

THE CATHEDRAL COMMUNITY

Cathedral Dean Samuel Lloyd has said, “My hope for this Cathedral is that it will be known not only as a great and holy building, but as a Voice of generous spirited Christianity; as a Place of reconciliation and healing, and a People serving Christ and working for justice among the broken and hurting of our world.”

It is in this spirit that we welcome all who walk in our doors, whether they are looking for a spiritual experience or not. People of all faiths, and those who follow no religion in particular, are welcome here. It is our hope that all will find inspiration, beauty, peace, and joy within these walls and on these grounds.

The Cathedral is home to staff, volunteers, donors, friends, and worshipers inspired by the Cathedral’s message of welcome and reconciliation. We invite you to learn more about the many opportunities to join our community, to participate in the work we do, and about our friends group, the National Cathedral Association.

Built with and entirely supported by the generous gifts of individuals, we rely entirely upon the support of our visitors, worshipers, and friends to operate and maintain the Cathedral.

We hope you will visit often, in person or online. Join us.



Washington National Cathedral

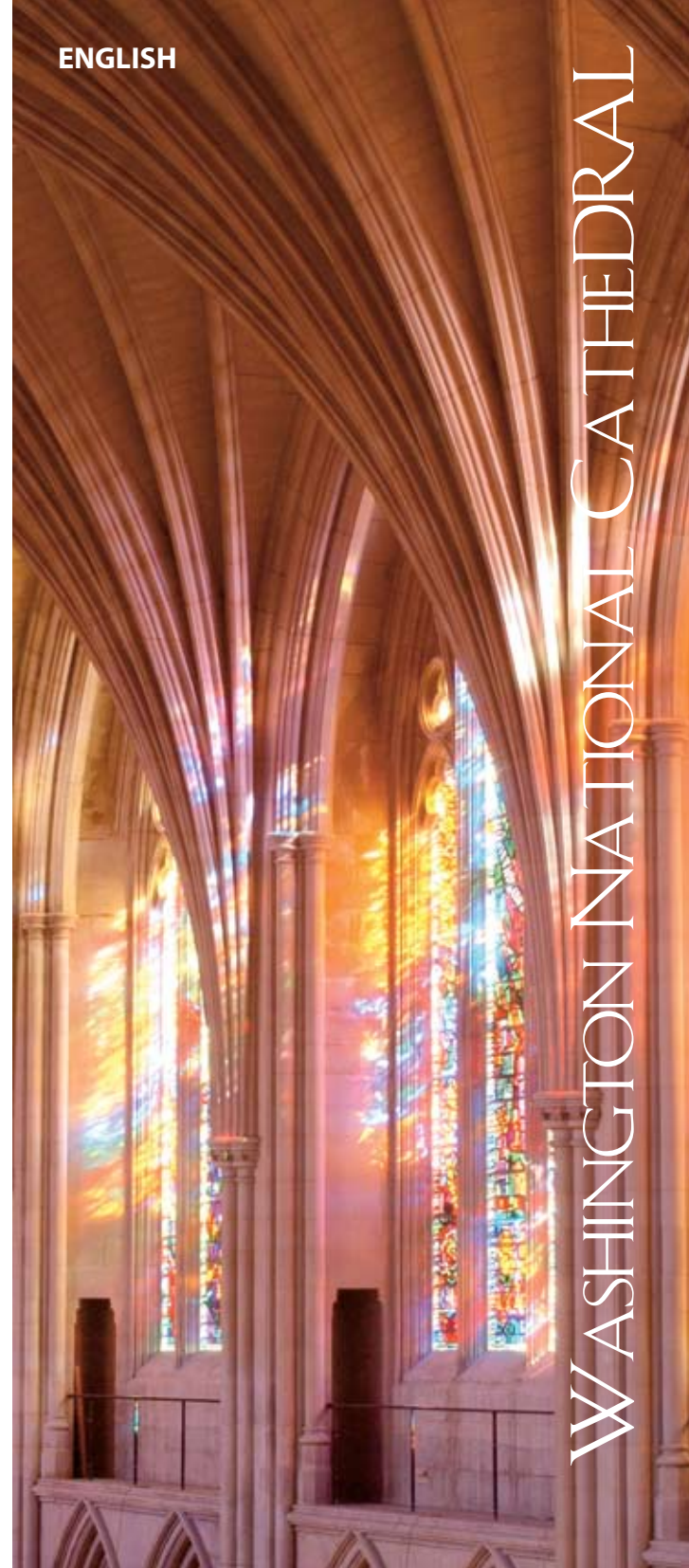
The Rt. Rev. John Bryson Chane
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ENGLISH



WASHINGTON NATIONAL CATHEDRAL

Welcome.

No matter your church, your faith, or your reason for visiting, we welcome you to Washington National Cathedral. Each year, the Cathedral opens its doors to thousands of worshipers and visitors who come to find peace and inspiration, listen to beautiful music, and experience the Cathedral’s extraordinary art and architecture.

This Cathedral, officially the Cathedral Church of St. Peter and St. Paul, had its beginning in 1893 when Congress granted a charter creating the Protestant Episcopal Cathedral Foundation. The foundation stone was laid in 1907 in the presence of President Theodore Roosevelt, and the Cathedral was completed in 1990—83 years later—when the “final finial” was placed in the presence of President George H.W. Bush.

Today, the Cathedral is a church for national purposes, an Episcopal cathedral welcoming to people of all faiths and none. A unique blend of the spiritual and the civic, the Cathedral is a voice for generous-spirited Christianity and a catalyst for reconciliation and interfaith dialogue to promote respect and understanding. We invite all people to share in our commitment to create a more hopeful and just world.

Cathedral Art and Architecture

Built of Indiana limestone, the Cathedral is the sixth largest in the world. Its design is unique and not copied from any earlier building. The building is shaped like a cross, with a long nave—a tenth of a mile—and two shorter transepts.

The Cathedral’s architectural style is Gothic, characterized by great height and the use of pointed arches, boss stones, ribbed vaulting, large windows, and flying buttresses. These features lift the eye upward, but also serve a structural purpose. The weight of the roof passes downward along the vaulting, and then on to the piers, where it is resisted by the flying buttresses. Because the walls do not support the weight of the roof, they can be thin and tall, permitting large windows decorated with stained glass.

Here, the architecture and art instruct and inspire. Works in wrought iron, stone, stained glass, wood, and fabric art decorate the building. More than beautiful decoration, this art is part of the Cathedral’s iconography—the planned system of images and symbols designed to teach Christian beliefs, reveal the presence of God, and pay tribute to our country’s history and values.

One theme, told moving from west to east, is the story of redemption through faith. Beginning at the west façade and west rose window with the story of creation, this theme continues through the clerestory windows, and ends with the sculpture of *Christ in Majesty* at the High Altar.

Visitor Services

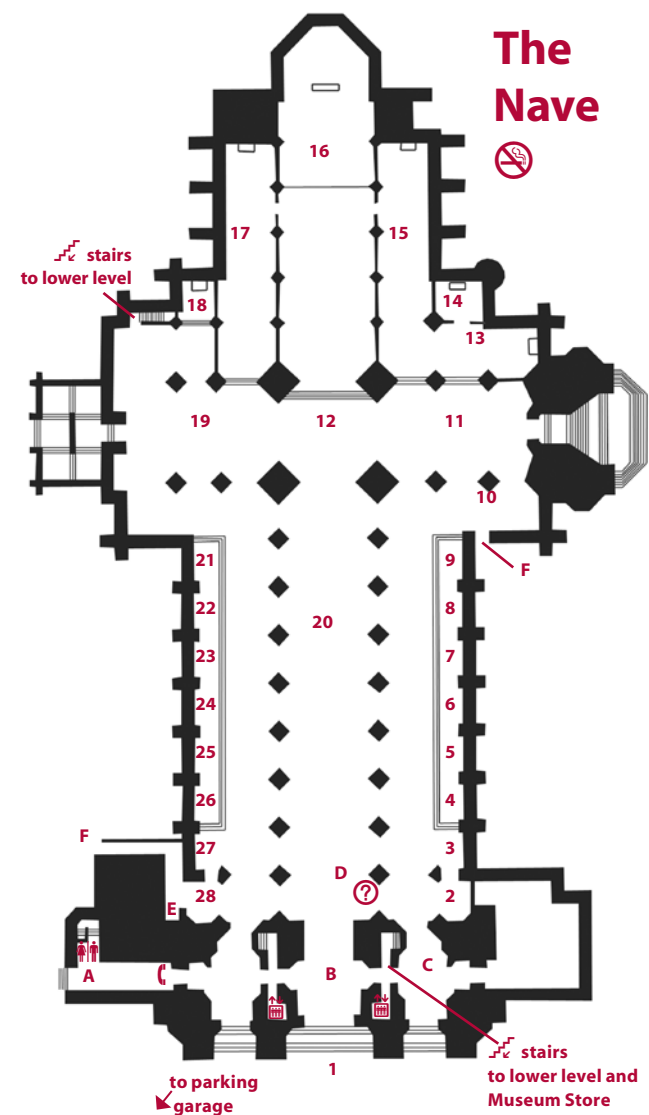
- A** PUBLIC RESTROOMS are down the stairs in the Northwest Cloister.
- B** Elevators rise to the PILGRIM OBSERVATION GALLERY for views over the city. A limited selection of souvenir items are usually available here.
- C** Stairs lead down to the MUSEUM STORE and crypt level. Limited FOOD SERVICE is available in the Museum Store.
- D** At the west end of the nave visitors may obtain INFORMATION about the Cathedral and its friends group, sign the guest kiosk, or start an audio or a guided tour.
- E** A wheelchair-accessible HANDICAPPED RESTROOM is adjacent to the nave.
- F** A WHEELCHAIR RAMP is located on the north side. WHEELCHAIR ACCESS to the lower level and South Road is available through an elevator in the south transept.

Main Level (the Nave)



1 The Cathedral’s great iconographic story—the movement of humankind from creation to redemption—begins here at the WEST FAÇADE. The art here explores themes of creation. The carved tympana above three massive portals show the creation of day, the creation of humankind, and the creation of night. The three statues are of Peter, Adam, and Paul. The great bronze gates show scenes from the lives of Peter in the north portal, Abraham and Moses in the center portal, and Paul in the south portal.

- 2** A heroic marble statue of the first president dominates GEORGE WASHINGTON BAY. The abstract design of the window reflects the search for freedom which led to the founding of our nation.
- 3** MARYLAND BAY is rich with symbols of the state and its diverse religious heritage in its stone carving and in its stained glass. The land for what is now the District of Columbia was once part of Maryland.
- 4** Colorful windows depicting the richness of the lands explored in the 1803 Lewis and Clark expedition to the American northwest are in FOLGER BAY.
- 5** In 1891, a group of men met in the Washington, D.C. home of Charles C. Glover to promote plans for building the Cathedral. This event and others are commemorated in the GLOVER BAY windows.



- 6** In memory of Charles Warren, lawyer and historian of the Supreme Court, WARREN BAY contains symbols of law. Directly above is the SPACE WINDOW commemorating the Apollo XI mission and holding a piece of moon rock brought back by its crew.
- 7** WOODROW WILSON BAY is enriched by myriad images in stone and glass symbolizing events in the life of our twenty-eighth president, who is buried here. *War and Peace* is the title of this striking and colorful window.
- 8** Windows in LEE-JACKSON BAY contain scenes from the lives of these two Civil War generals.
- 9** Behind its wrought iron gate, MELLON BAY may be used for private prayer. Carvings relating to Andrew W. Mellon are on the column capitals.

The Nave

- 10** The artwork in the BAPTISTRY depicts symbols representing baptism. A nearby elevator provides wheelchair access to the crypt level and South Road.
- 11** The Cathedral’s three rose windows are linked thematically by three sacred events connecting humanity with the divine: the Creation, the Last Judgement, and Life Everlasting. The theme of the rose window in the SOUTH TRANSEPT is the *Church Triumphant*, with imagery from the biblical book of Revelation.
- 12** THE CROSSING is the center of the two transept “arms” and the “body” of the long nave, which form the shape of a cross. Piers soar nearly one hundred feet to the vaulting. The sculpture on the Canterbury Pulpit depicts people and scenes relating to the translation of the Bible into English. Stones for the pulpit came from Canterbury Cathedral in England. A crucifixion scene is high overhead on the rood beam (“rood” is an old word meaning cross or crucifix).
- 13** A tribute to those who have served in our armed forces, the art of WAR MEMORIAL CHAPEL tells stories of sacrifice and the struggle for freedom.
- 14** A statue of the *Christ Child* welcomes visitors to CHILDREN’S CHAPEL, built to the scale of a six-year-old child. The kneelers feature baby animals; the wrought iron depicts imaginary ones.
- 15** The red needlepoint kneelers of ST. JOHN’S CHAPEL recognize noted Americans, each kneeler displays symbols for the accomplishments of an individual. Carvings portray the Last Supper and the crucifixion; the windows tell of the miracles of Jesus.
- 16** At the east end of the Cathedral nave is the HIGH ALTAR. One hundred and ten figures of men and women exemplifying the highest ideals of Christianity surround the central figure of *Christ in Majesty*, completing the iconographic story with the redemption of humankind through Jesus Christ. The bishop’s chair, the *Glastonbury Cathedra*, is on the left.
- 17** The ornate reredos in ST. MARY’S CHAPEL shows scenes from the life of Mary, the mother of Jesus. The windows depict the parables of Jesus; the sixteenth-century tapestries tell the story of David and Goliath.
- 18** The altar panels of HOLY SPIRIT CHAPEL were painted by noted American illustrator N. C. Wyeth. The dove, a symbol for the Holy Spirit, is used in the iron gate and altar painting. Reserved for quiet prayer.
- 19** In the NORTH TRANSEPT is the Cathedral’s oldest rose window, entitled *Last Judgment*. A life-sized figure of Jesus Christ as judge can be seen in the center. Stained glass artist Lawrence Saint attempted to follow medieval stained glass techniques in crafting this window.



20 Looking west from the mid-nave crossing is a view of the magnificent **WEST ROSE WINDOW**. Known as the *Creation Rose*, this window brings the creation story inside the building with an abstract interpretation that casts light throughout the nave. This window and all of the **NAVE CLERESTORY**, or the top level, windows were designed by Rowan LeCompte, and are admired for their clarity, sparkle, and brilliant color. The eighteen clerestory windows portray the progress of the Hebrew people as God prepared them for the coming of the Messiah. The windows are meant to be viewed in pairs, so the south windows are linked to the facing north windows.

21 **KELLOGG BAY** is a memorial to diplomat and statesman Frank B. Kellogg and reflects his ardent desire for universal peace. On the east wall is a carving of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., preaching his last Sunday sermon from the Cathedral’s pulpit (March 31, 1968).

22 The **HUMANITARIAN BAY**, also known as Boardman Bay, honors such servants of humankind as George Washington Carver, Albert Schweitzer, Elizabeth Fry, and Francis of Assisi.

23 Peace and universal unity are the themes of Henry **WHITE BAY**. The windows contain symbols of the League of Nations, the United Nations, peoples of the world in prayer, and peaceful uses of atomic energy.

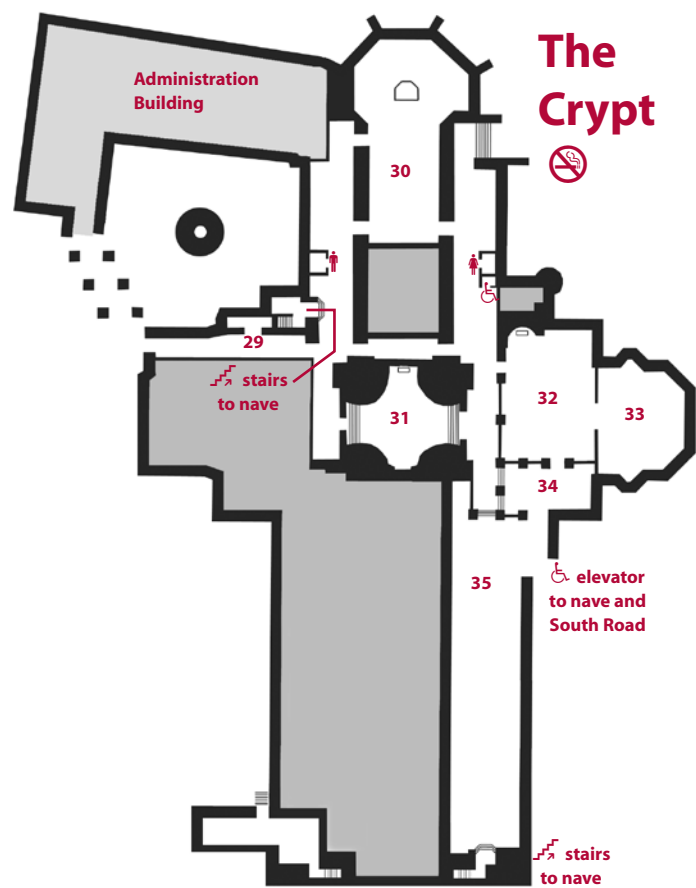
24 *America the Beautiful* is symbolized by the brilliant color and abstract design of the windows of the **BETTELHEIM BAY**.

25 The **NATIONAL CATHEDRAL ASSOCIATION BAY’S** windows portray some of the roles of Christian women as “life-givers, healers, purifiers, and teachers.” Members of the NCA from all over the nation built this and other sections of the Cathedral, and continue to support its programs.

26 The windows of **DULIN BAY** depict the twenty-third psalm in vivid colors.

27 Philip Hubert Frohman, beloved Cathedral architect for more than fifty years, is memorialized in **FROHMAN BAY**. The dramatic, abstract window utilizes an imaginative design of leading and small pieces of glass.

28 In **ABRAHAM LINCOLN BAY** a heroic bronze statue stands before words from Lincoln’s farewell address at Springfield, Illinois. The floor is inset with Lincoln-head pennies; the window depicts in abstract form *The Agony of Civil War*.



Lower Level (the Crypt)

The crypt level is reached by the stairs near Holy Spirit Chapel, descending behind a handsomely detailed stone screen. The iconography of the crypt chapels deals with New Testament imagery and the promise of eternal life: Jesus’s birth, his death and entombment, and his resurrection.

29 The altar sculpture of tiny **GOOD SHEPHERD CHAPEL**, showing a shepherd tenderly holding a lamb, interprets the role of God as protector, especially to those who are injured or suffering. Open 6 am–10 pm daily for private prayer.

30 The Cathedral’s foundation stone was placed on this site under what later became the altar of **BETHLEHEM CHAPEL**. This chapel contains symbols and depictions of the genealogy and birth of Jesus. In 1912 this became the first part of the Cathedral to be completed, and a service has been held here every day since.

31 Directly beneath the crossing is the **CHAPEL OF ST. JOSEPH OF ARIMATHEA**. The somber mural tells the story of Jesus’ entombment following the crucifixion. This chapel and Resurrection Chapel are primarily built in the Romanesque (or Norman) style of architecture featuring rounded arches and a heavier “feel” than Gothic architecture. The use of this style here imitates the medieval custom of building a Gothic cathedral over the crypt of an earlier, Romanesque one.

32 Peaceful **RESURRECTION CHAPEL** is decorated with colorful mosaics, portraying the appearances of Jesus after his resurrection. Quiet is observed in this chapel. Wheelchair access to Bethlehem Chapel is through this chapel.

33 The **CATHEDRAL CENTER FOR PRAYER AND PILGRIMAGE**, offers meditation aids to visitors. Monday–Saturday 10 am–4 pm; Sunday 1–4 pm. Check the website for programs offered through the Center for Prayer and Pilgrimage.

34 The **VISITORS’ LOUNGE** offers a place to rest. Visitors may sign the state books here. An elevator provides wheelchair access to the nave and South Road.

35 Sales in the **MUSEUM STORE** support the Cathedral. Books, religious art, Cathedral-themed gifts, music, and limited food service are available.

On the Cathedral Close

The grounds of the Cathedral, called the “Close” is fifty-seven acres, which includes the Cathedral, three schools, the offices of the Episcopal Diocese of Washington, and St. Alban’s Church.

The **BISHOP’S GARDEN** is modeled on a medieval walled garden. The garden is open daily until dusk. **Tours of the Bishop’s Garden** are offered at 10:30 am Wednesday, April–October, meeting at the Herb Cottage.

An equestrian statue of George Washington stands at the base of the broad, stone Pilgrim Steps. From here, the **PILGRIM WAY** winds through the five-acre Olmsted Woods, named for the landscape architect of the Close, Frederick Law Olmsted, Jr. All Hallows Guild, a volunteer organization, raises funds to support the grounds and gardens, and offers the Wednesday morning garden tours and bird walks through the Olmsted Woods. Check the website for dates and times.



General Information

WORSHIP SERVICES

Monday–Saturday: 7:30 am, noon, 2:30 pm, 5:30 pm (4 pm Saturday); Sunday: 7:45 am, 8:45 am, 10 am, 11:15 am, 4 pm, 6:30 pm. Updates posted on the website.

CATHEDRAL OPERATING HOURS

Doors are open most weeks Monday–Friday: 10 am–5:30 pm. Saturday 10 am–4 pm. Sunday: 7:45 am–5 pm. No touring during services or special events. Other tour interruptions are posted on the website.

THE SUNDAY FORUM

The Sunday Forum: Critical Issues in the Light of Faith is a discussion of the issues of the day in the context of Christian faith with invited guest participants. Visit the Cathedral website for a list of upcoming programs.

GUIDED AND AUDIO TOURS

A 30-minute guided tour start regularly. Monday–Saturday: 10–11:30 am and 12:45–4 pm (3:30 pm Saturday); Sunday: 12:45–2:30 pm. Tours are offered on an ongoing basis from the information table on the main level. No tours during services and special events, or on Thanksgiving, Christmas, and Easter (other tour interruptions posted on the website). Specialty tours are often available.

Self-paced audio tours are available for rental during regular touring hours and cover the nave and crypt chapels.

MUSIC

Cathedral choristers sing Evensong at 5:30 pm Monday–Thursday during the school year (2007–2008). Organ demonstrations are Monday and Wednesday at 12:30 pm. The carillon is played Saturday at 12:30 pm. On Sunday, the ten-bell peal is rung following the 11:15 am service and organ recitals usually follow 4 pm Evensong. Special musical events can be found on the website.

CATHEDRAL SHOPS

The **Museum Store** is open 9:30 am–5 pm daily, and sells Cathedral-themed gifts. The **Greenhouse** sells plants and garden items; open 9:30 am–5 pm Monday–Saturday; 10 am to 5 pm Sunday. The **Herb Cottage** is open 10 am–5 pm daily, and sells gifts for the home. The **Museum Store Annex**, located in the parking garage, is open in the spring, 9:30 am–5 pm daily.

The shops are closed Christmas and New Year’s Day, in addition to other special closures. Sales at the shops support the Cathedral’s operations and mission. Shop online: www.shop.cathedral.org.

EDUCATION AND FAMILY PROGRAMS

Promoting spiritual education, the **Cathedral College** sponsors programs including conferences for laity and clergy, lectures by authors and speakers, pilgrimages, and evenings of renewal, conversation, and labyrinth walks. Programs explore Christian formation, interfaith understanding, and spirituality. For more information, visit the website.

The Cathedral welcomes groups of local elementary school classes for educational, discovery-based visits. Interactive **family programs** are offered most Saturdays, 10 am–2 pm in the crypt classroom, information: (202) 537-2934.

VOLUNTEERING

Volunteers are a vibrant, vital part of our Cathedral community. More than 1,000 volunteers work in forty areas of the life and work of the Cathedral. We invite your help: to explore volunteering, call (202)537-8990 or email volunteer@cathedral.org.

SUPPORT WITH YOUR DONATION

The mission and ministry of Washington National Cathedral and its preservation depend entirely on the gifts of friends throughout the world. Each stone, each note of music, each word spoken is supported by the gifts of individuals—such as visitor donations, gift shop sales, and membership in the National Cathedral Association.

CATHEDRAL FRIENDS

Many visitors extend their visit to the Cathedral by joining the Cathedral’s friends group, the **National Cathedral Association (NCA)**. NCA members enjoy discounts at the Cathedral shops, join in Major State Days, and regional events, and receive *Cathedral Age* magazine. Membership starts at \$40.

Regional chapters across the country invite participation. For more information, call (800) 622-6304, email nca@cathedral.org, or visit online.

THE CATHEDRAL ONLINE

Additional information—including touring interruptions, special services, upcoming programs, weekly sermons, webcasts of special events, online shopping, an RSS feed, and a virtual tour—can be found on the Cathedral’s website, www.nationalcathedral.org.

The Close

