

# To the Next 100 Years of Christ the King Cathedral, Niigata: A Request for Special Donations

## Purpose of the Special Donations

Christ the King Cathedral, Niigata was dedicated in 1927 and has been preserved as a place of prayer by the hands of the faithful ever since. In 2027, it will mark its centenary. However, due to aging and damage from natural disasters, repairs are now needed. To pass down this cathedral as a place of prayer to future generations, we sincerely ask for your warm support.

## About Christ the King Cathedral, Niigata

The Catholic parish church of Niigata serves as the Cathedral of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Niigata, which covers Akita, Yamagata, and Niigata Prefectures. Missionaries arrived in the port town of Niigata during the Meiji era, and the church has played a central role in spreading the Catholic faith in the region. In 1998, it received the "Urban Landscape Award" from Niigata City, and its twin spires soaring toward the sky are now a local landmark in the Nishiohata area.

## Purpose of the Special Donation (Fundraising)

The primary purpose is the preservation of the cathedral. By 2027, the year of the centenary, we plan to carry out repairs such as painting the roof and exterior walls. The total construction cost is estimated to be around 50 million yen. Even if donations exceed the goal, all funds will be used for maintenance of the cathedral and its furnishings, including the pipe organ.

## Gratitude for Your Special Donation

After the completion of the renovation, a Thanksgiving Mass will be offered at the cathedral. Details of this Mass and other commemorative events leading up to the centenary will be posted on our church's website as they are planned.



### How to Donate

#### Via Japan Post Bank Transfer (Yucho Bank)

*(Fees covered by the church; amount, address, and name will be recorded)*

Account Number: 00570-1-104464

Account Name (Kanji): 新潟カテドラル保存会

Account Name (Katakana): ニイガタカテドラルホゾンカイ

#### Via Daishi Hokuetsu Bank

*(Fees borne by the individual; only the amount and name will be recorded)*

Account Number: 第四北越銀行 本店営業部 (店番: 200)

普通 5171516

Account Name: 宗教法人カトリック新潟教区カトリック新潟教会

#### Direct Donation to the Niigata Cathedral Preservation Association

*(See the bottom section of this notice)*

## Contact Information

For confirmation of your donation, please contact us at:

cathedral-niigata@outlook.jp (Response time: within 3 months)

1-656 Higashi Ohata-dori, Chuo-ku, Niigata City, Niigata Prefecture 951-8106

<http://cathedral-niigata.jp/>

Tel: 025-222-5024 (Parish Priest: Fr. Takeo Tanaka)

Niigata Cathedral Preservation Association (c/o Catholic parish of Niigata)

**If you wish to donate directly, please cut along the dotted line below and submit it to the Chief Priest....**

.....Cut along this line.....

Name	Donation Amount	JPY

# History of Christ the King Cathedral, Niigata

## Christ the King Cathedral, Diocese of Niigata

This cathedral was designed by Zurich-born architect Max Hinder (1887–1963). Incorporating Romanesque style, it is a hybrid structure of Western and Japanese wooden architecture. It was dedicated in 1927.

### ◆ Timeline of the Cathedral

- **1871:** Fr. Evrard of the Paris Foreign Missions Society begins missionary work in Niigata
- **1876:** First baptism in Niigata
- **Around 1885:** First church (dedicated to the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary) built at the current location
- **1908:** Church destroyed by the Great Niigata Fire
- **1912:** Niigata Apostolic Prefecture established
- **1927:** Current church building (dedicated to Christ the King) completed on September 18
- **1962:** Apostolic Prefecture elevated to Diocese; Church becomes the cathedral
- **1981:** Small chapel built in commemoration of Pope John Paul II's visit to Japan
- **1996:** First major renovation since the 1964 Niigata Earthquake
- **2012:** 100th anniversary of the Diocese of Niigata
- **2026:** 150th anniversary of the Church in Niigata
- **2027:** 100th anniversary of the current cathedral building



## What Is a Cathedral?



The word "cathedral" comes from the Greek *kathedra*, meaning "chair."

Jesus chose 12 of his disciples and called them apostles.

Apostles became the foundation of the Church, and their successors are the bishops.

The chair used by the bishop when presiding over public worship is the *cathedra*, and the church where it is placed is called a *cathedral*.

## Stained Glass

Stained glass is widely used in European churches and symbolizes the divine light of God.



Through colorful glass, light enters the cathedral and expresses reverence and praise to God.

The stained glass in this cathedral was made in Florence, Italy, and donated by the Franciscans during the

1996 renovation after the Niigata Earthquake.

The glass includes images of the 53 beatified martyrs of Yonezawa, including Luis Amakasu, and unknown martyrs from Sado, reflecting the character of the Diocese of Niigata.

## Small Chapel

Built to commemorate the visit of Pope John Paul II to Japan in 1981, located on the right side of the main cathedral.

You can pray quietly in front of the tabernacle, where the Blessed Sacrament is reserved.



## Pipe Organ

The pipe organ is one of the oldest air-action pipe organs still in active use in Japan. It was installed in 1929 and features one manual keyboard, a pedalboard, and five stops. It was manufactured by Anton Feith Company in Paderborn, Germany.

