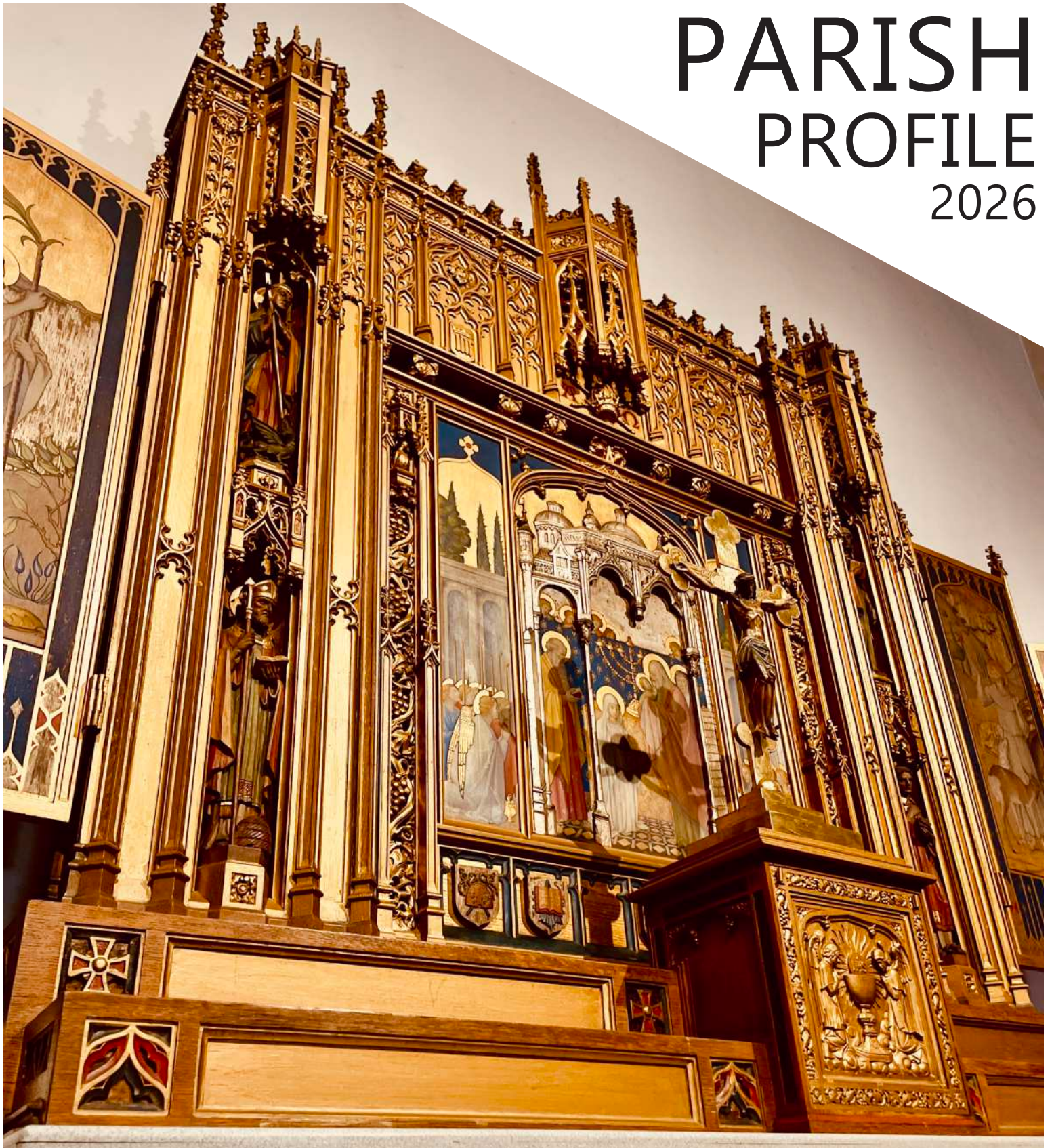


PARISH PROFILE 2026



Church of Our Savior
To seek, serve, and share Christ



The Episcopal Church Of Our Savior is one of the four Episcopal Parishes in the Lower East Side of Manhattan; alongside St Augustine's Episcopal Church and Trinity Church, and St. Mark's in the Bowery. Our history is 53 years long. As the only Asian ethnic church in the Diocese of New York, we are a parish ministering primarily but not limited to the Chinese and Chinese American Communities. Church of Our Savior is known for its hospitality and friendliness. We value our worship to God, our support for one another and our participation in the witness. We lead people to Christ and strive be a beacon to the community through witness, service, and ministry. Our mission statement is: To Seek, To Serve, and To Share Christ. We seek a Priest-in-Charge to help us actualize our mission in ways that meet the needs of our neighborhood and the generations of today.



Average Sunday Attendance:

25 – 50

Age:

60+

Female:

65%

Lives in the Neighborhood:

50%

New Membership:

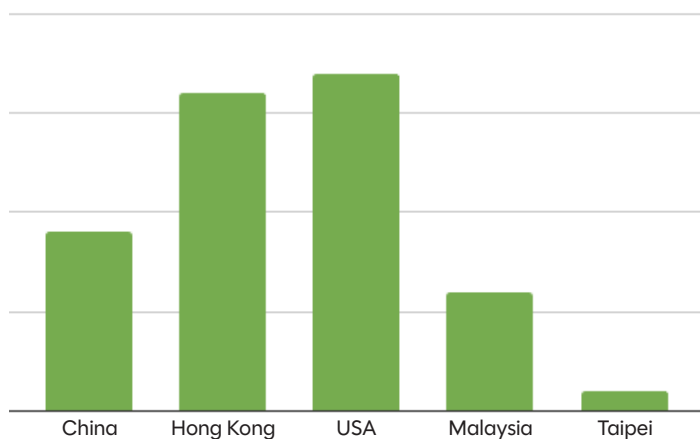
51%
(1-10 years)

According to the US Census of 2020, the median age of our neighborhood is 45 – 50, median income of \$35,805; 28% of the population live below poverty level. The majority of our members are over age 60; many are on Medicaid and food stamps. They are mostly retired; mostly widowed.

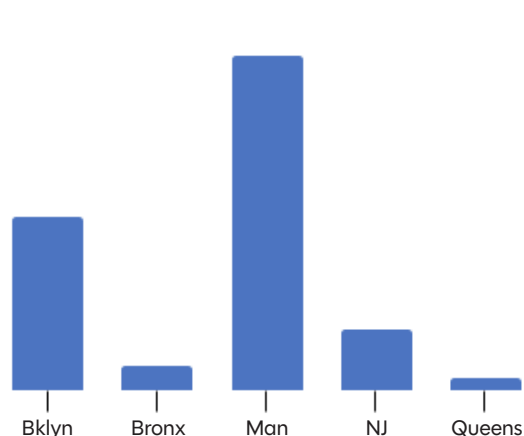
It is interesting to note that the congregation is not aging; we are attracting new members in the same demographics. As the Baby Boomer generation is at or reaching retirement, we see this niche as a potential for church growth and revitalization.

Church of Our Savior has had a long history of LGBTQIA+ clergy leadership and are proud to be one of the few churches in Chinatown to make this declaration. Community outreach and programming have always been a large part of our identity and ministry. Through our community center programs, many non-Chinese, non-Asians have called this place home.

Birthplace



Residence



How we see Our Savior

The congregation engaged in 4 rounds of discernment.

1. A Congregational Development Session on the Churches Strengths and Weaknesses, held during a Walk with Christ Fellowship session.
2. Listening sessions with church members on a Sunday afternoon.
3. A written parish profile survey completed by parishioners and staff where we received 90% participation.
4. The online congregational needs assessment survey.

Survey Findings:

- We are a **welcoming community** that focuses on friends, family and fellowship.
- We understand **hospitality** as modeling Jesus to the world. Church service is always followed by a meal, whether it is a luncheon fellowship in the parish hall, or an invitation to dine at a local establishment.
- **Participation is support.** Church members have a high willingness to participate in church events, especially on a Sunday. There is a willingness to participate in Diocesan or events when transportation is organized.
- Members find satisfaction in the care we put in our **music and liturgy**. Our volunteer music director arranges soloists to lift up our services on major feast days. We have a parishioner-cantor who leads us in the Chinese version of the Lord's prayer. We have also been blessed throughout the years with excellent preachers, be it our own Priest-in-Charge or the supply priests we've had in the interims.

Our Hope For the Future

With the redefinition of our community center, Our Savior's presence in the neighborhood has changed. We seek leadership to initiate new ways to connect with the community, both within the walls of the church and outside in the neighborhood.

We believe God is calling us to engage in the younger generations: We want to attract new members, particularly youth and young adults, to raise up a new generation of Asian leadership. We want to become the support system for new families. Since the beginning this has been a family church. We believe that a multigenerational parish is the key to sustainability at Our Savior.

With the on-going gentrification in the neighborhood, we need to find ways to form partnership with our neighborhood establishments and to embrace inclusiveness.

We believe God is calling us to build partnership in the community:

- a. **Element House** – when Element House opened its operation at Our Savior in 2025, it started a partnership that echoes the spirit of community service at 48 Henry Street. Element House's service to the differently abled members of the community is a natural extension of our years of ministry. We hope to minister to the needs of the participants and be the beacon in their lives, especially when some of them have attended our church services, with one expressing desire to be baptized.
- b. **Wonder Aloud** – This is an ecumenical group. Their presence at Our Savior has been a blessing to them and to us, not only as a place for them to collect mail but as a place where they can hold meetings in spiritual direction and Christian leadership development.
- c. **EAST (Episcopal Asian Supper Table)** – Since the inception of EAST in the Diocese of New York, Our Savior has been an active participant in the fellowship, hosting the events at 48 Henry Street several times and welcoming many Asians and non-Asians to break bread and have fellowship.

We believe God is calling us to deepen multicultural engagements and develop pan-Asian ministries:

As the only Chinese congregation in the Diocese of New York, Our Savior is uniquely gifted to share our language, heritage and culture with our community, the diocese and the wider church.

We see ministry as a partnership of parishioners and ordained leadership together. A new Priest-in-Charge will offer additional gifts and new experiences to complement those already in the congregation. Parishioners have come up with the following qualities:

1. **Pastor:** The priest would serve as a pastor and shepherd to this flock, guiding our spiritual growth and providing compassionate pastoral care despite possible language difference.
2. **Priest:** The priest would lead us in sacramental ministry of the Word and Table in the tradition of the Episcopal Church, preaching sermons which inspire parishioners to ministry in the church and the world based on the lectionary cycle. He/She would initiate stewardship and other fundraising activities as needed.
3. **Leader:** We are seeking a priest who leads with a collaborative style and encourages lay leadership and discernment. He/She often communicates with parishioner; he/she also communicates with staff frequently to attend to the administrative needs of the parish and the community center. The priest would support the Vestry to nurture and develop decision-making. He/She needs to be seen and known in the neighborhood while at the same time empowers and encourages parishioners to be "ambassadors to the community" by partnering the church with other community programs and organizations to make a difference. The priest connects the parish with the community beyond including the Diocese of New York, the neighboring dioceses as well as the ECUSA. He/She participates in ecumenical life.
4. **Teacher:** The priest teaches the Christian faith through Christian education and formation, acting as the advisor to Walk With Christ Fellowship and other church groups. As a teacher, he/she conveys the doctrine of the church, particularly in the preparation for baptism, confirmation, reception and lay ministry. He/She discerns parishioners' call to ordained ministry.

Parish Life

The Ah Foo Jubilee Community Center The First Asian American Jubilee Community Center

With the support from the Diocese, particularly the Right Reverend Allen Shin, Bishop Suffragan of the Diocese, the Center received its new name in 2017: The Ah Foo Jubilee Community Center, in memory of the pioneer Chinese Episcopal evangelist in Nevada from the 1870s and to continue his legacy in reaching out to the community via various services and programs. The Priest-in-Charge serves as the Director of the Jubilee Center.

Elements House

In September 2025, The Vestry, The Rev. Nelson Mendoza, and the Standing Committee of the Diocese of New York enabled us to sign a ten-year lease with Elements House, a New York Disaster Interfaith Service (NYDIS) program. This is a program of the City of New York. Elements House resides inside Church of Our Savior and utilizes the lower level, the First Floor and the left wing of the 2nd floor. We have retained exclusive use of our sacristy, sanctuary and our 2nd floor office space. We are welcomed to use the parish hall and lobby on Sundays.

Elements House is more than our tenant; we are partners. In December 2025, at their annual gala, NYDIS presented Church of Our Savior with the 2024-2025 Clubhouse Partner of the Year award and the 2024-2025 Member of the Year Award. At the same event, various Episcopal Churches, the Diocese of New York and The Rt. Rev. Matthew Heyd were also honored.



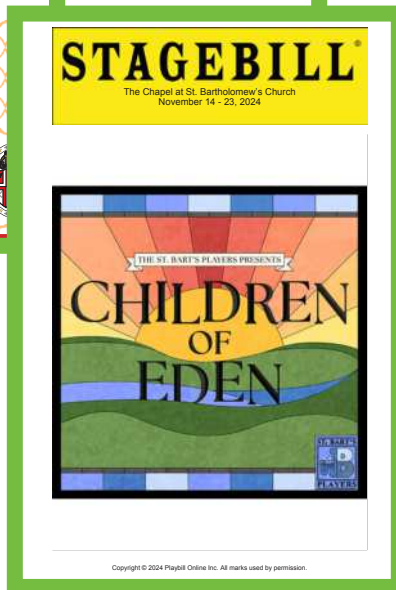
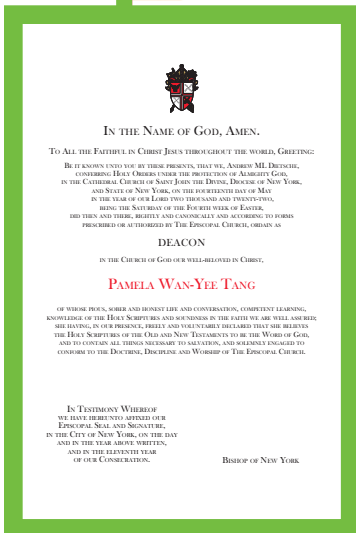
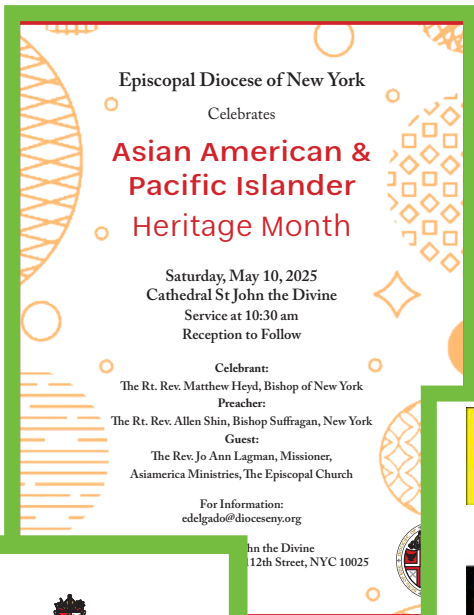
Elements House supports differently abled members of our community. Nearly everyone on staff is a licensed social worker. Members of Our Savior are welcomed to attend their public events and join them for meals. Events include craft projects such as candle making, planting, knitting, and drawing. They have exercise programs - dancing and yoga; and the occasional art exhibition. They recently installed a new recording studio for their podcast titled "The Unheard Conversations".

Elements House is open every weekday, the first and third Saturday, and every holiday. Breakfast is served at 10:30 am. Lunch is served from 1– 3 pm. They have recently been granted \$1.2 million dollars to renovate their space. The demographics of the members of Elements House are what our church seeks – local, male, young adults, non-Asian. In the past year, a few of their participants have joined us in church service and activities. One member is in the process of being baptized. Members of Our Savior have also participated in Elements House activities.



Mission Graphics

Established in 1976, Mission Graphics is the publishing ministry of Church of Our Savior. Our mission is to share our publishing expertise with the non-profit community. Mission Graphics has helped churches and non-profits, enabling their fundraising efforts and social outreach. Among our supporters are The Diocese of New York, House of the Redeemer, St Bart's Players, National Society of Colonial Dames, Search and Care, Village Zendo, and Good Old Lower East Side.



Parish Life

Walk with Christ Fellowship – Originally established as the Women's Fellowship, this renaming expanded the welcome to include all members of Our Savior. This fellowship serves to build up friendship, provide Christian education and pastoral care. Meetings are on the first Sunday of the month.

Senior Outings – Through the generosity of the Yuk Lan Lee Senior Fund, Walk with Christ Fellowship offers outings in the warmer months. We strive to introduce our Senior community to hidden treasures in the tri-state area, new dining experiences, museum visits, garden tours, etc. Transportation is provided; meals are subsidized.

Educational Scholarships – We are the custodian of two scholarship funds. The Phoebe Chen Scholarship is offered annually to undergraduate college students related to members of Church of Our Savior or the Ah Foo Community Center. The Fung Young Scholarship is available for Seminarians of Chinese descent.

Wonder Aloud – Wonder Aloud formerly Women of Wonder was introduced to us through The Rev. Ajung Sojwol. This organization provides resources and programs for Spiritual well-being, particularly those in the Asian community. Their services include Spiritual Direction, Retreats, and Christian Leadership Development. We at Our Savior are pleased to offer them a place to call home; a place to pick up their mail, to be one of their meeting locations for their services. Most recently, we have participated in their Austin Story Project, a lay-led Bible sharing method created by Austin Seminary. Wonder Aloud is led by two amazing women, Erika Lee and Manni Lee. www.wonderaloud.org



Previous programming held at the community center included:

Jubilee Youth Program which offered an afterschool program (K-5th grade), Summer Camp, Saturday Art and Piano, and the renowned Jubilee Youth Chorale. At the height of our success, the Chorale toured Internationally, performed at the Vatican, and was featured in a commercial directed by Spike Lee and performed at the Diocesan Absalom Jones Service in the Cathedral of St John the Divine.

Gateway Adult Education which offered computer training to adults in both hardware and software.

Annual Health Fair in cooperation with NewYork Presbyterian Downtown Hospital. In the late 1990's, we were at the forefront of offering an annual health fair in New York City when the concept was new. In collaboration with St. Vincent's Hospital, we were among the first to offer free flu shots to seniors.

These programming ceased during the covid years as our facility was not equipped with windows.

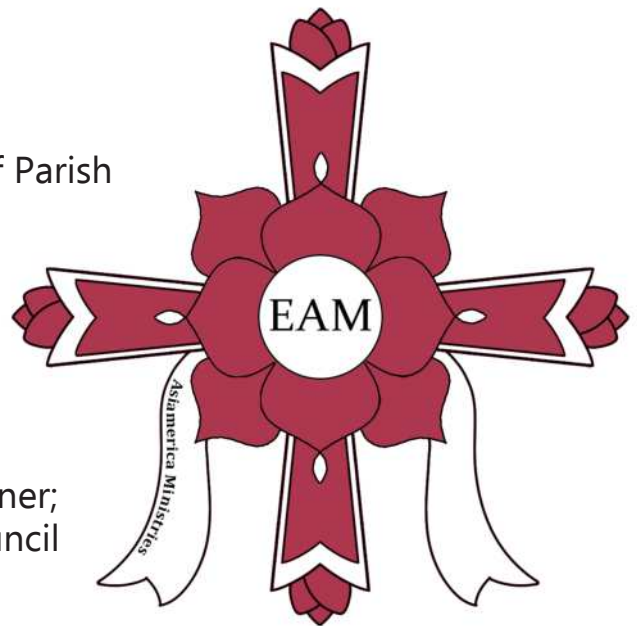


Diocesan and Episcopal Church Leadership

Our Savior believes that Asian Leadership needs to be seen and heard in the Diocese of New York and beyond. It is also our responsibility to identify and encourage talented leaders in the congregation to offer their talents in support of our Diocese and Episcopal Church. Members of Our Savior are visible and active on all levels of the Episcopal Church. We have served as follows:

The Diocese of New York

- Licensed Eucharistic Ministers
- Lower Manhattan IPC
- Bishop search committee
- Canon 29 Committee
- Diocesan Delegate to Province II
- Diocesan Committee on the Incorporation of Parish
- Diocesan EAM
- Episcopal Asian Supper Table (EAST)
- Commission on Ministry
- Global Mission Commission



The Episcopal Church

- EAM Chinese convocation – secretary, convener; Peter Ng was the president of the EAM Council
- Council of Advice, Asiameica Missioner
- Staff, The Episcopal Church
- Executive Council
- Deputy to General Convention
- National Church's Standing Commission on Liturgy and Music

Here we would like to acknowledge Canon Peter Ng. Canon Ng was Our Savior's Community Center Director. Alongside Fr. Albany To, he was instrumental in the building of our church building. In the 1990's and 2000's, Canon Ng brought Mission Graphics to national renown. We at one point had a desk at The Episcopal Church headquarters. He introduced Our Savior's ECOSERVE, pioneering webhosting and computer services to churches. He brought the Jubilee Youth Chorale to international acclaim. After his role as Director of our Community Center, he served as the Asian Pacific Partnership Officer at the Episcopal Church. Canon Ng retired in 2017. Throughout his retirement, he served as unofficial consul to our church. We were pleased to host his Celebration of Life service in 2023.

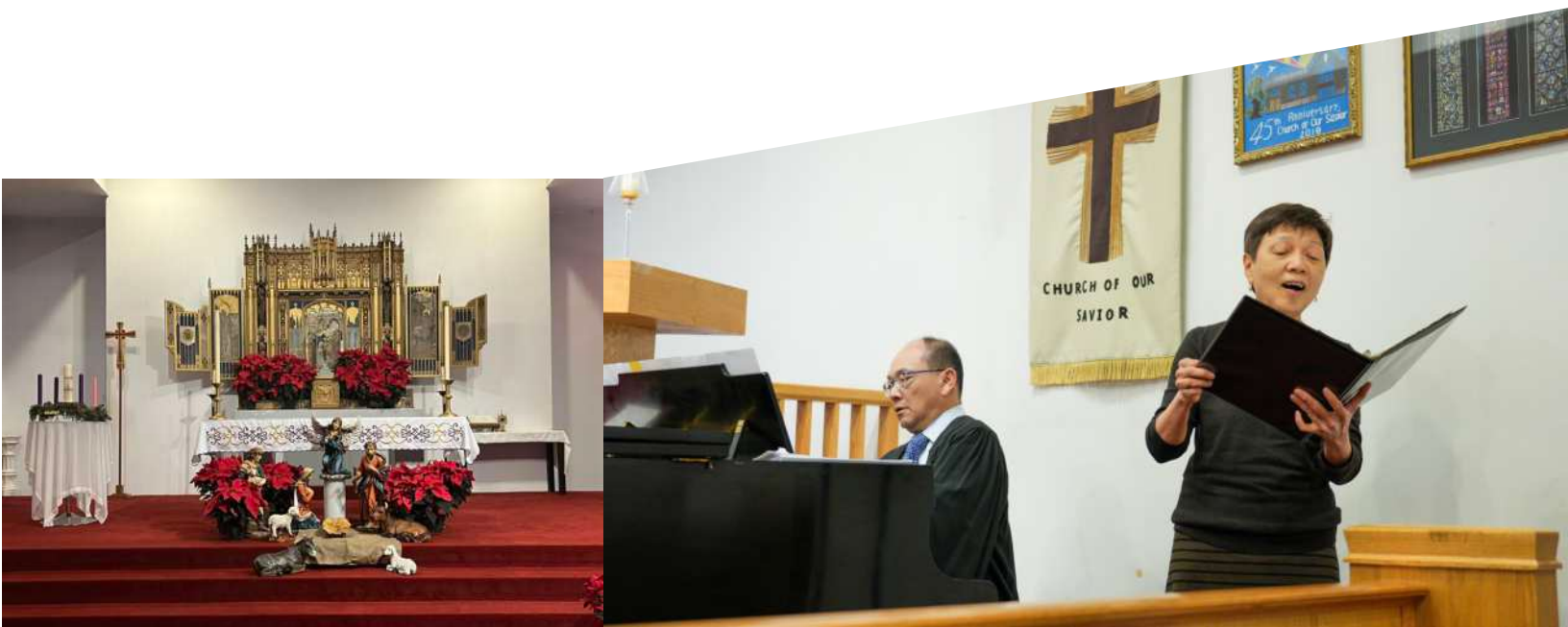
Worship

As part of the worldwide Anglican Communion, the Episcopal Church of Our Savior follows Rite II of the Book of Common Prayer in all the worship services. We use the Chinese bilingual Book of Common Prayer which was published in 2001 with technical assistance from Mission Graphics. This bilingual prayer book is widely used by Chinese churches nationwide. It is officially recognized by ECUSA.

Eucharist is celebrated every Sunday with both Chinese and English used throughout the service. The sermon is usually delivered in both Chinese and English, with both versions delivered by the priest or the translation of the entire sermon delivered by a lay-person following the original.

Samuel Cheung is our warden and volunteer music director. Often times, we have soloists at our major feast days. One of our parishioner also serves as cantor for the sung Lord's Prayer in Chinese.

We observe Ash Wednesday with a service and ashes to go. Holy Week begins with the blessing of the palms and a palm procession into the church. We hold Maundy Thursday service with foot-washing, and Good Friday service with a participatory Passion Gospel in Chinese and the Veneration of the Cross. Fourteen images for the fourteen Stations of the Cross are hung in the church for meditation throughout the year. Easter is grand with music and incense. It is also Church of Our Savior's tradition to hold the Christmas-Eve Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols, the service made popular in recent years by King's College, Cambridge University. At this festival, parishioners take part in reading the lessons. The carols are sung alternatively by soloists and the congregation. In the past, we have engaged the community with this lay-led service. Christmas is observed at 11 am on Christmas day.



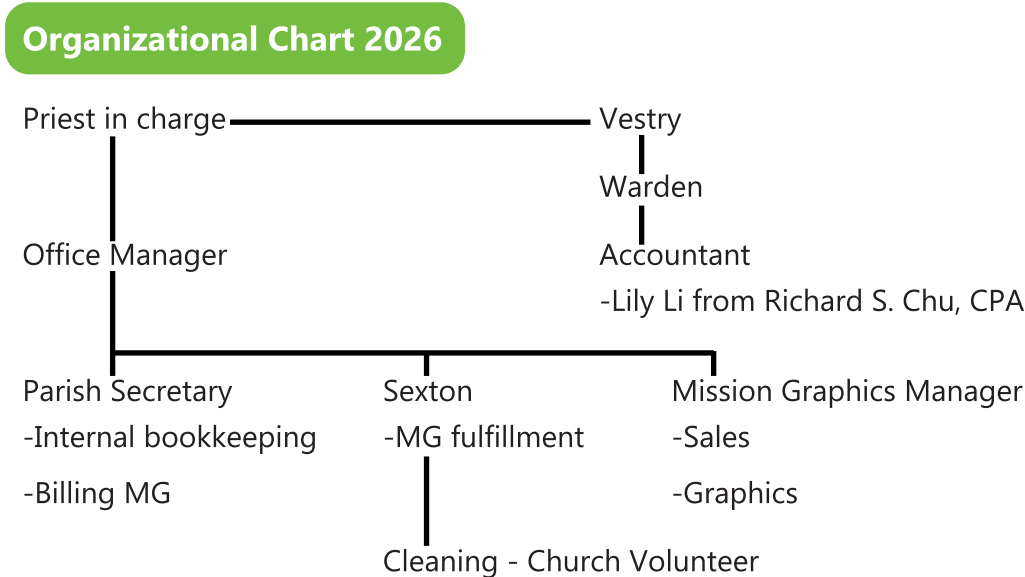


The Church Anniversary Celebration Service, held on a Saturday at the end of October, is usually the "Homecoming" event for the parish. The celebrant is usually a bishop or canon of the diocese with special music offered by soloists. Part of the Anniversary Celebration is an evening banquet.

We have been without the sound of organ music for almost a year. We have recently purchased a new Allen Organ and hope that it will be installed in time for our Church Anniversary in 2026. 50% of the cost was raised in a matter of a few weeks, partially thanks to the generosity of a parishioner who offered a hefty matching grant. This will be the second church organ purchased in the lifetime of this church.



The Church of Our Savior believes in the ultimate authority, providence and guidance of the Almighty God, and emphasizes the importance of lay leadership and community services. As a parish in the Diocese of New York, Church of Our Savior also accedes to the doctrine, discipline and worship and the Constitution and Canons of the Protestant Episcopal Church in the United States of America, and to the Constitution and Canons of the Episcopal Diocese of New York, and acknowledges their authority.



The Vestry consists of two wardens and three vestry members. The treasurer is appointed annually and is assisted by the accountant. The Priest-in-Charge chairs the meetings. We strive for representation in age and gender within our vestry. The current secretary is a college student in her first vestry term. Vestry members tend to serve all three terms before stepping down. Although vestry members are encouraged to support all programming at Our Savior, they are not necessarily the leaders. The Vestry identifies the gifts of our parishioners and encourages them to lead.

Church of Our Savior is located on the Lower East Side, Manhattan, bordering Chinatown and City Hall. We are in a predominantly residential neighborhood. There are three elementary schools within a two block radius; and a daycare center around the corner. There are opportunities for ecumenical relationships. Within a four block radius, we have First Chinese Presbyterian Church, Chinese Evangel Mission, Chinese Conservative Baptist Church, Mariner's Temple, Chinese United Methodist Church, New Life Reform Church, Trinity Center (non-denominational) and Transfiguration Roman Catholic Church.

The neighborhood has been undergoing gentrification. There is a high rise on our corner and another being built across the street. 59 Henry Street is a 19-story luxury condominium that will house 80 units and 5 stories of "community center" space. The store fronts that were once mom and pop stores are now art galleries, coffee shops and trendy 'take out hatches'. You will see people waiting on long lines day and night for dumplings and rice noodle. The US 2020 Census reports, 60% of the population in Chinatown, Manhattan is non-Asian. We feel there is real opportunities for multicultural ministries here.



Financials

Our financial resources come from the generosity of the parishioners in pledge contributions, the rent from Elements House, and the revenue from Mission Graphics, the printing ministry of the church, and the occasional generous donation.

2025 Financial Report

Income	Amount
Pledges	80,768
Restricted Funds	15,634
Grants from the Diocese	17,000
Dividend Income	13,590
Elements House NYDIS	271,500
Mission Graphics	33,659
Other	8,972
Total	441,073
Expenses	Amount
Clergy and Lay Salary	204,926
Other professional	14,400
Building Maintenance	63,351
Office	25,189
Condo expenses for 2024	28,000
Church Restricted expenses	14,619
NYDIS	32,106
Mission Graphics	51,236 *
Total	433,827

* With the availability of funds through the income from NYDIS, Mission Graphics, in 2025, paid up our outstanding bills from past years. 2025 actual Income over expenses net \$13,486.70. In January 2026, we collected \$8,621.13 from December 2025 invoices.

Financials

2027 Budget

Income

Pledges	90,000
Dividend Income	20,000
Elements House NYDIS	273,600
Mission Graphics	60,000
Total	443,600

Expenses

Clergy Expenses	140,000
Church/ Community Center / Lay Salary expenses	253,600
Mission Graphics	50,000
Total	443,600



St. Christopher's Chapel

In the early 1950's, Trinity Church, Wall Street, established a Spanish-speaking mission at 48 Henry Street named St. Christopher's Chapel. Its ministry, radical in its days, was to help those in need by providing the resources and skills they needed to improve their livelihood. By the mid-1960's, the Hispanic residents began to move out of the neighborhood. They were slowly replaced by Asian families, mainly Chinese immigrants from Hong Kong and China. ESL classes were offered by the mission to these new immigrants. Those who attended classes began to worship there, bringing with them friends and families. Soon, St. Christopher's Chapel became the church for a number of Chinese people. By the Fall 1970, it was evident that many of the Spanish-speaking people had moved out of the neighborhood. Trinity Church therefore decided to close St. Christopher's Chapel. The last priest at St. Christopher's was The Rev. Carlos Caguiat. He was of Filipino descent. For many years before his retirement, he assisted the Chinese congregation at Church of the Holy Apostles, Bellevue, Washington.



Church of Our Savior

In 1983 Church of Our Savior officially became a Mission of the Diocese of New York. In three short years, Church of Our Savior had created a stable enough foundation, both financially and spiritually, to apply for Parish status. Under the leadership of Father To, Church of Our Savior was acknowledged and admitted by the Diocese of New York as a Parish at the 1987 Diocesan Convention.

From 1982 to 1987, Church of Our Savior has played a significant role in the lives of many Chinese Episcopal clergy in the United States. The Reverend Franco Kwan served as Priest-In-Charge from 1983 to 1986. The Reverend Philip Wong was a parishioner until he enrolled in seminary. The Reverend Peter Lam interned at Our Savior while studying at General Theological Seminary. The Reverend Charles Chan interned at Our Savior after studying at Nashotah House. The Rev. Dr. Eric Law, founder of Kaleidoscope Institute was a parishioner here in his youth. The Rev. Gretchen Zimmerman served as Vice-President of the Chinatown Mission before her calling, and Sister Cornelia Ransom, OSH, former Mother Superior, taught Sunday School in the early 80's and again in the 2000's. She later served on the Vestry of Our Savior.

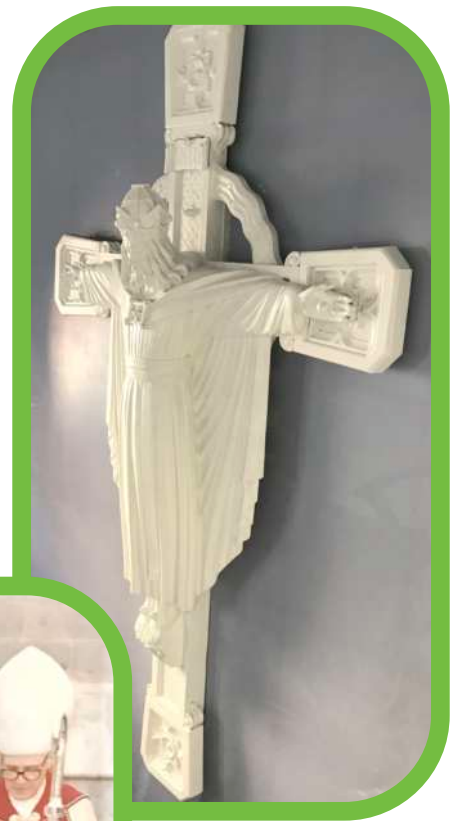




The New Building

By the mid-1980's, Church of Our Savior had outgrown its space. The maintenance upkeep of the three old tenement buildings did not prove cost-effective. Father To had the vision and courage to seize this opportunity and to lead the congregation into a newly constructed building. There was also a need for more quality-housing in Chinatown. Many who have lived in Chinatown for years have accrued enough savings to afford a better quality of living. Middle and upper class new immigrants from Asia were also in need of homes. Architects and contractors met this challenge by building new and taller buildings in Chinatown. When asked about the construction project, Father To said, "[Church of Our Savior] has been and will continue to be a gateway for new comers, both to the Christian life and to this country." In 1989, after many negotiations between the Diocese and local contractors, the Diocese consented to work with Target 3 Associates to provide us with the new facilities we have today. Target 3 Associates devised a way to pay for the basic construction of the church - with The Bishop Paul Moore Tower, the condominium complex built beside and behind the church. The sales of the condominium units would pay for the construction of the entire building.

The building project took three years to complete. During those years, the Reverend Errol Harvey, Rector of St. Augustine's Church, was generous in accommodating Church of Our Savior and the Chinatown Mission at St. Augustine's. Upon our return to the new building, St. Augustine's presented Our Savior with the Christus Rex which once graced St. Augustine's altar. The restored Christus Rex is now the centerpiece in Our Savior's atrium. It is interesting to note that this very statue was originally given to St. Augustine's by St. Christopher's in memory of its members.



The Clergy

The **Rev. Albany SK To** was the founding Rector of Church of Our Savior. He was the only Rector thus far in the history of this church. After 1992, the vestry invited The Rev. Dr. Winston Ching, Officer of Asiamerica Ministries of the National Church to be our pastoral consultant. He, in turn, created for us a pastoral team. This team of four clergy celebrated Eucharist and preached on a rotational basis. They introduced us to a diversity of liturgical styles, and tended to our pastoral needs for ten years. Members of the pastoral team included: The Rev. Dr. Winston Ching, The Rev. David Barrie, Brother Clark Berge, SSF - former minister general of the Anglican Franciscans, The Rev. Craig Bustrin, The renowned Rev. Barbara Crafton, The Rev. Mary Grambsch, and The Rev. Philip Wong.

In 2003 The **Rev. Charles Chan** was called to be the Priest-in-Charge of the parish. He was well acquainted with us through seminarian internship days. His ministry concluded in the Fall of 2005. The Rev. Ellen Francis, OSH, continued the ministry in the interim.

The Fall of 2007, The **Rev. Ajung Sojwal** became the Priest-in-Charge. Rev. Sojwal ministered to Our Savior until the Fall of 2009. In the interim The Rev. Mary Grambsch returned to lead the parish.

Father Winston Ching passed away in July 2012; the memorial service was held at Church of Our Savior in September with Bishop Catherine Roskam as the celebrant.

In October 2013 The **Rev. Noel Bordador**, a gifted preacher with pastoral skills and an enlightening teacher began his ministry as the Priest-in-Charge. Father Bordador concluded his ministry in September 2016 to relocate to the Philippines.

The **Rev. Canon Dr. Ada Wong Nagata** from the Diocese of Los Angeles was called to be the Priest-in-Charge and director of Ah-Foo Community Center in October 2016. An experienced nurse before her call, Reverend Wong Nagata was the former Convener of the National Episcopal Chinese Convocation. She initiated Education for Ministry (EFM) in 2017. The group hailed from 6 different churches across two dioceses. Through her efforts, two students from this group discerned their call; Pamela Tang for the diaconate and Shoji Mitzumoto for the priesthood.

The **Rev. Rosalie Richards** joined us as Priest-in-Charge during the COVID era. (June 2020 - August 2021) She brought us to the age of online worship and devotions. These recordings are still available on our YouTube page.

In June 2022, The **Rev. Nelson Mendoza** joined us as Priest-in-Charge. A young adult parishioner said "... some of the qualities we appreciated in Fr. Nelson ... someone who thinks creatively about how the church can connect with the community". His tenure ended in October 2025 when he took a new position to be nearer to his family.



To apply for this position, please submit a current resume, and Vocation Hub Profile to: transitions@dioceseny.org. Applications will be reviewed on a rolling basis.



The Episcopal Church of Our Savior
48 Henry Street New York, NY 10002
212-233-2899
www.oursaviorny.org