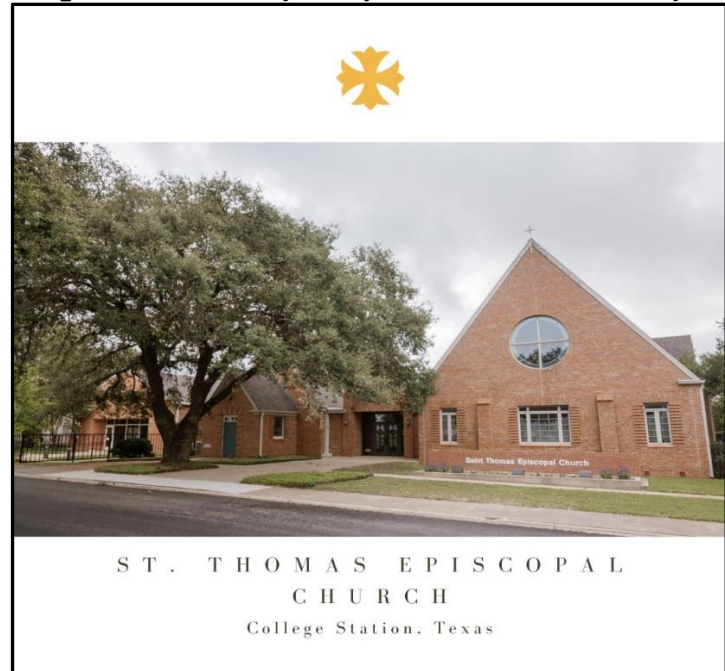


## **Join in at St. Thomas!**

Have you ever wondered how you can be part of what makes St. Thomas so special?

Inside this booklet is a list of the many ministries and outreach programs at St. Thomas.

Sign up for as many as you want on Rally Day!



## Worship Support Ministry (Sundays)

**Acolytes:** Acolytes assist the priest before, during, and after the service by lighting and extinguishing candles, carrying the processional cross and torches during the processional, at gospel procession, and at the recessional, and setting up the eucharist table. *(Time commitment: arrive 20 minutes before service begins)*

**Readers:** During the worship service, members of the congregation read the lessons from the Old and New testaments. *(Time commitment: read lesson(s) in advance)*

**Chalice and Bread Bearers:** The chalice and bread bearers are Lay Eucharist Ministers (LEM) who administer the consecrated elements of the Eucharist. To become an LEM, training is provided by St. Thomas. *(Time commitment: arrive 20 minutes before service begins)*

**Ushers:** Ushers are responsible for passing the collection plates and helping guide the congregation to communion. The ushers also deliver the elements for communion to the priest during the service. *(Time commitment: arrive 30 minutes before service begins)*

**Greeters:** Welcome everyone to the service and pass out the service bulletins, assist with name tags, and identify new attendees to get contact information and even sit with them during the service.. *(Time commitment: arrive 30 minutes before service begins)*

**Audio Visual Team:** This group works to stream the 10:30 service on Sundays and other events as required. *(Time commitment: arrive 1 hour before service begins)*

## Community Engagement (Outreach)

**BCS Habitat for Humanity:** A non-profit housing organization working to provide affordable housing. (Contact: Cindy Howell)

**Brazos Mobile Food Pantry:** The mobile food pantry is open the fourth Saturday of every month at the Boys and Girls Club. (Contact: [brazosmobilefoodpantry@gmail.com](mailto:brazosmobilefoodpantry@gmail.com))

**Brazos Valley Food Bank:** The food bank is working to provide a hunger-free Brazos Valley for all. (Contact: Rick Mason)

**Brazos Interfaith Immigration Network (BIIN):** A local non-profit working to promote the dignity and well-being of all immigrants and to advocate for better access to legal, educational, and social service.

**Canterbury – Episcopal Student Center for TAMU and Blinn College:** A campus ministry at St. Thomas working to support young adults in college or university. (Contact: (979) 704-5075)

**Middleway Urban Monastery:** The monastery's mission is to provide space for those seeking hope, comfort and peace as they explore ways of experiencing God's love. (Contact: [info@middlewayurbanmonastery.org](mailto:info@middlewayurbanmonastery.org))

**St. Thomas Early Learning Center (STELC):** An early learning center for children in prekindergarten and kindergarten. (Contact: call [\(979\) 696-1728](tel:9796961728))

**The REACH Project:** This is a non-profit designed to support essential workers on the Texas A&M campus. Volunteers are needed for the weekly food distribution on Mondays in the St. Thomas parking lot. (Contact: [reach@reach4home.org](mailto:reach@reach4home.org))

## Social Groups

**Cheers:** This group meets monthly for appetizers and beverages and is hosted by different members of the parish in their homes. Sign up during Rally Day.

**Coffee and Conversation:** This group meets every Wednesday at Minuti Coffee on University Drive at 10:00. All are invited to join us as your schedules permit.

**Hearts of St. Thomas (HoSTs):** This is a brown bag lunch held throughout the year. We would like to bring this ministry back. Contact: Church Office)

**Men of St. Thomas:** This men's group gathers monthly at various restaurants in town. Contact: Chip Hill)

**Women Together Faithfully:** Women participate in various events throughout the year to build community. (Contact: Church Office).

**Sewing/Craft Ministry:** This group comes together as a community to quilt, sew, knot, crochet, cross-stitch, and needlepoint. (Contact: Carmel Hill)

## Worship Support Ministry

(during the week and on Sundays)

**Altar Guild:** The Altar Guild cares for the altar, vestments, vessels, and altar linens of St. Thomas. Members prepare the sanctuary for services and clean up afterwards. The Altar Guild works in teams of 4 - 5. The setup can occur on Friday or Saturday depending on the team members' availability. Cleanup

occurs directly after the 10:30 service on Sunday morning. (*Time commitment: setup takes 30 minutes, cleanup takes 20 minutes*)

**Fair Linens:** This group ensures the fair linens used during the services are laundered as needed. (*Time commitment: 1.5 hours to wash and iron the linens*)

## Pastoral Care

**New Comer Ministry:** The staff, together with Fr. Korey and his family, welcome and reach out to all newcomers who have filled out a Welcome card. Twice a year, Fr. Korey and his wife, Lisa, will host a newcomers gathering at their home. (Contact: Church Office)

**Helping Hands (the Angels):** Parishioners providing care for both those in need and those celebrating This includes providing meals at home, receptions, and assisting in driving persons to church. (Contact: Church Office )

**New Baby Ministry:** Staff members take a gift basket to the newborn, including a St. Thomas onesie. (Contact: Church Office)

**LEV (Lay Eucharistic Visitor):** To share communion with those unable to attend the regular Sunday worship service, Lay Eucharistic Visitors (LEVs) are sent by the congregation with bread and wine consecrated at the service. The Lay Eucharistic Visitor might be one of the few outside people a homebound person sees. A mutual relationship develops. This service does not replace periodic clergy visits but augments them (Contact Mike Pilant, church office).

## Music Ministries

**Adult Choir:** The adult choir meets for one hour every Thursday night at 7:15 to prepare for the 10:30 Sunday service. This group spearheads the music ministry of St. Thomas. They explore a range of styles that can support the mission of the Church and the liturgy. *(Time commitment: 1 hour on Thursdays)*

**A Minor Miracle Youth Choir:** The Children's Choir meets for a half-hour every Wednesday at 5:15. The goals are to sharpen singing skills, learn new music, and of course experiment with instruments. The Minor Miracles sing in church several times a year and are a key part of our major seasonal programs. Kids aged 7-12 are invited to join. *(Time commitment: 30 minutes on Wednesdays)*

**Handbell Choir:** The Bell Choir meets for 40 minutes on Thursday evening at 6:15 and lend their talents to the worship service several times a year. Bell-ringers of any age are invited. As the music director says: if you can count, you can join. We are patient, and have a hilarious amount of fun, and it does not require being able to read music. *(Time commitment: 40 minutes on Thursdays)*

**Instrumental Accompanist:** St. Thomas has many gifted musicians and many groups form for various services or special music: folk, jazz, and even blues. Be sure to let the Director of Music know what you play, what styles you're interested in, and your availability. When opportunities come up, she will definitely contact you! *(Time commitment: varies)*

## Hospitality

**Sunday Morning Breakfast Teams:** The Sunday morning breakfast teams provide breakfast between the 8:00 service and Formation at 9:30. The teams cook and serve breakfast, set up the Parish Hall, and clean up afterwards. Teams are assigned a specific week to provide breakfast, typically monthly. *(Time commitment: 2 hours on scheduled Sundays)*

**Gathering Tree:** Each Sunday after the last service, everyone is invited to gather for conversation and light snacks under our large "Gathering Tree" (weather permitting). Teams provide the snacks and drinks for the gathering and clean up afterwards. Teams rotate Sundays. *(Time commitment: 1 hour on scheduled Sundays)*

**Wednesday Dinner Teams:** During the school year, dinner is provided on Wednesdays at 5:45 before Formation. Teams work together to set up the Parish Hall, cook and serve dinner, and clean up afterwards. *(Time commitment: 2 – 3 hours on scheduled Wednesdays)*

**Holy Smokers:** This group does the grilling when dinner is hamburgers, hot dogs, and other foods that are best when grilled. *(Time commitment: varies)*

**Receptions:** This is a team that sets up receptions as needed. The team provides the food, sets up the Parish Hall for the reception, and cleans up afterwards. *(Time commitment: varies)*