

Grace Episcopal Church
Cuero, Texas

PARISH PROFILE 2026



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SERVING **FAITH**. SERVING **COMMUNITY**. SERVING **HOPE**.

www.gracechurchcuero.org



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COME AND SEE

Cuero's First Church

At Grace Episcopal Church, we strive to be a welcoming and faithful community where all are invited to deepen their relationship with God, self, and others. Since 1874, our parish has grown alongside the Cuero community, evolving from a small wooden chapel into the church we know today while remaining rooted in our enduring commitment to faith, fellowship, and service. Guided by God's love, Grace continues to be a place of worship, spiritual renewal, and compassionate outreach, serving both our congregation and our neighbors with open hearts.

OUR PARISH COMMUNITY

We are a caring and devoted congregation that values our Episcopal heritage while embracing opportunities for growth and renewal. For more than 150 years, Grace Episcopal Church has been a gathering place for those seeking solace, support, and a sense of purpose. Through worship, education, fellowship, and outreach, we seek to share God's love in all that we do—nurturing faith within our parish family and extending hospitality to all who enter our doors. Our rich history is both a testament to our resilience and a foundation for our future as we continue to live out Christ's presence in Cuero and beyond.



150 Years of Community

OPEN (1874–1877)

The Reverend H.P. Starr (1877–1883)

The Reverend C.E. Cabaness (1883–1885)

The Reverend J.B. Fitzpatrick (1886–1887)

The Reverend George Hinson (1888–1890)

The Reverend Hudson Stuck (1892–1894)

The Reverend Austin F. Morgan (1895–1897)

The Reverend H.A. Skinner (1897–1898)

The Reverend Alfred W.C. Garden (1898–1903)

The Reverend Frances R. Godolphine (1903–1904)

The Reverend John W. Hamilton (1904–1907)

The Reverend Upton B. Bowden (1907–1917)

The Reverend A.J. Gayner Banks (1918–1920)

The Reverend George Washington Smith (1920–1924)

The Reverend W.W. Reese (1925–1926)

The Reverend Everett Holland Jones (1927–1930)

The Reverend William A. Allen (1930–1936)

The Reverend Allen Day (1937–1939)

The Reverend Jay Scott Budlong (1940–1946)

The Reverend F. Randall Williams (1947–1951)

The Reverend John W. Herman (1951–1954)

The Reverend James C. Souter (1955–1957)

The Reverend John Henry Battle (1957–1962)

The Reverend Andrew Ramsey Krumbhaar (1962–1966)

The Reverend Paul R. Abbott (1966–1972)

The Reverend Clayton T. Holland (1973–1975)

The Reverend John McRae Beebe (1976–1980)

The Reverend Neil Fraser Innis (1981–1984)

The Reverend G. Patterson Connell (1984–1989)

The Reverend Conrad Bruce Wilson (1989–1993)

The Reverend William D. Dugat, Jr. (1993–1994)

The Reverend Michael M. Davis (1994–1995)

The Reverend John Warren Van Dusen (1995–1998)

PARTNERS IN MINISTRY

The Reverend Eric Fenton (2010–2015)

The Reverend Charlie Sumners (2015–2019)

The Reverend Reagan Gonzales (2019–2021)

The Reverend Aloysius Peter Thaddeus (2021–2026)

1874 FOUNDING

Grace Episcopal Church Established

1974 CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION

100 Years of Grace Episcopal Church

1999 QUASQUICENTENNIAL CELEBRATION

125 Years of Grace Episcopal Church

2024 DAY SCHOOL OPENED

3 Students, 1 Teacher



WHO WE ARE

A GLIMPSE INTO THE LIFE OF THE GRACE EPISCOPAL FAMILY

Grace Episcopal Church is a loving and embracing community where all are invited with open arms to grow in faith, connect with God, and engage in fellowship and service. For many members, Grace Episcopal is more than a place of worship—it is an extended family that offers unwavering support, encouragement, and a sense of belonging.

WORSHIP & SPIRITUAL GROWTH

At Grace Episcopal Church, worship is at the heart of our parish life, providing opportunities for spiritual renewal, reflection, and connection. We gather each Sunday at 10:30 a.m. to celebrate our faith through prayer, scripture, music, and Holy Communion. Rooted in the traditions of the Episcopal Church, our services are both reverent and welcoming, creating a place where all may experience God's presence, deepen their faith, and find a sense of belonging within our parish family.

COMMUNITY & FELLOWSHIP

Life at Grace Episcopal Church is centered on faith, fellowship, and friendship. Our parish family brings together lifelong members, newcomers, and visitors in a spirit of hospitality and belonging. Through worship, shared meals, celebrations, and service, we cherish the relationships that make Grace feel like home.

RANCHING HERITAGE

Rooted in the rich ranching heritage of South Texas, Grace Episcopal Church proudly hosts the Blessing of the Brands in partnership with the Chisholm Trail Heritage Museum. This cherished community tradition brings together ranching families, neighbors, and visitors to celebrate the region's agricultural legacy through fellowship, a traditional cowboy stew lunch, and prayers for the blessing of local cattle brands. The event serves as a meaningful reminder of our shared history, faith, and gratitude for the ranching way of life that continues to shape our community.



WHO WE ARE

CONTINUED

MISSION & VALUES

Our mission is to share Christ's love through worship, fellowship, service, and hospitality, nurturing faith within our parish family and throughout the Cuero community.

Grace Episcopal Church strives to embody our core values of:

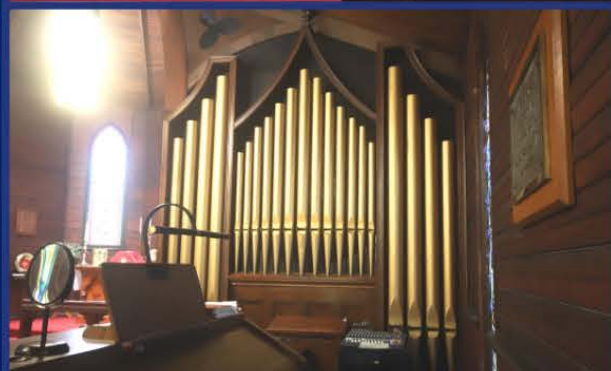
- **FAITH** rooted in Scripture, the sacraments, and the rich traditions of the Episcopal Church
- **COMMUNITY** that is welcoming, caring, and inclusive, where all are invited to grow in faith and fellowship
- **SERVICE** through outreach, compassion, and meaningful engagement with our neighbors and community
- **WORSHIP** that is reverent, beautiful, and spiritually enriching, drawing us closer to God and one another
- **EDUCATION** that nurtures lifelong faith formation through Bible studies, Christian learning opportunities, and spiritual growth for all ages

Through these commitments, Grace Episcopal Church inspires spiritual growth, strengthens community, and encourages all to live out Christ's love in their daily lives.

GRACE EPISCOPAL BY THE NUMBERS 2025

Average Sunday Attendance In-Person	21
Average Livestream Attendance	36
Total Members in Good Standing	83
Total Estimated Active Participants	35
Outreach Beneficiaries (est. per week; Meals on Wheels, Food Pantry, Students)	110
Confirmed Pledges to the general/operating fund	15
Baptisms	1
Funerals	1
Endowments	\$680,485





WORSHIP SERVICES

10:30 A.M. SUNDAY SERVICE

Grace Episcopal Church gathers each Sunday at 10:30 a.m. for a traditional Rite I service that is both reverent and welcoming. Our worship reflects the rich traditions of the Episcopal Church while providing a peaceful space for prayer, reflection, and spiritual renewal. Sunday mornings also offer an opportunity for fellowship, as parishioners enjoy visiting with one another before the service and sharing in the joys and happenings of the week. The warmth of these relationships is an important part of what makes Grace feel like home.

What to Expect...



INSPIRATIONAL SERMONS

Delivered by our clergy, our sermons aim to enlighten and inspire, offering insights into the teachings of the Bible and their relevance to our daily lives.



BEAUTIFUL MUSIC

Our choir and musicians lead us in hymns and songs that elevate the spirit and enhance our worship experience.



HOLY COMMUNION

We gather to share in the Holy Eucharist, a sacred tradition that unites us in our faith and commitment to one another.



OUTREACH TO THE COMMUNITY

SERVING BEYOND SUNDAY

- **Meals on Wheels**
- **Cuero Area Ministerial Alliance**
- **Food Pantry** - Originally a Little Free Library, our pantry now provides food, toiletries, and other essentials to those in need. It continues to be one of Grace Episcopal Church's most active and valued outreach ministries.
- **The Bible in 90 Days**
- **Art Therapy Classes**
- **Shop for a Cause** - To benefit African Missions
- **Utility Assistance**
- **Thanksgiving Meals for Families in Need**
- **Feed the Gobblers** - Each year, Grace Episcopal Church provides a pre-game meal for the Cuero High School Gobblers football team and coaches before a home game. We also host a meal for the girls' athletic teams during the spring sports season.
- **Grace Fantasy Football League** - A fun event to promote fellowship within the church.
- **Grace Episcopal School** - An idea so big it needs its own section.





GRACE EPISCOPAL SCHOOL

WHERE FAITH, LEARNING, AND JOY COME TOGETHER

Grace Episcopal Church has a long tradition of investing in the children and families of Cuero. During the late 1970s and early 1980s, the church operated a half-day preschool and daycare program for parish families. In 2023, that vision was revived with the opening of Grace Episcopal School as a fully accredited Pre-K3 and Pre-K4 program. The goal was not to increase church membership, but to serve the community by providing a high-quality, faith-based early childhood education.

Beginning with just three students, Grace Episcopal School has grown to serve more than 20 children. As enrollment increased, the program expanded to include two-year-olds and added a portable classroom for the 2026–2027 school year to meet the needs of growing families.

As a ministry of Grace Episcopal Church—an enduring presence in Cuero since 1874—our mission is to provide a nurturing, faith-centered environment where children grow in heart, mind, and spirit. Through hands-on learning, creative play, and Christian values, we help each child grow academically, socially, emotionally, and spiritually.

Students and faculty gather each Wednesday for chapel, with parents encouraged to attend.

Grace Episcopal School is a member of the Southwestern Association of Episcopal Schools (SAES), ensuring students receive an exceptional educational foundation and are well prepared for elementary school and beyond.

*Building Confidence, Curiosity,
and Faith Every Day*





CHURCH ACTIVITIES

MORE THAN SUNDAY WORSHIP

- Easter Flowering of the Cross
- Christmas Decorating
- Art Therapy Class
- School Golf Tournament
- School Field Trips
- Agape Meal
- Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper



Art Therapy Class



School Golf Tournament



School Field Trips





Proctor Hall

CHURCH FACILITIES

Grace Episcopal Church is located in the heart of historic Cuero, where it has faithfully served the community since 1874. Our campus includes the historic sanctuary, Proctor Hall, Grace Episcopal School classrooms, and welcoming gathering spaces that support worship, fellowship, education, and outreach. From Sunday services and parish events to community ministries and school activities, our campus serves as a place where faith, friendship, and service come together.



Rectory



Historical Marker



School Classroom



Church Exterior



FACILITY UPDATES

SANCTUARY

Built in 1889, our current sanctuary is the oldest worship facility in Cuero. Through generations of faithful stewardship, it has been lovingly maintained and periodically renovated to preserve its historic character while meeting the needs of our congregation. Most recently, the sacristy was thoughtfully renovated approximately three years ago.

PROCTOR HALL KITCHEN

The Proctor Hall kitchen is currently undergoing a complete remodel.



Sanctuary



Sanctuary



Kitchen Remodel - Proctor Hall



OUR CHALLENGES

STEPPING STONES TO THE FUTURE

As we plan for the next chapter at Grace Episcopal, our congregation faces challenges shared by many churches today—yet these are not roadblocks but stepping stones toward a brighter future through membership renewal and growth, and fostering a more profound connection with God and one another.



ENGAGING THE NEXT GENERATION

- Attract and involve more youth, young adults, and families
- Strengthen ties between Church and Grace Episcopal School
- Offer meaningful programs and worship experiences for younger members



GROWTH & RENEWAL

- Grow our parish despite an aging membership
- Welcome new families and individuals into the Grace community
- Increase attendance, participation, and parish vitality



FINANCIAL STABILITY

- Build a sustainable financial future for future generations
- Strengthen stewardship and planned giving
- Support the long-term ministries and mission of Grace Episcopal Church



THE RECTOR WE SEEK

PRAYERFULLY SEEKING OUR NEXT SPIRITUAL LEADER

As Grace Episcopal Church looks to the future, we prayerfully seek a rector who will lead our parish with faith, wisdom, and compassion. Building upon more than 150 years of faithful ministry, we hope to welcome a shepherd who embraces our rich Episcopal traditions while inspiring spiritual growth, fostering meaningful relationships, and encouraging service within our congregation and the greater Cuero community.

We seek a joyful and approachable leader who warmly welcomes newcomers, strengthens connections among current members, and helps all who enter our doors feel at home. Inspiring, Scripture-centered preaching that speaks to everyday life, along with compassionate pastoral care during times of illness, grief, and celebration, are essential qualities we value in our next rector.

Beyond our parish, we hope for a rector who is engaged in the Cuero community, building meaningful relationships and representing Grace Episcopal Church with openness, compassion, and grace. Because Grace Episcopal School is a vital part of our ministry, we also desire a leader who will actively support the school's mission and foster a strong partnership between church and school.

Together, these hopes reflect our vision for a warm, dynamic, and outward-looking spiritual leader who will honor our heritage while guiding Grace Episcopal Church into its next chapter—helping us grow in faith, strengthen our parish family, and share Christ's love throughout our community.

TOP PRIORITIES:

- *Grow the church through invitation, welcome, and connection*
- *Provide strong, energetic, relevant preaching grounded in scripture*
- *Be visibly involved in the community beyond the church*
- *Offer compassionate pastoral care, especially through visitation*
- *Support the parish school and build a strong church–school relationship*



WELCOME TO CUERO

A COMMUNITY RICH IN HERITAGE, FAITH, AND HOSPITALITY

Nestled along the banks of the Guadalupe River, Cuero is a historic South Texas community where tradition, hospitality, and small-town charm come together. With a population of approximately 8,000, Cuero offers the warmth of close-knit neighborhoods, outstanding schools, and a welcoming atmosphere that makes it an exceptional place to live and serve. Residents enjoy a relaxed pace of life while remaining actively engaged in a community that values family, volunteerism, and civic pride.

Known as the starting point of the legendary Chisholm Trail, Cuero's ranching heritage remains a proud part of its identity and is celebrated through traditions such as the annual Blessing of the Brands, hosted by Grace Episcopal Church in partnership with the Chisholm Trail Heritage Museum. The natural beauty of the Guadalupe River, historic downtown, and vibrant community events add to the city's unique character. From annual festivals and parades to youth athletics and local arts, there are countless opportunities for neighbors to gather, celebrate, and support one another throughout the year.

One of Cuero's greatest strengths is its spirit of collaboration. Churches throughout the community work together—not in competition—joining for quarterly ecumenical worship services and partnering to meet the spiritual and practical needs of their neighbors. This shared commitment to faith and service reflects the welcoming spirit that defines Cuero.

With an affordable cost of living and convenient access to Victoria, San Antonio, Austin, and Houston, Cuero offers the best of small-town life while remaining connected to the opportunities of Central and South Texas. It is a place where history is honored, relationships are valued, and faith continues to shape the future.



EPISCOPAL DIOCESE *of West Texas*



The Right Reverend David Read, Bishop of the Diocese of West Texas, was consecrated as the 11th Diocesan Bishop in July, 2023. Prior to his consecration, Bishop Read served as rector of four congregations in the Diocese, most recently at St. Helena's in Boerne. Bishop Read brings a strong vision for church planting, discipleship, and congregational development. He reminds us that the Diocesan Staff exists solely to serve as a resource for the 87 congregations in the Diocese of West Texas.

Bishop Read has been married to his wife Jacqui since 1991; they have two children (Amy and Aiden) and three grandchildren (Kaydence, Makenna and Jameson David).



The Right Reverend Angela Cortinas, Bishop Suffragan of the Diocese of West Texas, was consecrated as the 7th Bishop Suffragan of the Diocese on March 15th, 2025. Prior to her consecration, Bishop Cortinas served congregations in Florida and Texas. She brings her many gifts and skills to the work and ministry of the Diocese, and oversees Latino ministries, lay ministry development, Christian formation, and discipleship.

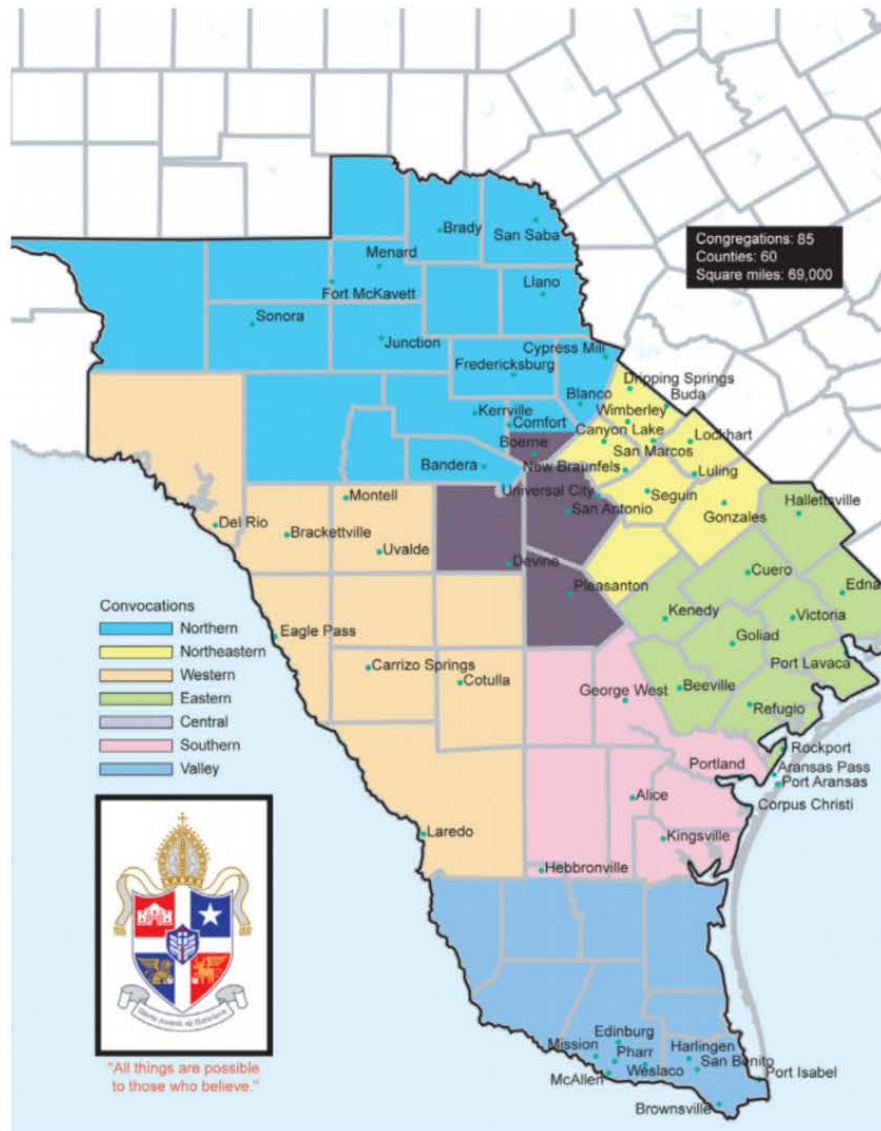
Bishop Cortinas has one daughter, Victoria Fletcher.



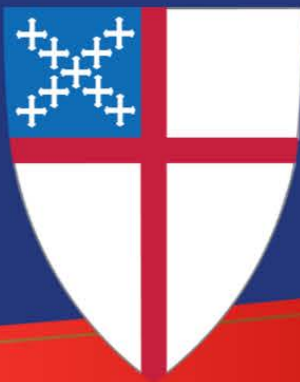
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San Antonio, Texas 78209
210-824-5387



EPISCOPAL DIOCESE *of West Texas*



We are a part of the Diocese of West Texas, which is made up of **87** congregations spread out over almost 70,000 square miles. From Brady and San Saba to the north, the Texas Hill Country, to the coastal bend, to the Rio Grande Valley, you will find faithful witnesses of Jesus Christ doing the work that God calls us to do!



Grace Episcopal Church & School

SERVING **FAITH**. SERVING **COMMUNITY**. SERVING **HOPE**.

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