



ST. MARY'S

ON THE HIGHLANDS

BIRMINGHAM, ALABAMA

October 18, 2026

Holy Eucharist

10:30 AM

Welcome to St. Mary's! We are glad that you have joined us for worship. If you are visiting today, please fill out a visitor's card and place it in the offering plate when it is passed to you.

Today is the Twenty-First Sunday after Pentecost. This season in our church year is one of spiritual growth, where in meditating on Jesus' parables, miracles, and challenging teachings, we learn about who our Savior is and to what sort of life he calls us.

Holy Eucharist begins on page 355 of *The Book of Common Prayer*. Hymns are found in *The Hymnal 1982*, also located in the pew rack in front of you. "S" numbers are found in the front of the hymnal.

Children are welcome in worship! Nursery is available for children younger than 3K. Children in 3K-5K begin the service in Kids' Word, room 203. Children ages 1st-3rd grades begin in church and follow the crucifer to Children's Chapel after the Gospel reading. All children will return to their families at the peace.



The nave supports those with hearing impairments via an audio induction loop. Please set your hearing aid to "T" (Telecoil) setting.

Almighty and eternal God, so draw our hearts to you, so guide our minds, so fill our imaginations, so control our wills, that we may be wholly yours, utterly dedicated to you; and then use us, we pray, as you will, and always to your glory and the welfare of your people, through our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Amen.

—"A Prayer of Self-Dedication," *The Book of Common Prayer*, 832

The moments before worship are a special opportunity for silence, for reflection, and to come before God in prayer. “Be still, then, and know that I am God” *Psalms 46:11*

Voluntary – Intermezzo (Orgelsonate Nr. 4 in a-Moll, op 98) Josef Gabriel Rheinberger

Hymn in Procession 408 – Sing praise to God who reigns above *Mit Freuden zart*

THE WORD OF GOD

Celebrant Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
People **And blessed be his kingdom, now and forever. Amen.**

The Collect for Purity BCP 355

Gloria in excelsis **S278** setting – William Mathias

Celebrant The Lord be with you.
People **And also with you.**
Celebrant Let us pray.

The Collect of the Day BCP 234

Almighty and everlasting God, in Christ you have revealed your glory among the nations: Preserve the works of your mercy, that your Church throughout the world may persevere with steadfast faith in the confession of your Name; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

The First Lesson Exodus 33:12-23

Moses said to the LORD, “See, you have said to me, ‘Bring up this people’; but you have not let me know whom you will send with me. Yet you have said, ‘I know you by name, and you have also found favor in my sight.’ Now if I have found favor in your sight, show me your ways, so that I may know you and find favor in your sight. Consider too that this nation is your people.” He said, “My presence will go with you, and I will give you rest.” And he said to him, “If your presence will not go, do not carry us up from here. For how shall it be known that I have found favor in your sight, I and your people, unless you go with us? In this way, we shall be distinct, I and your people, from every people on the face of the earth.” The LORD said to Moses, “I will do the very thing that you have asked; for you have found favor in my sight, and I know you by name.” Moses said, “Show me your glory, I pray.” And he said, “I will make all my goodness pass before you, and will proclaim before you the name, ‘The LORD’; and I will be gracious to whom I will be gracious, and will show mercy on whom I will show mercy. But,” he said, “you cannot see my face; for no one shall see me

and live.” And the LORD continued, “See, there is a place by me where you shall stand on the rock; and while my glory passes by I will put you in a cleft of the rock, and I will cover you with my hand until I have passed by; then I will take away my hand, and you shall see my back; but my face shall not be seen.”

Reader The Word of the Lord.
People **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 99 (*sung by the choir*)

chant – Thomas Norris

- 1 The LORD is King;
let the people tremble; *
he is enthroned upon the cherubim;
let the earth shake.
- 2 The LORD is great in Zion; *
he is high above all peoples.
- 3 Let them confess his Name, which is great and awesome; *
he is the Holy One.
- 4 "O mighty King, lover of justice,
you have established equity; *
you have executed justice and righteousness in Jacob."
- 5 Proclaim the greatness of the LORD our God
and fall down before his footstool; *
he is the Holy One.
- 6 Moses and Aaron among his priests,
and Samuel among those who call upon his Name, *
they called upon the LORD, and he answered them.
- 7 He spoke to them out of the pillar of cloud; *
they kept his testimonies and the decree that he gave them.
- 8 O LORD our God, you answered them indeed; *
you were a God who forgave them,
yet punished them for their evil deeds.
- 9 Proclaim the greatness of the LORD our God
and worship him upon his holy hill; *
for the LORD our God is the Holy One.

The Second Lesson

1 Thessalonians 1:1-10

Paul, Silvanus, and Timothy, To the church of the Thessalonians in God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ: Grace to you and peace. We always give thanks to God for all of you and mention you in our prayers, constantly remembering before our God and Father your work of faith and labor of love and steadfastness of hope in our Lord Jesus

Christ. For we know, brothers and sisters beloved by God, that he has chosen you, because our message of the gospel came to you not in word only, but also in power and in the Holy Spirit and with full conviction; just as you know what kind of persons we proved to be among you for your sake. And you became imitators of us and of the Lord, for in spite of persecution you received the word with joy inspired by the Holy Spirit, so that you became an example to all the believers in Macedonia and in Achaia. For the word of the Lord has sounded forth from you not only in Macedonia and Achaia, but in every place your faith in God has become known, so that we have no need to speak about it. For the people of those regions report about us what kind of welcome we had among you, and how you turned to God from idols, to serve a living and true God, and to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead-- Jesus, who rescues us from the wrath that is coming.

Reader The Word of the Lord.
People **Thanks be to God.**

Sequence Hymn 706 – In your mercy, Lord, you called me

Halton Holgate

The Gospel

Matthew 22:15-22

Deacon The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.
People **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

The Pharisees went and plotted to entrap Jesus in what he said. So they sent their disciples to him, along with the Herodians, saying, “Teacher, we know that you are sincere, and teach the way of God in accordance with truth, and show deference to no one; for you do not regard people with partiality. Tell us, then, what you think. Is it lawful to pay taxes to the emperor, or not?” But Jesus, aware of their malice, said, “Why are you putting me to the test, you hypocrites? Show me the coin used for the tax.” And they brought him a denarius. Then he said to them, “Whose head is this, and whose title?” They answered, “The emperor’s.” Then he said to them, “Give therefore to the emperor the things that are the emperor’s, and to God the things that are God’s.” When they heard this, they were amazed; and they left him and went away.

Deacon The Gospel of the Lord.
People **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

Children in grades 1 through 3 follow the crucifer to Children’s Chapel

The Sermon

The Rev. Deacon John I. Kennedy Jr., MD.

The Nicene Creed (*standing*)

BCP 358

The Prayers of the People (*standing*)

BCP 387

Confession of Sin (*kneeling*)

BCP 360

The Peace (*standing*)

BCP 360

Celebrant The peace of the Lord be always with you.
People **And also with you.**

Parish Announcements

All children return to participate in Holy Communion.

THE HOLY COMMUNION

The Offertory

Ascribe to the Lord the honor due his Name; bring offerings and come into his courts.

In addition to the alms basin, St. Mary's offers several ways to give electronically. You may "Text to Give" by texting the keyword 'SMOTH' to 73256. Text giving saves your payment method so you can quickly give the next time. For more information on other methods of giving, please visit www.stmarysoth.org/give/waystogive/

Offertory Anthem – Wondrous Cross

setting – Philip Wilby

For text, see hymn 474 in *The Hymnal 1982*, found in the pew racks.

At the Presentation (*sung by all*)

Old 100th

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise him, all creatures here below; praise him above, ye heavenly host: praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

The Great Thanksgiving

BCP 367

Sanctus – **S128** (*sung by all*)

setting – William Mathias

The Breaking of the Bread

BCP 364

Celebrant Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;
People **Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.**

Today, as you come forward to receive the Eucharist please offer your commitment to the operating budget for 2027 by placing your pledge cards in the receiving plate. Thanks be to God!

Pledge so we can plan!

Any baptized person may receive Communion. Those who choose not to receive Communion may wish to receive a blessing, indicated by crossing one's arms over one's chest. Gluten free wafers are available by request.

Ushers will be in the center aisles. Movement is from the center aisle to the altar or Communion station to receive the bread and wine. Then return to your pew by way of the side aisle.

Music at Communion

Hymn 684 – O for a closer walk with God (*sung by all*)

Caithness

Hymn 596 – Judge eternal, throne in splendor (*sung by all*) *Komm, O komm, du Geist des Lebens*

Postcommunion Prayer

BCP 365

Blessing

Hymn in Procession 544 – Jesus shall reign where'er the sun

Duke Street

Dismissal

BCP 366

Minister Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Voluntary – Heraldings

Robert Hebble

**The flowers on the altar are given to the
Glory of God and in loving memory of**

James Keith, III
Laura Boswell Keith
Lowry Claiborne Stanford
William Sadler Pollard, Jr.

Assisting in our Worship Today

Preacher

The Rev. Deacon John I. Kennedy Jr., MD.

Celebrant

The Rev. Richard Ahlquist

Deacon

The Rev. Deacon Kaki O'Flinn

Assisting Clergy

The Rev. H. Huey Gardner

Musicians

The St. Mary's Choir

Dr. John T. Lowe, Jr. – *Director of Music and Organist*

Chalice Bearers

Cindy Wiley

Stan Bradley

Brooks Adams

Lay Readers

Hugh Rushing

Vivian Terry

Prayers of the People

Jordan DeMoss

Acolytes

Catherine Ellis Cain

Bennett DeMoss

Richmond Brown

Hollaway Craft

Ushers

Cheryl Brakefield

Ron Williamson

Alex Goldsmith

Tucker Brown

Greeters

Kyle Anderson

Betts Bryars

Altar Guild

Melissa Bailey

Mary Hubbard

Emily Rich

Judi Seitel

St. Mary's Flower Guild

VISITING ST. MARY'S?

Welcome! Please pick up a visitor packet from the table in the narthex. We also encourage you to fill out a Visitor Card (found on the back of the pew in front of you) and drop it in the offering plate. You can also scan the QR code to the right to complete the visitor card online. And please introduce yourself to one of the clergy after the service. Thank you so much for worshipping with us.



St. Mary's Building Access

Please keep the motor court beneath RMH open for drop-offs or for those needing access to the elevator. To reach the worship space without using stairs, enter Drennen House from the motor court or from 12th Avenue and take the elevator to level 3R.

Parking at St. Mary's

Monday-Saturday: Parking is available in four places.

- The motor court.
- The lot below the garden (Take steps to the garden and doors to Parish Office.)
- The lot on 12th Avenue behind Ramsay High School ("St. Mary's West Lot")
- Street parking

Sunday:

- **The motor court is reserved for handicapped parking SUNDAYS ONLY.**
- The small lot at the AT&T building- This lot is available on SUNDAYS ONLY.
- Street Parking on both sides of 12th Avenue

Please note:

- *The lot across 12th Avenue behind Mellow Mushroom is a private lot to which we do not have access. Violators will be towed.*
- *Make sure you have a parking decal on your car to avoid being towed from a St. Mary's lot. These are available in the Parish Office.*

Wheelchairs Available

Wheelchairs are available at the Parish Office reception desk, the entrance to Drennen House, and the connector. Please feel free to use them if needed.

City Action Partnership (CAPS) Service Available

CAPS is in the 5 Points South neighborhood. They are available to assist with dead batteries, locked cars, and the unhoused. Please feel free to call them for assistance or to report a concern: 205-251-0111.

Stewardship for 2027

Today is Stewardship Sunday

God uses the gifts we give Him in miraculous ways. Just as Jesus fed the 5000 from the modest resources His followers gave Him 2000 years ago, God multiplies the gifts we offer today into abundance. We see it at St. Mary's in so many ways. The church is so very grateful for your past generosity. Thank you for prayerfully discerning your gifts to St. Mary's for 2027

- You are invited to bring your completed pledge card with you as you come forward for communion and drop it in the receiving plate at the foot of the chancel steps.
- You may also pledge online at <https://www.stmarysoth.org/online-pledge-card> or by scanning the QR code to the right.



~George Newton, Stewardship Chair



PARISH EVENTS

Scan this code for quick, easy access to our website's EVENTS PAGE to view all event details, registration info, and links.

Parish Fellowship Breakfast and Adult Christian Education

- **Parish Fellowship Breakfast: 8:45 to 9:25 AM in Randolph Memorial Hall.** Join us in RMH for delicious food and even better company! Suggested donation: \$5 per person ages 6+ / \$20 family max.
- **Christian Education: 9:30 to 10:15 AM**
 - **Adult Forum in Randolph Memorial Hall**
 - **October 18: Stewardship Sunday Speaker Chris Nanni, President of the Community Foundation**
 - **October 25: Alex Kirk, Ph.D. Assistant Professor of Divinity at Beeson Divinity School: *Humility before Honor-Rethinking the Fear of the LORD in Proverbs***
Most bible readers know that “the fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom” (Prov 1:7), but how does the relationship between these ideas work out? In this session, we’ll look at Ezekiel 28 to think about what wisdom looks like without the fear of the LORD. Then we’ll return to Proverbs to get a clearer picture of the nature of true wisdom.
 - **“Open Reunion” Coffee Hour in Room 307** If fellowship is what you're seeking on Sunday morning, join the gathering in Room 307.

Young Professionals Gathering *For the 20-somethings of St. Mary's* **TODAY! / 3:00-4:00 PM / Back Forty**

St. Mary's invites all 20-somethings to connect at Back Forty. We are bringing this group together to find ways to welcome young professionals into the parish family—those who are new to us and those who grew up here and are returning as adults. Please contact James Hoyt with any questions (205-305-8278).

Wednesday Evening Series for Young Parents Wednesdays through October 21 5:30 PM in Randolph Memorial Hall

Our series continues for two more Wednesday evenings. Dinner for parents and children is served in RMH starting at 5:30 PM, and child care will be available during the class from 6:00 to 7:00 PM.

Huey and Irene Gardner will be our speakers on October 14, and we will conclude with renowned area psychologist Dr. Dale Wisely on October 21. **Register at www.stmarysoth.org/events.**

Baptism Banner Making Session
Tuesday, October 27 / 11:45 AM-1:00 PM
Randolph Memorial Hall

Join us for lunch and banner making. We will cut out letters and shapes for baptism banners and enjoy fellowship! We will provide all materials and lunch. RSVP to Katie Dewees at 205-881-0704 or katie@stmarysoth.org.

The Feast of All Saints, November 1
10:30 AM Worship

Voluntary begins at 10:20 AM.

Holy Eucharist begins at 10:30 AM, featuring movements of Bradley Ellingboe's "Requiem" with the St. Mary's Choir and chamber orchestra. *The 8AM and 5PM services will occur as regularly scheduled.*

Club 456 Reverse Trick or Treat
Sunday, November 1 / 4:30-6:00 PM / Horizons School

All 4th, 5th, and 6th graders are invited! Wear a costume and bring any leftover Halloween candy. We will have pizza afterward! RSVP to Katie Dewees at katie@stmarysoth.org.

Road Runners November Trip
Thursday, November 12 / 8:50 AM - 3:00 PM
SIGN UP IS NOW OPEN!

For our next outing, we are headed back to tour more of the beautiful, historic Birmingham churches. We will depart by bus from St. Mary's at 8:50 AM. Here are the details:

- First stop: Temple Emmanuel sanctuary tour that was unavailable at last visit.
- Independent Presbyterian Church
- First Methodist Church
- Lunch at Edgar's at noon
- The Cathedral Church of the Advent
- Sixteenth Street Baptist Church
- Return to St. Mary's at 3:00 pm

Cost: \$30 pp. Prepayment is required. No refunds, but scholarships are available. We are capped at 30 people, so don't delay! Register and pay online at www.stmarysoth.org. If you do not have access to the internet, please call Melodie Elam at 205-881-1261 to sign up. Please call Jim Park (205-516-5091) with questions.

Rector's Bible Studies

- **Men's Study: Tuesdays at 7:10 AM in Room 309**
- **Women's Study: Wednesdays at 10:10 AM in Randolph Memorial Hall**

This fall both groups are studying several psalms and their historical community roles. Both are available via Microsoft Team. Contact Melodie Elam to be added to the email list (melodie@stmarysoth.org).

Devoted Study Group
Tuesdays / 9:15 AM-11:00 AM / Room 307

We are discussing Priscilla Shirer's *Faith and Fire: Elijah* as our opening 7-week study. Any questions, please contact Kaki at kaki@stmarysoth.org.

Loving Well Support Meeting
First & Third Tuesdays / 2:00 PM / Chapel

If you find yourself in a new season in life in which you need encouragement, comfort, and community support, please consider the *Loving Well* offering- a confidential, God- centered tool for wherever you are as a caregiver. **We meet next on Tuesday, October 20.** All are welcome. Contact Kaki O'Flinn at kaki@stmarysoth.org for more information.

New "Hope and Healing" Group
First & Third Wednesdays / 12:05 PM / Living Room

Are you facing an illness and don't know who to talk to? Do you need someone to listen to you? Our confidential *Hope & Healing Group* can be the Spiritual Support Community you need! **We meet next on Wednesday, October 21.** Facilitated by Kaki O'Flinn and Caroline Adams.

Diocesan ECW Fall Conference
October 23-24

The Alabama ECW Fall Conference "Welcome Home" will be held at the Church of the Epiphany in Guntersville from the evening of Friday, October 23 through Saturday, October 24 at noon. Bishop Richard Lawson will be the speaker. If you are interested, please visit www.alabamaecw.org/events for more information and to register.

Vestry Election and Annual Parish Meeting
SAVE THE DATE!

Sunday, November 22 / 9:15 AM / Randolph Memorial Hall

At this gathering, various reports will be presented, and other important business will be conducted, including a vote on the slate of parishioners to serve a 3-year term (2027-2029) on our Vestry. The slate will be announced within the next week.

ONGOING ANNOUNCEMENTS

Morning Prayer
Monday-Friday / 8:40 AM / Church

All are welcome to join us for this lay-led daily office. Enter Drennen House via the motor court door and take the elevator to Level 3R.

Centering Prayer
Tuesdays / 11:30 AM / Chapel

Centering Prayer is an ancient Christian form of silent prayer that is ideal for both corporate and private worship. Our group meets in-person and via Zoom. For Zoom: meeting ID is 3891069314; password is Prayer.

Opportunities to Serve

- **GED Lunch Volunteers:** St. Mary's GED program needs lunch and snack volunteers! This is a fun, easy, and flexible way to serve an amazing and growing ministry. For more information or to sign up, contact Allison Manley at 205-266-1199 or).
- **Seeking Encouragers for Horizons School Students!** Individuals and families are invited to become Encouragers for our neighbors at Horizons School. Volunteers serve as resources and cheerleaders for the student, staying in touch and enjoying activities together throughout the year. **For more information or to sign up, please contact Monica Sargent at monica@stmarysoth.org.**
- **Highlands United Methodist Church Breakfast Ministry** St. Mary's provides volunteers on **Thursdays, 8:30-10:00 AM**. Questions? Contact Monica Sargent (205-913-4689 or monica@stmarysoth.org). To volunteer, please visit www.stmarysoth.org/outreach.

Pastoral Care Ministries

- **Hospital Visits:** If you would like to specifically request a visit from the clergy or Pastoral Care Team member, please contact Kaki O'Flinn.
 - **Home Communion:** If you or someone you know is unable to worship in person and would like to receive a home communion visit, please get in touch with The Rev. Deacon Kaki O'Flinn at kaki@stmarysoth.org or 205-881-1532.
 - **Men's Service Ministry:** This volunteer group provides in-home services to parishioners who are unable to perform tasks such as hanging framed items or relocating furniture. This also includes small hand-tool repairs. **Please direct requests for assistance to Meade Whitaker at mwhitaker@bradley.com or (205) 521-8261.**
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PRAYERS FOR OUR PARISH

You may email prayer requests to cissy@stmarysoth.org or call (205) 933-1140.

In an effort to stay current, names will be kept on the list for a month after the date given. If you wish to continue beyond that, please contact us.

For those who await the birth or adoption of a child:

Charles and Olivia Lewis, Jackie and Will Hollingsworth, Sullins and Elliott Oslund

Please pray for our parishioners and staff:

John, Ann, Margaret, Bill, Mike, Jean, Mary, Debby, Larry, Pride, Teal, Evie

For our families, friends, and neighbors:

Nancy, Lucy, Haley, Madison, Tommy, Libba, Donna, Trudy, Anne, Hannah, Jodi, Dick,
Dianne

For those who are grieving:

Family of Lee McGehee Porter, III, Family of Glenn Badham, Family of Larry Clark

For those who experience ongoing challenges:

Patty, Judy, Patrick, Todd, Norma, Carley, Betty, Bart, Natalie, Linda M., Emily, Chuck

And for those serving in the Armed Forces:

Alex, Brian, Steven, Daniel, Marjory, Jack, Jesse, Richard, Jonah, Robert, John, Isabelle,
Frank, Emilio, Truitt, Gilbert

ST. MARY'S ON THE HIGHLANDS EPISCOPAL CHURCH

1910 12th Avenue South, Birmingham, Alabama 35205

205-933-1140 / www.stmarysoth.org

CLERGY

The Rev. H. Huey Gardner, Rector

The Rev. Richard Ahlquist, Associate Rector

The Rev. Deacon Kaki O'Flinn/Pastoral Care

The Rev. Deacon John I. Kennedy Jr., MD./Episcopal DIOALA Chaplain to UAB Medical Center

RETIRED CLERGY

The Rev. Grady Richardson

The Rev. Gates Shaw

Retired clergy who worship and occasionally serve at St. Mary's

LAY STAFF

Emily Ball – *Asst. Children's Minister*

Katie Dewees – *Children's Minister*

Melodie Elam – *Director of Communications and
Hospitality Ministries*

Jessica Hall – *Youth and Young Adult Minister*

Cissy Hartz – *Ministries Coordinator*

Dr. John T. Lowe, Jr. – *Director of Music and
Organist*

Anne Morgan – *Asst. Children's Minister*

Evan Pezant – *Asst. Youth Minister*

Rhea Pelekis – *Director of Finance*

Monica Sargent – *Outreach Ministries*

Blair Trotter – *Technical Support*

Matt Watson – *Facilities Manager*

Cindy Wiley – *Parish Engagement/Spirituality
Ministries*

VESTRY

Cheryl Brakefield – *Sr. Warden*

George Newton – *Jr. Warden*

Lora Blalock

David Cain

Gordon Martin

Clayton Trotter

Camille Epps

Emily Holmes

Jeanie MacKenzie

Larry Sedar

Brooks Adams

Bert Amason – *Clerk*

Stuart Beale

Kelly Seibels

Elizabeth Wyatt

Bentley Sloan – *Treasurer*

Patrick Toomey – *Asst. Treasurer*

Meade Whitaker – *Legal Counsel*



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