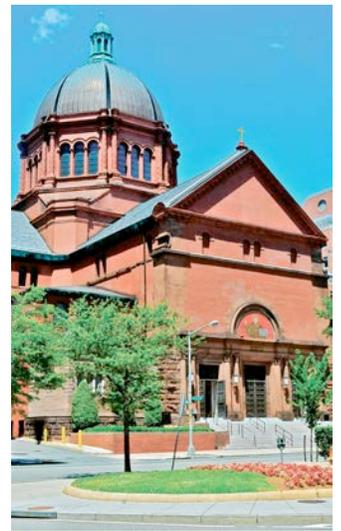


THE CATHEDRAL OF SAINT MATTHEW THE APOSTLE



Celebrating 175 Years as a Landmark of Faith in the Nation's Capital

- In a city of monuments, the Cathedral of Saint Matthew the Apostle located in downtown Washington, D.C., at 1725 Rhode Island Ave., N.W., is a landmark of faith in the nation's capital. Its copper-plated dome, rising about 200 feet high, is a familiar part of the Washington skyline.
- The Cathedral of Saint Matthew the Apostle is named for the patron saint of civil servants – Saint Matthew the tax collector who became one of Jesus's apostles – and those who worship there include workers from all three branches of the federal government, and city officials and employees. Every day, Catholics from all walks of life, from across the United States and from around the world, come to pray there.
- The parish was established in Washington, D.C., in 1840, and the present church structure was designed by the noted architect Christopher Grant La Farge, with its cornerstone blessed in 1893 and the first Mass celebrated there in 1895. Saint Matthew was named the cathedral church for the newly formed Archdiocese of Washington in 1939.
- As the cathedral church, it is the mother church for Catholics in the Archdiocese of Washington and the seat of the archbishop, Cardinal Donald Wuerl, who celebrates major Masses there. With its liturgies, educational programs and outreach to the poor, the Cathedral of Saint Matthew the Apostle plays a major role in Catholic life in the nation's capital. This year, the cathedral is celebrating its 175th anniversary with a variety of programs.
- Over the years, the Cathedral of Saint Matthew the Apostle has been a witness to history. In 1945, after Germany and later Japan surrendered to mark the end of World War II, grateful crowds gathered at the cathedral to offer prayers of thanksgiving. On Nov. 25, 1963, the Funeral Mass for President John F. Kennedy, the nation's first Catholic president, was held at the Cathedral of Saint Matthew, three days after the president was assassinated. Heads of state filled the cathedral to mourn the slain president. Crowds of people gathered in sorrow to pray at the cathedral after the Sept. 11, 2001 terrorist attacks on the United States.
- During his first pastoral visit to the United States, Pope John Paul II celebrated Mass on Oct. 6, 1979 at the Cathedral of Saint Matthew. Today, a bronze bust of Saint John Paul II by sculptor Gordon S. Kray commemorates the pope's visit to the cathedral.
- Each year, the Cathedral of Saint Matthew the Apostle hosts the Red Mass on the Sunday before the first Monday in October when the Supreme Court of the United States begins its regular term. At the Red Mass, prayers are invoked to seek the Holy Spirit's guidance and blessings on those who work in administering the law. The Mass, sponsored by the John Carroll Society, a group of Catholic professionals in the Archdiocese of Washington, is typically attended by justices of the Supreme Court, along with members of the president's cabinet, members of Congress, the diplomatic corps, local leaders, and sometimes the president or vice president.

St. Matthews is located at 1725 Rhode Island Avenue, NW, Washington, D.C.

For more information on the Cathedral of Saint Matthew the Apostle, go to stmatthewscathedral.org