

HOLY GROUNDS

From well-known saints to neighborhood pastors and civic leaders shaped by their Catholic faith, these public spaces show how deeply Catholic history is woven into New York City's landscape. The names may look like ordinary signs, but together they offer a glimpse into the people, neighborhoods, and history that helped shape the Big Apple.

Source: New York City Department of Parks & Recreation



Father Demo Square

Mitchel Square Park

Named for New York City's youngest mayor, John Purroy Mitchel, who led the city from 1914 to 1917

St. Nicholas Park

St. Nicholas of Myra is the patron saint of children, young people, sailors, and seafarers

St. James Park

St. James the Greater, brother of St. John the Apostle, is the patron saint of Spain

St. Mary's Park

The Blessed Virgin Mary is the patron saint of all humanity, mothers, and the U.S.

Mitchel Square Park

St. Catherine's Park

Father Duffy Square

Named for Father Francis P. Duffy, legendary chaplain of New York's "Fighting 69th" regiment during World War I

St. Catherine's Park

St. Catherine of Siena is the patron saint of Europe, Italy, and fire prevention

St. Michael's Playground

St. Michael the Archangel is the patron saint of police officers, soldiers, mariners, and the sick

St. Albans Park

Monsignor McGolrick Park

Father Demo Square

Named for Father Antonio Demo, it commemorates the priest who guided Italian immigrants through two World Wars

Father Fagan Park

Named for Father Edward Fagan, a Franciscan priest who died after repeatedly reentering a burning rectory at St. Anthony's Church in SoHo to rescue fellow priests.

Mother Cabrini Memorial

Named for St. Frances Xavier Cabrini, the patron saint of immigrants and the first American citizen canonized by the Catholic Church

Robert F. Wagner Sr. Park

Named for Robert F. Wagner Sr., a long-time U.S. senator from New York

Alfred E. Smith Playground

Named for Alfred E. Smith, the four-term governor of New York and first Roman Catholic presi-

Blessed Father Jerzy Popieluszko Square

Named for Father Jerzy Popieluszko, a modern Catholic martyr killed by Poland's communist regime

Monsignor McGolrick Park

Named for Msgr. Edward J. McGolrick, it is one of the few NYC parks named after a parish pastor

St. John's Park

St. John the Apostle is the patron saint of love, loyalty, friendship, and authors.

St. Andrew's Playground

St. Andrew is one of the Twelve Apostles and the patron saint of Russia and Scotland.

Dongan Playground

Named for Thomas Dongan, an Irish Catholic who served as the Colonial Governor of New York from 1683 to 1687

Mother Cabrini Memorial

John V. Lindsay East River Park

