The summer heat is here, and in the city, we sure can feel it. Summer is the only season to take place entirely in ordinary time, so it’s a long season of mostly routine liturgy for the Church. Here in the United States, the summer brings us only one Holy Day of obligation. That day is the Solemnity of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary. The Church has believed in the assumption of the Blessed Virgin since the beginning, but it was only in the past hundred years that she declared it to be a dogma.

On November 1, 1950, Pope Pius XII solemnly declared that “The Immaculate Mother of God, the ever Virgin Mary, having completed the course of her earthly life, was assumed body and soul into heavenly glory.” We know that everyone who dies, if they die in a state of grace, goes to heaven, though they may pass through purgatory first. However, we go to heaven as spirits only, separated from our bodies until the final judgment and the general resurrection. We know of two people who already have their bodies in heaven. Our Lord is one and Our Lady is the other. What a wonderful mystery. Think about where Our Lady is now. Heaven is not the sky or outer space where we could send airplanes and rocket ships. Heaven is not anywhere you could go to by physical means. It is a spiritual place, and the angels that inhabit it are spiritual beings. They do not take up space and do not need it. How mysterious it is that a body has been taken there! Heaven would have seemed too ethereal for physical things. Yet indeed, that is where Our Lady lives even now, with the same body with which she lived her earthly life.

For many years, Our Lady lived on earth. First, she was a child, and she learned how to live and how to pray from her parents, St. Joachim and St. Anne. Then, she was a mother and a wife. She lived humbly, in poverty, raising her son Jesus as she had been raised, and keeping a home for him and St. Joseph. After thirty years, St. Joseph had died and Jesus had left, so that she was alone again. After the crucifixion and the resurrection, she lived with St. John the remainder of her life, spending most of it in prayer, remembering the passion and resurrection of her Son and waiting for the day when she would be called to him again. If this is all we look at, her life looks very ordinary. Indeed, though we know well how many extraordinary things happened to her, these ordinary things occupied the much greater bulk of her time. If you chose a day at random to look at what Our Lady was doing, you wouldn’t be likely to see the angel Gabriel, wise men from the east, or the Holy Spirit coming in tongues of flame. You would be likely to see a woman quietly taking care of household needs and praying to God.

We know that now this same woman is queen in heaven. How striking a contrast! She sits enthroned next to her son, Jesus, who radiates the glory of His Divinity. Angels attend her, and, with them, the saints of heaven sing her praises. She is surrounded by wonders too astounding to be put into words, and she judges angels and men alike. No creature has been raised higher.

Earth is not our final home! Remember this! When Our Lady went to heaven, she did not take with her the things she owned on earth, few that they were. Let us too look to our final goal, and trusting in the Lord who is the source of all good things, focus on reaching heaven, where we will live loving Him forever, with Our Lady and all our fellow saints.

May God bless you.
If we look back to the beginning of the year, we see that we have already come a long way. The Church’s year began in Advent, when we looked expectantly to the coming of the Christ child. Christmas came and gladdened our hearts. We had a relatively late Easter this year, so there was a long stretch of time before Ash Wednesday ushered in Lent. In Lent, we prayed, sacrificed, and gave alms to prepare ourselves for the joy of Christ at Easter. It is my sincere hope that, prepared by that Lenten journey, when Easter came you were able to welcome Christ into your life in a wonderful and new way. In June, Pentecost came and we celebrated the birthday of the Church. For a while now, we have been in ordinary time again, and we will be in ordinary time for months yet.

Does Ordinary Time seem simple and unassuming to you? For most of his life on earth, Jesus lived a simple and ordinary life. In the middle of the long stretch of ordinary time, we’re called to do the same. Fortunately, simple does not mean unsanctified. There was never a single moment Christ was not giving glory to his Father in his everyday work. Then if Christ lives in us, we too must be giving glory to our Father in our everyday work.

As Christians, we believe God is all-powerful, and all-knowing. Everything that happens is subject to His providence, down to details too small for us to think about. He wants us to trust that he has a plan, and that He put us exactly where we are meant to be. Sometimes, it is easy to think that our time would be better spent somewhere else, doing greater things. Would it not be wonderful to spread the faith as missionaries in foreign lands, to make peace between nations, or even to go as far as to shed our blood in martyrdom for the faith? It can be good to want such things. Perhaps some of us may even be called to them someday. However, right now you are not in a foreign country, and you are not a world leader, and no one nearby is interested in killing you for being a Christian. Right at this moment, perhaps the next thing you need to do is to study for a test, or commute into work, or cook dinner. Whatever it is, the thing you have to do right in front of you is called the duty of the moment. If God has put you exactly where we are meant to be, then that is the thing that he wants most from you right now. By offering up your present task and doing it for love of him, you can live a holy life all the time.

As we wait for fall to come, and for the Church’s year to begin again with Advent, let us continue to offer up our daily tasks for love of Christ, so that with St. Paul, we too may in the end be called upward to our heavenly home.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Rev. Msgr. Robert T. Ritchie, Rector
This past May marked 140 years since the formal opening of St. Patrick’s Cathedral and five years since the public opening of the 9/11 Memorial Museum.

You could argue that these buildings could not be more different. One is neo-Gothic, the other modern; one is in midtown, the other downtown; one is religious in purpose, the other humanist.

Through my work at both institutions, however, I have seen first-hand how each employs in different ways the same dramatic effect: the ability to confront the visitor with the unexpected while remaining unchanged in their physical properties of marble, steel, wood and concrete.

Of the cathedral, it was asked, “who will go that far north?” and of the museum, “who will even go?”

Pope Francis, for one. The Pope, who visited both places during his 2015 visit to the United States, recognized their identity as part of the fabric of New York City, and characterized the memorial and museum as “a hymn to the triumph of life…”

On entering the museum, whose full scope is not visible from the exterior, you are unaware that you are about to descend 70 feet below ground into 110,000 square feet of space, occupying roughly eight acres of the old World Trade Center site.

The terrible facts of what happened on Sept. 11, 2001 are familiar to many, though increasingly less so each year, but the experience of the museum which surprises visitors — and even people like me who work here — is unveiled in all its majesty when you walk to the first overlook and gaze out on what is known as Foundation Hall.

Your breath is taken away by the expansiveness of the space, by its reverent witness and by the very solidity of the foundation as you learn that the wall to your left, the “Slurry Wall” did not breach on 9/11 or in the days following but stayed in place, keeping the Hudson River from flooding, thereby sparing thousands of lives.

But really, it’s the height and width of space that is most revealing and as you descend from a smaller, darker passage onto the overlook, you have that same feeling of surprise and awe. Millions of visitors walk in with the same dramatic effect: the ability to confront the visitor with the unexpected while remaining unchanged in their physical properties of marble, steel, wood and concrete.

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St. Patrick's Cathedral had its original High Altar which served the Cathedral well. It wasn't until 1942 when the design and architecture of the original High Altar was brought into question that it was replaced with the magnificent High Altar and Baldachino we have today.

James Renwick, the architect of St. Patrick's, designed the Cathedral as a Gothic Cathedral. However, the altar that served the Cathedral for so long did not reflect the beauty of the Gothic style seen throughout the building. Because of this, the new High Altar was designed by Maginnis & Walsh to resemble this Gothic architecture as well as serve the Liturgical needs of the church. The previous Altar was given to Fordham University's Church and still stands there today.

Along with the new Altar, came the beautiful bronze Baldachino that rises above the Altar. In reference to the Baldachino above the High Altar, A. Welby Pugin has said, "A ciborium or canopy is beyond doubt the most correct manner of covering an altar and at the same time the most beautiful".

The image to the right shows the monstrous High Altar & Baldachino that continues to serve St. Patrick's Cathedral today. As an iconic New York City Landmark, the Altar stands tall and welcomes all who enter "America's Parish Church".

"The baldachin which covers the table and emphasizes it as the focus of interest becomes itself an object of architectural consequence."
Technology at St. Patrick’s

By Dominique Olsen

St. Patrick’s Cathedral, also known as “America’s Parish Church,” welcomes 5 million visitors each year. Between the visitors who physically walk into the Cathedral, and those who watch the broadcast on television or the internet, technology plays a large role in keeping the day-to-day operations at St. Patrick’s running smoothly. So, who is the team behind the scenes, taking on this role to make sure everything is up to date and taken care of? Enter CATS Technology Solutions Group.

CATS Technology has taken many steps and put in a lot of hard work to help St. Patrick’s Cathedral transform into the technology savvy church that they have become today. What specific ways has CATS Technology made an impact on the evolving technology in St. Patrick’s Cathedral?

All visitors have access to a free quest Wi-Fi network, which was set up by CATS, where they enter in their email address and other information. This information is kept so St. Patrick’s can utilize it for Cathedral communications and any special announcements. CATS Technology has also upgraded an antiquated phone system and introduced St. Patrick’s to Voice over IP (VOIP). This new system brings a lot of benefits, such as new features, cost savings, and overall better uptime.

St. Patrick’s Cathedral has recently expressed their desire for new multimedia needs that they want implemented throughout the building, such as a virtual tour that can be downloaded straight to visitors’ cell phones. CATS Technology is currently building the infrastructure that is needed to make this a reality. Another popular feature in the Cathedral is the digital guest books. Due to the high volume of traffic these receive, it is in need of maintenance and continuous monitoring, as well as adjustments to make sure the touch screens and computers that run this application are functioning properly.

With the amount of history and beauty St. Patrick’s Cathedral displays, security is a crucial and extremely necessary component. CATS Technology Solutions Group is in charge of keeping the security systems running smoothly. CATS does this by having an extensive network of cameras throughout the Cathedral. On top of that, CATS Technology is responsible for ensuring that the new state-of-the-art-geo-plant is operating smoothly by providing monitoring capabilities to the HVAC professionals who built it. Acting as the link between the plant and HVAC contractors helps make sure that the digital servers that are across the system are being accessed and monitored at a secure rate.

The technicians at CATS Technology Solutions Group consider doing the behind-the-scenes work for St. Patrick’s Cathedral an amazing opportunity. To be able to bring today’s technology into such a historic building is a fulfilling accomplishment. CATS Technology brings on a daily basis is what makes it all possible!

In 2017, the addition of a standing well geothermal plant has made the Cathedral the largest building in Manhattan with this green technology.

This geothermal plant works as both a heating and cooling air system, as well as a heating and cooling water system for the entire Cathedral. With this new geothermal power, St. Patrick’s Cathedral will save more in energy than ever before. The pipes are tucked away, 2,200 feet below the building, allowing this plant to magnify the Cathedral’s glorious wonders and capabilities.

Again, thanks to CATS technology, this geothermal plant is able to run smoothly and provide the Cathedral with a sustainable heating and cooling system.
"For years, I was always aware of how much of a landmark St. Patrick's Cathedral was due to its beauty and the history behind it. Now having the opportunity to graduate in it is an honor. It makes this graduation more memorable that it will already be."
- Carlos Herasme, Senior, All Hallows High School

"There's a special feeling involved in being able to graduate out of a building with a history as rich as St. Patrick's Cathedral. To me, it perfectly encapsulates the same spirit of grandeur and prestige that I felt walking through the hallways of All Hallows"
- Christopher Pappas, Senior, All Hallows High School

"For the past four years I have been fortunate enough to attend Mass at St. Patrick's Cathedral. It has not only strengthened my connection with God, but has also allowed me to feel closer to my classmates. I feel very blessed that I will be celebrating my graduation at St. Patrick's Cathedral and will have the opportunity to share another special moment with my Cathedral family."
- Rossena Peteva, Valedictorian, Cathedral High School

"Of every graduation I’ve attended or been apart of, my Cardinal Hayes graduation at St. Patrick’s Cathedral was the most beautiful and memorable one yet. It is an amazing feeling to say that I graduated in St. Patrick’s Cathedral because everyone knows how historic the Cathedral is. No one I know can top our graduation.”
- Taj White, Senior, Cardinal Hayes High School

"Whenever graduation crosses my mind, a chill runs through me knowing that Saint Patrick’s Cathedral is where my commencement from Xavier High School will be. A place that is highly symbolic of my Catholic faith in the Jesuit community. I feel as if there is no place better to celebrate the spirituality and brotherhood we have all been a part of for the past four years than Saint Patrick’s Cathedral."
- James Owen, Senior, Xavier High School

"Graduating at Saint Patrick's Cathedral is incredibly humbling. The size and grandeur of the event definitely does our four years at Xavier justice, but not without reminding us just how significant our graduation is. It's four years of education, experience, and growth all culminating in a beautiful ceremony."
- William Shelton, Senior, Xavier High School
The official audio tour of St. Patrick's Cathedral is now available for purchase in both Spanish and English, as well as a children's version! Enjoy this comprehensive audio tour narrated by Timothy Cardinal Dolan, Monsignor Robert T. Ritchie, and guests.

How To Get Started

Step 1:
Download TourPatron App from your iTunes or Google Play App Store.

Step 2:
Open TourPatron App on your device.

Step 3:
Receive your personal tour code at the Audio Tour Desk.

Step 4:
We ask all of our visitors and guests to conduct themselves appropriately while being in a house of God. This includes dress, language, actions and volume. We ask all our visitors to take the tour with headphones as to not disrupt Mass or the faithful in prayer.

For more information and to purchase the Tour Pass online, please visit www.museumpatron.org

Black Pass
Purchase this pass on site at the Cathedral or purchase ahead of time online! Pick up your pass in the 51st St Gift Shop.

Gold Pass
Purchase this pass ahead of time online and receive expedited entry into the Cathedral without waiting on line! Pick up your pass in the 51st St Gift Shop.
Mass Times:
Monday through Friday: 7:00, 7:30, 8:00 am, 12 Noon, 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 to 12:45 pm and from 3:30 to 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 and Madison Ave
Hours: 8:30 am to 8:00 pm, Monday through 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.

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.org

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Visit online to find out more:
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