



## The Cathedral

*Excerpted from Christ our Cornerstone,  
A Vision Statement for St. James Cathedral  
November, 2005*

Cathedrals have always stood in urban centers, fostering faith, forming conscience, and encouraging creativity. St. James is both cathedral church and spiritual center for the Archdiocese of Seattle. As an historic landmark in the heart of the city, St. James Cathedral attracts thousands of visitors every year from across the country and even across the world. Our Cathedral is also a wonderfully diverse community, a bridge connecting people of all walks of life. Here, people of all faiths and of no faith at all find a welcome.

BECAUSE WE ARE THE CATHEDRAL FOR THE ARCHDIOCESE OF SEATTLE, WE WILL...

- CELEBRATE liturgies that are models for the whole Archdiocese of Seattle.
- STRIVE for excellence in all our programs.
- NURTURE relationships with the parishes of the Archdiocese connecting them with their Cathedral Church.
- WELCOME the entire Archdiocese on great occasions such as the Chrism Mass and Ordination Masses.
- REACH OUT to the wider community of the city and region...
  - By hosting regular ecumenical and inter-religious events;
  - By our music, and programs that foster culture and the arts;
  - By keeping the local news media informed about our ongoing liturgical life as well as special events.

# Our Cathedral VISION

As members of Christ's body, we are called to do what Jesus did: to pray, to serve, to teach. During the past three weeks, we have reflect on our call with the Gospel of each Sunday and with our Vision Statement, *Christ our Cornerstone*. **This week, we conclude the series as we reflect on our unique call as a cathedral church.** Read the whole series online at [www.stjames-cathedral.org](http://www.stjames-cathedral.org).

## Take nothing for the journey

In the Gospels for the past few Sundays, we have seen Jesus on the move: he calmed a storm at sea, then healed and preached in the villages and towns, ending in his own native place of Nazareth. Today, he sends the twelve Apostles forth, two by two, to do exactly what he does: to go into the world to cast out demons, heal the sick, and preach repentance. They are to "take nothing for the journey but a walking stick—no food, no sack, no money in their belts." It is not that the Apostles won't need these things: they surely will need food to eat and a place to sleep! But by not providing for themselves, they are trusting in strangers to provide for them. And that's an act of faith it must have been hard to make.

We, too, are sent forth into a world that is often hostile to the Gospel message, a world that we are nevertheless called to love and serve. Our Cathedral, with its towers and its bells, offers a visible invitation to our First Hill neighborhood to come in, to find out more. Our parish community—hailing as we do from more than 150 ZIP codes—reaches far beyond the sound of the bells or the view of the towers. Together, we touch every part of this great city, and beyond.

## FOR REFLECTION

What's special about being a cathedral church? For you, what's most special about being part of the Cathedral parish?

How has beauty—whether of art and architecture, or of music and liturgy—played a role in your faith life? Can you remember a time when a work of art, here at St. James or elsewhere, has touched you deeply and brought you closer to God?

In 2007, St. James Cathedral turns 100. How might we reach out to the broader community in our Centennial year?

**A Year of Prayer and Renewal**