

# Church of Our Lady of Peace NYC

Founded in 1918 by hard working Italian immigrants who wanted a place where they could worship in their own language, help each other find jobs, housing, social services (e.g. doctors who could speak Italian), and socialize with other Italian immigrants, the Parish of Our Lady of Peace originally met in the basement of Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church on 61<sup>st</sup> Street. Desiring a church of their own, parishioners raised money (see names set in stone in the vestibule of the church) to purchase the church building in 1919. They decorated the church with Venetian glass chandeliers and marble from different regions of Italy. Parishioners of Our Lady of Peace have sacrificed to keep the church solvent through the Great Depression, World War II, and in the 1960s and 1970s when people were moving out of New York. Parishioners lead the struggle to keep Our Lady of Peace alive today.



1. Our Lady of Peace is the architectural anchor of the *Treadwell Farm Historic District*, one of the oldest landmarked districts on the Upper East Side in New York City. The Church is also listed in the *National Register of Historic Places*.
2. The Church was renovated less than 10 years ago.
3. Our Lady of Peace is considered to be a *personal parish*, which attracts parishioners from beyond its local area, including people outside the *Archdiocese of New York* (from New Jersey, Brooklyn and Queens).
4. Our Lady of Peace is financially solvent, self-sufficient, and has a cash reserve. Our Lady of Peace does not owe the Archdiocese of New York any money. The Parish contributed almost twice its required donation to the *Cardinal's Appeal* in 2014.
5. In addition to its daily masses, special Healing Masses are held several times a year, attracting people from all over the city. Our Lady of Peace provides a quiet refuge open to the public daily from 7am – 9pm. The Church is visited daily by employees of Bloomingdale's, Bloomberg, and other area businesses.
6. The Church has the premier RCIA program of all parishes in the Archdiocese of New York. An active *Prayer Community* meets weekly and the *Padre Pio Prayer Group* meets monthly.
7. Our Lady of Peace provides ongoing services to the local community, including AA and Al-Anon, and supports community outreach programs, such as the *Henry Street Settlement* and *City Harvest Food Bank*, with donations.
8. The Church is one of 110 parishes the archdiocese intends to merge to reduce the number of its parishes. Our Lady of Peace was listed as one of 31 churches that will be closed by August 2015. Parishioners are appealing to the Vatican to save the church.

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See other side for online contact information and how you can help

## FRIENDS OF OUR LADY OF PEACE ONLINE

1. Church website: <http://www.churchofourladyofpeace-nyc.org/>
2. Email: [friendsofourladyofpeace@gmail.com](mailto:friendsofourladyofpeace@gmail.com)
3. Blog: <http://olpchurchnyc.typepad.com>
4. Twitter <http://twitter.com/friendsofpny>
5. Friends of Our Lady of Peace NYC <https://m.facebook.com/friendsofplp>
6. Sign the online petition at: <http://www.thepetitionsite.com> and type in Our Lady of Peace

## HOW YOU CAN HELP

1. Email the Friends of OLP and tell us how you can volunteer or contribute.
2. Join us for future special events as we strive to keep our community together.
3. Contribute to the not-for-profit corporation to preserve the church building.
4. Attend Mass on Sunday and Prayer Vigils Tuesday Night (7pm) between now and August.
5. Sign and share our online petition!
6. Write to the Vatican requesting help to save Our Lady of Peace from closing!

His Holiness, Pope Francis Apostolic Palace 00120 Vatican City State	<i>Salutation:</i> Your Holiness, or Most Holy Father, <i>Closing:</i> I have the honor to profess myself with the most profound respect, Your Holiness' Most obedient and humble servant,
His Eminence Cardinal Beniamino Stella, Prefect Congregation for the Clergy 00120 Vatican City State	<i>Salutation:</i> Your Eminence, <i>Closing:</i> Asking the blessing of Your Eminence, I am, Respectfully yours in Christ,
His Eminence Antonio Maria Cardinal Veglio', President Pontifical Council for the Pastoral Care of Migrants and Itinerant People 00120 Vatican City State	<i>Salutation:</i> Your Eminence, <i>Closing:</i> Asking the blessing of Your Eminence, I am, Respectfully yours in Christ,

Please send copies of your correspondence to Our Lady of Peace Church and also copy Cardinal Dolan.

***Whoever saves one church saves an entire faith.***

See other side for history and facts about Our Lady of Peace