedral Close. It's also the perfect time to look back and give thanks. We're thankful to all our wonderful community, from the tourists who pop in only once on their whirlwind trips through New York City, to the revelers who come each year to the annual Christmas and New Year's Eve concerts, to the congregants who join us each and every day year-round.

The winter holidays are a time of community and spiritual openness: rousing, solemn, exhilarating and joyous. We

welcome you to join us for services on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day. On Christmas Eve, we offer two special services: Lessons and Carols, at 4 pm, is a family-focused offering, featuring the lilting voices of the Cathedral Choristers. At the later Festal Eucharist that evening, the Cathedral is truly in its glory, as we celebrate the beauty and mystery of faith.

Visit stjohndivine.org or the calendar in this issue for the full schedule of seasonal services!

Left: Helena Kubicka de Bragança. Right: Cathedral Archives



Winter with Cathedral Community Care

There are so many great ways to help support Cathedral Community Cares this winter and all year round! Donations of interview-appropriate attire, particularly for men, is greatly welcomed at the Clothing Closet, as are donations of food and cleaning supplies for the Sunday Soup Kitchen.

CCC would also like to offer thanks to the many individuals and organizations who've gone out of their way to help make

the season bright for CCC's clients. Tony Osso and the Osso Group have contributed well-stocked backpacks for people in need. And the wonderful folks at Mount Sinai St. Luke's have assisted with a donation drive for the Sunday Soup Kitchen.

Your help is hugely appreciated! For more ways to give back, visit CCC online at stjohndivine.org/education/community.

The American Poets Corner: Welcoming Marie Howe

A new year brings with it bountiful changes, even as it reaffirms the continuance of ongoing traditions. At the recommendation of our Poets Corner steering committee and of the outgoing Poet in Residence, Marilyn Nelson, the Cathedral is pleased to welcome Marie Howe as our newly-appointed Poet in Residence.

Marie Howe's several books of poetry include *The Good Thief* (1988), her first collection, which was chosen for the National Poetry Series by Margaret Atwood. Her other books include *What the Living Do* (1997) and *The Kingdom of Ordinary Time* (2008). She has taught at Sarah Lawrence College, Columbia University, and NYU, and served as Poet Laureate of New York State from 2012 to 2014.

The Cathedral Poet in Residence, appointed by the Dean, serves for a term of five years and oversees two main events: the annual induction of a new author (or authors) into the Poets Corner, and the Maundy Thursday reading

from Dante's *Inferno*. We look forward to the next five years of poetic beauty as it intersects with Cathedral life.

Welcome, Marie!



PHOTO: Brad Fowler courtesy of Blue Flower Arts

Winter events 2019

SERVICE TIMES

Sunday Services

8 am Morning Prayer & Holy Eucharist
9 am Holy Eucharist
11 am Choral Eucharist
4 pm Choral Evensong

Daily Services

Monday–Friday
8 am Morning Prayer
12:15 pm Holy Eucharist
5 pm Evening Prayer
Saturday
12:15 pm Holy Eucharist

TICKETS AND RESERVATIONS

Unless otherwise noted events do not require tickets or reservations. Tickets for all performances other than free or “suggested contribution” events may be purchased directly from the Cathedral’s website, stjohndivine.org, or by calling (866) 811-4111.

Your contributions make it possible for the Cathedral to offer the many programs listed below. Please fill out the enclosed envelope.

Please visit the Cathedral’s website, stjohndivine.org, or call the Visitor Center (212) 316-7540 for updates and additional event and tour information.

Don’t forget to become a fan of the Cathedral on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram!

ONGOING PROGRAMS, TOURS, WORKSHOPS

Sunday Post-Evensong Organ Recitals

The Great Organ: It’s Sunday invites established and emerging organists from across the U.S. and around the world to take their turn at the Great Organ and present a free 5 pm concert.

PUBLIC EDUCATION & VISITOR SERVICES ONGOING TOURS & EVENTS

Highlights Tours

Mondays–Saturdays, 11 am–Noon & 1 pm–2 pm

Explore the many highlights of the Cathedral’s history, architecture, and artwork, from the Great Bronze Doors to the seven Chapels of the Tongues. Learn about the Cathedral’s services, events, and programs that welcome and inspire visitors from around the world. \$14 per person, \$12 per student/senior. No prior reservation necessary. Meet at Visitor Center.

Vertical Tours

Mondays, 10–11 am

Wednesdays & Fridays, Noon–1 pm

Saturdays, Noon–1 pm & 2 pm–3 pm

On this adventurous, “behind-the-scenes” tour, climb more than 124 feet through spiral staircases to the top of the world’s largest cathedral. Learn stories through stained glass windows and sculpture and study the grand architecture of the Cathedral while standing on a buttress. The tour culminates on the roof with a wonderful view of Manhattan. \$20 per person, \$18 per student/senior. All participants must be 12 years of age and older and reservations are recommended. For reservations visit the Cathedral website or call (866) 811-4111. Bring a flashlight and bottle of water. Meet at Visitor Center.

NIGHTWATCH

The Nightwatch series offers two exciting and innovative programs: Nightwatch Crossroads Christian and Nightwatch Crossroads Interspiritual. For more information visit stjohndivine.org or contact: (212) 316-7518 / nightwatch@stjohndivine.org.

ADVANCING THE COMMUNITY OF TOMORROW (A.C.T.)

To learn about the many nurturing year-round programs for young people offered by A.C.T., please call (212) 316-7530 or visit www.actprograms.org.

Children’s Quest Fund

Help us to invite children from many countries, religions and economic levels under the shadow of the beloved Cathedral. While any amount will help, \$1,000 enables a child from a low-income family to participate in a premiere summer camp experience. Please send donations to the Cathedral, designated “A.C.T.’s Children’s Quest Fund.”

Divine Saturday Celebrations

Celebrate good times with ACT’s new and improved Divine Saturday Celebrations, with a variety of birthday activities for kids to enjoy! It’s a great time for parents and children alike. Speak to a party manager for details at (212) 316-7530.

CATHEDRAL COMMUNITY CARES (C.C.C.)

All programs meet in the CCC office, the Sunday Soup Kitchen or the Cathedral A.C.T. gym unless otherwise specified. Please visit stjohndivine.org for more information on CCC programs.

Nutrition, Health and Clothing Center

The Center hosts monthly HIV testing (in partnership with Care for the Homeless), as well as blood pressure, heart health, diabetes, and other screenings throughout the course of the year. Please visit our website for upcoming screening dates or contact (212) 316-7581, ccc@stjohndivine.org.

Clothing Closet

Gently used men’s, women’s, and children’s clothing can be donated to the CCC office Monday through Friday 10am-5pm. Tax receipts available upon request. Contact: (212) 316-7581, ccc@stjohndivine.org.

Sunday Soup Kitchen

Every Sunday in the A.C.T. gym. Breakfast, 10 am; Lunch, 12:30 pm. Contact: Robert Finn, Food Program Manager, at (212) 316-7579 (T/W/Th after 12 pm).

SNAP/Food Stamps Program

(in partnership with the Human Resources Administration, The Food Bank for New York City, New York City Coalition Against Hunger, and Columbia University-SHOUT) Tuesdays and Wednesdays (by appointment only). Pre-screening and, if eligible, help with online applications and recertification is available. Contact: (212) 316-7581, ccc@stjohndivine.org.

December

Advent Bible Study

Sundays, December 1 – 22, 10:10 am

Cathedral clergy hosts a series of discussions throughout December for Bible study focused on the season of Advent. All are welcome to attend.

World AIDS Day Commemoration

Sunday, December 1, 1 pm

Join the Congregation of St. Saviour for a commemoration of World AIDS Day, featuring a performance by Jody Sperling/ Time Lapse Dance with guest Scott Johnson on cello.

Crafts at the Cathedral

Friday, December 6 – Sunday, December 8

Join us for our annual craft fair, sponsored by the Congregation of Saint Saviour. The fair will be held in the Nave of the Cathedral, an unsurpassable location for lovers of handmade beauty. Visit stjohndivine.org for hours, admission pricing, and more information.

Congregation LGBTQ+ Fellowship Brunch and Screening of Saturday Church.

Sunday, December 8, 1:30 pm, Cathedral House

The Congregation invites you for brunch and a screening of the



film *Saturday Church*, featuring an introduction and Q&A session afterwards with Rev. Bo Reynolds, Associate & School Chaplain, The Church of St. Luke in the Fields. Fr. Reynolds will discuss the Art & Acceptance program at St. Luke's, upon which the film is based.

SAGE Table Holiday Card Writing Party

Tuesday, December 10, 7 pm, Cathedral House

Join members of the Congregation in partnership with the LGBTQ+ organization Sage to write holiday cards for the clients of the Ali Forney Center for LGBTQ+ youth at risk.

Season of Lights: A Winter Workshop

Saturday, December 14, 10 am

In this special workshop, children and their families brighten up their winter with a reading of Nancy Luenn's *Celebrations of Light*, learning about winter festivities from around the world. After exploring the many sources of light in the Cathedral, including stained glass windows, families are then off to the workshop. Activities include rolling beeswax candles; cutting Chinese and Taiwanese paper lanterns; and sculpting clay candelabras inspired by Hindu floating lamps, Jewish menorahs, and Kwanzaa kinaras. Recommended for children ages 4 – 8 years old. \$10 per child, with accompanying adult. Check in at Visitor Center upon arrival.

Fantasias and Carols: A Cathedral Christmas

Saturday, December 14, 7 pm

The Cathedral's annual Christmas concert, a beloved holiday tradition, this year features music by Ralph Vaughan Williams, George Frideric Handel, and Giovanni Gabrieli performed by the combined Cathedral Choirs, Orchestra, and soloists all under the direction of Kent Tritle and Bryan Zaros. The whole audience is warmly invited to join in singing favorite Christmas carols, led by the choirs and orchestra! For tickets and more information, visit stjohndivine.org.

Early Music New York: Nova, Nova

Sunday, December 15, 2 pm

Ensemble in Residence Early Music New York, under the

direction of Frederick Renz, continues its annual holiday tradition at the grand, Gothic Cathedral of St. John the Divine with this scintillating program of seasonal carols and motets from the Middle Ages and Renaissance. Tickets are also available for performances on December 22 and 25. To purchase tickets and for more information, visit stjohndivine.org.

The 40th Annual Winter Solstice Celebration

Thursday, December 19 – Saturday, December 21

Artist in Residence Paul Winter returns for this seasonal favorite! A dazzling extravaganza of music, dance, and spectacle within the awesome space and acoustics of the world's largest cathedral, the Winter Solstice Celebration is a contemporary take on ancient solstice rituals, when people felt a calling to come together on the longest night of the year to welcome the return of the sun and the birth of the new year. This year's performances feature gospel singer Theresa Thomason, a beloved favorite of past Winter Solstice Celebrations, and the 10-member Paul Winter Consort will be joined once again by the 25 dancers and drummers of the Forces of Nature Dance Theatre. For tickets and more information, visit stjohndivine.org.

Dzieci Theatre: Fools Mass

Sunday, December 22, 5 pm

In Dzieci's living example of "holy theater," hymns and chants from the 8th to the 14th centuries combine with a robustly comic village tale, creating a seminal work that has been Dzieci's signature piece since 1998. For more information, visit dziecitheatre.org.

Christmas Eve Lessons and Carols

Tuesday, December 24, 4 pm

This family-friendly favorite, replete with puppetry, features choral music of Woodward, Wilcocks, Rutter, and Britten, as well as traditional Christmas carols led by the choir. Kent Tritle and Associate Choirmaster Bryan Zaros lead the Choristers. No passes are needed to attend!

Christmas Eve Festal Eucharist

Tuesday, December 24, 10 pm

Prelude music begins at 10 pm. The Bishop of New York celebrates the Eucharist and preaches. This beloved service is open to all. Passes are not needed to attend this service—there is plenty of seating! Visit stjohndivine.org for more information.

New Year's Eve Concert for Peace

Tuesday, December 31, 7 pm

Founded by Leonard Bernstein in 1984, the annual New Year's Eve Concert for Peace is a signature and much-beloved Cathedral event. General admission seats are free and open to the public on the night of the show. To purchase reserved tickets, visit stjohndivine.org.

January

Camels and Kings: A Gift Giving Workshop

Saturday, January 4, 10 am

Children and their families gather to explore the story surrounding the famous journey of the three wise men, celebrated around the world. The two-hour workshop begins with a story and then children make gift boxes, costumes and sparkling crowns. Recommended for children ages 4 – 8 years old. \$10 per child, with accompanying adult. Check in at Visitor Center upon arrival.

Nightwatch Crossroads: Christian

Friday, January 17, 6:30 pm

Nightwatch Crossroads is a Friday evening and overnight spiritual retreat for middle and high school age students, youth groups and their adult chaperones. This Christian-oriented evening focuses primarily on the wisdom teachings of Jesus. Your group will have the opportunity to unplug from the distractions and stresses of daily life to connect with God and one another in the sacred space of the Cathedral of St. John the Divine. Visit stjohndivine.org for more information and to register.

Martin Luther King, Jr. Sunday

Sunday, January 19, 11 am and 2 pm

Join us for the Cathedral's annual recognition of Dr. King. Marilyn Nelson, Poet in Residence Emerita, will join us for the Choral Eucharist service at 11 am; at 2 pm, Alice Parker, founder of Melodious Accord, hosts a Spiritual Sing in the

Chapel of St. James. All are invited to participate!

Diocesan Chorister Festival

Saturday, January 25, 9 am – 6 pm

Join choristers ages 8 to 18 from around the Diocese and beyond for an exciting day of rehearsal, workshops, games, and tours throughout one of the grandest cathedrals in the world. The day will culminate in a 5 pm Festive Evensong in the Cathedral featuring the combined choirs led by James Litton, Bryan Zaros, and Raymond Nagem. For more information, please contact Associate Choirmaster Bryan Zaros at bzaros@stjohndivine.org.

Art and Ice Skating

Saturday, January 25, 3 pm

Children are invited to join ACT (Advancing the Community of Tomorrow) and the Department of Public Education and Visitor Services for a fun, free, family-friendly afternoon of ice skating and art making! The pop-up rink will be open to kids from 3 – 6 pm. Throughout February, the Cathedral will host *Children's Creations of Color: A Celebration of Black History Month*, a children's art exhibition and fundraiser honoring great people of color, and we welcome young artists to include any pieces made during this event in the exhibition—or take them with you for enjoyment at home. Visit stjohndivine.org for more info.

Great Organ: Kent Tritle

Tuesday, January 28, 7:30 pm

Director of Cathedral Music Kent Tritle presents a stirring organ recital. Visit stjohndivine.org for tickets and more information.

Nightwatch Crossroads: Interspiritual

Friday, January 31, 6:30 pm

Nightwatch Crossroads is a Friday evening and overnight spiritual retreat for middle and high school age students, youth groups and their adult chaperones. The Interspiritual overnight offers wisdom from a cornucopia of world traditions. Visit stjohndivine.org for more information and to register.

February

The Feast of Absalom Jones

Saturday, February 8, 10:30 am

Join the Cathedral community and the Diocese of New York for a special Eucharist commemorating Absalom Jones, abolitionist and the first African-American ordained as a priest in the Episcopal Church of the United States.

Great Choir: Rose of the Compass – This Fragile Earth

Monday, February 10, 7:30 pm

The Cathedral welcomes back world music ensemble Rose of the Compass for a collaboration marking the 50th anniversary of Earth Day. For tickets, visit stjohndivine.org.

Nightwatch Crossroads: Christian

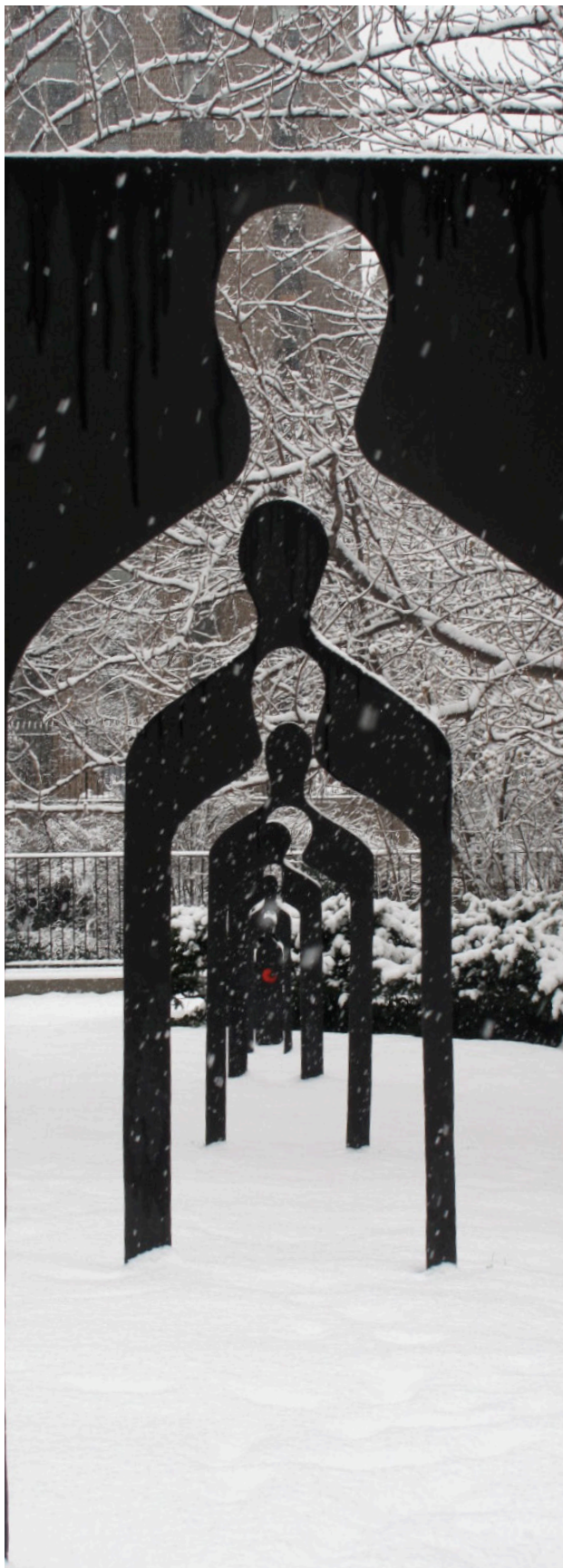
Friday, February 21, 6:30 pm

Please see details for January 17.

Adult Choir Festival

Saturday, February 22, 9 am – 6 pm

Join singers from the Diocese for a full day of music, culminating in a choral Evensong service in the Cathedral. For more information, visit stjohndivine.org.



Opposite Page: Peace Tree (PHOTO: Cathedral Archives)

PHOTO: Tenzin Dharlo

Looking Back

We're deeply grateful to all of our visitors, worshipers, staff, and community members for their patience and flexibility this past fall, as we worked to complete the cleaning and restoration work of the Cathedral's interior. It was a massive undertaking, and we have our wonderful colleagues at **Maxons Restorations** and **Maquette Fine Art Serices** to thank for returning the Cathedral Nave, Crossing, and Ambulatory to their pre-fire splendor! The joyfully busy life of the Cathedral continued apace, of course, even with crews working night and day. Read on for a few highlights from an action-packed season!

Each September brings new faces to the Close: new students to **The Cathedral School**, new families to the **ACT programs**, new priests ordained by the Diocese of New York. This September also saw the return of the **Mettawee River Theater Company** with a performance of *The Ringdove*, based on ancient Indian folktales.

The first Sunday of October is typically the date of the Cathedral's Feast of St. Francis and Blessing of the Animals. This year's **St. Francis Day Fair**, on October 6, was something new. Because of limited access from the ongoing cleaning work in the Cathedral, we instead offered a full day of pet blessings and children's activities, culminating in a **costumed parade** around the Close. The costumes were incredible—we saw some excellent bipedal unicorns and lizards, to say nothing of the many dogs dressed in their Sunday best!

Great Music in a Great Space returned in the autumn with a full season of choral and organ performances. The season began on October 21 with *Music for a Gothic Space: Machaut's Messe de Notre Dame, Motets of Josquin and Gregorian Chant*, performed by **Musica Sacra**. On October 29, **Artist in Residence David Briggs** performed works of **J.S. Bach**, **César Franck**, **Marcel Dupré**, and **Franz Liszt**, and the world premiere

of his own **Variations on "Take the A Train"**.

Master puppeteer **Ralph Lee** was back on October 25 for the **Annual Halloween Extravaganza**, leading his troupe of witches and ghouls through the darkened spaces of the Cathedral. Though the setup was quite different this year (another consequence of the cleaning and restoration efforts in the Cathedral), Ralph and co. made it work! The classic horror film *Nosferatu*, with live organ accompaniment by **Tim Brumfield**, set Halloween mood, and no one left un-spooked.

The GMGS season continued in November with a performance by the **Oratorio Society of New York** featuring two extraordinary 20th-century pieces: excerpts from **Sergei Rachmaninoff's All-Night Vigil**, and **Maurice Duruflé's** ethereal **Requiem**. On November 20, the Cathedral Choir presented the U.S. premiere of **Patrick Zimmerli's Instrument of Destiny**, an oratorio on poetry by **Alan Seeger**.

This year's **American Poets Corner induction**, on November 10, celebrated two towering figures of American literature. **Marilyn Nelson**, whose tenure as Poet in Residence ends this year, was joined by scholars, authors, and critics to welcome **Ralph Ellison**, novelist and critic, and **Harriet Jacobs**, memoirist and abolitionist, into the Poets Corner's anthology of stone. Joining us for the Evensong service was **The Right Reverend Enrique Treviño Cruz**, Bishop of Cuernavaca in the Anglican Church of Mexico. Truly a memorable evening for all!

The week of November 11 was a particularly busy one, as the Cathedral hosted the annual **Episcopal Charities** dinner on the 12th and the installation of **The Reverend Paul Egensteiner**, Bishop of the Metropolitan New York Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, on the 16th.

The Cathedral was pleased to welcome back members of the **Coalition of Immokalee Workers** for a dinner on November 17, the day before they embarked on another action taking a stand against Wendy's. The CIW and their partners in the **Fair Food Alliance** have made it their mission to stand up for farmworkers, promoting fair wages and an end to sexual violence. We are proud to stand with them.

On November 21, more than 3,000 people attended a public memorial for author **Toni Morrison** at the Cathedral. The speakers who gathered to celebrate Ms. Morrison's life and works included **Kevin Young**, poetry editor of the *New Yorker*; professor and activist **Angela Davis**; novelists **Edwidge Danticat** and **Jesmyn Ward**; and producer, actress, and media executive **Oprah Winfrey**, among several others.

On December 1, **World AIDS Day, the Congregation of St. Saviour** honored the lives and memories of those affected by the epidemic. Over the past several months, the Congregation has added many new ways for interested neighbors to celebrate life in this warm, welcoming Cathedral community. New Congregation-sponsored groups include the **Young Episcopalians** and **LGBTQ+ Fellowship**. The time is always right to get involved!

The season concluded with **Crafts at the Cathedral**, now in its third year inside the Nave. This juried fair, organized by the Congregation, brings together artisans from around the country to display their hand-crafted wares. This year's fair, from December 6 – 8, featured items ranging from hand-thrown ceramics to alpaca weavings to unique blown glass, and proudly rings in the start of winter and the Advent season.

Clockwise from top: Oprah Winfrey (photo: Isadora Wilkenfeld); Pugtopus at St. Francis costumed parade (photo: Rebecca Merrill); American Poets Corner plaque (photo: Isadora Wilkenfeld).



Looking Ahead

As November ends and December begins, the Cathedral ramps up preparations for Advent and Christmas. We're particularly delighted, after several months of cleaning and restoration work, to be able to reopen the Cathedral's chapels and Ambulatory to the public. Hooray!

We kick off the season with our annual Christmas concert, **Fantasias and Carols: A Cathedral Christmas**. Led by **Kent Tritle**, Director of Music and Organist, this year's concert features music by **Ralph Vaughan Williams**, **George Frideric Handel**, and **Giovanni Gabrieli** performed by the combined Cathedral Choirs, Orchestra, and soloists. **Bryan Zaros**, Associate Choirmaster, leads the Choristers, and the whole audience is invited to join in by singing along with favorite carols.

Ensemble in Residence **Early Music New York** returns to the Cathedral on Sunday, December 15 with **Nova, Nova**. The series of concerts continues on December 22 and 25 in the Cathedral's Chapel of St. James, presenting seasonal carols and motets from the Middle Ages and Renaissance.

It's hard to believe it's been forty years since Artist in Residence **Paul Winter** first presented his **Annual Winter Solstice Celebration** in the Cathedral! The 40th spectacular year features **The Paul Winter Consort** and the 25 dancers and drummers of the **Forces of Nature Dance Theatre** on December 19, 20, and 21. A dazzling extravaganza of music and dance, these performances offer a contemporary take on ancient solstice rituals, when people gathered together on the longest night of the year to welcome the return of the sun and the birth of the new year.

Before we know it, Christmas Eve will be here! On December 24, **Christmas Eve Lessons and Carols** features the Cathedral Choristers under the direction of Kent Tritle and Associate Choirmaster Bryan Zaros. This family-friendly service uses readings and carols to tell the Christmas story. The **Christmas Eve Festal Eucharist** begins with a musical prelude at 10 pm and service at 10:30 pm. The Bishop of New York, **The Right Reverend Andrew ML Dietsche**, celebrates the Eucharist and preaches. This service is open to all, and passes are not needed to attend—there is plenty of seating available!

Founded by Leonard Bernstein in 1984, the annual **New Year's Eve Concert for Peace**, December 31, is a signature Cathedral event, gathering old friends and new for more than 30 years. Led by Kent Tritle, this year's concert includes host **Harry Smith** and special guests **Paul Winter**, **Jamet Pittman**, **Jason Robert Brown**, and **David Briggs**.

Nightwatch Crossroads returns on January 17! This Friday evening and overnight retreat for middle and high school age students and youth group provides an opportunity to unplug from the distractions and stresses of daily life to connect with God and one another in the sacred space of the Cathedral.

January 19 is **Martin Luther King Sunday**. At the 11 am service, in commemoration of the **Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.**, we'll be joined by **Marilyn Nelson**, Poet in Residence Emerita. Following the service, join us for a communal **Spiritual Sing** led by **Alice Parker**, director of Melodious Accord.

The depths of January are the perfect time for a spot of **ice skating**—and why not add some **culturally-enriching art** to the mix while you're at it? On January 25, kids and their families will have the chance to do just that. The art portion of the event dovetails with an upcoming exhibition and initiative, **Children's Creations of Color: A Celebration of Black History Month**, on view through February. Check out the box in this issue for more info!

Also on January 25, we welcome back youthful singers from around New York for the **Diocesan Chorister Festival**. The day



of rehearsals, workshops, games and tours will culminate in a festive Evensong featuring the combined choirs.

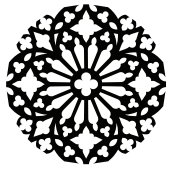
Music performances abound in the first couple of months of 2020. On January 28, **Kent Tritle** performs a recital of works by **Bach**, **Bruhns**, and **Vierne**. On February 10, the Cathedral Choir is joined by world music ensemble **Rose of the Compass** for **This Fragile Earth**, a program marking the 50th anniversary of Earth Day.

Winter gradually fades into spring, and the Cathedral will soon be blooming, much like the gardens and grounds outside. Beginning in late February, visitors will see artist **Aljolscha's**

Miraculous Draught, an installation of suspended biomorphic forms hanging from the ceiling of the Nave. Viewers can decide for themselves what organisms—perhaps orchids or jellyfish—the installation most reminds them of. In the artist's words, "I regard art as one of the highest human activities... I try to create an aesthetic utopia."

Clockwise from top: Cathedral Choristers (PHOTO: Cathedral Archives); Christmas Eve (PHOTO: Ken Yanagisawa); Nightwatch Crossroads (PHOTO: Cathedral Archives); Marilyn Nelson (PHOTO: Isadora Wilkenfeld).





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Winter at the Cathedral

2019-
2020

Aljoscha: The Miraculous Draught

The Miraculous Draught, an installation by Ukrainian-born artist Aljoscha, will be on view in the Cathedral late this winter and into the spring. The artist took inspiration from the parable in the Gospel of John:

"Simon Peter climbed back into the boat and dragged the net ashore. It was full of 153 large fish, but even with so many the net was not torn." (John 21:11)

Interpreting this miracle through sculpture, Aljoscha's installation asks the viewer to ponder their relationship to "regular happiness

and unexpected delight... a revelation of possible future joy and nameless beauty."

The installation consists of 153 seemingly weightless, ethereal sculptures suspended from the ceiling of the Nave. The sculptures, reminiscent of biological forms—flowers, jellyfish, interconnected neurons, perhaps—reflect the artist's interest in bioethics and super-organisms in addition to the spiritual dimension of the title, appearing, in the context of the Cathedral, as manifestations of "purification and joy."



A Cathedral for the 21st Century

The Cathedral's Office of Programming and External Affairs has been hard at work for over two years on the forthcoming book, *A Cathedral for the 21st Century*. Now, the results of that labor are ready to be shared.

The book is a symphony of many voices: Bishops, Deans (current and former), staff members, congregants, artists, neighbors, and many more add their thoughts about the Cathedral's history, present, and future. This beautiful volume, printed in Italy, will be available in the Cathedral shop in early 2020. More than just a coffee-table book, it's a veritable slice of Cathedral life—the perfect gift for anyone interested in delving deeper into the "joyfully busy life," in all its particulars.



Left: Aljoscha installation at Kunstraum Dornbirn

Right: Cathedral book in production. PHOTO: Rebecca Merrill

Stay in Touch

We welcome your suggestions and thoughts on the newsletter. Please write us at editor@stjohndivine.org.