

WEST POINT CHAPLAIN ENDOWMENT & FUND



West Point
READY 

READY TO SERVE. READY TO LEAD.



The Cadet Chapel is a famous landmark and symbol of religious activities at USMA. It was designed by the renowned firm of Cram, Goodhue, and Ferguson. Dedicated in 1910 and constructed of native granite, the architecture combines the techniques and shapes of Gothic with the massiveness of medieval fortresses, blending with the architectural theme of other construction at West Point. The Cadet Chapel has been a long-favored site for weddings of graduates. Non-denominational services are conducted weekly at the Cadet Chapel.



The extraordinary chapels and houses of worship at West Point—and the fellowship programs and spiritual services held within them—have provided sacred spaces of respite and resiliency for soldiers, their families, and the greater West Point community for more than 200 years. Across all denominations, these chapels serve to anchor daily life in the values of good living and offer gathering space for meaningful fellowship and spiritual growth. Their beautiful historic architecture draws thousands of visitors to West Point each year, and members of the public enjoy walking through the hallowed halls and inspiring edifices where divine worship has long been held at the Academy. Yet these timeworn buildings employ gravely antiquated systems and facilities, and significant upgrades are needed to meet the requirements of modern life and use. While donations from congregants and private citizens have been very helpful to the West Point Chaplaincy, there is a pressing need for endowment funding which can sustainably support structural repair and maintenance as well as program equipment updates, in perpetuity. Since renovations and upgrades to these buildings must be made within historical preservation guidelines, a predictable funding stream would allow for continuous upgrades that are responsive to evolving worship practices and expectations, and go beyond everyday Army-issued maintenance. It is our vision that this Margin of Excellence program will empower the USMA Chaplain to be able to develop a long-term plan for strategic upgrades to all the chapels, starting with those most in-need first: Most Holy Trinity Catholic Chapel (1899), the Old Cadet Chapel (1836/1911), the Cadet Chapel (1910), the Post Chapel (1943), and the Jewish Chapel (1984).

Restoration, preservation, modernization and sustainment projects to these houses of worship include facility upgrades to the HVAC systems; interior and exterior drainage upgrades; the installation of fire suppression systems; renovation of restrooms for ADA compliance and accessibility; the restoration of exterior stone walkways and patios for congregant safety; leaky roof repairs; stain glass window maintenance and repair; the restoration of specialty woodwork items and interior doors; extensive on-going organ maintenance and repair for five historic pipe organs; and ecclesiastical items for worship purchased or repaired.

Many worship services and programs take place within the walls of these sacred spaces and contemporary worship requires modern equipment and corresponding storage space. Every chapel is home to multiple services each week, as well as religious education classes for children; confessions; ministries to the cadets, youth, choir, men and women; as well as baptisms, marriages, funerals, and more. These services and programs need lighting, sound, musical instruments, audio/visual equipment, computers and programs specifically designed for today's worship experience.



The Jewish Chapel was built entirely with private funding, completed in 1984, and deeded to the Academy in 1986. The Jewish congregation is led by a military chaplain who serves the needs of various branches of Judaism. The Chapel contains an extensive Judaica collection, a fine library, and special exhibits.



The Chapel of St. Martin Orthodox Church in America's Dioceses of New York/New Jersey is located in the lower level of the Cadet Chapel. This ministry to Orthodox cadets of all backgrounds was begun in 1962 as an outreach of the Dioceses of NY/NJ of the (then) Russian Orthodox Greek Catholic Church (now the Orthodox Church in America).



Most Holy Trinity Catholic Chapel was completed and dedicated 1900 to serve the needs of the Catholic cadets. This was the first military chapel in the United States that was not specifically for either Protestant or multidenominational use.

The Old Cadet Chapel was the first church to be built at West Point as well as the first purpose-built chapel anywhere for the United States Army. It is the oldest military chapel still in use in America. It was constructed in 1836 as part of the campus close to Grant Hall. It remained West Point's sole chapel until 1900, when a separate Catholic chapel was added to the installation.





Photo: Lee Ross '73

FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

Chaplain's Endowment \$1.7 million

Supports Five West Point Chapels

Sacred Furnishings	\$150,000 endowment/\$6,000 annual
Organ	\$1.25 million endowment/\$50,000 annual
Stained Glass Windows	\$300,000 endowment/\$12,000 annual

Chaplain's Fund \$3.5 million

Supports Most Holy Trinity Chapel Restoration & Preservation Needs

Exterior/interior stone work, drainage and moisture control	\$1.7 million
HVAC upgrades	\$1.8 million

MARGIN OF EXCELLENCE



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as of August 9, 2022