

The poster features a dark blue background with a sunburst pattern of lighter blue rays emanating from the bottom. At the top, there are green palm fronds and a string of white, round, glowing lights. The word "HAVANA" is written in large, 3D, multi-colored block letters (yellow, pink, blue, and orange). The word "nights" is written in a light blue, cursive script below "HAVANA".

HAVANA *nights*

*St Thomas the Apostle's
Great Gathering Gala*

OCTOBER 25, 2025
The Beach Club, Minneapolis

WELCOME

Welcome to The Great Gathering 2025, the social event of the year for St. Thomas the Apostle parish. In addition to providing time to socialize with friends, old and new, this event raises funds to support our ministries.

We thank all parishioners who will host Great Gathering parties throughout the year, and those who have donated to our Silent Auction. Thanks to all the people who have put in time and talent to make this night a success. And a *big* thanks to all of you here tonight. We appreciate everyone's generosity!

THANK YOU

The Great Gathering 2025 happens because of the extraordinary efforts of the following people.

THIS YEAR'S GREAT GATHERING COMMITTEE

*Valerie Burke, Susan de Hoog, Beth Elfstrand, Bonnie Hancock,
Jenna Hanzal, Maureen Monchamp, Terre Schmidt, Molly Schomburg
and Kamala Udayamurthy*

Office Staff Support

Barb Staats, Julie Wickland, and Veronica Lapczynski

EVENING SCHEDULE

6:00PM

Champagne Welcome
D'Amico Chef-Crafted Heavy Appetizers and Desserts
Cash Bar Available

6:30PM

Sign-Up Gatherings & Silent Auction Open
Wine Pull & Photos with the Pope

7:00PM

Welcome Prayer

8:30PM

Silent Auction Closes

7:30 – 11:00 PM

Music & Dancing
Enjoy the dance Floor!

PARTY AND AUCTION RULES

Great Gathering Parties: To sign up for a party, please write your name and email address on the sheet in front of the display. Please write ONE NAME PER LINE on the Sign-Up sheets. For example, if you and your spouse sign up for a party, you will each need to write your name on a separate line.

Silent Auction: Please enter your name and take note of the starting bid for each item and the minimum incremental bid increases that are listed on each sheet. The silent auction will close at 8:30pm. ***PLEASE NOTE:*** If you are a successful bidder on an item that is physically present at the event, you will be expected to take it home with you at the end of the evening. Successful bidders on events involving experiences will need to connect with the donor after tonight's event to make the arrangements.

Payment: An invoice will be emailed to you listing the total charges. You also will receive a list of the Great Gathering parties you signed up for and any silent auction items you purchased. Payment may be made online by check or credit card or mailed into the office. Payment is due upon receipt of the invoice.

GREAT GATHERINGS

hosted by fellow parishioners, small GATHERINGS are a fantastic way to meet and mingle with other St. Thomas the Apostle families.

{listed in calendar-date order}

GAME NIGHT & DINNER

Love playing games? Having some of our Parishioners make dinner? Then this game night is for you! Dinner, cocktails, and games. Get to know new Parishioners, learn some new games and enjoy a memorable night.

Date: Saturday, November 1, 2025

When: 5:30pm

Cost: \$75 per person

Guests: 17 adults

Hosted by: Catherine & Kevin O'Neill, Laure & Mike Junker, and Sara & Matt Michel.

YOGA, WINE, & SNACKS

Enjoy a private Restorative yoga class at YogaFit at 45th and France, taught by Carrie Voda, followed by a social hour with wine and snacks. The class will be tailored for men and women of all experience levels and no prior yoga experience required! Come on your own, bring your spouse, a friend, or a date and give yoga a try. No one has ever felt worse after a yoga class. Namaste!

Date: Sunday, November 2, 2025

When: 6:45 PM to 9:30 PM

Cost: \$35 per person

Guests: 30

Hosted by: Shawna and Ashok Dhariwal from *YogaFit*

MEET & GREET SOCIAL WITH FR. ERICH

Join us for a fun evening at the home of Susan Kirkpatrick. Socialize with Father Erich and get to know other parishioners. Mingle and enjoy appetizers, wine, beer, and non-alcoholic beverages. A night not to be missed!

Date: Friday, November 21, 2025

When: 5:30pm

Cost: \$65 per person

Guests: 30

Hosted by: Susan Kirkpatrick, Bob and Beth Elfstrand, Joseph and Terre Schmidt

CLASSIC SOUTH INDIAN DINNER

Join us for an unforgettable evening of flavor, culture, and community! Experience the rich and aromatic traditions of **South Indian Cuisine**, featuring spices imported directly from Chennai. Kamala was born in Chennai and will be cooking with recipes handed down through her family. This event will transport your taste buds straight to the southern state of Tamil Nadu. Don't miss this and most of all, come hungry!

Date: Thursday, December 4, 2025

Cost: \$95.00 per person

Guests: 6 adults

Hosted by: Kamala Udayamurthy and Tom Vitt

GREAT HARVEST BREAD BAKING

Enjoy an afternoon at our neighborhood bakery. The day will include a tour of the bakery, a little history of Great Harvest and each guest will make a loaf of braided bread to take home with them.

Date: Sunday, January 18th 2026

When: 1:00pm-3:00pm

Cost: \$50 per person

Guests: 10

Hosted: John Goodge & Great Harvest Bakery

JOIN THE MAH-JONGG CRAZE!

Taught by Mah-Jongg enthusiast and former educator, Julie Schultz Brown.

Mah-Jongg is having a moment. If you want to know what all the buzz is about, let's cozy up this winter and have fun learning the American version of this Chinese game. This tile game, for four people, requires a combination of practice, skill and luck to assemble a pre-determined pattern of tiles that qualifies as a "Mah-Jongg". The sign-up includes 3 lessons (2-3 hr. each) on three consecutive Thursday late afternoons/early evenings. Each participant should be able to attend all three sessions to get the full benefit of this sign-up event.

Date: Thursdays, January 22, 29 & Feb 2, 2026

Cost: \$175

Guests: 4

Hosted by: Valerie Burke, Kathy Cahill & Molly Schomburg

DINNER & CONVERSATION WITH FR. MICHAEL JONCAS

Join us for a small dinner group to enjoy an intimate conversation with Father Michael Joncas. He retired from active ministry in the Archdiocese of St. Paul and Minneapolis, and as professor emeritus and Artist in residence from the University of St. Thomas, St. Paul. He is a prolific composer of contemporary Catholic music, best known for his hymns “On Eagle’s Wings” and “No Greater Love”. You are in for a special night!

Date: Friday, January 23, 2026

When: 6:00 pm

Cost: \$90 per person

Guests: 10

Hosted by: Hein and Susan de Hoog

GAME NIGHT AND HOT DISH

Join in the fun on a winter night in January to learn the game of *Sjoelan*, a Dutch tabletop version of shuffleboard (It is harder than you think!). We will also play *Crokinole*, a wooden table game of skill from Canada. We will teach you the rules and have practice time; then let the games begin! A Minnesota-style hot dish will be served, as well as beer and wine provided. Cheers!

Date: Saturday, January 24, 2026

When: 5:30 pm

Cost: \$80 per person

Guests: 10 (16+)

Hosted by: Susan and Hein de Hoog

ITALIAN COOKING CLASS AND DINNER

A few winters ago we were fortunate enough to spend time in Italy, where we took a couple of cooking classes. We would like to share that cooking class experience with you. You will learn how to prepare four Italian dishes from scratch while sipping Italian Wine. The dishes you will make are: Italian bread, Eggplant Rollatini, Tagliatelle with Pesto Sauce and Gelato. Then you will eat a delicious meal and take home the recipes for each of the dishes.

Date: Saturday, February 7, 2026

When: 4:00pm Prep, 7:00pm Dinner

Cost: \$95.00 per person

Guests: 8

Hosted by: Michaleen and Rick Kruger

THE SUPPER CLUB

Join the St. Thomas Hospitality in the O’Gara Gathering Space for a Supper Club Evening to remember. The menu includes: Manhattan or Old Fashioned • Herbed Quail Eggs • Relish T. ray • Shrimp Cocktail • Wedge Salad with Blue Cheese and Bacon • Dry-aged Prime Rib • Pommes Duchesse and Asparagus • Chocolate S’More Cake Come on! You need to celebrate....SOMETHING!!!!

Date: Friday, February 13, 2026

When: 6:30pm

Cost: \$125 per person

Guests: 18

Hosted by: STA Hospitality Committee

MAGICAL GARDENS OF PROVENCE

Have you ever been to Provence in southern France?

Provence is brimming with brilliant examples of how French gardeners incorporate plants in their lives – and believe it or not, we Minnesotans can learn a lot from them!

Join STA parishioner and horticulturist Gail Hudson on a brief armchair vacation to Provence. Some of the gardens include:

- La Bambouseraie
- The exotic garden of Eze
- The magnificent gardens of a villa near Nice created by one of the Rothschild family members – boasting of 9 themed gardens

Come and join Gail with event co-host Kathy Vessells at Kathy's lovely Victorian home near Lake of the Isles for some Prosecco, a French-style lunch and garden talk. A Bientot!

Date: Sunday, February 8, 2026

When: 11:30 AM

Cost: \$45 per person

Guests: 25

Hosted by: Gail Hudson and Kathy Vessells

SUNDAY AFTERNOON AT THE MOVIES

Join your friends from St. Thomas the Apostle for a movie screening at the Edina Cinema. We'll have an auditorium to ourselves as we gather to watch Stephen Spielberg's 1981 classic, Raiders of the Lost Ark on the big screen! Follow the adventures of Indiana Jones (Harrison Ford) as he strives to protect a cultural treasure (with Biblical connections) from falling into evil hands. Ticket includes a small drink and bag of popcorn with additional items available for purchase at the concessions stand. Join in this carefree afternoon of movie magic designed for family fun. **Please note Raiders of the Lost Ark is rated PG and contains elements of menace, physical violence and supernatural forces that may be upsetting or frightening to children.*

Date: Sunday February 22, 2026

When: 2:00pm

Cost: \$20 per person

Guests: 60

Hosted by: Ellen Veness, Luke and Cheryl Taylor, Carol Solheid, Linda DeLude, and Michelle and Phil Barry

FRIDAY NIGHT LENTEN FISH FRY & BINGO

Round up your friends and family for a good old-fashioned Friday Night Fish Fry during Lent. We will enjoy a fish dinner with all the fixings, then play Bingo. People of all ages can join this gathering. Soft drinks provided. Cash bar donation for beer and wine. Fun was sure had last year so come! Join the fun and brings the kids!

Date: Friday, March 27, 2026

When: 6 pm – 7 pm

Cost: \$35 per adult, \$5 for kids, under 5 free.

Guests: 100

Hosted by: Joseph and Terre Schmidt

HOLY HOPS TOUR

Meet in the St. Thomas the Apostle parking lot and board a good Old-fashioned party bus for the ride of your life. The bus will stop at a few brewpubs where you can buy and taste some of the best local craft beer in town. Try some unique, on-site brewed beers while hanging with some incredible STA friends and meet some new ones! Snacks, beer, wine, and water provide on the bus.

Date: Friday, April 24, 2026

When: 6:30 PM

Cost: \$35.00 per person

Guests: 40 adults

Hosted by: Amy and Marc Colin

CINCO DE MAYO FIESTA

Please join us for a Cinco de Mayo fiesta party to welcome spring with heavy appetizers, margaritas and mocktails at our home. Dress in colorful clothes and be ready for a fiesta! Hasta luego!

Date: Thursday, May 7, 2026

When: 5:30pm to 8:00pm

Cost: \$75.00 per person

Guests: 18

Hosted by: Beth and Bob Elfstrand

WOOD FIRE PIZZA PARTY

Join the Hancock/ Weyandts for a Hearthstone wood fired pizza party in their backyard. Build your own pizza or trust your hosts to serve up the freshest and yummiest pizza in Southwest Minneapolis. There will be gluten free options.

La Bella Vita!

Date: Saturday, June 13, 2026

Cost: \$75 per person

Guests: 6

Hosted: Bonnie Hancock and Joe Weyandt

GIRLS JUST WANT TO HAVE FUN

For all the fabulous women in our parish, let's gather on the beautiful patio of France 44 for some crisp summer wines, tasty light bites, and a celebration of friends – new and old!

Date: Thursday, July 16, 2026

When: 5:30pm to 7:30pm

Cost: \$75 per person

Guests: 50 women

Hosted by: Hosted by: Maureen Monchamp, Molly Schomburg, Terre Schmidt, Deb Van De Weghe, Kathleen Karges, Kathy Cahill, Mary Werner, Gigi Olive Schroder, Beth Elfstrand, Sara Michel, Susan Kirkpatrick, Val Burke

SKETCH & TEA IN THE PEACE GARDEN

Spend a summer morning strolling through the Lyndale Park Peace Garden with fellow parishioners. As inspiration strikes, we will stop and sketch what we see. This is all about enjoying God's creation and exercising our right brains, not creating a masterpiece! We will also enjoy iced tea, lemonade, and small bites. All ages are welcome and art supplies will be provided. Please bring your own lawn chair.

Date: Saturday, August 15, 2026

When: 9:30am to 11:30am

Cost: \$30/adult, \$10/child

Guests: 25

Hosted by: Todd and Mary Schoellman, Anthony and Kelly Zech

MINNESOTA HORSE AND HUNT CLUB

Join us for an unforgettable event featuring a decadent 5 course steakhouse dinner prepared by the executive chef at the exclusive Minnesota Horse and Hunt Club in Prior Lake. Start your experience with an expert-led safety and instructional session perfect for first time skeet enthusiasts as well as seasoned. After mastering the basics take to the range for a thrilling round of skeet set in a controlled and scenic outdoor environment.

Date: Sunday, September 27, 2026

Cost: \$200 per person

Guests: 10

Hosted: Mitch and Jan McMillen

SAILING ON LAKE HARRIET

Enjoy a breezy sail on Lake Harriet. Great conversation, appetizers, wine/beer/non-alcoholic beverages and of course, dessert!

Date: Summer 2026

Cost: \$95 per person

Guests: 4 women

Hosted: Susan Kirkpatrick and Terre Schmidt

SAILING ON LAKE PEPIN

Sail beautiful Lake Pepin with Tim Davis. Spend the afternoon aboard a 40" sailboat enjoying the breezes, bluffs, and small towns. Who knows – you may set a sail or take the wheel and feel the power of the wind and water! Late afternoon hors d'oeuvres served.

Date: Summer 2026

Cost: \$100 per person

Guests: 4

Hosted: Tim Davis

SILENT AUCTION 2026

Please see the description of each item by its bidding sheet for details.

A Taste of Italy

Donated by: *Steve & Ellen Birch*

France 44 Whiskey Basket

Donated by: *Jim & Chris Schneider*

Minnesota Frost Tickets

Donated by: *Tim & Maureen Monchamp*

Penney Bernier's Favorite Things

Donated by: *Anonymous*

Artwork – *Backroads in the Cotswolds*

Donated by: *Mark Sifferlin*

Homemade Sausage

Donated by: *Donna Coleman*

St. Paul Saints Tickets (2 sets of 2 tickets offered)

Donated by: *Greg Sebald*

Hand Crafted Cutting Board (2 boards offered)

Donated by: *Rick Kruger*

Hand Crafted Corn Hole Boards

Donated by: *Rick Kruger*

Luxury Cabin Vacation on Silver Lake

Donated by: *Matt & Jennifer Samuel*

Minnesota United Soccer Game (4 Tickets)

Donated by: *Cheryl & Paul Adkins*

Cozy Craft Night Basket

Donated by: *Susan Kirkpatrick*

24 Hours of Service

Donated by: *Tuesday Night Men's Volleyball Group*

Minnesota v Madison Football Tickets & Tailgate (2 Tickets)

Donated by: *Tom Vitt & Kamala Udayamurthy*

Purple Rain Theater Tickets at the State Theatre (2 tickets)

Donated by: *Tom Vitt & Kamala Udayamurthy*

Timberwolves v Nuggets Tickets (2 Tickets)

Donated by: *Jim & Kathleen Karges*

**Certificate for Free Yoga Classes for a Month at YogaFit
(3 certificates offered)**

Donated by: *Shawna Schueller & Ashok Dharinval*

Private Yoga Party for 25

Donated by: *Shawna Schueller & Ashok Dharinval*

One Dinner a Month for a Year

Donated by: *12 Church Ladies*

Pilates Reformer Class for 6

Donated by: *Chris Coverdale*

Fruit of the Vine – Treasures from American Wineries (12 bottles)

Donated by: *Jim & Kate Vogl*

Wine Tasting Party

Donated by: *Jim & Meg Mannix*

Minnekahda Golf for 3

Donated by: *Doug DeGrood*

France 44 gift card for Food or Beverage Class (2 offered)

Donated by: *France 44*

Harriet Brasserie \$100 gift card

Donated by: *Owner Fernando Silva*