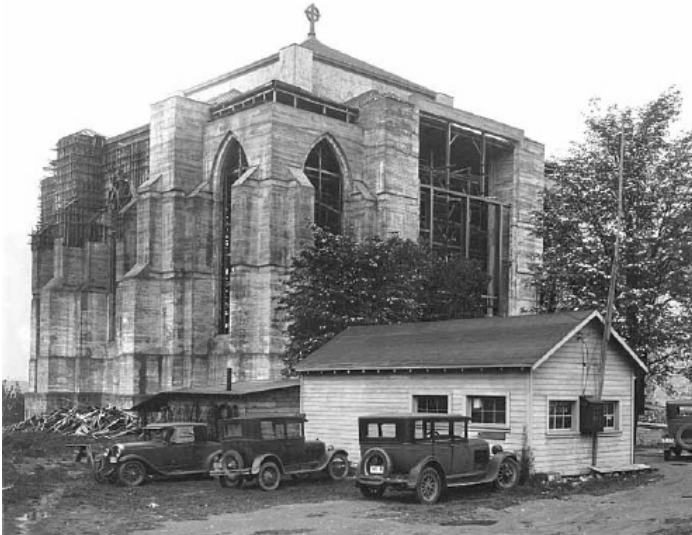


# SAINT MARK'S

## EPISCOPAL CATHEDRAL

### SEATTLE, WASHINGTON

CAPITAL CAMPAIGN 2025–2028 ♦ CASE FOR SUPPORT



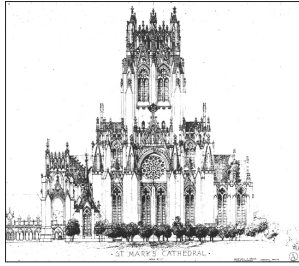
*Wherever you are on your spiritual journey, you are welcome here.*

Saint Mark's Cathedral serves as a house of prayer for all people, where we proclaim the reconciling gospel of Jesus Christ. The cathedral also serves as a staging ground for social and environmental justice, to which this cathedral parish has 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.

We are now conducting a feasibility study to invite input and perspective on a capital campaign, and to test the readiness and generosity of potential donors toward the revitalization of the cathedral. We will prioritize scope of the projects based on the range identified in the Feasibility Study.

## OUR HISTORY

Saint Mark's was founded in 1889 and worshipped in a small church at 5th and Stewart downtown. The rapidly growing parish quickly outgrew that space and moved to the second St. Mark's Church at Seneca and Broadway on First Hill. In 1923 land was purchased on Tenth Avenue East, and Saint Mark's was designated the Cathedral Church of the Diocese shortly thereafter. Construction began in 1928 with a neo-gothic cathedral envisioned.



The stock market crash of 1929 and the Great Depression curtailed funds and construction was halted with the "concrete box" we see today. Saint Mark's Cathedral was dedicated on Saturday, April 25, 1931 in a service that took place in Thomsen Chapel, the only space finished in the style meant for the whole cathedral building. Unable to service the debt on the new cathedral prompted foreclosure by the bank in 1937. The U.S. Army used the building during World War II as an anti-aircraft training center. The Diocese regained ownership of the cathedral in 1944 and sufficient funds were raised to eliminate the mortgage in 1947.

In 1958, burgeoning post-war growth led to Cathedral House being constructed at the west end of the building to provide Bloedel Parish Hall, the kitchen, Library, Parish Office, classrooms and other meeting rooms. In 1964, demolition of the East Wall/Entrance began and the Narthex/Loft was constructed with installation of the Flentrop Organ in 1965.

In 1997, the West Wall was sealed and clad in limestone on the outside, a rose window was installed, and new sacristies and vesting rooms were built. What had been a dark and constricted altar area (sanctuary) became the light and open space we now enjoy. Behind the screen is McCaw Chapel, an apse prayer chapel for small groups and individuals.

In 2017 the cathedral undertook a long-deferred project to clad and seal the building envelope for the first time in the cathedral's history. In addition, the windows of the



nave were replaced with new triple-paned, highly efficient windows. An elevator was added, making all the cathedral's spaces fully accessible, and a new Celtic cross was installed on the east facade, facing Tenth Avenue.

## REVITALIZING MINISTRY IN THE POST-PANDEMIC ERA

Saint Mark's Cathedral is a vibrant and growing community, and in the post-pandemic era we have forged a clear vision for mission and ministry guided by six strategic themes:

### **BEING ROOTED IN SPIRITUAL PRACTICES**

*We are formed by spiritual practices: prayer, worship, study, acts of justice, pilgrimage, retreat, generosity, Sabbath, and the care of Creation.*

### **EMPOWERING THE CALL TO ACTION AND SERVICE**

*We support all in discerning and living out their call to ministry and commit to developing healthy ministry leaders.*

### **CULTIVATING DIVERSE COMMUNITY**

*We actively seek and nurture diverse community through listening, connection, and collaboration.*

### **STEWARDSHIP OUR RESOURCES**

*We give generously of our time, talent, finances, and property, and care for the Earth as we respond to the world's needs.*

### **EXPANDING REGIONAL REACH AND WELCOME**

*We welcome all and serve as a gathering place for the Diocese of Olympia, the Seattle community, and interfaith and mission-related organizations.*

### **CONNECTING AND TELLING OUR STORIES**

*We offer creative ways to connect with one another, navigate ministry resources, and tell our stories as a parish and cathedral.*

The scope and tone of these themes are meant to guide Saint Mark's Cathedral in its vocation to serve the Pacific Northwest region and the world in many ways as we approach the centennial of this cathedral's founding.

*There is a sense of this generation's charism and call to forge connections between generations who have gone before and those still to come.*

**Transcendent Worship.** The rich music and liturgies draw tens of thousands each year into the sacred space, and many more connect around the world via livestream and cathedral media channels. The range of liturgical expressions is broadly diverse by design, drawing upon the cathedral's centered location and the nave's unique architecture, aesthetic and sublime acoustic. As a cathedral, we hold fast to a both/and paradigm: a backbone of thoroughly Anglican traditional worship week by week while also branching out with new experimental rites and programs that afford a range of experiences, including visits by Buddhist monks, whirling dervishes, and Native American leaders offering sacred rituals from their traditions.

The work of **Restorative Justice and Creation Care** are integral to Saint Mark's identity. Each generation has its own marks of commitment to work in these areas, and in our time we strive to faithfully respond to the current needs of the world. To that end, and in tangible response to the global climate crisis, the Cathedral Vestry has adopted a goal of becoming net carbon zero on the cathedral campus by 2030. Cathedral justice ministries strive for the dignity of every human being while lamenting and working to change systemic evils, in the church and the world. It is, by design, both relational and systemic work, focusing on responses to **hunger and homelessness**, engaging efforts of **peace and reconciliation**, commitment to **full inclusion for LGBTQ+ communities**, and the work of **climate justice**. We recognize the intersectional nature of such work as we lament what is broken while committing to work for a more just future for all.

This cathedral serves as a venue for **ecumenical and interfaith efforts**, including prayer vigils, marches, and as a community gathering place in times of crisis. Saint Mark's is a founding member of the Church Council of Greater Seattle and is a member of the statewide Faith Action Network and Washington Interfaith Power and Light (Earth Ministry).

Saint Mark's **renowned Faith Formation** ministry fosters spiritual growth and nourishing relationships among members of the cathedral community through intergenerational offerings, small group gatherings, and innovative ways to incorporate those new to Saint Mark's as we seek to become Beloved Community. The cathedral's unique position in the broader community affords the opportunity to feature internationally known speakers—spiritual leaders, authors and dignitaries, which in recent years have included Parker Palmer, Desmond Tutu, the Dalai Lama, and former Archbishop of Canterbury Rowan Williams.



# VITALITY FOR MINISTRY

This cathedral building bears the marks of generations who have gone before us, and future generations will have their say in the shaping of this cathedral, the holy box on the hill, a beacon of hope where countless souls find solace and strength. We have an opportunity in our time to address several current strategic needs. Guided by a broad-based commitment to key elements of our common life: creation care as spiritual work, excellence in worship and enhancing worship experiences, and celebrating music ministries as cherished expressions of our community, in this season of Saint Mark's history, we seek to accomplish the following:



Meet our Creation Care goal for the cathedral campus to be **net carbon zero by 2030**. In recent years, we have been about the work of improving energy efficiency on the cathedral campus, including replacing gas hot water heaters with electric, improved lighting and energy-use practices, window replacement, and undertaking building modifications that improve efficiency. Remaining projects include replacing the nave's gas boiler heat system and the dual hot water radiant system in Cathedral House with energy-efficient electrical heat pump systems.

**CAPITAL COSTS ESTIMATED: \$2.5-3.5 MILLION**



Enhance cathedral worship by addressing **long-deferred aesthetic and infrastructure aspects in the cathedral nave and narthex**. Earlier capital projects (see history, p. 2) focused on securing the building envelope, the west wall reconstruction and organ gallery. The nave floor was never finished and is decaying. A new floor, potentially of slate stone will be overlaid. A radiant floor heating system is being considered. Wainscoting will be standardized to one style. The Compline Corner will feature dedicated stalls for the Compline Choir. Electrical and sound systems upgrades are needed as are new bathrooms in a renovated narthex/foyer designed to be more welcoming, light and airy.

**CAPITAL COSTS ESTIMATED: \$2-4 MILLION**

*NOTE: Saint Mark's has already received a pledge (\$1-1.5 million) gifting a new Renaissance Organ above the Compline Corner, which will serve as a signature addition to the worship experience, and ideally we will integrate this organ installation into the nave improvements described above.*



Augment **endowments for the ministry of cathedral music** in its diverse expressions to ensure its vitality for generations to come. In recent years, we have undertaken efforts to increase our endowments to position the cathedral with a lasting financially secure future. In this time, and connected to the focus of the campaign on worship, we seek funds which would specifically endow the positions of Canon for Cathedral Music and Director of the Compline Choir.

**\$2-5 MILLION FOR PARTIAL TO FULLY ENDOWED POSITIONS**

Accomplishing these projects in their entirety as one campaign and project is estimated to cost **\$6.5-12.5 million**.