



CHURCH OF THE HOLY APOSTLES
Fort Worth, Texas



2024
Parish
Profile



Parish Purpose Statement

Our purpose is to glorify God through

- ❖ worship,
- ❖ discipleship,
- ❖ stewardship,
- ❖ fellowship,
- ❖ and love.

Supportive of that purpose are the opportunities for:

education,
personal ministry,
spiritual growth,
and the Sacraments.



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Church of the Holy Apostles

3900 Longvue Avenue

Fort Worth, TX 76126



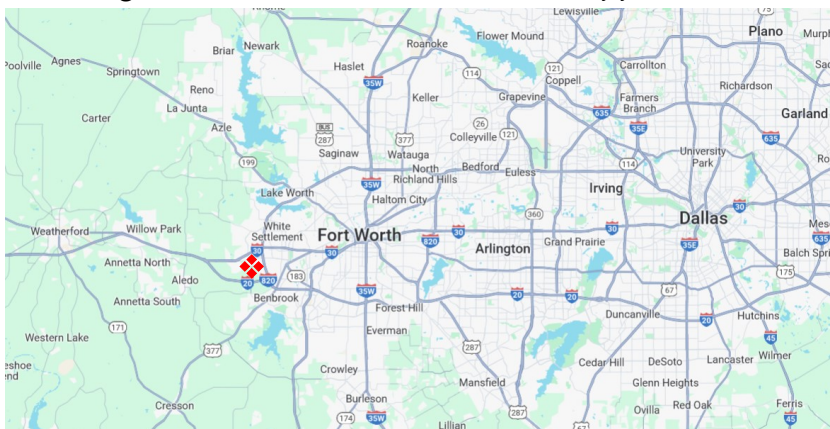
The Church of the Holy Apostles is a 59-year-old congregation located on the far west side of Fort Worth, Texas. We are 111 members in number as of our Annual Parish Meeting in January of 2023. Our Parish life is centered on the elements of our Purpose Statement. Two Masses are offered on Sunday mornings and a Eucharist is also celebrated on Tuesday mornings and Wednesdays at Noon. Masses are celebrated on Prayer Book Holy Days and on each of the Feast Days of the twelve Holy Apostles. Christian Education is an important part of our week, including Sunday School for adults between Masses on Sundays and for children during the first part of the 10:00 a.m. Mass. Outreach in the wider community is ongoing and is a part of our common life which the Parish would like to see expanded. Parishioners devote time, talent, and treasure to the support and care of the Parish. Travelling a few blocks or more than 25 miles to reach Holy Apostles, parishioners enjoy fellowship together in a wide range of gatherings during the year, meeting as groups of men, women, youth or all together as a Parish.

We encourage all to get a feel for our parish by visiting our website where you'll find our calendar of Masses and events, as well as photos covering many years of our history together:

<https://www.holyapostlesfortworth.org>

A Glimpse at Fort Worth, Texas

Fort Worth is the nation's 13th largest city and Texas' fifth largest, with 956,709 residents currently. Located in North Central Texas, Fort Worth's climate offers mild spring and fall weather, hot summers and cool winters. Rainfall averages 34 inches annually, and snow 3 inches. Thunderstorms occur in the region an average of 45 days per year. The cost of living in Fort Worth is slightly below the national average, with housing costs substantially lower than the national average and utility costs slightly above. Fort Worth enjoys a healthy economy, with a variety of high-tech manufacturing corporations and international corporations making their home here. Educational opportunities can be found at many colleges and universities, both public and private located in Fort Worth and the surrounding metroplex. Culturally rich with 109 acres of museum space ranging from science to western heritage, Fort Worth also boasts one of the top 10 opera halls in the world which hosts a wide variety of performers.



History of the Church of the Holy Apostles

Establishment of a Mission

The Church of the Holy Apostles, Fort Worth, Texas, held its first organizational meeting on March 15, 1964, and was established as a Mission of the Diocese of Dallas on June 12, 1964, by The Rt. Rev. C. Avery Mason. The first Vicar was The Rev. James P. DeWolfe, Jr., then Rector of the sponsoring All Saints' Church.

On Sunday, June 14, 1964, the Mission's first Vestry was elected, and on June 21, the first Holy Eucharist was celebrated in a rented storefront in the Western Hills shopping center on Highway 80.

On December 31, 1964, a five-acre tract of land at 9100 Chapin Road, near the western edge of Fort Worth, was purchased. In 1967, a successful building fund pledge campaign at Holy Apostles, plus a capital funds drive by All Saints' to assist in payment of the land mortgage, enabled a building program to proceed. Construction was begun in Spring 1968, and the first celebration of the Holy Eucharist in the new building was held in September 1968. The building was the first unit of a master plan that, when completed, would see the existing Nave converted into the Parish Hall.

Parish Status Achieved

The Mission grew steadily as the west side of Fort Worth developed. At the Diocesan Convention of October 1979, The Church of the Holy Apostles was admitted to Parish status under the leadership of The Rev. W. Harrison Beste, who was elected the first Rector of the Parish.

Upon Fr. Beste's retirement in 1981, The Rev. John Gremmels was elected as the second Rector, and the Parish became part of the newly formed Diocese of Fort Worth in 1983. Due to continuing growth in membership, in 1984 a building expansion program was begun. However, with the completion of Loop 820 a quarter mile to the west and accompanying commercial and residential growth, the Parish property had significantly appreciated in value; and recognizing the need for more building area, the Vestry voted unanimously to seek permission to sell the existing property and to relocate. The plan to relocate was approved by the Diocesan Standing Committee in June 1985.

Relocation and Expansion

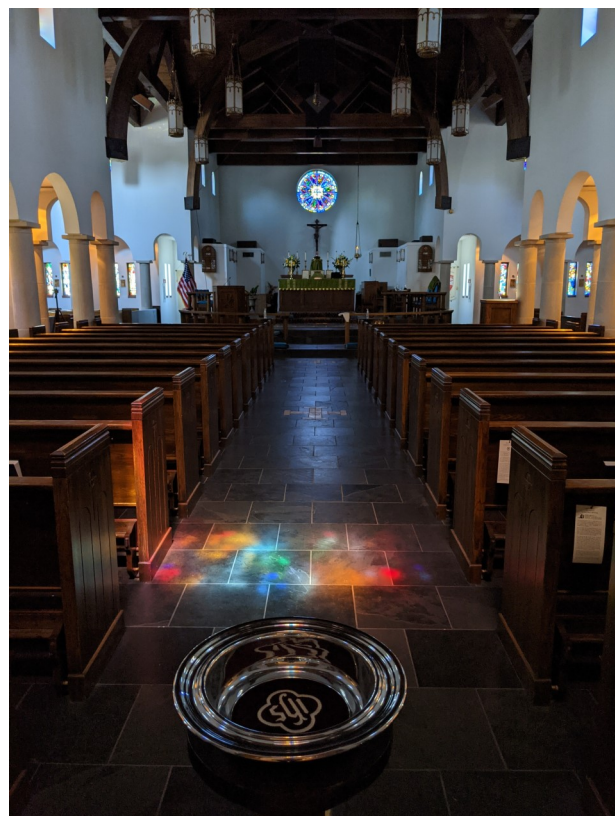
As the new building program began, parishioners were surprised by the resignation in July 1985 of Fr. Gremmels to accept a call to become Rector of St. Mark's, Arlington. However, they continued to move forward, and a 3.9-acre site along Mary's Creek was purchased



in August 1985. At 1.3 miles west of the Chapin Road location, the new site at 3900 Longvue Avenue was considered close enough to serve the same neighborhood community. With the resignation of Fr. Gremmels, The Rt. Rev. Clarence Pope, Bishop of Fort Worth, recommended consideration of The Rev. M. L. McCauley as Rector. The Vestry concurred, and Fr. McCauley began as the third Rector in October 1985.

The sale of the Chapin Road property was completed in March of 1986 for \$600,000. As the new property had been acquired for \$100,000 and the balance on the former property's mortgage was small, approximately \$500,000 was immediately available for building construction. Additionally, the \$132,000 estate of two longtime parishioners, Jack and Vi Steel, and a successful capital funds drive cleared the way for design and construction of a new building complex. The ground-breaking ceremony was held on October 12, 1986, with Holy Apostles' first Vicar, The Rev. Canon James P. DeWolfe, Jr., SSC, as Officiant.

Construction was completed in August 1987 at a total cost of \$1,158,000. The new complex featured a spacious Sanctuary and Nave, Parish Hall, kitchen, offices, Sunday School classrooms and expansive parking. Pews, furniture, Altar and furnishings from the Chapin Road location were moved to the new site, and additional pews, furniture, and furnishings were added. Membership in the Parish rose dramatically, and many new parishioners began to contribute to the building's beautification by the purchase of stained-glass windows and other memorial items.



Internal Strife

In the mid-1980s, the Diocese of Fort Worth began to feel the turmoil concerning the leadership of the Episcopal Church USA. Over the next several years, Fr. McCauley's discontent with the Episcopal Church grew, and he was successful in persuading a large number of parishioners that they should leave the Episcopal Church. On October 2, 1992, the Vestry voted to secede and decreed that the Church would be a Parish of the Antiochian Orthodox faith. A lawsuit was presented by the Bishop and the Corporation of the Episcopal Diocese of Fort Worth to recover the church property.

While the lawsuit proceeded, parishioners met at the All Saints' School Chapel, with The Rev. Canon Brien Koehler as Interim for several months, followed by Fr. DeWolfe, who had retired from All Saints' Church. Despite its exile from its property, The Church of the Holy Apostles celebrated its 30th anniversary in June 1994 with a gala at the Ridglea Country Club.

Settlement and Restoration

The legal proceedings to recover the church property were lengthy, and the presiding judge pressed for a mediated settlement. In June 1995, a settlement was reached whereby the Orthodox

congregation agreed to vacate the property on December 31, 1995, and to return an amount of \$25,000. The keys to the buildings were received at 4:00 p.m. December 31 and the Rt. Rev. Jack L. Iker, Bishop of the Diocese of Fort Worth, celebrated the Eucharist on the morning of January 1, 1996.



The Rev. Christopher T. Cantrell, SSC, then Rector of Saint John's Church, Brownwood, was called to be the fourth Rector and began his ministry at The Church of the Holy Apostles on November 8, 1996, with his Institution and Induction celebrated on January 25, 1997. Fr. Cantrell accepted a call to become Rector of St. Matthias, Dallas in the spring of 2012.

During Fr. Cantrell's tenure, Parish membership stabilized as parishioners healed from the schism and lawsuit. Thanks to parishioners' memorial gifts, fund-raising efforts and other contributions, several significant improvements to

the physical plant were made, including the installation of a slate floor in the church building and the renovation and elevation of the Sanctuary to better facilitate worship. The Church's original Allen electronic organ was replaced by a larger Allen console with a greater number and variety of voices. The kitchen, Parish Hall, Parish Office, Rector's Office and Library were renovated. A number of stained-glass windows, including the Pentecost/Great Commission window (East Nave), Four Evangelists window (West Nave), Exodus window (North Transept) and Our Lady of Walsingham window (South Transept) were commissioned and installed. A flagpole was erected and a memorial area in honor of military servicemembers was dedicated. Importantly, the mortgage on the Parish property was retired and burned at the fall Parish Picnic on October 16, 2005.



The Rev. Joel E. Hampton, SSC, then Rector of St. Andrew's Church, Breckenridge, was called to be the fifth Rector and began his ministry at The Church of the Holy Apostles on October 1, 2012, with his Institution and Induction celebrated on November 4, 2012.

Fr. Hampton accepted appointment as Canon to the Ordinary in late 2023 and began his new ministry in January of 2024.



During Fr. Hampton's tenure, Parish membership and Sunday Mass attendance grew steadily for the first seven years of his Rectorate. By 2019, Average Sunday Attendance (ASA) had increased from 82 to 94, an increase of over 12%. Then, the COVID-19 pandemic hit, decimating ASA. (In 2020, ASA fell to just 54.) A slow, steady recovery ensued, with 2023 seeing an ASA of 87. Many improvements to our facilities, accoutrements, and liturgical life took place in Fr. Hampton's time as Rector, including 18 new stained-glass windows installed, nearly completing the original plan first begun in 1987; the replacement of flooring in Narthex and Bride's Room; the painting of the Parish Hall;

the creation of a divided Chancel, with separate Pulpit and Lectern in their traditional locations on opposing sides of the Chancel; the relocation of the Organ and re-configuration of Choir, Altar, and Retable; the upgrading of the sound system and the installation of video equipment for recording and streaming liturgies at the High Altar;



the creation of St. Michael's Chapel in the former Curate's Office, for use as Daily Office and Daily Mass Chapel and as a Confessional; the commencement of the celebration of Daily Mass on weekdays when Rector or Assistant/Curate were present in the Parish; the creation of Seasonal Mass Booklets for use at Sunday Masses; the composition and arranging by Todd Marchand (Holy Apostles Choir Member) of Service Music so that each season of the Church Year has its own unique musical setting and of Psalm tones for each season of the Church Year; the composition by Todd Marchand of a new setting for the *Regina Caeli* for use at Sung Masses in Easter Season; the introduction of a chant version of *The Angelus* for use at Sung Masses outside Eastertide; the introduction of incense at Sung Mass every Sunday; the procurement of pew editions of the *2019 Book of Common Prayer*; the purchase of *English Standard Version* Pew Bibles and Gospel Book; the acquisition of two 2019 Altar Books; the purchase of a Gold and White High Mass set for Solemn High Masses



on Major Feasts; the purchase of a new Universal Low Mass Set and Cope; the purchase of new white, green, and violet Altar Frontals; the purchase of a white and blue Low Mass Set for use at Marian Feasts; the purchase of a Monstrance and the introduction of Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament; the launch of a new Facebook page and a new Parish website; and the replacement of a monthly printed newsletter with a Weekly Parish E-Mail. Our Parish budget grew over 35% over the course of Fr. Hampton's Rectorate. During Fr. Hampton's tenure, all Parish debt was retired. A high point of Fr. Hampton's tenure, without doubt, was the successful conclusion, in 2020, of the litigation brought against our Diocese by The Episcopal Church in 2009, meaning that we at Holy Apostles would retain our building and property for generations to come.

Committed to the Apostolic Faith, Looking to the Future

As a Parish of The Episcopal Diocese of Fort Worth, The Church of the Holy Apostles is committed to Anglo-Catholic faith and practice, and our worship, teaching, devotion and community are shaped by that commitment. In the nearly 60 years since our founding, members have witnessed our development from a young Mission to a mature Parish, have persisted through various trials and tribulations, and have rejoiced in the blessings bestowed on members both individually and corporately by Almighty God. As we look to our future, we continually rededicate ourselves to living our faith as expressed in our Parish Purpose Statement:

The purpose of the Church of the Holy Apostles is to glorify God through worship, discipleship, stewardship, fellowship and love.

Ministry and Activities at The Church of the Holy Apostles

Worship

Acolytes assist during worship services. Members are eligible for liturgical service as Altar servers and Crucifers. Torchbearers may be children, youth, or adults.

Altar Guild is responsible for the care of the vessels, cloths and vestments used during worship. The Guild carefully prepares for and cleans up after services throughout the week and generally makes sure the Altar is prepared for services as needed.

Choir is open to interested members aged 10 and older, and meets with our Parish Musicians at 9:30 a.m. to rehearse for the 10:00 a.m. Mass.

Flower Guild members are responsible for purchasing and arranging the flowers for the Altar each week. Flower donations are encouraged to mark special days or to remember special people.

Lay Eucharistic Ministers serve according to Diocesan rule, licensed by the Bishop. Chalice Bearers and Subdeacons assist in the administration of Communion at Mass.



Lectors serve by reading the scriptures during worship.

Oblationers are teams of two who bring forward the bread and wine during the offertory at Mass as a sign of the offering of the entire congregation.

Ushers work in teams of two assisting worshippers, distributing bulletins, marking attendance, and taking up the collection at services.

Christian Education

Nursery care is provided for children from infancy to age three during the Sunday School hour and the 10:00 a.m. Mass on Sunday mornings.

Godly Play is offered during the school year for children ages four through third grade.

Adult Sunday School is held at 9:00 a.m. in The Library. This class is a Bible study or a forum presentation.

Parish Organizations

HAMs are the Holy Apostles Men, who see to the physical needs of the church, including building maintenance, yard work, tree trimming, landscaping, etc. They also host our church picnics in the spring and fall, provide supplies, cook and serve the Shrove Tuesday Pancake Dinner.

HAYs are the Holy Apostles Youth, open to anyone in grades 7-12 and friends. The focus is on fun, fellowship and spiritual growth of our young people.



St. Margaret's Guild is the needlepoint guild of the parish, whose purpose is to help beautify the church. The guild has recently completed stitching new acolyte kneelers for the Sanctuary, which are designed with representations of each of the twelve Apostles.

Arts and Architecture Guild

members help guide decisions related to the beauty and overall design of our facilities at Holy Apostles. As a parish, we are blessed by the generosity of donated funds for our stained glass windows. All are given to the Glory of God.

Fellowship and Parish Activities

Coffee Hour Hosts sign up to make coffee, bring refreshments, set up and clean up on those Sundays when there is no special event. On the first Sunday





of each month, birthday cakes are served to honor the birthdays celebrated during that month.

Parish Life Commission is the group responsible for planning events for the Parish such as the Newcomers' Dinner with the Vestry, receptions for special days such as Christmas Eve and Easter among others, and receptions following funerals.

Parish Workdays typically take place twice per year in fall and spring, when parishioners gather on a Saturday to clean and organize the church inside and out.

Fall Picnic is a potluck event following 10:00 a.m. Mass on a Sunday in September or October where parishioners enjoy each other's

company under the trees with grilled burgers and hot dogs provided by the men of the Parish.

Greening of the Church takes place following Masses on the Fourth Sunday in Advent, inviting all parishioners to join together to decorate the Sanctuary, Parish Hall, and Garth and to enjoy a potluck chili supper when the job is completed. Parishioners also gather after Epiphany for a Christmas Cleanup Day to take down and to store the decorations.



Shrove Tuesday Pancake Dinner is a beloved parish tradition hosted by the HAMs each year in preparation for Lent.



Wednesdays in Lent begin solemnly with Stations of the Cross, followed by a home-cooked soup supper and a devotion presented by a member of the Clergy.

Pentecost Parish Picnic and Annual Parish Portrait are traditionally held on Pentecost Sunday, with a potluck meal following the 10:00 a.m. Mass. Parishioners gather on the front steps of the Church for a group photograph before continuing to the feast. Pentecost, the day all Christians are called to celebrate the birth of the Church, is also the Patronal Feast of The Church of the Holy Apostles.

Outreach Ministries

Angel Tree Project is coordinated by parishioners in conjunction with a local elementary school to provide Christmas gifts to students and their families identified by the school counselor as being in need. These families have fallen through the cracks of

other assistance programs, whether by having recently arrived or for other reasons. Each child receives three gifts, two clothing and one toy. In addition, the Church provides each family with a gift card for groceries.

Northern Malawi Centurion has long supported the ministry of a Priest in our sister Anglican Diocese of Northern Malawi.

Parish Web Site (www.holyapostlesfortworth.org) provides pertinent information about the Parish and a link to the Diocesan website.

San Miguel Food Pantry receives donations of non-perishable foods from parishioners each week. Iglesia San Miguel is a Spanish-speaking Anglican congregation which runs this pantry from its Fort Worth location.

Thanksgiving Dinner Collection for Union Gospel Mission feeds the homeless through parishioners' donations.



Financial Position of Church of the Holy Apostles

- Church of the Holy Apostles is a parish in a very stable financial condition and operates under a fiscally conservative Vestry.
- Our operating expenses are met monthly through the generous donations of our parishioners and we have not experienced the need to look elsewhere for operating capital.
- Our Church building, grounds, furniture and fixtures are fully paid for, and are free and clear of any known debt or encumbrances.
- The Church of the Holy Apostles is debt-free.

