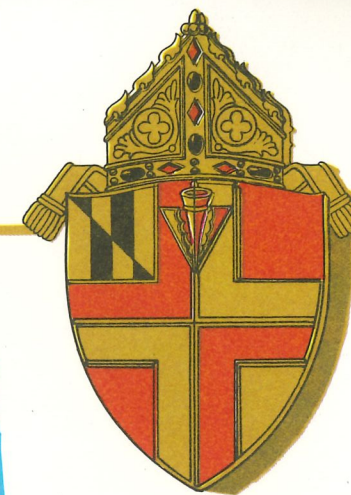


The Diocese of Maryland



The Church in Maryland

- 1632** Two years before Maryland was founded with the arrival of Lord Baltimore's colonists on the Ark and the Dove, Anglican services were being conducted by the Reverend Richard James in Claiborne's settlement on Kent Island.
- 1692** The Church of England became Maryland's Established Church by an act of the first Assembly under royal government, confirmed by Parliament ten years later. There were thirty original parishes, which grew to forty-four by the time of the Revolution.
- 1776** Independence from Great Britain meant independence for the church as well, but its work was disrupted by war, and loyalist clergymen left Maryland. However, many Anglican churchmen were leaders of the Revolution, and church property was preserved by Maryland's Bill of Rights.
- 1780** A convention to revive the church in Maryland met at Chestertown and formally adopted the name of THE PROTESTANT EPISCOPAL CHURCH for the first time in this country. This became the name of the national church at the first General Convention in Philadelphia five years later.
- 1783** Organization of the Diocese of Maryland was achieved at conventions in Chestertown and Annapolis, presided over by the Reverend William Smith. In 1792, the Right Reverend Thomas John Claggett became first Bishop of Maryland, the first Episcopal bishop to be consecrated on American soil.
- Today** After separation of the Eastern Shore to make the Diocese of Easton in 1868, and the District of Columbia and four neighboring counties to make the Diocese of Washington in 1895, the Diocese of Maryland now embraces 134 churches and chapels in ten counties and Baltimore City. In 1972, the Right Reverend David Keller Leighton, Sr., was instituted as eleventh Bishop of Maryland, and the Right Reverend William Jackson Cox was elected Suffragan Bishop.

