

# *Sanctuary at Saint Mark's*

*Saint Mark's Cathedral  
Seattle, Washington  
January 2025*

# History & Origins of this Ministry at Saint Mark's



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Founded Refugee  
Resettlement in 1970s

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Responded to Nicaraguan  
refugees in 1980s

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Syrian and Afghan  
refugees in last decade

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Residential Sanctuary  
2017-2020

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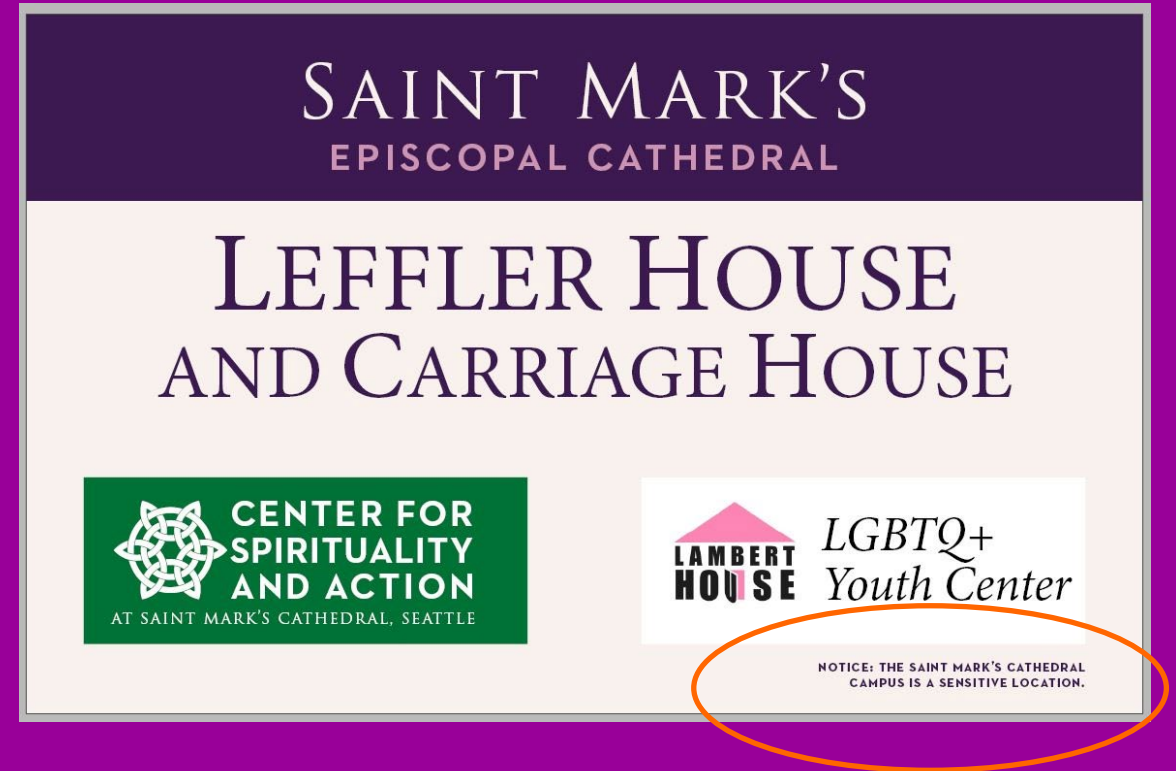
# Sanctuary at Saint Mark's



- Vestry approved in 2017
- Part of network 150 congregations strong across Greater Seattle area
- Church Council of Greater Seattle
- Know Your Rights training
- Support of Jaime and his family
- More info at [saintmarks.org/sanctuary](http://saintmarks.org/sanctuary)

# Sanctuary is more than sensitive location

- Direct Services
  - Safe space
  - Supportive actions and networking with partners (NWIRP, Casa Latina, etc.)
- Advocacy
- Training—Rapid Response, Know Your Rights, etc.
- Communication and Promoting Best Practices



# Table Conversation:

*For Such a Time as This...*

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How are you feeling about current events and the anticipated horizon?

- ▣ Use “I CARE” language

# How does our faith speak to this moment?



- Biblical background – Old Testament
  - All created in image of God with inherent dignity
  - Abraham, Jacob, Ruth – all economic migrants
  - “The alien who resides with you shall be to you as the native-born among you; you shall love the alien as yourself, for you were aliens in the land of Egypt” (Leviticus 19:33-34)
  - “For the LORD your God is God of gods...who executes justice for the orphan and the widow, and who loves the strangers...You shall also love the stranger, for you were strangers in the land of Egypt” (Deut. 10:17-19)
  - Prophetic backup – Jeremiah 7, Ezekiel 47
  - Resistance to unjust laws – women of Exodus 1-2, Esther

# How does our faith speak to this moment?



- Biblical background – New Testament
  - Jesus and the Holy Family in need of asylum
  - Law of love: Love your neighbor as yourself
  - Matthew 25 – “I was a stranger and you welcomed me...”
  - Ethic of reciprocal hospitality
    - “Pursue hospitality to strangers” (Romans 12:13)
    - Jesus as both host and guest
      - – importance of listening and learning from our neighbors
  - Our responsibility to governing authorities – not blind obedience

# What might Sanctuary look like now? What's changed? What hasn't?

- Who we're talking about
  - Refugees, asylum seekers, economic migrants
  - Undocumented neighbors with deportation orders
  - Referred by Church Council of Greater Seattle
- WA as a "Sanctuary State"
  - KWW Act 2019, WA Migrant & Asylum Seeker Support Project
- Protected areas/sensitive locations – 2021 DHS memo
- Sanctuary as a public act and tool for advocacy to change unjust laws

Table Conversation:

How do we hold these in tension?

Where does our ultimate loyalty lie?

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“Be subject to the governing authorities, for there is no authority except from God...”

“Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore, love is the fulfilling of the law.” (Both Romans 13)

# Possible Volunteer Roles

- Rapid Response Team for St. Mark's
  - Document ICE activity to assist with legal defense and evidence of any violations of state law
- Accompaniment
  - To immigration hearings, court appointments, USCIS check-ins
- Possible help needed with setting up space, groceries, transportation of family, interpretation, activities, *convivencia* (depending on needs of those in sanctuary)

# Upcoming Trainings through WAISN

- Rapid Response Training Online – January 25, Noon to 2pm
- Accompaniment Training Online – February 12/19, 6 to 8pm
- Immigrant and Refugee Advocacy Rally in Olympia – January 30, 2pm
- Register at [waisn.org](http://waisn.org)



# Staying Updated with Church Council

- Immigration Organizing Faith Convening (Town Hall)  
TOMORROW January 16<sup>th</sup>
  - First Church Seattle (180 Denny Way) at 6:30 PM, doors open at 6:00 PM
- Sign up for updates at [thechurchcouncil.org](https://thechurchcouncil.org)
- Other organizations, e.g. Jewish Coalition  
for Immigrant Justice NW  
Accompaniment Training – February 23  
Seattle WA State Labor Council (time TBD)



# Episcopal Migration Ministries

- Walking With: Migrant Accompaniment for Ministry Leaders in 2025 and Beyond (Online) – January 17, 9 to 10am PT
- Sign up for email updates to register – [episcopalmigrationministries.org](https://episcopalmigrationministries.org)



# Concluding Thoughts

- “Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for by doing so some have entertained angels without knowing it. Remember those who are in prison, as though you were in prison with them, those who are being tortured, as though you yourselves were being tortured...Keep your lives free from the love of money, and be content with what you have, for he himself has said, ‘I will never leave you or forsake you.’ So we can say with confidence, ‘The Lord is my helper; I will not be afraid. What can anyone do to me?’” – Hebrews 13:1-6