



Church of Saint Michael & Saint George

FAQ's

- Q.** What is the Church of Saint Michael & Saint George?
- A.** Organised on St George's Day and launched on Michaelmas in 2025, The Church of Saints Michael & George is a traditional Anglican congregation in Manhattan. We worship at 344 East 69th Street and are hosted through the kindness of the First Hungarian Reformed Church of New York whose building we share. Currently we have one service per week. Holy Communion and Sermon at 5pm each Sunday. We have a hybrid Zoom option for those away from town or joining us from afar and upload the service and sermon to FaceBook & YouTube soon after the service. We also have a presence on Instagram and send out a Saturday Preview for Sunday and a Tuesday Update each week via Constant Contact
- Q.** Are you Episcopalian?
- A.** Yes. And No. Our church is *episcopal* – insofar as it is a church overseen by bishops (Gk word for bishop is *ἐπίσκοπή* *episcopo*) We are not *Episcopalian* (The Protestant Episcopal Church in the United States of America) – one of the aforementioned dead (or rapidly dying) denominations due to putting societal trends and secular politics in the place of worshipping God and the Gospel of Christ. Our priest, Father Montgomery was ordained in the Episcopal Church in 1998 and left it in 2025 because he saw a better way was possible.
- Q.** Are you Anglican?
- A.** Yes. And No. We are a member of the Diocese of the Northeast of the Anglican Church in America. A denomination that continued the Anglican traditions and Catholic faith at a time when a growing number of people felt that the “established” Anglican Church: the Episcopal Church, the Church of England, et al. – were losing their way. We are not members of the American Episcopal Church or the Church of England though, like they are descended directly from the Church of Rome, so are we descended from them.
- Q.** Are you Catholic?
- A.** Yes. And No. The Anglican Church, when founded in the 16th Century was the Catholic Church in England. There was no other – until the acts of Toleration in the later centuries which allowed followers of the Church of Rome (Roman Catholics) freedoms in Britain. The Anglican Church in America, when founded, was called the Anglican Catholic Church (a term once proposed for what became known as the “Episcopal Church” – and is in the process of joining with that body again and doubling its size. Catholic means universal rather than local. It means a church with bishops, priests, and deacons whose bishops descend, through the laying on of hands, one on the next, from Peter and the Apostles. With a reverence for the Communion of the Saints and the Virgin Mary and the Seven Sacraments. It does NOT mean (but MAY mean) obedience to the Bishop of Rome (the Pope).



Q. Are you Conservative or Liberal?

A. Yes and No. Or Neither. We have not engaged any of the changes some Anglicans have since 1976. We ordain men to the priesthood. We use traditional language (e.g. 1928 Prayerbook, 1940 Hymnal, King James Bible) in worship.

Q. Of what *Larger* Church body are you a member?

A. The Anglican Catholic Church – funny enough – one of the names put forward by the fledgeling churches in America after the revolutions when “Church of England” became Politically non-expedient! This name was taken on by a group in 1977 who *continued* the Anglican tradition in response to what, in their opinion, was a departure from the Anglican way of *doing* theology – as exemplified by Richard Hooker and other Anglican Divines and much cherished by Anglican theologians throughout the ages. The Three Legged Stool of Scripture, Tradition, and Reason. And IN THAT ORDER.

For something to be “Orthodox” it must be rooted (or at least not prohibited by – e.g. Pizza is not mentioned in Holy Scripture neither is it prohibited). Borne out in Tradition – consistently practice from Apostolic times to the present – or at least not contradicted. And REASONable to the modern mind.

In the eyes of the *Continuing* Anglican movement, decisions made by the Episcopal Church in the mid 1970’s showed a departure from this way of scriptural foundation and thus orthodox theology and ecclesiology.

Today the ACC is a remarkably diverse place – much more so than the average main-line denomination.

AND... We do truly welcome ALL in our fellowship and pews. We have gay and straight, male and female, politically liberal and politically conservative, single and married and divorced and remarried persons and we seek and serve Christ in all persons.

We are part of the Diocese of the Northeast and our Bishop is The Rt Rev’d Alexander Henderson Webb – based in New Hampshire. The spiritual head of the church nationally is The Most Rev’d Mark Haverland, Archbishop & Metropolitan, and he is based in Georgia.

Q. Do I have to leave my church to join?

A. No! You do not even have to *join* to join! We welcome you just as you are. On your terms. Some of our folks worship elsewhere with their families in the morning and come to us in the afternoon. Some engage during the week and worship elsewhere on the weekends. We are complementary to the spiritual life of some and ARE the full context of the spiritual life for others.

Q. Why is the new Mission Church in Manhattan called Saint Michael and Saint George?

A. We are a Mission – a new Diocesan congregation that aspires to be a “parish” – an established Diocesan congregation. The priest of a Mission is a Vicar who serves (vicariously) until a Rector is appointed or in the Rector’s place and the priest of a Parish is a Rector. We are a Church in descent from the Church of England and Saints Michael & George are patrons of England. Heavenly and Earthly. The Archangel Michael, doing battle on our behalf in Heaven with the forces of Evil, personified in the Dragon whom he slew and he wields a fiery sword – with which he was also stationed by the Lord at the Gates of Eden to make sure Satan as well as Man stayed out after the expulsion. George, a 4th Century Roman soldier and member of the Praetorian



Guard under the Emperor Diocletian (a famous persecutor of the Faith) who was sentenced to death for his refusal to recant the Christian faith and has been venerated as a patron saint of soldiers in many countries from Mediaeval times. He too is associated with Dragnon slaying in the mists of time. When I asked a parishioner at St.-George's-by-the-River to tell me how he knew a window was St. Michael and not St George as both were portrayed standing on top of a Dragon *in extremis*, the young confirmand simply said, "Wings." Quite so. The Founders of the Congregation first met on St George's Day and the first major feast we will celebrate together will be Michaelmas. Additionally, there is not another SsM&G in Gotham.

Q. What does the Coat of Arms of the Church mean.

A. This is a work in progress but, I believe, the blazon is as follows:

Shield: Argent on a Cross Gules a Sword erect also Argent hilted and enflamed Or, on a canton azure, a Canterbury Cross of the first, in Sinister Base a Windmill Brunâtre

Supporters: Two beaver rampant, armed and languant, Brunâtre

Compartment: A grassy ground vert speckled with Thistles and Roses on a Seascape Argent and Azure

I am checking with competent authority.

The basis of the escutcheon is the Cross of St George. You see this in the Union Jack and the Naval Ensign of England. And the Flag of the Dioceses of the Church of England – each uniquely differenced. As well the provinces of the Anglican Communion. Impaled on the Cross is the flaming sword of St Michael. The Episcopal Church, from which the Anglican Church in America descends, has a blue field in Quarter 1 with the Saltire of 9 crosslets representing the original 9 dioceses. The ACA has replaced that with the Canterbury Cross. In Quarter 4 you find a Windmill for New Amsterdam/New York. The shield, as the church, is supported by Old New York represented by the two beavers (rampant – up on their hind legs ready to go) armed (claws out) and languant (mouth open as if growling – or whatever menacing sound a beaver makes when being protective). It is resting on the green earth of land set in the sea with roses and thistles – the island of Manhattan with its Dutch, English, and Scottish heritage visible.

This is our foundation. YOU are our future.