



Saint Mark's Episcopal Cathedral, Seattle

FAMILY GUIDE

to SAINT MARK'S CATHEDRAL

*No matter whether you go to this church
or any church, you are always welcome
in this place!*

Come explore—we're so glad you're here!



The first thing you see when you arrive at Saint Mark's from the sidewalk on 10th Avenue East is a **labyrinth**.

It's not a maze, and you can't get lost in it—there's just one way in and one way out. It's a path for walking slowly and carefully. Some people use it as a way of coming closer to God.

Look for a different labyrinth inside!



What does the rest of this sign say?
You'll find it outside.

A **cathedral** is a place of Christian worship, and it's called that because it's where the bishop has a seat. The bishop is a priest who is in charge of many churches in a region.

Saint Mark was one of the four evangelists—the people who tell the stories of Jesus in the Bible.



Step inside and look for this unusual stained glass.

You are in the **narthex**, a kind of closed porch used as the entryway to a church.



Find the pool of water and see where the water is coming from. This is the **font**, which is often the first thing you'll find inside a church building. That's because it's used for baptism, the ritual of welcoming a person into the church. What is important about water?



Near the font is a jar of olive oil. It has been blessed by the bishop to use in baptism. It is also used as part of prayers for healing.

In ancient times, oil was used for anointing kings and prophets.

What do you use olive oil for at home?



The very tall candle is called the **Paschal candle**.

Pascha is another word for Easter, because this candle is carried into the dark church for the first time on the night before Easter. Everyone who is baptized gets a smaller candle lit from this huge candle.



This is an **altar**, but it's really a table, just like the table where your family shares meals.

Around this table the people who come to church are fed with the bread and wine made holy. The tablecloth is called a **frontal** and it changes color with the seasons of the church year.



Many cathedrals have a special window like this, called a **rose window**. They often are made of stained glass, but this one is made of prisms that catch and reflect the light from the sun.



Look for this character, which means friendship in Chinese.

Bells are used in worship by people of many religions.



Now, look around McCaw Chapel and find this messenger of God. (The word “angel” means “messenger.”)

These carvings were made for the second Saint Mark's Church building, which was built in 1897, then re-used here.

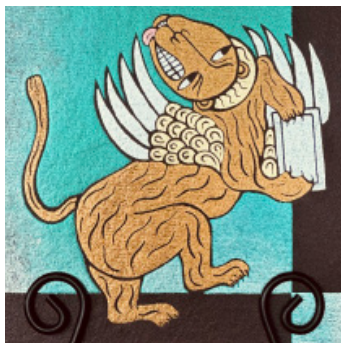


If an adult is with you, light a candle in the prayer station. Say a prayer for someone you love.



Where can you find a picture with someone holding this book? This kind of painting is called an **icon**, which means “image.” This icon is an image of Jesus.

There are at least two other icons nearby. One is of Mary and Jesus as a child, and the other is of Saint Mark. Can you find them?



The symbol of St. Mark the Evangelist is a winged lion.

Here are three to look for in the cathedral.



This is the shield of the Diocese of Olympia, the group of churches our bishop is in charge of.

The pointy hat is called a **miter** and only bishops wear one. Why do you think there is a boat on the shield?



Turn around and look up! This is our organ, the mighty Flentrop! It was built in 1965 and has almost 4,000 pipes!

Do you see a dove with its wings spread in the design of the organ?





Find the seed library. One of the things that's important to the people of Saint Mark's is caring for God's creation, and one way to do that is by planting and sharing seeds.

What is something you do to care for the Earth?



The children's corner is especially for you!



Thank you for being here!

Here are some special offerings coming up at the cathedral:



INTERGENERATIONAL HIKE

SUNDAY, AUGUST 30, 3-5 P.M.

We'll hike to Franklin Falls near Snoqualmie Pass - roughly 2 miles roundtrip. Afterwards, we'll gather for an optional early dinner in North Bend. More information on the trail is at saintmarks.org/hike

ALL PARISH PICNIC

**SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 13,
12:30 P.M., ON THE LAWN**

Enjoy a picnic on the front lawn of the cathedral with the Saint Mark's community! This Homecoming Sunday marks the start of the 2026-2027 program year!



BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS

**SATURDAY, OCTOBER 3,
4:30 P.M., ON THE LAWN**

Bring your pet for this short service, offering prayers for healing humanity's relationship with the earth, and for all the creatures who share the earth with us. A festive reception will follow.

SAINT MARK'S EPISCOPAL CATHEDRAL

1245 Tenth Avenue East, Seattle WA 98102 ♦ 206.323.0300 ♦ WWW.SAINTMARKS.ORG