



September 22, 2025

CONTACT: The Rev. Dr. Matthew Cadwell
revmatthew@oldnorth.com**Pets Will Flock to Old North Church & Historic Site for the Annual Blessing of the Animals**

Calling all Boston area pet owners! On Sunday, Oct. 5 at 1:00pm, Old North Church at 193 Salem Street, Boston, will hold its annual Blessing of the Animals. This beloved North End tradition draws people of diverse faiths and backgrounds, offering a joyful opportunity to honor our faithful furry companions. The event will take place in the Bigelow Courtyard and St. Francis Garden behind Old North Church, off of Unity Street near Paul Revere Mall.

This year's event, in partnership with RUFF, the North End Dog Group, will include a ceremony led by The Rev. Dr. Matthew Cadwell, Old North's Vicar. All animals, photographs of pets that do not travel, as well as children's stuffed animals, are welcome. Each animal will receive a special blessing. Pets must be on leash or in an appropriate carrier.

The Blessing of the Animals is held in honor of St. Francis, who lived in Italy from 1181 to 1226 and is revered for his love of nature. Born into wealth and privilege, he preferred a life of poverty and simplicity. He founded the Franciscan religious order, embracing the same values. Canonized as a saint in 1228, St. Francis is honored across Christian denominations and beyond.

The St. Francis Chapel, built in 1918, is adjacent to the Old North Church and shares Old North's status as a national landmark. It was built as an Italian Mission, ministering to the needs of the thousands of Protestant Italian immigrants living in the neighborhood around the Old North Church. In the 1950s, the chapel became the home of the Old North Gift Shop. Many of the chapel's architectural features remain, including angels, sentinel stone lions, crosses, and a statue of St. Francis in the garden behind the building.



193 Salem St, Boston, MA 02113
www.oldnorth.com

Formally known as Christ Church in the City of Boston, “Old North” is home to an active Episcopal congregation. The Old North community is committed to Gospel principles of justice and service, striving to make a positive impact in our neighborhood, city, and the world. Christ Church is dedicated to learning from our history in order to be a more faithful, inclusive, and loving community, nourished and sustained by scripture, sacraments, music, fellowship, and outreach beyond their walls.

For interview opportunities, reach out to The Rev. Dr. Matthew Cadwell at revmatthew@oldnorth.com or 781-258-6134.