



The Parish of St. Mark
1025 NW 21st
503-223-2383 • stmark@stmarkportland.org
www.stmarkportland.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Historic St. Mark's in NW Portland celebrates St. Francis Day, Saturday, October 4
4-PAWS Neighborhood Pet Expo & Pet Blessings**

PORTLAND, OR, September 23, 2025 — Pets and their best friends are invited to a free special event at the Anglican Parish of St. Mark, 1025 NW 21st, on Saturday, October 4 from 9 am - noon.

In honor of St. Francis Day, the church is hosting a special pet blessing and activities including building a first aid kit for your pet, a pet photo booth, truffle dog demonstration and more.

Community partners assisting with the event include DoveLewis 24/7 Veterinary Hospital, Pro Photo Supply, W.A.G. Snax, Dirt Dogs, and the PONGO fund.

Activities include:

- Pet Blessings & remembrances inside the church with Father Ory Schultheis
- Professional pet photo booth with props, courtesy of Pro Photo Supply (these photos will make memorable holiday cards...)
- Meet the Therapy Dog from DoveLewis
- Learn how to take your pet's pulse & listen to their heartbeat
- Build your own pet first-aid kit — supplies & instruction courtesy of DoveLewis
- All natural dog treats provided by W.A.G. Snax (while supplies lasts) and learn about this special program giving young adults with disabilities job skills & job experience
- 'Dirt Dogs' truffle dog demonstration at 11 am in the park next to St. Mark's (NW 21st & Lovejoy)
- Please give to pets in need by donating unopened, unexpired dog or cat food for 'the PONGO fund' at the event

Well-behaved, leashed dogs and cats in carriers are welcome at the event. Dogs must remain leashed and under control at all times.

St. Francis of Assisi (1181-1226) is known as the patron saint of ecology and animals. His deep love and reverence for all creation led him to call animals 'brother and sister' and treat nature with profound respect. He made sure the animals had food and is often depicted in a

forest scene, feeding the birds and gathering with the animals. He is also recognized for his efforts to promote peace. Many churches bless pets on his feast day of October 4.

“Portlanders love their dogs and cats, and so do we at St. Mark’s,” noted Deacon Jaques. “We typically bless our parishioners’ pets on St. Francis Day, but this year we wanted to do something special to share the occasion with our friends and neighbors. We are grateful for our partners joining the event to make it memorable,” he added.

The Anglican Parish of St. Mark is also celebrating the 100th anniversary of its building this year. Built in 1925 by prominent Portland architect Jamieson K. Parker, the church is modeled after the 10th century Basilica of San Zeno in Verona, Italy. It’s appealing and regal architectural details are reflected in the interior design with a tall, central nave and high “ship’s keel” wooden ceiling, Romanesque arches and a magnificent Rose window. The church is also home to one of the oldest stained glass windows remaining in a functioning house of worship in the city.

Pets will be blessed inside the historic church building and then proceed to activities in the Parish Hall next door. For everyone’s safety, pets and their owners will be admitted on a staggered basis, with the Legacy Good Samaritan park next door serving as a waiting area.

For more information, visit stmarkportland.org and social media channels (@theanglican-parishofstmark).

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See photos in our Google Drive <https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/11CPQwsNNVid-Fy1CEw1qOV3EBHCYTnDRE>

- Historic photos of the church (*courtesy of Oregon Historical Society*)
- Photos from June & September 2025 events of St. Mark’s commemorating the 100th anniversary of the building’s milestones and from guided church tours and open houses. (*courtesy of The Parish of St. Mark*)
- Video reel about St. Mark’s carillon, which has (mostly) been ringing on the hour from 8 am to 6 pm daily in the Slabtown neighborhood since it was dedicated in 1948 as a memorial to Secretary of State Robert S. Farrell, Jr. (or see on our social media channels @theanglicanparishofstmark)