



WEST ROSE

EXTEND YOUR VISIT

Thank you for visiting the Cathedral today. We appreciate your interest in the Cathedral and hope that you had an enjoyable visit.

If you would like to continue your Cathedral experience, please visit our website often. Featuring virtual tours of the towers, the great organ, and the chapels, as well as live webcasts of services and special events, the Cathedral's website is the best way to stay in touch.

www.nationalcathedral.org

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Lower Level (the Crypt)

EXTENDED TOUR—LOWER LEVEL

Follow the numbers to explore additional chapels and visitor spaces on the lower level.

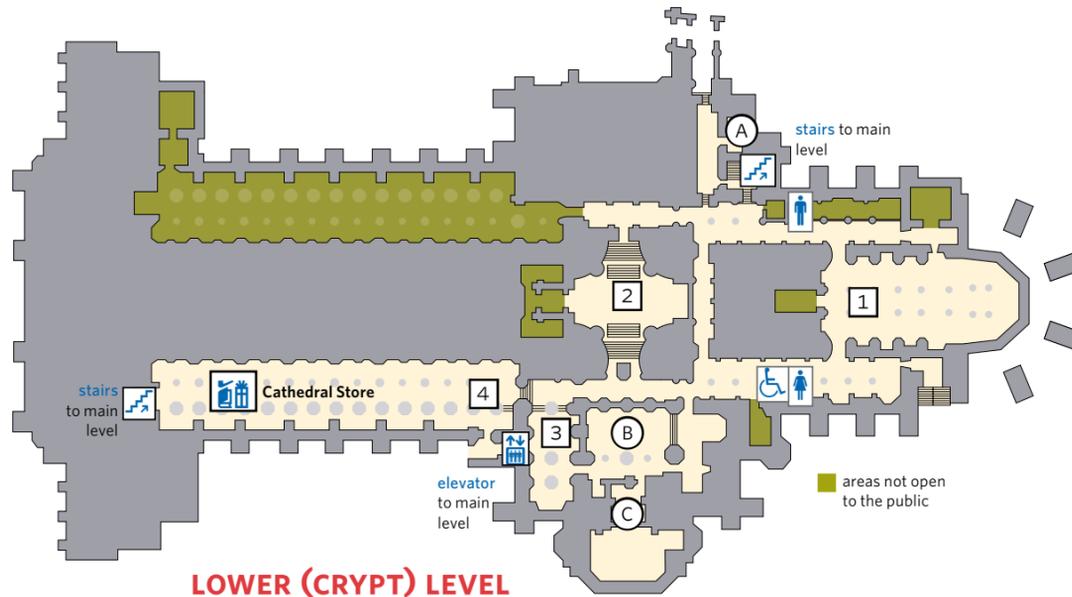
The crypt level is reached by the stairs near Holy Spirit Chapel, descending behind a detailed stone screen. The iconography of the crypt chapels deals with New Testament imagery and the promise of eternal life: Jesus' birth, his death and entombment, and his resurrection.

- 1 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.
- 2 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. *Not wheelchair accessible.*
- 3 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.
- 4 Sales in the **CATHEDRAL STORE** support the Cathedral. Books, religious art, Cathedral-themed gifts, music, and limited food service are available. This gift shop is open 9:30 am–5 pm daily. *Not wheelchair accessible.*

EXPLORE QUIETLY: PRIVATE PRAYER

Follow the letters to find a space for private prayer or meditation on the lower level.

- A 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.
- B 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.*
- C The **CATHEDRAL CENTER FOR PRAYER AND PILGRIMAGE** is open daily for quiet prayer and meditation. Check our website for the diverse programs in prayer, devotional practices, and reflection offered through the center.



LOWER (CRYPT) LEVEL

On the Cathedral Close

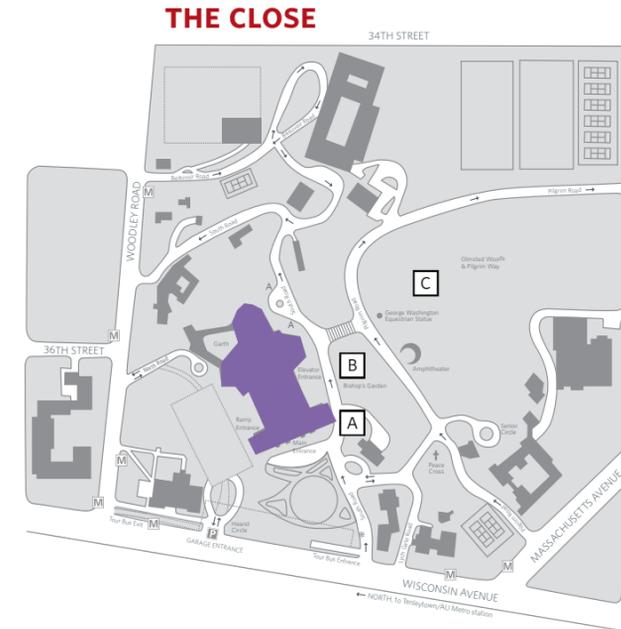
The grounds of the Cathedral, called the "Close" is 57 acres, which includes the Cathedral, three schools, the offices of the Episcopal Diocese of Washington, and St. Alban's Church. Beautiful gardens enhance the grounds.

- A The **HERB COTTAGE**, located across South Road from the Cathedral, is open 10 am–5 pm daily, and sells gifts for the home and garden. All Hallows Guild, a volunteer organization, raises funds to support the grounds and gardens, and runs the Herb Cottage.

MORE TO SEE: THE BISHOP'S GARDEN AND OLMSTED WOODS

Maps of the Bishop's Garden and Olmsted Woods are available in the Herb Cottage on South Road.

- B The **BISHOP'S GARDEN** is modeled on a medieval walled garden, and features herb and rose beds. The garden offers an unparalleled view of nearly the entire south side of the Cathedral, including the central tower. The garden is open daily until dusk. *Not wheelchair accessible.*
- C 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. *Partially wheelchair accessible.*



CATHEDRAL HISTORY AND MISSION

This Cathedral, officially the Cathedral Church of St. Peter and St. Paul, had its beginning in 1893 when Congress incorporated 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 perspectives. 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.

the Self-guided TOUR

AT WASHINGTON NATIONAL CATHEDRAL



"One of the thrills of stepping through the west end doors is the sense that we are entering a grand hall of memories."

—Cathedral Dean Samuel T. Lloyd III

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.

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.

Visitor Services

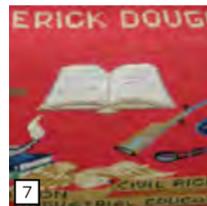
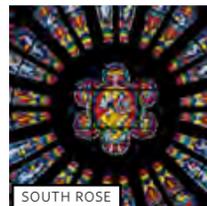
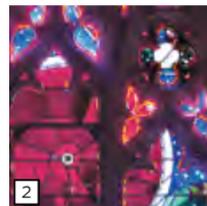
 **PUBLIC RESTROOMS** are down the stairs in the northwest cloister.

 Elevators rise to the **PILGRIM OBSERVATION GALLERY** for views over the city. *Cannot accommodate bus groups.*

 Stairs lead down to the **CATHEDRAL STORE**, which sells gifts, books, and souvenirs, and lower level chapels. Limited **FOOD SERVICE** is available in the Cathedral Store. Our gift shop offers in-depth **GUIDEBOOKS** on the stained glass and gargoyles, as well as a general guidebook on the Cathedral's history and architecture.

 At the west end of the nave and inside the visitors' entrance visitors may obtain **INFORMATION** about the Cathedral or start an audio or a guided tour.

 A wheelchair-accessible **HANDICAPPED RESTROOM** is adjacent to the nave. Another is located on the lower level. 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)

30 MINUTES—HIGHLIGHTS

Follow the numbered items to tour the “must see” highlights of the Cathedral's art and architecture.

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 Directly above is the **SPACE WINDOW** commemorating the Apollo 11 mission and holding a piece of moon rock brought back by its crew.

3 **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).

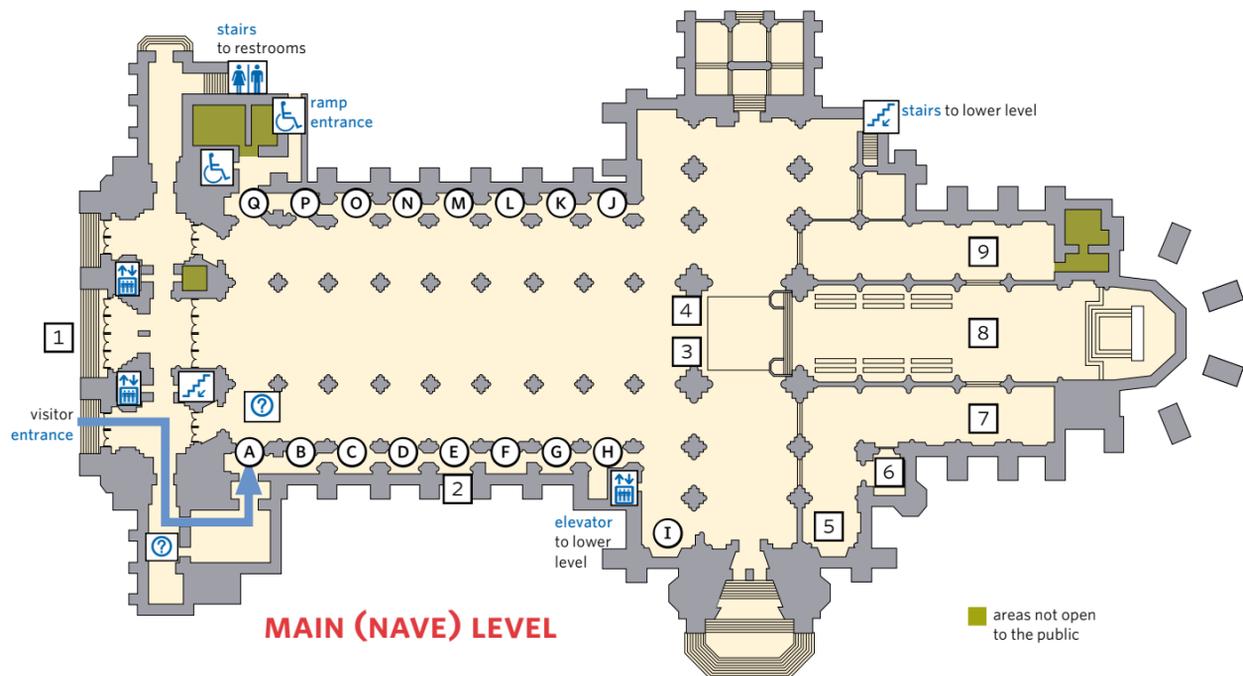
4 From a number of vantage points near the crossing platform, one can see the **THREE ROSE WINDOWS**.

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.

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.

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 18 clerestory windows portray the progress of the Hebrew people as God prepared them for the coming of the Messiah.

5 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.



6 A statue of the Christ Child welcomes visitors to the **CHILDREN'S CHAPEL**, built to the scale of a six-year-old child. The kneelers feature baby animals; the wrought iron depicts imaginary ones.

7 The red needlepoint kneelers of **ST. JOHN'S CHAPEL** recognize noted Americans, displaying symbols for the accomplishments of an individual. Carvings at the altar portray the Last Supper and the crucifixion; the windows tell of the miracles of Jesus.

8 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.

9 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.

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.*

EXTENDED TOUR—MEMORIAL BAYS

Follow the letters to explore the side bays of the nave level if you have more time.

MEMORIAL BAYS—SOUTH

A 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.

B **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.

C Colorful windows depicting the lush lands explored in the 1803 Lewis and Clark expedition to the American northwest are in **FOLGER BAY**.

D 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.

E In memory of Charles Warren, lawyer and historian of the Supreme Court, **WARREN BAY** contains symbols of law.

F **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.

G Windows in **LEE-JACKSON BAY** contain scenes from the lives of these two Civil War generals.

H Behind its wrought iron gate, **MELLON BAY** may be used for private prayer. Carvings relating to Andrew W. Mellon are on the column capitals.

I The artwork in the **BAPTISTRY** depicts symbols representing baptism. A nearby elevator provides wheelchair access to the crypt level and South Road.

MEMORIAL BAYS—NORTH

J **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).

K 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.

L 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.

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

N 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.

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

P Philip Hubert Frohman, beloved Cathedral architect for more than 50 years, is memorialized in **FROHMAN BAY**. The dramatic, abstract window utilizes an imaginative design of leading and small pieces of glass.

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