



St. Vincent's Cathedral Church  
Bedford, Texas

Cathedral and Rector Profile  
2020



## **Welcome to St. Vincent's**

---

St. Vincent's Cathedral is a vibrant and healthy congregation steeped in traditional Anglo-Catholic liturgy and sacramental theology. Our life together is centered around the holiness of God and the beauty of worship, marked by prayer book liturgy, chant, and hymnody led by organ and choir. In our services, we use the Bible, the new ACNA Book of Common Prayer and the 1982 Hymnal.

The Cathedral has a strong sense of community where members know, respect and care for one another. The church serves as an anchor for our members and provides rootedness, stability, and purpose in their lives.

The Cathedral is in Bedford, Texas, the heart of the Mid Cities between Fort Worth and Dallas, near the Dallas-Fort Worth International Airport. Our congregation is comprised of families residing in the surrounding towns of Hurst, Euless, Bedford, Colleyville, Grapevine, Arlington, North Richland Hills, Richland Hills, and others. St. Vincent's is located near the highly trafficked Highway 183/121 corridor, making it an easy drive from most places in the area. We have the feel of being in a small town with all the advantages of the cities of Fort Worth and Dallas, which are nearby.

At St. Vincent's, our primary purpose is worship. From this primary focus, all other values flow. In worship and from worship come the second and third values, discipleship and evangelism. Through our corporate worship, we unite ourselves with others to acknowledge the holiness of God, to hear God's Word, to offer prayer, and to celebrate the sacraments.

## **Vision and Mission**

---

### Vision Statement

God is calling us to use our individual and corporate gifts to help bring all people into a growing relationship with Him through Christ.

### Mission Statement

Our parish mission statement guides the Cathedral life and ministry, "To make Jesus Christ known in all that we do."

## **Our History**

---

St. Vincent's Church was planted in 1955 as a mission of the Episcopal Diocese of Dallas in Euless with only 17 members. Our church was named after St. Vincent of Saragossa. By 1960 the congregation had grown dramatically to 129 members. In 1983, the increasingly large Episcopal Diocese of Dallas created the Episcopal Diocese of Fort Worth. St. Vincent's became a member of the newly created Diocese.

The church moved to the Pipeline Road location in 1964, continued to grow, and by 1989 had built the Church, St. Mary's Chapel, the Parish Hall, and St. Vincent's School at its current location.

In 1995, the Right Reverend Clarence C. Pope, Jr., the second Bishop of the Diocese of Fort Worth named St. Vincent's as the Pro-Cathedral for the Diocese of Fort Worth. The Very Rev. Ryan S. Reed was called to be the seventh Rector and second Dean of St. Vincent's in 2002. Bishop Jack Iker named St. Vincent's the Cathedral in 2007.

The Cathedral Parish of St. Vincent was the site of the Inaugural Assembly and founding of the Anglican Church in North America in June 2009.

Before his election to the episcopate in June 2019, Bishop Reed served as Rector and Dean from 2002-2019. The Very Rev. Thomas Hightower, one of the senior priests in the Diocese, is the Interim Dean.

## **Our Diocese**

---

The Diocese of Fort Worth was formed in 1983 when the rapidly growing Diocese of Dallas divided into two Dioceses: Dallas and Fort Worth. The Diocese of Fort Worth has 56 congregations serving 24 North Central Texas counties. The Diocesan offices are located in West Fort Worth, about thirty miles from St. Vincent's Cathedral.

The Right Reverend Jack L. Iker, who was the third bishop of Ft Worth and served for twenty-six years, retired in December 2019. Bishop Reed was elected Bishop-coadjutor in June, consecrated in September 2019, and seated as the Diocesan Bishop on January 5, 2020.

St. Vincent's Cathedral is honored to serve as the focal point of the Diocese of Fort Worth.

## Physical Facilities

---

St. Vincent's campus is designed around a central, cloister-like courtyard surrounded by the Church, Chapel, Parish Hall, offices, and classrooms.

The beautiful Sanctuary and Nave immediately communicate reverence and catholic tradition. The soaring arched ceiling, curved apse, and free-standing altar are focused toward the large *Christus Rex* on the East wall. The interior architecture features dark stained oak columns, ceiling beams, and pews, anchored by a dark red ceramic floor tile. A main aisle and two side aisles lead the worshipper to the altar rail. Carved wood bas-reliefs of the Madonna and Child and St. Vincent adorn the walls on either side of the Sanctuary and the Stations of the Cross line each side aisle. The nave seats 350 people on the main level and an additional 50 people in the choir gallery in the rear.

The Redman Organ Company of Fort Worth built and installed our tracker pipe organ in 1971 at the Pipeline Road location. It was subsequently relocated and enlarged in three stages to become the magnificent instrument we have today.

St. Mary's Chapel is located south of the Church. It seats approximately 30 people and is used for weekday services. It is also open 24 hours a day for prayer and meditation. The Chapel has 12 stained glass windows that depict symbols and images of St. Mary. The church Columbarium is located at the rear of St. Mary's Chapel.

## Current Challenges

---

The community surrounding the Cathedral is rapidly becoming international and multicultural. The leadership needs to understand how it can embrace this reality as an opportunity for spreading the Gospel. This is an exciting time for the Cathedral as we seek commonality in Christ across ethnic boundaries.

The congregation is aging, and the growth of our younger adult members has lagged. Currently, a large percent of the adult population is over 50 years of age. However, we believe we have a great opportunity for growth with younger families who respond to the ancient faith in our loving Christian community.

The Cathedral has experienced declining attendance over the past five years.

St. Vincent's school was an important and vibrant part of the church. The closing of the school in 2015 was and still is a factor that requires some healing.

The lawsuit by the Episcopal Church nationally against the Episcopal Diocese of Fort Worth (our Diocese) has created a dark cloud over the Cathedral. The decade-long case is

now before the Supreme Court of the State of Texas for a second time. The court's final decision is expected in the middle of 2020. Although the Cathedral leadership has contingency plans in place, it is understandably a major concern among our membership.

## **The Responsibilities of the Dean**

---

The Dean of the Cathedral bears a significant spiritual responsibility as a chief visionary, preacher, teacher, and pastor for the people of the Cathedral. As indicated in the Book of Common Prayer, the Dean is to be devoted to the service of God and His people in body, soul, and spirit. He is to have a memory filled with the record of God's mighty works. He is to be an instrument of God's salvation for the people entrusted to his care. He is to faithfully administer the holy sacraments of the church and, by his life and teaching, set forth the true and living Word of God. He is to be a man of prayer and devotion, of heightened love and gratitude; and in preaching, he is to have a readiness of thought and expression.

## **Goals and Expectations**

---

The new Dean will enthusiastically:

- Provide direction and clarity, in partnership with the Vestry, for the mission and ministry of the congregation in its commitment to make disciples and teach them to obey the commands of Christ;
- Deliver biblical messages that are relevant and clear in the presentation of the Gospel;
- Lead liturgical worship services that are filled with hope and inspiration, that honor God's presence in Word and Sacrament;
- Develop the opportunities and principles of stewardship and financial generosity in the parish for a long-term future;
- Create an environment welcoming to all with a focus on reaching the unchurched;
- Maintain the Anglican Cathedral as the standard-bearer and beacon for the Diocese of Fort Worth.

## **Experience/Skills**

---

The new Dean should:

- Have expert knowledge of God and His Word, and an ability to interpret and apply God's Word in a variety of life situations;
- Have a proven track record of working with a program sized (preferably) church;
- Exhibit an ability to grow and expand the body of Christ both numerically and spiritually, reaching new and younger members;
- Have a proven track record of working with teams of people to accomplish agreed-upon plans and objectives;
- Demonstrate the ability to teach and relate to a multigenerational congregation;
- Be positive, optimistic, and a decisive problem solver with a sense of humor and an ability to rely on biblical principles and wisdom to solve challenges;
- Have a proven ability to negotiate/mediate in parish relationships and issues;
- Be a good preacher with the ability to articulate a message that will stay with parishioners;
- Have the ability to be a change-agent when necessary, who can shepherd the congregation through a transition;
- Possess a Master of Divinity Degree, preferably from an Anglican seminary.

## **Personal Characteristics**

---

The new Dean should:

- Have an upstanding character of integrity and credibility guided by a sound set of values and ethical principles;
- Be a person who exemplifies the fruits of the Spirit and a love of Jesus;
- If married, be a loving husband whose marriage is a wholesome example to the Body of Christ;
- Exhibit a life of prayer with humble personal devotion to Christ; a life-long student of God's Word;
- Be a leader with a sense of humor, who is attentive to newcomers and approachable.



St. Vincent's Episcopal Cathedral Church  
1300 Forest Ridge Dr, Bedford, TX 76022  
<https://www.stvincentscathedral.org/>

