

SPRING 2026 | ISSUE NO. 17

The Clarion



THE NEWSLETTER OF



ST. THOMAS EPISCOPAL
CHURCH + SCHOOL

To be an
INCLUSIVE
and
KIND
church that learns and serves together

Worship Service Schedule

SUNDAY

8:00am: Holy Eucharist Rite I

10:00am: Holy Eucharist Rite II &
Children's Church



WEDNESDAY

12:00pm: Holy Eucharist Rite II

To read more about formation, offerings, and other ways to engage, read through the Parish Calendar on page 16.



Watch our live-streamed services on YouTube!
www.youtube.com/c/tom1604



**ST. THOMAS EPISCOPAL
CHURCH + SCHOOL**

Church: 210.494.3507 | www.tom1604.org
stthomaschurch@tom1604.org

School: 210.494.3509 | www.stes1604.org
anewman@sts1604.org

Office Hours

Monday - Friday, 9:00am - 4:00pm

Clergy

The Rev. Mike Michie, Rector
mmichie@tom1604.org

The Rev. Allie Melancon, Vice Rector
amelancon@tom1604.org

Church Staff

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PJ Waite, Children's Music Director
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School Staff

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Donna Gauthier, Office Administrator
dgauthier@sts1604.org

VESTRY

Remember they are your
elected representatives
and welcome hearing
from you!

Kristine Thomas,
Senior Warden

Joel Martin,
Junior Warden

Steve Slavich,
Treasurer

Rusty Biechlin,
Chancellor

Stacey Arantes
Lara de Leon
Keller Drozdick
Bill Frerichs
Mike Kershaw
Lloyd Norris
Robb Swain
A'Lann Truelock
Katy Urias



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[@tom1604church](https://www.instagram.com/tom1604church)



[youtube.com/c/tom1604](https://www.youtube.com/c/tom1604)



ST. THOMAS EPISCOPAL
CHURCH + SCHOOL

Easter SUNDAY

APRIL
5TH

8:00am

Holy Eucharist Rite I

9:00am

Easter Breakfast in the Parish Hall

10:00am

Holy Eucharist Rite II

Easter Egg Hunt following worship



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Thank you to our printer, Robert Thomas and UBEO for this publication.
 We appreciate your generosity!

PREPARING THE HOUSE

A Message from the Rector, Fr. Mike Michie



As we begin this new year and look ahead to Easter, I'm filled with gratitude and genuine hope for what God is doing among us at St. Thomas. The psalmist says, "The Lord

has done great things for us, and we are filled with joy" (Psalm 126:3), and that feels like exactly the right word for this moment in the life of our church.

Over the past year, you have shown remarkable generosity and faith. Our capital drive has gone very well. We have made meaningful progress in paying down our debt on the Woehler Family Center, and we have completed major improvements to our campus, most notably the replacement of our roof. These are not small things. They represent prayer, sacrifice, commitment, and a shared belief in the future God has for St. Thomas.

When you know you are going to have company over, you get the house ready. You fix what is broken, clean what is dirty, and make sure the space is welcoming. You do not do that because you love the house more than the people, but because you love the people and expect them to come. In many ways, we have been putting our house in order, not just for our own comfort, but because we believe God is not finished bringing people to St. Thomas who need a church just like this one.

In the Bible, preparation often comes before growth. Nehemiah rebuilt the walls of Jerusalem so the city could once again flourish. Jesus spoke of planting and cultivating so that fruit could grow. We prepare, and then we trust God to bring the increase. The work you have done through your giving and your faithfulness is part of God's preparation for what comes next.

And what comes next, by God's design, is growth. Jesus told his disciples, "I chose you and appointed you so that you might go and bear fruit." The early church grew not because it had perfect buildings or flawless programs, but because people were being shaped by worship, strengthened by teaching, and sent into the world in love. That same pattern still holds. God blesses us not so that we can remain comfortable, but so that we can be a blessing.

That growth begins, as it always does, with us. Worship is not just something we attend; it is something that forms us. Week by week, we are shaped by Scripture, prayer, and the presence of Christ at his table. Discipleship, likewise, does not happen by accident. Faith deepens when we give it time and attention. This is why I so strongly encourage you to take part in our Discipleship Hour classes and in our Lenten evenings. Lent is a season of intentional preparation, a time when we make space for reflection, repentance, learning, and renewal, so that when Easter comes, we are truly ready to rejoice.

This issue of *The Clarion* has all the information about these discipleship opportunities, for every age. We have planned First Communion classes, youth Discipleship Hour, Discipleship for Moms, and my series of classes in the Parish Hall at 9am. We will also have a Confirmation Retreat for those seeking confirmation, reception, or reaffirmation. I am especially looking forward to our Lenten Supper Series, "Atonement: The Cross and the Love of God."

But growth is not only about our own spiritual lives. It is also about opening the door to others. Once the house is ready, the door should not stay closed. Most people who come to church do so because someone they trust invited them. In the Gospel of John, when

Philip meets Jesus, he goes and tells his friend Nathanael, simply, "Come and see." He did not give him a long speech. He did not try to answer every question in advance. He just offered an invitation.

I want to encourage you to do the same. Invite a friend to worship. Invite a neighbor to a Lenten class or to Easter services. Invite someone who is searching, hurting, or simply curious. You do not have to have the perfect words. Your invitation may be the very thing God uses to begin a new chapter in someone's life of faith.

As we move into this season together, I want you to know how grateful I am for your generosity, your prayers, and your steady commitment to this church. We have prepared well. We have been faithful. And now we look forward with expectation to what God will continue to do in and through St. Thomas. As Saint Paul reminds us, "I planted the seed, Apollos watered it, but God has been making it grow." May God continue to grow us in faith, in love, and in number, for the sake of his kingdom and the good of our community.

Thank you for all you do, and thank you for walking this hopeful road into 2026 with me.



YOU'RE GOOD. YOU ARE NOT WHERE YOU WERE.

A Message from the Vice Rector, Rev. Allie Melancon



In September of last year, I finally went on a clergy retreat I had been invited to attend for some time; one of those opportunities I kept meaning to prioritize but never quite did. This retreat

required a fair amount of preparation beforehand, including reflective homework. After completing it and talking with other clergy who had already attended, I packed my bags and headed off for a week in the quiet stretch of corn and soybean fields outside Baltimore.

I arrived carrying plenty of expectations. I was hoping for clarity, answers, and maybe even a bit of certainty about questions I had been holding for some time.

Near the end of the week, I found myself at a healing service. Midway through the service, there was an invitation to come forward for prayer. People began lining up. Before my mind could catch up, my body had already stepped into the line. As I stood there, I thought, what are we doing here? And then it became clear. Just before leaving for the retreat, I had undergone a biopsy and had not yet received the results. I realized, standing there, that I had been carrying far more anxiety about that unanswered question than I had allowed myself to admit.

After receiving prayer, I returned to my seat while others continued to come forward. As I sat there, quietly and unexpectedly, I heard God say, “You’re good. You are not where you were.” Tears streamed down my face as those words settled into my heart. I spent the rest of the retreat unpacking what they meant; what they meant in that moment, in that season of my life, and what they continue to mean even now.

I share this reflection because if you are anything like me, you may be looking at 2026 with a long list of expectations. This will be the year. The year we get in shape, eat better, meet financial goals, pray more, read Scripture more faithfully, spend more time with God, with family, with one another. I know these lists well; I make them too. And often, without realizing it, we place an enormous amount of pressure on ourselves simply because the calendar has turned. But when we slow down long enough to listen, what God so often speaks is not another demand, but a truth: “You’re good. You are not where you were.” You are not where you were last year, or two years ago, or even four years ago. And this time next year, regardless of how well you meet your expectations or fall short of them, you will not be where you are now.

So, if your mind feels like it’s racing to keep up with your body, if life already feels overwhelming, consider pausing to pray, to listen, and to ask God to meet you exactly where you are, and to tell you something true (for what it’s worth, the biopsy results were benign. Truly, all good).

And if you’re looking to listen for that truth alongside others, you’ll find many opportunities to do so here at church. I hope, as you read through this edition of *The Clarion*, you’ll discover a space, a group, or a practice that helps you hear again that gentle reminder: “You’re good. You are not where you were.”



MORNING PRAYER ON YOUTUBE AVAILABLE MONDAY - SATURDAY AT 6:00AM

CELEBRATING WHO WE ARE AND WHO WE ARE BECOMING

A Message from Senior Warden, Kristine Thomas



As we've begun a new year together, I find myself reflecting on who we are as a church and in awe of who we are becoming. I believe God continues to bless our church because of this.

Every Sunday, every ministry, every act of service reminds me that our church is not defined by programs or buildings, but by the people who show up with open hearts and a willingness to grow and serve.

Our life together is shaped not only by what we do, but by the vision, mission, and values that guide us.

At our core, we are striving to be an **inclusive and kind church that learns and serves together**. You can see this vision alive every Sunday—in the warmth of our welcome, and in the way we show up for one another with sincerity and care. This is not just an aspiration, it's something we practice faithfully, week after week.

Our mission reminds us why we gather and why we go out into the world. We come together to **experience the love of God through worship, study, friendship, and compassion**, and then we carry that love outward as we **encounter and help transform our city**. This rhythm—gathering and going, receiving and giving—shapes our identity as a church that is both grounded and outward focused.

And our values give that mission its texture. I see them in action constantly:

- **Faithful** in our worship and in our trust that God is at work among us
- **Outward focused** in our desire to serve beyond our walls
- **Authentic** in the way we show up as our real selves
- **Vulnerable** in the courage to share our stories and struggles
- **Empathetic** in the way we listen and care for one another
- **Respectful** in how we honor differences and seek understanding
- **Helpful** in the countless small acts of service that keep our community thriving
- **Generous** in spirit, time, and resources

These values aren't abstract. They are lived out in our worship, in our ministries, in conversations, and in acts of generosity and kindness.

As we look ahead, I believe we are becoming an even more connected, compassionate, and courageous church. Not because of any single initiative, but because of the collective faithfulness of this community. We are becoming a church that listens, serves and embraces the future with hope.

Thank you for being part of this journey. Your presence, your prayers, your service, and your love for this place make all the difference. I'm grateful to step into this next year with you—celebrating who we are and trusting in who we are becoming.

2026 MAINTENANCE PLANS

A Message from 2025 Junior Warden, Robb Swain



What an incredible year we have enjoyed in 2025. There have been many major improvements throughout the campus. Large or small, grand or simple, the improvements in the

maintenance and the facilities truly show the devotion and growth in caring for the beautiful campus at St. Thomas Church and School. Please take some time to walk through the entire campus and notice all the upgrades. Please strive to continue your support of the mission to improve and maintain all the facilities at St. Thomas. We are blessed to be able to work on this project. And it is due to all of you helping to accomplish the goal.

The facilities committee under the leadership of the new Junior Warden, Joel Martin, Reverend Allie, and numerous members will be planning proposals for the improvements within the Christian Education Wing. The Christian Education Wing has grown exponentially over the last three years. Classrooms are occupied multiple days and evenings during the week. It is now time to start repairs and upgrades to this area.

There are currently no restrooms for the adjacent classrooms. The entire sewer system will need to be replaced. This will require extensive work and expense. Plumbing must be replaced, along with underground trench work, and a new sump pump. The concrete flooring will need to be saw cut for the new sewer system. Then, new flooring will need to be put in once the trenching and plumbing inspections have been completed. The renovation of these restrooms will need to be designed, planned, and completed. In addition to the restrooms, improvements and updated finish out components will be needed. These include new cabinets, door and trim finish out, wall and ceiling replacement, painting, and LED lighting. It transitions us from an early-1970s style to an updated 2026 look.

A substantial donation has been secured that will enable the facilities committee to begin the planning stage of this endeavor. This plan will require extensive time gathering information and selection of contractors based on pricing and professionalism. A budget will be provided based on all improvements necessary. Then the project will be able to move forward.

The "thank you" list to all those individuals and families that have supported and contributed emotionally, financially, through prayer, and power washing has been overwhelming. We all need to come to St. Thomas, look around, see your friends, new and old, and thank each other for the work that has been completed. This vision is lofty and the cost will be high. We will continue to move forward and accomplish the goal. There will be further information provided in the Spring on the progress.

It has been an amazing three years to have the support I have felt. I appreciate all of you. Here is my final Junior Warden sign off.



Campus Clean-Up

Saturday, March 28

9:00am - 1:00pm

Please consider volunteering to help keep our campus beautiful.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH

A Message from Judy Thompson and Kent Gates, Community Outreach Ministry Leaders

"Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these, you did it to me" Matthew 25:40

This winter in South Texas is a good time to share the many blessings we have in our congregation at St. Thomas with those less fortunate than ourselves. Opportunities to serve others are Haven for Hope Dinner Service (2nd Monday of the month), Sante Fe Episcopal Church Food Pantry (usually 2nd & 4th Fridays of the month) and working at the San Antonio Food Bank (once a quarter, to be scheduled). Our giving opportunity will be the Soles4Souls drive for Christian Assistance Ministry (CAM).

A heartfelt thank you to all who donated angel tree gifts for children from Sante Fe Episcopal Church, the Sante Fe Episcopal Church Food Pantry line, and Harmony Hills Elementary School. Your generosity greatly enhanced their Christmas. CAM received a truckload of warm winter clothing from our congregation. The donations surpassed our expectations and were greatly appreciated.

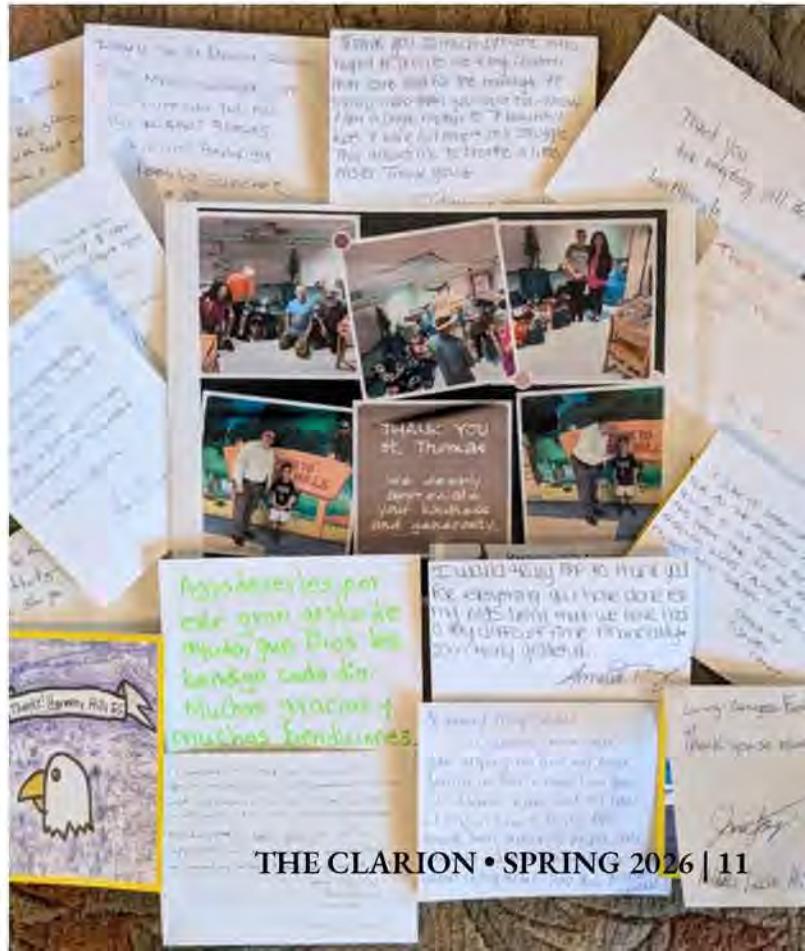
Roughly twice a month on Fridays we move 5000-6000 pounds of food from the San Antonio Food Bank to Sante Fe Episcopal Church in South San Antonio and sort the food into family size packages for distribution on Saturday morning. If you are interested in volunteering, see the "Thursday Notes" for the scheduled dates.

On the second Monday of every month, for the past 30 years, we serve dinner at Haven for Hope. We begin at 3:00pm by making sandwiches, preparing dishes for the evening meal, or washing pots and pans. We serve dinner from 4:30pm to 6:30pm. After our shift, we enjoy sharing a meal with our volunteers. We are continually humbled and inspired by the countless blessings we receive from those we serve.

This spring, St. Thomas will collect new or gently used shoes for the CAM Soles4Souls drive. We are asking specifically for sport shoes for all ages. Keep an eye out in the Sunday Bulletin and "Thursday Notes" for exact dates.

Our Harmony Hills Elementary School tutor volunteers continued their service through the fall semester. Ten volunteers from St. Thomas were recognized by the NEISD Superintendent for their work with the school. This fall during the government shutdown, St. Thomas provided a week's worth of food to 20 families at the school. In addition, before Thanksgiving, Harmony Hills Family Specialist Anna Blake organized with St. Thomas leaders to provide an array of food for Christmas dinner for 10 families, and a week's worth of cereal for 50 students for the holiday break.

Our committee's purpose is to use our time, treasure, and talent for the benefit of those less fortunate than ourselves. All these activities are open to everyone, and we welcome you to join us.



STAFF NEWS



Our Children's Choir is continuing to grow with joyful singers! Under Ryan's leadership, it was split into two groups to better address age levels and build their musical skills. The older

group, under the direction of Laurel Christensen, is The Choristers. She has them working with solfege as a tool to reading music. They sang a beautiful arrangement of the hymn, "This Is My Father's World," with the younger group in October, and the spiritual, "Swing Low, Sweet Chariot" in November. They really shone in Advent with Rutter's "Carol of the Children" and "Once in Royal David's City" on Christmas Eve, again singing with the younger group for "O Come, Little Children." The Choristers have been developing their vocal skills with Laurel's skillful teaching.

The younger group is now called The Cherubs. Their sometimes shy (sometimes boisterous) singing is always sweet. They are learning to read and create rhythms, as well as singing individually and as a group. Games, songs, drums and Orff instruments have made our time together great fun, as evidenced by their anthem, "I Got Shoes" in November. Their Advent anthem, "Rejoice! Rejoice!" anticipated the excitement of the birth of Jesus. Each

rehearsal included time to help them better understand the meaning of the anthem they are preparing so they can truly sing from the heart. We sang our theme song, "Create in Me," and prayed the Choristers Prayer as we prepared to work on the anthems. Every time they sang in church, we emphasized that they were leading worship and praising God with their music.

*Create in me a clean heart, O God,
That I might serve You.
Create in me a clean heart, O God,
That I might be renewed.
So, heal me, and fill me,
And bring me back to You.
Create in me a clean heart, O God,
That I might serve You.*

I am truly thankful to the wonderful parents who bring their children to rehearsals every week, balancing choir with other after school activities and sports. Their support makes this Children's Choir successful. We are blessed to have them.

Thank you for your encouragement of our amazing kids.

In Christ's Great Love,
PJ Waite,
Children's Choir Director



**DONATE TO THE
ST. THOMAS MUSIC MINISTRY**
Donate online by scanning the QR code below.



Your donations help to fund our Easter & Christmas Eve Worship as well as our other special music events.

STAFF NEWS



Happy New Year! As we begin a new year together, I want to thank you for the many ways you continue to support and participate in the life of our parish. Our campus

remains a place of vibrant, busy ministry, with gatherings, worship, outreach, and community events filling our spaces throughout the week. I encourage everyone to stay connected—whether by attending our various events, volunteering, or simply reaching out to one another in fellowship.

You should have received your 2025 giving statements for tax purposes. If you did not receive your statement or believe there may be an error, please contact the church office and we will be glad to assist you. As a reminder, you can view your giving at any time through our Shelby Membership platform. Shelby is also our parish directory and a helpful tool for connecting with clergy and fellow parishioners. If you have trouble logging into the Shelby app or have questions regarding your designated giving, please don't hesitate to reach out—we are happy to help.

Thank you for your continued generosity and support of St. Thomas and its mission. Your commitment makes it possible for our parish to thrive and serve faithfully. Please feel free to contact me at mfair@tom1604.org or (210) 494-3507 with any questions, concerns, or ideas you would like to share. I look forward with gratitude and hope to all the blessings and growth that 2026 has in store for St. Thomas.

Blessings,
Marci Fair
Operations Manager

Download the
ShelbyNext App by
scanning the QR code.



We had a wonderful winter season here at St. Thomas. Our Trunk-or-Treat, Advent Family Night, and Christmas Pageant were memorable gatherings that brought our

Church families and community together. I am looking forward to all that spring will bring.

Many hands - and hearts - make our Children's Ministry thrive. I am appreciative of our Sunday School volunteers who commit to teaching our children every month. They are such a blessing to our church and our children. If you are interested in teaching or volunteering for Sunday School, please email me at kphares@tom1604.org. We are always looking for more volunteers, especially as our Children's Ministry program continues to grow.

We will have a Children's First Communion Class on Sundays at 9am, from February 22 to March 29. First Communion will be celebrated on April 12 at the 10am service. This is a great class for children to learn more about the meaning of Communion and why we participate in Eucharist every Sunday. Please note that Baptism is a prerequisite for this class. Register your child online by scanning the QR code on page 14.

Plan to join us for some family fun at our Shrove Tuesday Pancake Dinner. Similar to Advent Family Night, we will share some family devotionals and prayers to take home for the Lenten season, along with some fun crafts to do together. Make plans to bring your families on February 17 for food, fellowship, and family fun.

Easter Sunday is on April 5. We will have an Easter Egg Hunt after the 10:00am service. Easter Eggs will be hidden by age group in the lawn, front playground, and back playground. We will be accepting donations for Easter eggs and packaged candy/goodies until Friday, March 27. Thank you so much for your support in this celebration.

STAFF NEWS

Vacation Bible School preparations are already underway! Save the Date for our 'Rainforest Falls' VBS, where we are 'exploring the nature of God!' Our Vacation Bible School will be from June 15-19, 9am-noon. Children will be learning that God is our creator, God knows everything, God is our safe place, God is love, and God is forever. Amen!! Our Vacation Bible School serves children from our church, school, and community, and we are honored to share this message of God's love and friendship with them.

Thank you for your support of our Children's Ministry at St. Thomas!

Blessings,
Kellie Phares
Children's Minister

Children's First Communion Class
Scan the QR code to register.



Happy New Year! I pray that 2026 will encourage you to set new goals for connecting with fellow parishioners and engaging in fellowship. If you haven't attended a church-wide event in awhile, I invite you to consider adding one to your calendar.

We've seen an increase in attendance at our Sunday Discipleship Hour, and I encourage you to join us at your next opportunity. Even if you haven't attended before, you are always welcome. It's a great way to engage with others and grow relationships within our church community. Speaking from personal experience, my participation in Sunday class has helped deepen my daily walk with Christ, and I hope you experience something similar.

I'm sure you've noticed the many new families that have discovered what a special place St. Thomas is. It's exciting to see our church continuing to grow. Thank you for offering warm smiles, kind words, and encouragement to all who walk through our doors.

If you're interested in volunteering with the Sunday Morning Welcome Team, please feel free to call or email me at sanderson@tom1604.org.

Blessings,
Sarah Anderson
Member & Growth Coordinator





ST. THOMAS EPISCOPAL
CHURCH + SCHOOL

SAVE THE DATE

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

June 15th - June 19th
9:00am - 12:00pm daily
Ages 3 - 5th grade

RAINFOREST FALLS

Exploring the Nature of God

PARISH CALENDAR



SUNDAY WORSHIP

8:00am

Holy Eucharist Rite I
in person only

10:00am

Holy Eucharist Rite II & Children's Church
in person and live streamed

WEDNESDAY WORSHIP

12:00pm

Holy Eucharist Rite II in the Chapel of the Cross
in person only

ASH WEDNESDAY WORSHIP

Wednesday, February 18

12:00pm & 7:00pm

Childcare provided at 7:00pm

EASTER FLOWER & MUSIC DONATIONS

February 26 - March 20

Donate online at www.tom1604.org or in person via an envelope in Gosnell Hall.

CONFIRMATION SUNDAY

Episcopal visitation by

The Rt. Rev. Angela Maria Cortiñas,
Bishop Suffragan of West Texas

Sunday, March 15

10:00am

Reception following service.

PALM SUNDAY WORSHIP

Sunday, March 29

8:00am - Holy Eucharist Rite I

10:00am - Holy Eucharist Rite II

STATIONS OF THE CROSS

Wednesday, April 1

12:00pm in the Church

MAUNDY THURSDAY WORSHIP

Thursday, April 2

7:00pm

GOOD FRIDAY WORSHIP

Friday, April 3

12:00pm & 7:00pm

Childcare provided at 7:00pm

EASTER SUNDAY WORSHIP

Sunday, April 5

8:00am - Holy Eucharist Rite I

10:00am - Holy Eucharist Rite II

CHILDREN'S FIRST COMMUNION

Sunday, April 12

10:00am

For more information about Children's First Communion, contact Children's Minister, Kellie Phares at kphares@tom1604.org.

PENTECOST SUNDAY

Sunday, May 24

8:00am - Holy Eucharist Rite I

10:00am - Holy Eucharist Rite II

GRADUATION SUNDAY

Sunday, May 31

10:00am

Join us in celebrating our 2026 graduating seniors. We will honor our graduates during the 10:00am service and celebrate with cake in the Parish Hall after. Please let us know if you have a graduating senior. Registration opens online March 1 (www.tom1604.org).

VIDEO PRODUCTION MINISTRY

Sundays at 10:00am

We are looking for a team to help with our Sunday live stream production. Interested? Contact Video Production Manager, Caleb Phares, at cphares@tom1604.org.

HAND BELL CHOIR REHEARSAL

Tuesdays, 6:00pm-7:00pm

Contact Minister of Music, Ryan Becker, rbecker@tom1604.org for more information.

ADULT CHOIR REHEARSAL

Wednesdays, 6:30pm - 8:00pm

Contact Minister of Music, Ryan Becker, rbecker@tom1604.org for more information.

LAY EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS NEEDED

Lay Eucharistic Ministers needed to serve at both the 8:00am and 10:00am services. Duties include reading the lessons, psalm, and prayers of the people, and administering wine during communion. If you are interested, contact the church office at stthomaschurch@tom1604.org.

PARISH CALENDAR

ACOLYTES NEEDED

Students in rising 3rd grade through rising 12th grade are invited to join our Acolyte Ministry and assist with Sunday morning worship. Make new church friends and get to know Father Mike and Rev. Allie. No experience needed! For more information contact the church office at stthomaschurch@tom1604.org.

ST. THOMAS HEALING MINISTRY

The St. Thomas Healing Ministry offers prayers in the Chapel of the Cross on Sundays during the 8:00am and 10:00am service. We encourage everyone in need of additional prayers to visit a prayer minister in the Chapel. If you are interested in joining our ministry, learning about healing, or in need of prayer, contact the church office at stthomaschurch@tom1604.org.

THE ORDER OF THE DAUGHTERS OF THE KING

The Order of the Daughters of the King (DOK) is a women's Order of Prayer and Service, to the church, community, and the world. We pray daily and study the Bible. Our Epiphany Chapter, the chapter of St. Thomas, serves the Parish at funeral receptions and other church receptions. Our chapter meets monthly for prayer, study, and fellowship. New members are always welcome to our Order. There is a seven-week training course to learn about the Rules of Prayer and service. Women interested can speak to any of the Daughters for more information of our chapter. Should you have any questions about the Daughters of the King, or are interested in the training, please contact the Church Office. Our monthly meeting dates and times are posted in the weekly "Thursday Notes".

JUNIOR DAUGHTERS OF THE KING

Junior Daughters of the King (JDOK) provides young women ages 7 to 21 with the opportunity to grow in their love and knowledge of Jesus Christ while serving their church and community. Junior Daughters make a promise, or pledge, of daily prayer and service. They meet under the guidance of a senior Daughter. Junior Daughters grow in their relationship to Jesus Christ through personal and group prayer and Bible study. They also serve their church and community through outreach projects. If you are interested in becoming a member, email the church office at stthomaschurch@tom1604.org.

CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED

Monday, February 16 - Presidents' Day
Monday, April 6 - Easter Monday
Friday, April 24 - Battle of Flowers
Monday, May 25 - Memorial Day



DISCIPLESHIP HOUR

Sundays at 9:00am, January 18 - May 17
No classes April 5.

Adult Bible Study in the Parish Hall led by Fr. Mike

February 22 - March 29

"Meeting Jesus in Lent"

This Lent, join us for a five-week journey exploring who Jesus is and what He means for our daily lives. Through scripture, reflection, and conversation, we'll encounter Jesus as the Son of God, the Gift of the Father, our Great High Priest, and the Prince of Peace. All are welcome to come, learn, and grow together this season.

April 12 - April 19

"Cut to the Heart: Peter's Pentecost Sermon and the Birth of the Church"

Cut to the Heart is a two-week study that dives into Peter's powerful Pentecost sermon and the birth of the Church. Through scripture and conversation, we'll explore how Jesus is proclaimed and received, and what that message means for the life of the Church today.

April 26 - May 17

"Learning to Pray: The Lord's Prayer as a Way of Life"

This class invites participants to explore how the words Jesus taught us can shape our daily lives. Over four weeks, we'll discover how prayer begins with adoption, how it re-orders our loves, teaches trust and surrender, and guides us in daily dependence and grace. Come deepen your prayer life and experience the Lord's Prayer in a whole new way.

Children's Sunday School-Ages 3-5th grade

in Room 112, Nursery open at 9:00am.

Discipleship for Moms

in Room 111 led by Paige Martin

Youth Group

6th - 12th Grade, in Room 109 led by Rev. Allie

January 18 - March 8

Confirmation Class

March 22 - May 17

"The Chosen" Group Study

Join us for an interactive bible study based on the tv series *The Chosen*, where we'll dive into episodes and explore the life of Jesus together. Bring your questions, your friends, and your curiosity as we connect the stories on screen to scripture and real life.

PARISH CALENDAR

ADULT CONFIRMATION RETREAT

Saturday, February 21

9:00am - 2:00pm in the Parlor

All adults exploring confirmation, reception, or reaffirmation are invited to join us for this retreat.

Register online at www.tom1604.org.

Confirmation - March 15 at 10:00am

CHILDREN'S FIRST COMMUNION CLASS

February 22 - March 29

Sundays at 9:00am in Room 112

First Communion - April 12 at 10:00am

Register online at www.tom1604.org.

Baptism is a pre-requisite for First Communion.

WEDNESDAY LENTEN DINNER SERIES

ATONEMENT: THE CROSS AND THE LOVE OF GOD

February 25 - March 25

Wednesdays in the Parish Hall

6:00pm - Dinner Served

6:30pm-7:30pm - Program

This dinner series explores the profound meaning of Jesus' sacrifice and how it transforms our lives. Across five weeks, we'll examine why the cross was necessary, the power of Christ's substitution, the victory and healing it brings, and how we live with rest, assurance, and gratitude because of it. Engage with this life-changing message and encounter the love of God in a deeper way.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

Rainforest Falls: Exploring the Nature of God

June 15 - June 19

9:00am - 12:00pm daily

Ages 3 - 5th Grade

Step into Rainforest Falls at VBS and embark on a wild adventure discovering God's nature! Kids will explore what it means to be rooted in a relationship with God, finding strength, safety, and joy in life's storms.

Registration for participants and volunteers opens April 5.

CHILDREN'S SUMMER MUSIC CAMP

June 22 - June 25

9:00am - 12:00pm daily

Ages Kinder - 6th Grade

Let your child's creativity shine at Children's Summer Music Camp. Kids will sing, play, and explore the joy of making music together, building confidence, teamwork, and a love for the arts in a fun, supportive environment. Registration opening April 5.

CHILDREN'S MUSIC PROGRAM

Wednesdays, 4:30pm-6:00pm

Ages Kinder - 6th Grade

Children in kindergarten through 6th grade are invited to join our Children's Music Program. Each week we sing, play instruments, and have fun while learning about teamwork, respect, and how to try our best. We also discover Bible stories and Christian values through the songs we sing.

For more information, contact Children's Music Director, PJ Waite at pjwaite@tom1604.org

MORNING PRAYER ON YOUTUBE

Monday - Saturday, Available at 5:15am

Streamed on YouTube - youtube.com/c/tom1604

MEN'S BIBLE STUDY

Tuesdays - 7:00am

in the Woehler Family Center

BIBLE STUDY WITH FR. MIKE

Thursdays - 9:30am via Zoom

Email the church office for Zoom link, at stthomaschurch@tom1604.org.



YOUTH GROUP VALENTINES TRIVIA & ART

Sunday, February 15

4:00pm - 6:00pm, in the Youth Room

6th - 12th grade

Join us for an afternoon of games, creativity, and laughs. We'll test your trivia skills, make Valentine-themed art, and hang out together for a fun afternoon of community and connection.

SHROVE TUESDAY PANCAKE DINNER

Tuesday, February 17

6:00pm in the Parish Hall

A fun night out for the whole parish family. Enjoy a delicious pancake dinner, fellowship, and time spent with friends in an event for adults and children alike. All are welcome.

PARISH CALENDAR

PALM CROSS MAKING

Wednesday, March 25

9:30am, in the Church Library

Join us in making Palm Crosses. All Palm Crosses made during this time will be used on Palm Sunday during worship. Please consider volunteering to help.

EASTER BREAKFAST

Sunday, April 5

9:00am in the Parish Hall

Celebrate Easter morning with a delicious Easter Breakfast. Enjoy good food, great company, and the joy of the Resurrection.

EASTER EGG HUNT

Sunday, April 5

following the 10:00am service

Behind the church office building

We will be accepting donations for Easter eggs and packaged candy/goodies until Friday, March 27.

YOUTH HOLY HIKE AT MUD CREEK PARK

Sunday, April 19

4:00pm - 6:00pm, in the Youth Room

Hit the trail with us for a Holy Hike at Mud Creek Park.

Open to 6th through 12th graders, we'll explore nature, enjoy God's creation, and have fun together.

YOUTH END OF YEAR MOVIE NIGHT

Sunday, May 17

4:00pm - 6:00pm, in the Youth Room

6th - 12th grade

Kick off the summer with a Youth Movie Night full of laughter, friends, and snacks. Relax, enjoy a great movie, and celebrate the end of the school year.

MEMORIAL DAY BREAKFAST

Sunday, May 24

9:00am in the Parish Hall

Join us for a Memorial Day Breakfast as we honor and remember those who have served. Gather with friends and family for a meaningful meal and a time of reflection.

MEN'S LUNCH BUNCH

Tuesdays at 11:30am

Location announced in the "Thursday Notes".

An email reminder is sent out each week. If you are interested in receiving reminder emails about these lunches, please contact the church office at stthomaschurch@tom1604.org.

LADIES, LET'S HAVE LUNCH!

March 5, March 19, April 16, May 7, and May 21

at 1:00pm, location announced in the "Thursday Notes"

Ladies Let's Have Lunch meets the 1st and 3rd Thursdays of the month. This is a great opportunity to meet up with old friends, make new friends, and enjoy getting together with each other. We would love for you to join us. An email reminder is sent out the week of the lunch with the restaurant we will be gathering at. If you are interested in receiving reminder emails about these lunches, please contact the church office at

stthomaschurch@tom1604.org

No lunch meeting on Thursday, April 2.

MEN'S MEAT BURNING

February 26, March 19, April 16, May 21, and June 18

at 6:30pm, location announced in the "Thursday Notes"

The Men's Meat Burning Group gathers monthly to grill, share a meal, and enjoy fellowship. Bring your choice of meat and a \$6 donation for sides, drinks, and dessert. All adult men are welcome, feel free to invite a guest!

SEWING GROUP

February 14, March 14, April 11, May 9, and June 13

9:00am-3:00pm in the Parish Hall

Connect with friends while working on quilting, crocheting, knitting, embroidery, or any craft you love.

Work at your own pace, share skills, use available sewing machines, and explore the "free" table for supplies. All are welcome to come, create, and enjoy fellowship.

EPISCOPAL CHURCH WOMEN

Sundays in the Parlor, following 10:00am worship

Dates announced in the "Thursday Notes"

ECW brings together women of all ages who love God and want to do His work. Join us for monthly fellowship, coffee, and connection—a wonderful way to make new friends and reconnect with old ones.



EASTER EGG HUNT DONATIONS

February 22 - March 27

We are asking for donations of empty Easter eggs, "fun sized" individually wrapped candies, and small trinkets like stickers and stamps. Please no unwrapped candy (jellybeans, marshmallows, candy-coated eggs, etc.) or small toys that could be a choking hazard. All donations must be turned into Gosnell Hall by Friday, March 27.

Thank you for your generosity.

PARISH CALENDAR

CAMPUS CLEAN-UP

Saturday, March 28

9:00am - 1:00pm

Come help us with several outdoor projects around campus. Bring your yard tools, wheelbarrows, gloves, hats, and sunscreen. Please consider volunteering to help keep our campus beautiful.

YOUTH GROUP—EASTER EGG EDITION

Sunday, March 29

following the 10:00am service

in the Church Library

All youth 6th grade and up are welcome. We invite you to join Rev. Allie for lunch and help our Children's Ministry stuff Easter Eggs for the Easter Egg Hunt.

HAVEN FOR HOPE

Second Monday of the month

2:30pm or 3:30pm

Meet in the St. Thomas Parking Lot

Join the Community Outreach Ministry at Haven for Hope as we serve dinner to people in need. After volunteering, stay and connect with volunteers as we gather for dinner.

GROCERY GUYS & GALS FOR SANTA FE EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Second and Fourth Fridays of the month

7:15am meet at St. Thomas

or

8:00am meet at San Antonio Food Bank

or

8:15am meet at Santa Fe Episcopal Church

Connect with us as we volunteer to collect and sort food for the Santa Fe Episcopal Church Food Pantry.

SOLES4SOULS SHOE DRIVE

This spring, St. Thomas is joining the Christian Assistance Ministry Soles4Souls Shoe Drive. We are collecting new or gently used shoes for men, women, and children of all sizes and brands, with a special request for sport shoes for all ages. Drop off your donations in the box located in Gosnell Hall. Dates to be announced in the "Thursday Notes".

VOLUNTEER AT THE SAN ANTONIO FOOD BANK

Date to be announced.

9:00am - 11:30am

5200 Enrique Barrera Pkwy

Keep an eye on the "Thursday Notes" this spring for details about our San Antonio Food Bank Volunteer Day. Volunteers must be 8 years or older. Children ages 8-15 must be accompanied by a parent. Join us in supporting the San Antonio community by helping sort and pack food for distribution to individuals and families in need.

UNITED THANK OFFERING

The United Thank Offering is a ministry of the Episcopal Church that provides a way for men, women, and children to give daily thanks to God. Through UTO, individuals are invited to embrace and deepen a personal daily spiritual discipline of gratitude. UTO encourages people to notice the good things that happen each day, give thanks to God for those blessings and make an offering for each blessing using a UTO Blue Box. UTO distributes what is collected to support innovative mission and ministry throughout The Episcopal Church. You can pick up your Blue Box in Gosnell Hall.





ST. THOMAS EPISCOPAL
CHURCH + SCHOOL

SAVE THE DATE

SUMMER MUSIC CAMP

JUNE 22 – JUNE 25

9:00AM – 12:00PM DAILY
AGES KINDER – 6TH GRADE





WHO WE ARE IN 2026: A SHARED MINISTRY AT ST. THOMAS EPISCOPAL SCHOOL

A Message from the Head of School, Allison Newman



In 2026, St. Thomas Episcopal School continues to be a joyful and faith-filled ministry of St. Thomas Episcopal Church, grounded in relationships, purpose, and care for young children

and their families. Guided by our four pillars—**Serve, Teach, Encourage, and Share Faith**—we remain committed to nurturing children in a loving environment where faith and learning grow hand in hand.

We believe early childhood is a sacred and formative time. Our classrooms are places of wonder, play, and belonging, where children are known by name, celebrated for who they are, and supported as they grow socially, emotionally, cognitively, and spiritually. Through developmentally appropriate, play-based learning, children build confidence, curiosity, and a foundation of kindness that carries beyond the preschool years.

Faith is gently woven into the rhythm of our days through prayer, weekly Chapel, and daily practices rooted in gratitude, respect, and love of neighbor. These moments reflect our shared Episcopal values and invite children to experience God's presence in meaningful and age-appropriate ways.

Our preschool is intentionally relational, fostering a warm family atmosphere where parents, caregivers, and church members are partners in this ministry. Families are an essential part of our community, and we value open communication, trust, and shared responsibility in caring for our children.

The heart of St. Thomas Episcopal School is our faculty and staff. In 2026, we are blessed with a dedicated team of educators who bring consistency, collaboration, and deep care to their work. Their commitment to professional growth and to one another strengthens our classrooms and brings our mission to life each day.

We are deeply grateful for the steadfast support of the St. Thomas church community. Through prayer, encouragement, shared space, and generous giving, the church makes it possible for our preschool to remain a vibrant ministry that serves families beyond the church walls. Your belief in early childhood education and in the formation of young hearts is a true gift.

Our campus reflects this shared stewardship. Safe, welcoming learning spaces—indoors and outdoors—invite joyful play, exploration, and connection. Thoughtful care of our facilities and resources ensures that children can learn freely while families feel confident in their child's well-being.

Strong leadership and faithful governance guide the school as we look toward the future. Through careful planning and responsible financial stewardship, we work to maintain affordability while sustaining a high-quality, faith-centered preschool. The Annual Tiger Fund plays a vital role in this work, helping bridge the gap between tuition and the true cost of providing an exceptional preschool experience. Support of the Tiger Fund directly strengthens our classrooms, our teachers, campus safety, and the overall sustainability of this shared ministry.

As we look ahead to spring, we do so with joy and anticipation. We look forward to the enrollment of returning students and the welcome of new families into our community. Spring brings many opportunities for connection and celebration, including beloved traditions such as the Rodeo, Easter celebrations, Fiesta, V.I.P. Chapel and Art Show, and our monthly Color Days. These Color Days are thoughtfully connected to our social-emotional curriculum, helping children explore feelings, build empathy, and grow in self-awareness in joyful, age-appropriate ways.

Above all, St. Thomas Episcopal School in 2026 is a place of belonging and blessing. We are profoundly thankful for the families, staff, board members, and church community whose generosity and faith make this work possible. Together, through prayer, partnership, and support of the Annual Tiger Fund, we continue to nurture children in faith, love, and joy—trusting in God's provision as we look ahead with hope and gratitude.

**Train up a child in the way he should go:
and when he is old,
he will not depart from it.**
Proverbs 22:6



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ST. THOMAS EPISCOPAL
CHURCH + SCHOOL

Vision, Mission, Values

Vision:

To be an inclusive and kind church that learns and serves together

Mission:

To experience the love of God through worship, study, friendship, and compassion to encounter and transform our city

Values:

Faithful, Outward Focused, Authentic, Vulnerable
Empathetic, Respectful, Helpful, Generous