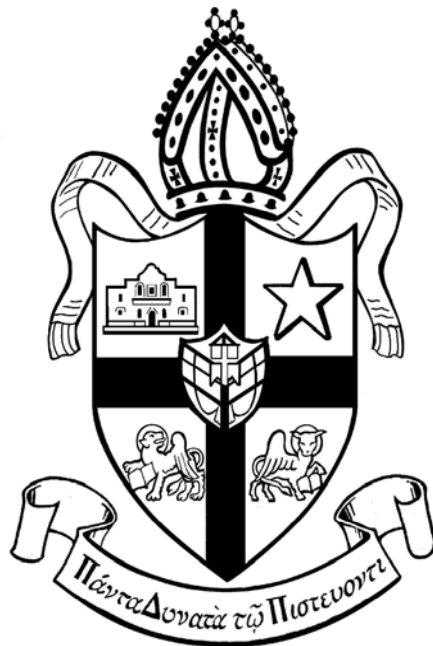


My Bishop's Visit



A Fun Guide for Children
In the Diocese of West Texas

Once a year the bishop will visit your church. Sometimes he will baptize and confirm. Sometimes he will preach. Sometimes he will even stay for lunch or a party so you can get to know him and learn from him. Often, he will do all of these things on the same day.

Episcopal is a word that means, "pertaining to a bishop." The word *bishop* comes from the Greek word "episkopos" which means "overseer." The Episcopal Church is a church overseen by a bishop.

A bishop is an ordained priest of the church and is elected and consecrated to serve as a bishop.

What is the name of your church? _____

What is the name of your priest? _____

In our diocese, the Diocese of West Texas, we have two bishops.

Our Diocesan Bishop is _____

Our Suffragan Bishop is _____

Both bishops work together to oversee the ministries of the diocese and to visit each church. They live in San Antonio where the diocesan office, called the Bishop Jones Center, is located. Our Bishops travel all over the diocese.

Have you ever met a bishop? What was his name?

Can you find a picture of a bishop in your church?

On the next page you will see a map of the Diocese of West Texas. There are 90 congregations spread across 60 counties in our diocese. They range in size from as little as 20 members to over 2,000 members.

What is the name of your city or town?

Can you find your town on the map?

The Diocese of West Texas



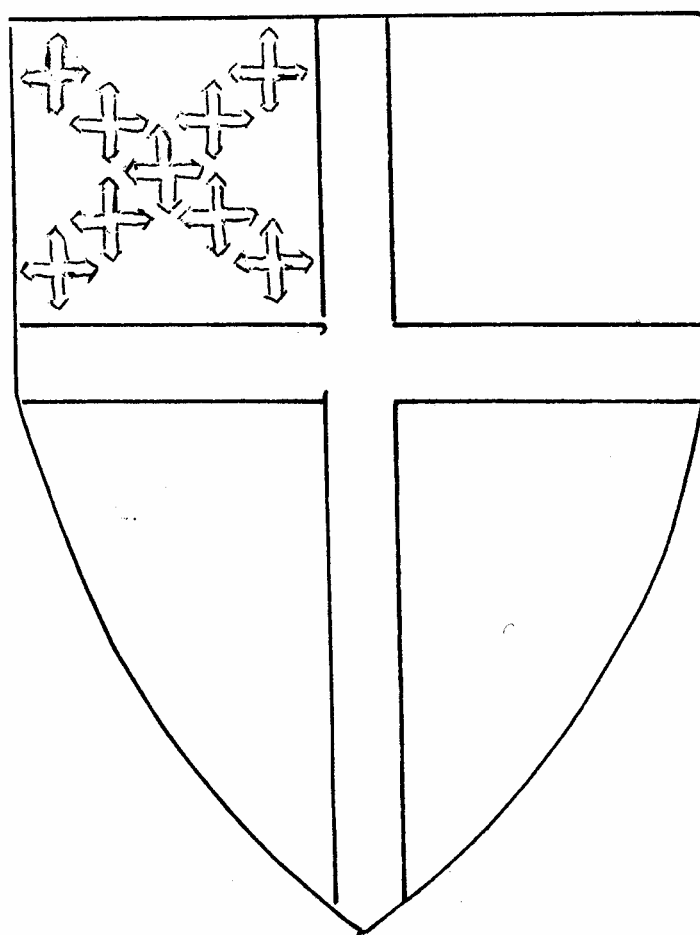
The Episcopal Shield

The Episcopal shield and flag are red, white and blue. They are the colors of the United States and of England.

The cross in the center is red. It represents St. George, patron saint of England.

The upper left corner is blue. It shows the x - shaped cross of St. Andrew, patron saint of Scotland. This cross is made of nine white crosses, representing the first nine dioceses in the Episcopal Church in the United States.

Color the shield.



When the bishop comes he will bring some things with him. Some things he will carry. Some things he will wear.

The bishop often wears a purple shirt when he comes to visit.

When the bishop comes to worship he will wear vestments. The stole will match the color of the church season or will match the church hangings for special services like baptism, ordination, or funerals.

What color stole is the bishop wearing when he visits your church?

The bishop will wear a big cross, called a pectoral cross, around his neck. He received the cross when he became a bishop. Many people gave little pieces of gold to make the cross as a gift for the Bishop.

Why do you think a bishop wears a cross?

Draw a picture of the bishop's cross.

The bishop will wear a ring. On the ring is the seal of the Diocese of West Texas. The bishop can press the ring in hot wax to make his very own seal on special papers.

Every symbol on the ring has special meaning.

The star reminds us of the star over Bethlehem that led the magi to the baby Jesus. It also stands for the Lone Star state.

The Alamo, “cradle of Texas liberty,” is a mission and reminds us of the early effort to bring “the church” to this area of the west.

The Lion signifies the first cathedral site in San Antonio and the wild nature of Texas.

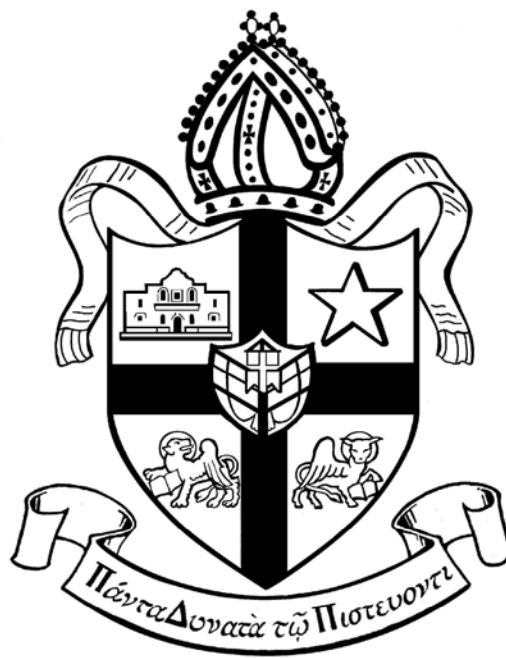
The Winged Ox represents St. Luke the Physician and the cattle of Texas.

The six flags remind us of the number of flags over Texas during its history.

The seventh flag, seen in the middle, is the banner of the church.

The Bishop’s mitre (hat) is on the top of the shield. Within the Bishop’s mitre are a spray of lilies (for St. Anthony of Padua) and a field of bells (for St. Anthony of Alexandria). They are reminders of the San Antonio’s namesake. Pearls for truth and tabs for the Old and New Testament adorn the mitre.

The motto, in Greek is, from the Gospel of Mark, (9:23) and reads “Everything is possible to one who has faith.”



The bishop will bring his crosier when he visits your church. A crosier is a staff that the Bishop holds. It looks like a shepherds staff to remind us of Jesus. We call Jesus, "The Good Shepherd."

Why do you think the Bishop carries a crosier?

The Bishop will bring vestments when he comes to church.

Look at the picture on the next page.

You will see that the bishop wears a cassock. Over this, the bishop wears a rochet with puffy sleeves.

Over this, is a red or black chimere that looks like a long vest open at the front.

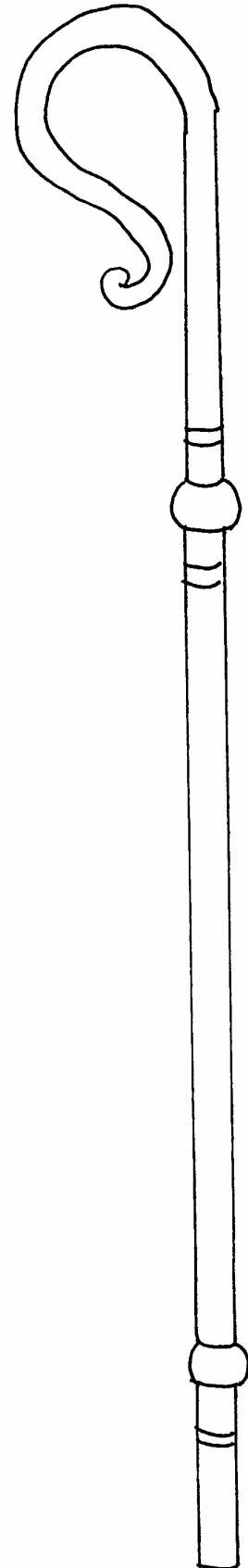
When a bishop celebrates the Eucharist, a stole is worn that matches the color of the church season. The stole is a reminder to live in imitation of Christ. It is worn like a yoke around a priest's neck. "For my yoke is easy and my burden light."

Matthew 11: 30

Some Bishops wear a mitre.

A miter is a pointed hat that symbolizes the "tongues of fire" the apostles received at the first Pentecost. The tabs represent the Old and New Testament and the two sacraments necessary for salvation.

Have you ever seen your Bishop wear a mitre?
Draw a miter. Put a church symbol on the mitre.



Color the bishop's stole
to match the color of
the church season.

Draw a pectoral cross,
a ring and a crosier.

Is the bishop bald?
Does he have a beard?
Does he wear glasses?
Is he smiling?



When your bishop visits, be sure to greet him. Shake his hand and welcome him into your church family. He will want to get to know you.
Questions you may want to ask your bishop:

Questions your bishop may want to ask you:

What is your name? _____

How old are you? _____

What are your favorite things to do at church?

Draw a picture of you and your bishop.



Presented by the Diocese of West Texas Department of Christian Education

For more information about your bishops and the Diocese of West Texas visit the diocese on the web at: www.dwtx.org

When in San Antonio, visit Bishop Jones Center located at:
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(210 or 888) 824 5387

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