

SAINT THOMAS CHURCH FIFTH AVENUE  
in the  
CITY OF NEW YORK



One West Fifty-third Street  
New York, New York 10019  
Telephone: 212-757-7013  
[www.SaintThomasChurch.org](http://www.SaintThomasChurch.org)  
The Reverend Canon Carl F. Turner, *Rector*

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 7, 2025 AT 4 P.M.  
THE SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

SOLEMN EVENSONG

SUNG BY THE SAINT THOMAS CHOIR OF MEN AND BOYS  
AND THE CHOIR OF SIDNEY SUSSEX COLLEGE, CAMBRIDGE, UK  
DR. DAVID SKINNER, DIRECTOR



STC  
200



**Welcome to Saint Thomas Church, a parish of the Episcopal Diocese of New York.**

*Our mission is to worship, love, and serve Our Lord Jesus Christ  
through the Anglican tradition and our unique choral heritage.*

**contact us:** [welcome@saintthomaschurch.org](mailto:welcome@saintthomaschurch.org)

*Please do not take photographs or videos, or make recordings during the service.*

**ASSISTING CLERGY**

The Reverend Matthew Moretz

*Vicar and Chief Operating Officer*

The Reverend Dr. Alison J. Turner

*Associate for Children and Family Ministry, and School Chaplain*

The Reverend Mark Schultz

*Associate for Pastoral Care*

The Reverend Prisca Lee-Pae

*Associate for Pan-Asian Ministry*

The Reverend Dr. Luigi Gioia

*Theologian in Residence*

The Reverend Preston Gonzalez-Grissom

*Associate Priest for Children and Family Ministry*

**STAFF**

Richard Tanner, *Organist & Director of Music*

Nicolas Haigh, *Associate Organist*

Maks Adach, *Associate for Musical Studies and Assistant Organist*

Bruce Smith, *Chief Advancement Officer*

Adam MacDonald, *Director of Development*

Blake Martin, *Director of Communications and Digital Production*

Lizette Hernandez, *Executive Assistant to the Rector*

**SAINT THOMAS CHOIR SCHOOL**

The Rev. Dr. Alison J. Turner, *Director of Transition*

202 West 58th Street, New York, NY 10019

Telephone: 212-247-3311 email: [admissions@choirschool.org](mailto:admissions@choirschool.org)

[www.ChoirSchool.org](http://www.ChoirSchool.org)

**HONORARY CLERGY**

The Reverend Andrew C. Mead, OBE, DD, *Rector Emeritus*

The Right Reverend Andrew R. St. John, DD, *Bishop in Residence*

The Reverend Mark Brown, *Honorary Assistant*

The Reverend Canon Anne Mallonee, *Honorary Assistant*

The Reverend Stephen Morris, *Honorary Assistant*

The Reverend David F. Mc Neeley, *Honorary Assistant*

The Reverend Thomas F. Pike, *Honorary Assistant*

**THE LAY MEMBERS OF THE VESTRY**

Lloyd G. Stanford, *Warden*

Karen Duncan

Christopher M. Haley, *Clerk*

Darren Littlejohn

Kenneth Koen

Gregory Zaffiro, *Warden*

Samuel Lee

John G. Oghia

Benita Potters

Inge Reist

Karl C. Saunders, *Treasurer*

You may contact the Wardens using this address: [Wardens@SaintThomasChurch.org](mailto:Wardens@SaintThomasChurch.org).



PRELUDE

Prière à Notre-Dame from Suite Gothique, Op. 25

Léon Boëllmann  
(1862-1897)

*The People stand at the entry of the Choir and Ministers.*

HYMN

HELMSLEY

1 Lo! he comes, with clouds de - scend - ing, once for  
2 Ev - ery eye shall now be - hold him, robed in  
3 Those dear tok - ens of his pas - sion still his  
4 Yea, a - men! let all a - dore thee, high on

our sal - va - tion slain; thou - sand thou - sand  
dread - ful ma - jes - ty; those who set at  
daz - zling bo - dy bears, cause of end - less  
thine e - ter - nal throne; Sa - vior, take the

saints at - tend - ing swell the tri - umph of his  
nought and sold him, pierced, and nailed him to the  
ex - ul - ta - tion to his ran - somed wor - ship -  
power and glo - ry; claim the king - dom for thine

train: Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!  
tree, deep - ly wail - ing, deep - ly wail - ing,  
ers; with what rap - ture, with what rap - ture,  
own: Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

Al - le - lu - ia! Christ the Lord re - turns to reign.  
deep - ly wail - ing, shall the true Mes - si - ah see.  
with what rap - ture gaze we on those glo - rious scars!  
Al - le - lu - ia! Thou shalt reign, and thou a - lone.

*Lo! he comes, with clouds descending*, #57 from *The Hymnal 1982* – Words: Charles Wesley (1707-1788).  
Music: *Helmsley*, melody Thomas Augustine Arne (1710-1778); harm. Ralph Vaughan Williams (1872-1958), alt.



VERSICLES AND RESPONSES

Sasha Johnson Manning  
(b. 1963)

*The Officiant and Choir sing the opening responses.*

V. O Lord, open thou our lips.

R. And our mouth shall show forth thy praise.

V. O God, make speed to save us.

R. O Lord, make haste to help us.

V. Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost.

R. As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

V. Praise ye the Lord.

R. The Lord's Name be praised.

*The People sit.*

WELCOME

PSALM 11

*Sung by the Choir*

*Anglican Chant (Martin How)*

IN DOMINO CONFIDO

**I**N the Lord put I my trust :

how say ye then to my soul, that she should flee as a bird unto the hill?

For lo, the ungodly bend their bow, and make ready their arrows within the quiver :

that they may privily shoot at them which are true of heart.

For the foundations will be cast down : and what hath the righteous done?

The Lord is in his holy temple : the Lord's seat is in heaven.

His eyes consider the poor : and his eye-lids try the children of men.

The Lord alloweth the righteous :

but the ungodly, and him that delighteth in wickedness, doth his soul abhor.

Upon the ungodly he shall rain snares, fire and brimstone, storm and tempest :

this shall be their portion to drink.

For the righteous Lord loveth righteousness : his countenance will behold the thing that is just.

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son : and to the Holy Ghost;

as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be : world without end. Amen.

FIRST LESSON

1 Kings 18:17-39

*The People stand for the Office Hymn and Magnificat.*



OFFICE HYMN

VERBUM SUPERNUM PRODIENS

1 O heaven - ly Word, e - ter - nal Light,  
2 pour light up - on us from a - bove,  
3 and when, as judge, thou draw - est nigh  
4 O let us not, for ther, e - vil past,  
5 To God the Fa - ther, God the Son,  
1 be - got - ten of the Fa - ther's might,  
2 and fire our hearts with ar - dent love,  
3 the se - crets of our hearts to try,  
4 be driv - en from thy face at last,  
5 and God the Spi - rit, ev - er One,  
1 who in these lat - ter days wast born  
2 that, as we hear thy truth to - day,  
3 to rec - om - pense each hid - den sin  
4 but with thy saints for ev - er - more  
5 praise, hon - or, might, and glo - ry be  
1 for bless - ing to a world for - lorn;  
2 all wrong de - sires may burn a - way;  
3 and bid the saints their reign be - gin;  
4 be - hold thee, love thee, and a - dore.  
5 from age to age e - ter - nal - ly.

*O heavenly Word, eternal Light*, #63 from *The Hymnal 1982* – Words: Latin, ca. 7th cent.; tr. *Hymnal 1982*. Copyright © The Church Pension Fund.  
Music: *Verbum supernum prodiens*, plainsong, Mode 2, Nevers MS., 13th cent.; acc. Howard Don Small (b. 1932).

MAGNIFICAT IN B-FLAT

Sung by the Choir

Sir Charles Villiers Stanford  
(1852-1924)

MY SOUL doth magnify the Lord,  
and my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Savior.  
For he hath regarded the lowliness of his handmaiden.  
For behold from henceforth all generations shall call me blessed.  
For he that is mighty hath magnified me, and holy is his Name.  
And his mercy is on them that fear him throughout all generations.  
He hath showed strength with his arm;  
he hath scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts.  
He hath put down the mighty from their seat, and hath exalted the humble and meek.  
He hath filled the hungry with good things, and the rich he hath sent empty away.  
He remembering his mercy hath holpen his servant Israel,  
as he promised to our forefathers, Abraham and his seed for ever.  
Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;  
as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

*The People sit.*



SECOND LESSON

John 1:19-28

*The People stand for the Nunc dimittis and the Creed.*

NUNC DIMITTIS IN B-FLAT

*Sung by the Choir*

*Sir Charles Villiers Stanford*

**L**ORD, now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace according to thy word.  
For mine eyes have seen thy salvation;  
Which thou hast prepared before the face of all people;  
To be a light to lighten the Gentiles, and to be the glory of thy people Israel.  
Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;  
as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

THE APOSTLES' CREED

**I** BELIEVE in God, the Father almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth:  
And in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord:  
who was conceived by the Holy Ghost,  
born of the Virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, dead, and buried.  
He descended into hell.  
The third day he rose again from the dead.  
He ascended into heaven,  
and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father almighty.  
From thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.  
I believe in the Holy Ghost,  
the holy catholic Church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting. Amen.



THE PRAYERS

*Sung by the Choir*

V. The Lord be with you.

R. And with thy spirit.

*The People kneel.*

Let us pray.

R. Lord, have mercy upon us.  
Christ, have mercy upon us.  
Lord, have mercy upon us.

*Our Father who art in heaven,  
hallowed be thy name;  
thy kingdom come;  
thy will be done,  
on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread.  
And forgive us our trespasses,  
as we forgive those who trespass against us.  
And lead us not into temptation;  
but deliver us from evil. Amen.*

V. O Lord, shew thy mercy upon us.

R. And grant us thy salvation.

V. O Lord, save the State.

R. And mercifully hear us when we call upon thee.

V. Endue thy Ministers with righteousness.

R. And make thy chosen people joyful.

V. O Lord, save thy people.

R. And bless thine inheritance.

V. Give peace in our time, O Lord.

R. Because there is none other that fighteth for us, but only thou, O God.

V. O God, make clean our hearts within us.

R. And take not thy Holy Spirit from us.



THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

MERCIFUL God, who didst send thy messengers the prophets to preach repentance and prepare the way for our salvation: Give us grace to heed their warnings and forsake our sins, that we may greet with joy the coming of Jesus Christ our Redeemer; who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

THE COLLECT FOR ADVENT SUNDAY

ALMIGHTY God, give us grace that we may cast away the works of darkness, and put upon us the armor of light, now in the time of this mortal life in which thy Son Jesus Christ came to visit us in great humility; that in the last day, when he shall come again in his glorious majesty to judge both the quick and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal; through him who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Ghost, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

THE COLLECT FOR PEACE

O GOD, from whom all holy desires, all good counsels, and all just works do proceed: Give unto thy servants that peace which the world cannot give, that both our hearts may be set to obey thy commandments, and also that by thee, we, being defended from the fear of our enemies, may pass our time in rest and quietness; through the merits of Jesus Christ our Savior. *Amen.*

THE COLLECT FOR AID AGAINST ALL PERILS

LIGHTEN our darkness, we beseech thee, O Lord; and by thy great mercy defend us from all perils and dangers of this night; for the love of thy only Son, our Savior Jesus Christ. *Amen.*

*The People sit.*

ANTHEM

*Sung by the Choir*

*Johann Sebastian Bach  
(1685-1750)*

NUN komm, der Heiden Heiland,  
Der Jungfrauen Kind erkannt,  
Des sich wundert alle Welt,  
Gott solch Geburt ihm bestellt.

*Now come, savior of the gentiles,  
Known as child of the virgin;  
Of this, all the world marvels:  
God ordained him such a birth.*

*Erdmann Neumeister (1671-1756)*

SERMON

Fr. Gonzalez-Grissom



Please scan this QR code if you wish to give online from your mobile device or text **Give** to 855-938-2085.



HYMN AT THE OFFERTORY

ST. STEPHEN

1 The King shall come when morn - ing dawns and  
2 Not, as of old, a lit - tle child, to  
3 The King shall come when morn - ing dawns and  
4 and let the end - less bliss be - gin, by  
5 The King shall come when morn - ing dawns and

1 light tri - um - phant breaks; when beau - ty gilds the  
2 bear, and fight, and die, but crowned with glo - ry  
3 earth's dark night is past; O haste the ris - ing  
4 wear - y saints fore - told, when right shall tri - umph  
5 light and beau - ty brings: Hail, Christ the Lord! Thy

1 east - ern hills and life to joy a - wakes.  
2 like the sun that lights the morn - ing sky.  
3 of that morn, the day that e'er shall last;  
4 o - ver wrong, and truth shall be ex - tolled.  
5 peo - ple pray, come quick - ly, King of kings.

Words: Greek; tr. John Brownlie (1859-1925), alt. Music: *St. Stephen*, William Jones (1726-1800), alt.

THE BLESSING

*The Rector says*

**M**AY the Sun of Righteousness shine upon you and scatter the darkness from before your path; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you, and remain with you always. **Amen.**



THE ADVENT PROSE

*The People join in singing the antiphon after each verse.*

*Antiphon*



**B**E not wroth very sore, O Lord,  
neither remember iniquity forever:  
thy holy cities are a wilderness,  
Sion is a wilderness, Jerusalem a desolation:  
our holy and our beautiful house,  
where our fathers praised thee. *Antiphon*

We have sinned, and are as an unclean thing,  
and we all do fade as a leaf:  
and our iniquities, like the wind,  
have taken us away:  
thou hast hid thy face from us:  
and hast consumed us, because of our iniquities. *Antiphon*

Ye are my witnesses, saith the Lord,  
and my servant whom I have chosen:  
that ye may know me and believe me:  
I, even I, am the Lord,  
and beside me there is no Saviour:  
and there is none that can deliver out of my hand. *Antiphon*

Comfort ye, comfort ye my people,  
my salvation shall not tarry:  
I have blotted out as a thick cloud  
thy transgressions: Fear not, for I will save thee:  
For I am the Lord thy God,  
the Holy One of Israel, thy Redeemer. *Antiphon*



Saint Thomas gives thanks for those who have given endowed funds to provide flowers to beautify the church in perpetuity. This week, we give thanks for the memory of *Mr. and Mrs. Samuel Hamilton Kissam, Arthur Trumbull Hill, Margaret Crane Hurlbut, and Linda Griffith Vorsanger.*

May the glory of the LORD endure for ever, may the LORD rejoice in his works. (Psalm 104:31)

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## *Neighbor To Neighbor*

### **The Saint Thomas Community Outreach Program**



The Saint Thomas Social Outreach program **Neighbor to Neighbor** provides coffee, tea, croissants, and fresh fruit to community members in need. The program serves guests between 9am and 10am every Saturday, with volunteers arriving at the cloisters of the church on 53rd Street around 8:30am. Please note there is a signup form for interested volunteers to ensure we do not have too many or too few present. If you are interested in knowing more about the program and getting involved, **please register to the mailing list for this group using the QR code:**





# The Blessing of the Crèche Service

A Telling of the Christmas Story

Saturday, December 13, 2025 at 4pm

*You're invited to worship with us as we await the arrival of Jesus this Advent season.  
Join the Children and Family Ministry for our biggest celebration  
of the year as we build and bless the Crèche.*

## WORSHIP & RECITALS THIS WEEK

\* indicates livestreamed.

**Monday 8<sup>th</sup> December – Friday 12<sup>th</sup> December**

12 p.m. Shrine Prayers\*

12:05 p.m. Holy Eucharist\*

**Friday 12<sup>th</sup>**

3 p.m. Contemplative Prayer

**Saturday 13<sup>th</sup>**

11-11:45 a.m. Confessions, Spiritual Advice, Ministry of Healing in the Lady Chapel

Confessor: *The Rector*

4 p.m. The Blessing of the Crèche Service\*

*A Telling of the Christmas Story*

12 p.m. Shrine Prayers\*

12:05 p.m. Holy Eucharist\*

**Next Sunday: December 14<sup>th</sup>**

**The Third Sunday of Advent – *Gaudete***

7:45 a.m. Said Mass

9 a.m. Sung Mass

*Sung by the Noble Singers*

*followed by Coffee Hour in the Parish House*

11 a.m. Festal Eucharist\*

*Sung by the Choir of Men and Boys*

*followed by Coffee Hour at the back of the Lady Chapel*

Sermon by Fr. Gioia

1:30pm Korean Holy Eucharist

한국어 감사성찬례

4 p.m. Festal Evensong\*

*sung by the Choir of Men and Boys*

Sermon by Mo. Turner

5:15 p.m. Organ Recital

LA NATIVITÉ DU SEIGNEUR– Olivier Messiaen  
(Nine Meditations on the Birth of Our Lord)

Richard Tanner, organ *The Nancy B.* and John B. Hoffmann Organist and Director of Music



# Parish Notices

**Children and Family Ministries:** The Blessing of the Crèche Service, a telling of the Christmas Story, is Saturday, December 13<sup>th</sup> at 4pm and all are invited! 10am Children's Formation is available for children Pre-K - High School from 10-10:45am following the 9am Mass. The Children's area (near the icon of Saint Thomas) is available for families during all services, with quiet activities for young children. The Nursery also continues to be available for the sole use of babies and toddlers with their parents/caregivers, from 9am-1pm on Sundays in the Parish House, 3<sup>rd</sup> floor. To receive more information, contact [childrenandfamilies@saintthomaschurch.org](mailto:childrenandfamilies@saintthomaschurch.org).

The **Noble Singers**, our children's parish choir for singers (ages 5-14+) sing in the 9am Mass. Rehearsals are on Thursdays from 4:15-5:15pm, and new singers are always welcome. No audition is necessary, just enthusiasm and a love of music! For more information, and to register your singer, contact [JLane@saintthomaschurch.org](mailto:JLane@saintthomaschurch.org).

**Saint Thomas Choir School** is home to the boy choristers of the Saint Thomas Choir of Men and Boys. Since September 2025, the Choir School (grades 4-8) has partnered with Professional Children's School for the boys' academic education, while they continue to live and train at STCS in a close-knit, music-centered environment. They sing five weekly services at Saint Thomas Church and perform in the Concerts at Saint Thomas series. If you know a boy who loves to sing and may thrive in this unique setting, please contact Margaret White at [mwhite@choirschool.org](mailto:mwhite@choirschool.org).

**Concerts at Saint Thomas** presents the Saint Thomas Choir of Men and Boys in their annual performances of Handel's Messiah, accompanied by the period instrument ensemble New York Baroque Incorporated on December 9 and 11 at 7:30pm. The Choir is joined by soloists Margaret Carpenter Haigh, Daniel Moody, James Reese, and Paul Max Tipton, led by conductor Richard Tanner. Tickets for in person and livestream are available now at [www.saintthomaschurch.org/music/concerts](http://www.saintthomaschurch.org/music/concerts)

You are cordially invited to the **Holy Eucharist in the Korean language** every **second Sunday** of the month at 1:30pm. It is preceded by brunch at 12:45pm in the Dining Room of the Parish House. 매달 둘째 주일 오후 1:30에 본당에서 올리는 한국어 감사성찬례에 여러분을 초대합니다. 오후 12:45에 2층 식당에서 브런치를 함께 나누니 조금 일찍 오셔서 친교도 나누세요. 아래 주소로 등록하시면 월요일 아침묵상글을 이메일로 받아볼 수 있습니다. <https://mailchi.mp/saintthomaschurch/korean>

**Contemplative Prayer** takes place on Fridays at 3pm in the Resurrection Chapel. You are welcome to join this sacred time of silent prayer and quiet praise in the presence of God. The service includes Taizé Songs, Centering Prayer, and Lectio-Divina, and is led by Mo. Prisca Lee-Pae. For more information, please contact Mo. Lee-Pae at [pleepae@SaintThomasChurch.org](mailto:pleepae@SaintThomasChurch.org).

The **Saint Thomas Theological Education Program**, rooted in Scripture, tradition, and spirituality, is for those who seek a deeper understanding of faith, worship and prayer. Lecturers are The Rev. Dr. Luigi Gioia, Theologian in Residence, and internationally renowned guest speakers committed to making theology accessible to non-specialists. Classes are held Sundays at 10am on the 5<sup>th</sup> Floor of

the Parish House and are streamed online. For more info, contact Fr. Luigi Gioia: [lgioia@saintthomaschurch.org](mailto:lgioia@saintthomaschurch.org).

**Explore the Beauty and History of Saint Thomas Church** each Sunday following the 11am service with a guided tour. These tours offer a unique opportunity to delve into the rich history, sacred art, and exquisite architectural details of our landmark building. To take part, please meet the Tour Guide at the "Tour Guide - Meet Here" sign on the south side of the Narthex. All are warmly welcome.

**Friday Bible Study** occurs at 1pm on Zoom, currently focusing on the book of Ecclesiastes. To receive the zoom link, contact Fr. Brown at [mbrown@saintthomaschurch.org](mailto:mbrown@saintthomaschurch.org)

**The Angelus Tree.** We invite you to donate gifts for disadvantaged children and children who will spend Christmas Day in a municipal shelter this year. We also give gifts to children who are with their mothers in a shelter for those who are escaping domestic violence. Simply take a gift tag from the tree and bring your gift unwrapped before Christmas. If you prefer to make a donation and for us to shop for the gift, use the QR code:



**Christmas Candles in Memory of Loved Ones:** During Christmastide, the time between Christmas Day and New Year's Day, we will light an eight-day candle for your loved one(s), and place it before the Crèche of Saint Thomas Church. Each candle will be affixed with the name(s) you submit. The suggested donation for each eight-day candle is \$25. All of these names will be added to the prayer list during Christmastide.



**Contributions for Christmas Flower Memorials** are now being received in memory of departed loved ones. The names of the faithful departed in whose memory the church will be adorned will be listed in the Christmas service leaflet on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day. In order to cover the cost of Christmas flowers, we suggest a minimum donation of \$25 per name. Please send your check, made payable to Saint Thomas Church, and a printed list of those in whose memory you are making your donation to the parish house receptionist. You can also email your list to [giving@saintthomaschurch.org](mailto:giving@saintthomaschurch.org). We cannot guarantee that any names received after December 8 will appear in print, but will be printed and placed on the altar for the Christmas services. The deadline is Monday, December 8 for names printed in the leaflets.



The Saint Thomas Community Outreach Program **Neighbor to Neighbor** provides coffee, tea, water, muffins, fresh fruit, yogurt and hot oatmeal to neighbors in need. The program serves guests between 9-10am every Saturday, with volunteers arriving at the Parish House on 53rd Street around 8:15am. Please note that there is a signup form for interested volunteers. If you are interested in knowing more about the program and getting involved, please register to be on the mailing list for this group using the QR code:



# THE PILGRIMS' COURSE 2026

## The Christian Faith for Newcomers

The **Pilgrims' Course** offers a warm and inviting introduction to the Christian faith and to how Saint Thomas lives out the Gospel in the Episcopal tradition through worship, love, and service to our Lord Jesus Christ.

### Who is it for?

Designed especially *for those new to Saint Thomas*, this fifteen-week course pairs thoughtful talks with shared reflection and the chance to experience community over a light meal.

### When?

Tuesdays, January to May  
Beginning January 13, 2025  
6:30 to 8:00 pm  
In Person Only

### Where?

Saint Thomas Church • Parish House, 1 W 53<sup>rd</sup> Street

### What to Expect?

- A warm and friendly welcome
- Meaningful conversation and shared learning
- Clear, accessible introductions to Christian belief and practice

**Register today and receive the full schedule and details!**

