

CATHEDRA

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ST. PATRICK'S
CATHEDRAL

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CATHEDRA

A St. Patrick's Cathedral publication,
"America's Parish Church"

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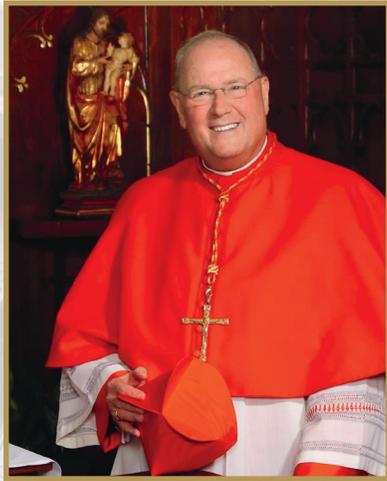
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The name, *Cathedra*, selected for this publication, refers to the Latinized Greek term for "the seat of a bishop".





CARDINAL'S MESSAGE

PREPARATION OF THE COMING OF THE LORD

By Timothy Michael Cardinal Dolan, Archbishop of New York

“IN THOSE DAYS JOHN THE BAPTIST APPEARED IN THE WILDERNESS OF JUDEA, PROCLAIMING, ‘REPENT, FOR THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN HAS COME NEAR.’”

~ MATTHEW 3:1-2

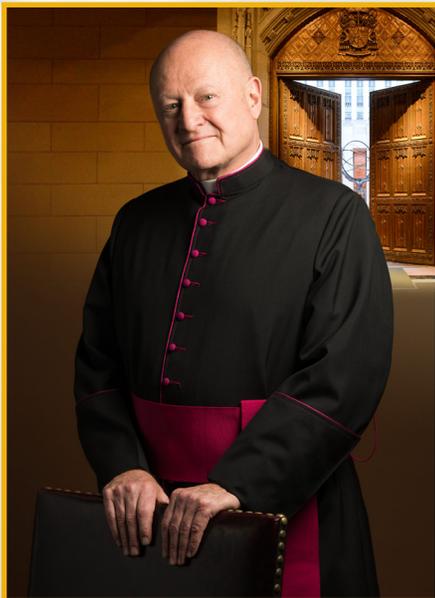
We all want Christmas to be merry. After all, Christmas is a time made for happiness. Sometimes, though, it's hard to bring out the joy of Christmas. In fact, the secret is simple. If you want your Christmas dinner to go well, the secret is to prepare your food in advance. In the same way, if you want your spirit to be lifted at Christmas, the secret is to prepare your spirit in advance.

Advent is the season of John the Baptist, and half the gospel readings this Advent will focus on him, as they do every year. This desert hermit, clothed in camel's hair, may not be the first person you think of when you think of Christmas. Rather, if most people were to make a list of Christmas figures, they would probably much sooner think of Santa Claus than John the Baptist! However, we focus on John the Baptist in Advent because of his distinct role. He came to prepare people for the coming of Christ. At Advent, we too are preparing for Christ: we are preparing for Him to come into our hearts spiritually just as He first came into the world in the flesh at the first Christmas. If we want to receive the joy of Christ more fully, we should follow the example of John the Baptist. We may not spend Advent eating locusts and honey, and we may not go around shouting “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near,” but we should still treat it as a time for preparation, prayer, and spiritual renewal through confession.

In fact, Advent began as a “little Lent,” a period of fasting meant to better prepare us for celebration at Christmas. We can make small sacrifices to mortify ourselves, give more time to prayer, and especially take time to give to others. So many people in the world and right here at home in New York are in need. Especially in the winter, people are not only hungry, but cold. What better time than Christmas to give to those who are less fortunate? If you could give so much as a used coat this Christmas, you would be swaddling the baby Jesus, who will say “Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me” (Matthew 25:40.) And I guarantee you that your own Christmas will be warmer as well.

The other person who can especially help us prepare for Christmas is Christ's mother and ours, the Blessed Virgin. Our Lady knows about preparing for Christ's coming better than anyone. She prepared for His birth for nine months as she carried Him in her womb. Since she waited in anticipation for so long, she had a much greater excitement to see her child for the first time. Even in the cold of a stable in winter, her love of her son was so warm that her joy was undiminished. Let us imitate her eager anticipation!

God bless you all.



RECTOR'S MESSAGE PROTECTING FAITH

By Reverend Monsignor Robert T. Ritchie

“NOW FAITH IS THE ASSURANCE OF THINGS HOPED FOR,
THE CONVICTION OF THINGS NOT SEEN.”

~ HEBREWS 11:1

Over the past several years a flurry of accusations have been presented regarding abuse in the Catholic Church throughout the decades. As a priest, it has been extremely difficult to hear these allegations and witness our faith and global community challenged to this extent. I often reflect on my own pastoral journey and those whom I have met and prayed for whose lives may not have been guided by Catholic principles otherwise. Our job as religious leaders is to guide our parishioners, pray for those in need and to spread the Good Word. We do this by being faithful to the church and to our obligations.

My pastoral career began as a young boy inspired and intrigued by the church and its teachings, the community it fosters and the comfort it provides. By the age of 5 I knew I was destined to be a Priest, and that path has been unwavering.

After graduating from St. Joseph's Seminary and becoming an ordained Priest, I began my pastoral vocation at the Diocese of Buga in Colombia for the summer of 1971. Surrounded by an unfamiliar community and culture it was important to me to remain mindful of my faith. During those early days of my priesthood, I was inspired and enlightened by a catholic culture unlike my own and was reminded that our faith is a global community that knows no bounds. Following my short

time in Colombia, I returned to New York and was assigned to St. Catherine of Genoa in Washington Heights where I continued my dedication to my faith, the church and God. I took on numerous roles during this journey of spirituality from Director of Youth Ministry to Executive Director of the Catholic Youth Organization. In January 2006, Edward Cardinal Egan appointed me to be Rector of St. Patrick's Cathedral, elevating me to Reverend Monsignor Robert T. Ritchie.

Throughout my pastoral experiences thus far, I have seen the power of faith and community transcend and inspire many. During these difficult times that the Catholic Church is facing, it is important to remain strong in faith. May we continue to guide each other, pray for those who are suffering, and spread the Good Word.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Rev. Msgr. Robert T. Ritchie, Rector

Relic Visit ...

ST. DAMIEN & ST. MARIANNE



In September 2019, the Relics of Saint Damien and Saint Marianne visited the Cathedral for veneration. Thank you to the Diocese of Honolulu for blessing us with these relics along your journey.

AUTUMN IN NEW YORK

By John Odin

Autumn, the time slipped between the limitless days of summer and holidays celebrations. A time marked by shortening days and advancing evenings preparing us for the solitude of winter to come. We trade the lightness of cotton for the warmth of tweed. The bright ensigns of summer with the warm subtle hues of fall. Pumpkins, spiced piping hot drinks and the majestic oranges and reds of Maple and Oak trees. Leaves drifting lazily to the ground to be swept skyward by the first cool breezes of Fall. All signs of the inevitable changes to come and our tucking under for a long winters' nap.

As you stroll the pathways of Central Park, enjoying the shifting seasons and brisk snap in the air you decide to walk down the storied 5th Avenue. Past the celebrated stores and shops that, in a few short months, will be festooned in all their holiday splendor.

Then continuing to walk on, you come upon "America's Parish Church" and think to yourself, 'I have not stopped in since the end of spring or possibly Easter'. Nestled between those Canyons of Steel with spires that mark its place, and the hustle and bustle of mid-town traffic, St. Patrick's offers an island of peace and tranquility.

What better example of home is there than St. Patrick's Cathedral and Autumn. The perfect time to visit and sit in quite repose and reflection. To rest and look back on those long days of summer and forward to the holidays or a loved one you have not seen in some time. As you walk through the enormous Bronze doors you fondly recall their always being open, welcoming us to come in and rest, relax and reflect. The ushers greet you with a warm welcome and you decide to sit for a moment. After a while

you walk up and down the aisles seeing things you have not seen before, no matter how many times you visited the Cathedral. Was there a chapel you visited as a child, possibly with a grandparent that you want to reconnect with? Enjoy a visiting choir thrilled with the chance to perform in this most sacred and fabled place. If you are truly fortunate, the St. Patrick's Cathedral Choir is rehearsing for an upcoming concert. You look up and recognize the magnificence of the stained glass and the wonderful story of our church they have told since the seventh century.

You take a moment to light a candle outside the Lady Chapel and think about how blessed we are to have all this so close, always there when we need to refresh our faith or solitude. A place for our thoughts. A place where we share so much with others, a faith that defines us as who we are. You think why did I wait so long to come in, to return?

Your visit is over, and you walk out on to 5th Avenue. You look at the shadows that have become longer with the setting sun and you realize that time has stood still for a moment as you reconnected to your faith, to your God. What a productive, fulfilling way to spend an autumn afternoon. All on a stunning fall day in "America's Parish Church", that will, as it has in the past, always be there for us.

We can be counted among the fortunate, so much to be thankful for and so much to look forward to. Our faith is the path to an understanding of where we were, where we have gone before and a compass for our journeys that lie ahead.

"It's autumn in New York; It's good to live it again". Yes, it is Mr. Duke ... yes, it is.



CELEBRATE
CHRISTMAS
WITH US AT
THE 40TH
ANNUAL A CITY
SINGING AT
CHRISTMAS!





DECEMBER 19TH, 7:00 PM

REGISTER ONLINE:

SAINTPATRICKSCATHEDRAL.ORG/FOM

The Cathedral lit by candle light during "*Silent Night*" at the 39th Annual City Singing at Christmas. Photo Credit: Tony Correa

FIFTH AVE ECUMENICAL PARTNERSHIP

By Peter Fitton

Two years ago, St. Patrick's Cathedral, St. Thomas Church Fifth Avenue, and Fifth Avenue Presbyterian Church entered into a unique ecumenical partnership. Our mission; to reach out and minister to those who are struggling and vulnerable in our local community.

Our Director of Outreach, John Sheehan LMSW, has engaged over two thousand of our neighbors who are trapped in cycles of poverty, homelessness, health/mental issues and despair. John is uniquely qualified with over 30 years of experience in "meeting people where they are at" and without regard to faith, sex, or age. Offering hope, dignity, compassion, and transforming lives...one soul at a time.

Services such as emergency and long-term housing, access to government and charitable benefits, and food programs are provided based on need. In 2019 alone,



55 individuals were provided emergency and long-term housing. 600 hungry people were given access to food programs and 215 people gained the government financial and health benefits to which they were entitled. Additionally, toiletries and clothing are provided to walk-ins and those engaged with on street outreach. All of which are donated by parishioners of the three churches.



Success Stories

1. S.V. is a 63-year-old homeless woman with long history of mental illness. Through our support S.V. now receives mental health treatment. Through the Center for Urban Community Services, we placed her in the Kelly Hotel, a residence in the Bowery.



2. D.B. is a 63-year-old man referred to us by a clergy member of All Souls Church. D.B. has chronic medical and mental health problems. We motivated him to go to Bellevue Men's Shelter and subsequently assisted him in getting into Valley Lodge of West Side Federation for Senior and Supportive Housing, where he is doing well.

3. B., a 61-year-old schizophrenic, male, appeared at our office on September 30. He was fluidly psychotic. He was very informed about religion. He left Winston Salem, North Carolina, a few weeks earlier and ended up in New York City, homeless and wandering the streets. We contacted Winston Salem's Adult Protective Services (APS) and arranged for his safe return to North Carolina. We purchased a bus ticket, brought him to Port Authority and got him food. Winston Salem's APS picked him up at the bus station. They are reimbursing us for the bus ticket and grateful for our efforts.

All funding for this remarkable endeavor is provided by the three churches. However, the need is far greater than we imagined. Any additional help would be a blessing.

If you would like more information or would like to know how to help please contact Peter Fitton at pjfitton@saintpatrickscathedral.org or call 212-646-537-7830 ext.707



In October 2019 St. Patrick's Cathedral launched an exciting new planned giving opportunity. We have partnered with **FreeWill**, an online platform which allows people to easily prepare and create a Will, free of charge, to support those causes you love.

At the core of St. Patrick's Cathedral is our mission of standing the test of time as a beacon of hope, faith, and inspiration

for so many here and beyond. Our story is your story, and through your commitment and generosity, generations past, present, and future have been inexorably linked to the beauty of God's message realized in the community we have built in the heart of New York City.

Please head to **saintpatrickscathedral.org/freewill** to learn more about how you can include St. Patrick's in your Will.

Why use FreeWill?



To be thoughtful

Make important decisions where they belong – at home.



To be kind

Support the people and causes that mean the most to you



To be savvy

Save time, money, and stress for you and your loved ones



ST. PATRICK'S CATHEDRAL 2019 CHRISTMAS ORNAMENT



The 2019 Edition of our annual ornament features the Cathedral placed in the center of a golden Bell, finished in electro gold-plated. To order your 2019 Christmas Ornament, please:

Visit our website: www.spcgift.org

[or]

Call our Gift Shop: (212) 355-2749

[or]

Visit our Gift Shop: 15 East 51ST Street, NY, NY 10022



Be a Part of St. Patrick's Cathedral

Mass Times:

Monday through Friday: 7:00, 7:30, 8:00 am,
12 Noon, 12:30, 1:00, 5:30 pm.

Saturday: 8:00 am (in the Lady Chapel).

12 Noon, Vigil Mass: 5:30 pm (Fulfills Sunday obligation).

Sunday: 7:00, 8:00, 9:00, 10:15 am (Full Choir)*,
12 Noon, 1:00, 4:00 (Spanish), and 5:30 pm.

***Watch Mass via Live Stream:**

www.saintpatrickscathedral.org/live

Confession Times:

Weekdays: After morning Masses and from
Noon to 1:20 pm.

Saturdays: Noon - 12:45 pm and 3:30 - 5:30 pm.

Reconciliation is available in languages other than English. For more information, please contact the priest on duty at:

St. Patrick's Cathedral Parish House

14 East 51st Street

New York, NY 10022

212.753.2261

For any additional questions please call the Parish House: 212.753.2261

Location:

St. Patrick's Cathedral

5th Avenue between 50th/51st Streets

New York, NY, 10022

Subway Directions:

E or 6 trains to 5th Avenue/53rd Street

4 5 6 or NQR trains to 5th Avenue/59th Street

BDM or F trains to Rockefeller Center

Visit Our Gift Shop Online: www.spcgift.org

15 East 51st Street, between 5th Ave & Madison Ave

Hours: 8:30 am to 8:00 pm, Monday - Friday

10:00 am to 6:00 pm, Saturday and Sunday

Virtual Tour:

www.saintpatrickscathedral.org/visit

St. Patrick's Cathedral is the Mother Church of the Archdiocese of New York and the seat of its Archbishop. Built by contributions large and small, it remains emblematic of the ascendancy of religious freedom in the New World.

ST. PATRICK'S CATHEDRAL GIFT SHOP



Gift Shop Hours & Locations:

Annex Shop

(located within the Cathedral)

Open Daily: 8:30 am to 8:00 pm

Main Shop

located at 15 East 51st Street

(across from the Cathedral on 51st & Madison) Open Daily: 10:00 am to 6:00 pm

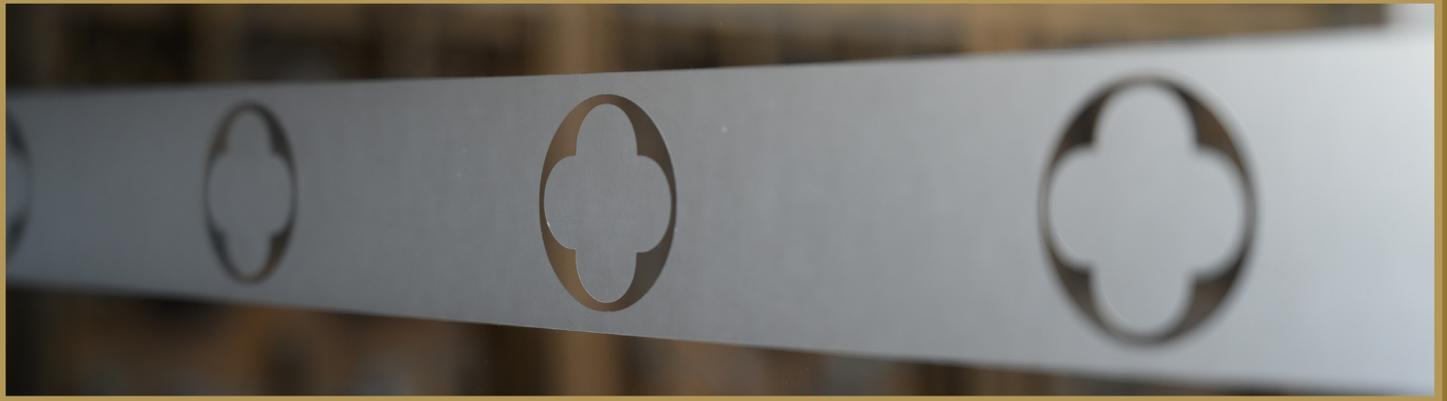
YOU'RE INVITED TO BECOME A PARISHIONER

Visit us online and sign up today at

www.saintpatrickscathedral.org/parishioner



JOIN OUR LEGACY



As you think about your Christmas and end of year giving, you may wish to consider some giving options that could benefit you and provide for the *Legacy* of the Cathedral.

CHARITABLE BEQUESTS

There are several ways to name the Cathedral as a beneficiary of your will or living trust. You can make a cash bequest, leave a specific asset such as appreciated securities, or designate that the Cathedral will receive all or a percentage of the remainder of your estate, after your other beneficiaries are provided for.

GIFTS OF RETIREMENT PLAN ASSETS

Retirement plan assets could be the most heavily taxed of all your assets if left to heirs. With the income and estate taxes, more than half could be whittled away. You can preserve more of your estate for your heirs and meet your philanthropic goals by leaving your retirement plan assets to a tax-exempt charitable organization such as the Cathedral.

GIFTS OF APPRECIATED SECURITIES

Giving appreciated securities is now more advantageous with the rise in the value of securities and higher tax rates. For securities held longer than one year, you can deduct their full market value (top Federal rate 39.6%) regardless of what you originally paid for them. You also avoid paying capital gains tax (top Federal rate 23.8%).

CHARITABLE GIFT ANNUITIES

A charitable gift annuity is a simple contract that offers a tax-advantaged way to provide fixed guaranteed income to you and/or another individual. At the death of the last income beneficiary, the remaining principal is transferred to the Cathedral. You can begin to receive income when you need it most, either right away, or at a pre-determined future date such as retirement.

CHARITABLE REMAINDER TRUSTS

You can donate a wide variety of assets to a charitable remainder trust, including cash, appreciated securities and real estate, and receive a percentage of the trust's value as income. In years when the trust assets appreciate; the distribution will increase; if asset values decline, distributions are lower. At the death of the last income beneficiary, the remaining principal is transferred to the Cathedral.

CONTACT US

We would be most grateful for the opportunity to discuss these gift arrangements and other giving ideas with you, your family and your professional advisers.

Loual Puliafito
Sr. Director of Development, St. Patrick's Cathedral
(646) 537-7830 ext. 847
LoualPuliafito@saintpatrickscathedral.

A BLESSED ADVENT
SEASON TO ALL!



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