



ST. MARY'S
ON THE HIGHLANDS
BIRMINGHAM, ALABAMA

October 26, 2025

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 Twentieth 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*, located in the pew rack in front of you.

Children are welcome in worship! Nursery is available for children younger than 3K. children 3K-Kindergarten begin the service in Kids' Word. Children 1st-3rd grade follow the crucifer to Children's Chapel after the Gospel reading. All children 3K-6th grade 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 – Prière à Notre Dame (Suite Gothique, op. 25)

Léon Boëllmann

Hymn in Procession 665 – All my hope on God is founded

Michael

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 235

Almighty and everlasting God, increase in us the gifts of faith, hope, and charity; and, that we may obtain what you promise, make us love what you command; 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

Sirach 35:12-17

Give to the Most High as he has given to you, and as generously as you can afford. For the Lord is the one who repays, and he will repay you sevenfold. Do not offer him a bribe, for he will not accept it and do not rely on a dishonest sacrifice; for the Lord is the judge, and with him there is no partiality. He will not show partiality to the poor; but he will listen to the prayer of one who is wronged. He will not ignore the supplication of the orphan, or the widow when she pours out her complaint.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

- 1 How dear to me is your dwelling, O LORD of hosts! *
My soul has a desire and longing for the courts of the LORD;
my heart and my flesh rejoice in the living God.
- 2 The sparrow has found her a house
and the swallow a nest where she may lay her young; *
by the side of your altars, O LORD of hosts,
my King and my God.
- 3 Happy are they who dwell in your house! *
they will always be praising you.
- 4 Happy are the people whose strength is in you! *
whose hearts are set on the pilgrims' way.
- 5 Those who go through the desolate valley will find it a place of springs, *
for the early rains have covered it with pools of water.
- 6 They will climb from height to height, *
and the God of gods will reveal himself in Zion.

The Second Lesson

2 Timothy 4:6-8, 16-18

I am already being poured out as a libation, and the time of my departure has come. I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. From now on there is reserved for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, will give me on that day, and not only to me but also to all who have longed for his appearing. At my first defense no one came to my support, but all deserted me. May it not be counted against them! But the Lord stood by me and gave me strength, so that through me the message might be fully proclaimed and all the Gentiles might hear it. So I was rescued from the lion's mouth. The Lord will rescue me from every evil attack and save me for his heavenly kingdom. To him be the glory forever and ever. Amen.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Sequence Hymn 555 – Lead on, O King eternal

Lancashire

The Gospel

Luke 18:9-14

Deacon The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke.

People **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

Jesus told this parable to some who trusted in themselves that they were righteous and regarded others with contempt: "Two men went up to the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. The Pharisee, standing by himself, was praying thus, 'God, I thank you that I am not like other people: thieves, rogues, adulterers, or even like this tax collector. I fast twice a week; I give a tenth of all my income.' But the tax collector, standing far off, would not even look up to heaven, but was beating his breast and saying, 'God, be merciful to me, a sinner!' I tell you, this man went down to his home justified rather than the other; for all who exalt themselves will be humbled, but all who humble themselves will be exalted."

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

Children 1st-3rd grade follow the crucifer to Children's Chapel

The Sermon The Rev. Deacon Kaki O'Flinn

The Nicene Creed *(standing)* BCP 358

The Prayers of the People *(standing)* BCP 387

Prayer for the Election of the Bishop of Alabama *(Celebrant and People)*

Almighty God, giver of every good gift: Look graciously on your Church, and so guide the minds of those who shall choose a Bishop for The Diocese of Alabama, that we may receive a faithful pastor who will preach the Gospel, care for your people, equip us for ministry, and lead us forth in fulfillment of the Great Commission; through Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen.

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 Offertory

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/

At the Presentation – Hymn 380 (*stanza 3 is 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.

Sanctus – S128 setting – William Mathias

Agnus Dei – **S165** setting – William Mathias

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 301 – Bread of the world, in mercy broken (<i>sung by all</i>)	<i>Rendez à Dieu</i>
Hymn 314 – Humbly I adore thee, Verity unseen (<i>sung by all</i>)	<i>Adoro devote</i>

Postcommunion Prayer BCP 365

Blessing

Hymn in Procession 680 – O God, our help in ages past *St. Anne*

Dismissal BCP 366

Minister Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Voluntary – Toccata (Suite Gothique, op. 25)

Léon Boëllmann

The Flowers on the Altar are given to
The Glory of God and in Loving Memory of

William Ransom Johnson Dunn

Lucy Durr Dunn

Beverley White Dunn

Mary Cobbs Dunn

William Ransom Johnson Dunn, Jr.

William Ransom Johnson Dunn, III

And

Peyton Dandridge Bibb

Hulda McNeel Bibb

Assisting in our Worship Today

Preacher

The Rev. Deacon Kaki O'Flinn

Celebrant

The Rev. Cameron Nations

Assisting Clergy

The Rev. H. Huey Gardner

The Rev. Richard Ahlquist

Deacon

The Rev. John Kennedy

Musicians

The St. Mary's Choir

Trevor Kahlbaugh – *guest organist*

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

Assisting in Worship

Fred Blackmon

Chalice Bearers

Dean Nix
Skip Dorlon

Phil Black

Lay Readers

Sharon Whatley

Emily Rushing

Prayers of the People

Hud Heaton

Ushers

Atkins Roberts
David Martin

Kyle Anderson
Blair Badham

Acolytes

Fred Blackmon, III
Crawford Badham

Anderson Roberts
Charles Lichty

Greeters

Susanne Esdale

Larry Sedar

Altar Guild

Douglas Thompson
Vicki McGehee
Cora Causey

Beverly Kellen
Cler Watkins

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 2026

The Joyful Discipline of Giving

Thank you to everyone who has generously committed their support for 2026! Whether you have been pledging faithfully for years or are considering your commitment for the very first time, please know that your offering matters greatly. Your generosity reflects where you hope your heart will be—rooted in gratitude, shaped by faith, and overflowing with joy. **Reminder: You may also pledge online at <https://www.stmarysoth.org/online-pledge-card>** or by scanning the QR code to the right. *~Cheryl Brakefield, Stewardship Chair*



Pledge Online

Campaign Update

As of 10/21/2025:

Pledge cards mailed: 605

Pledges received: 129

Total Amount Pledged: \$1,322,636

Online: 42

New: 6 (for \$35,300)

unchanged: 66 (for \$614,740)

increased: 50 (by \$99,235)

decreased: 7 (by \$7,500)

Pending: 168 (for \$1,141,906)

This pending number references pledges we received for 2025 but have not yet received for 2026.



PARISH EVENTS

*Scan this code for quick, easy access to the **EVENTS PAGE** of our website to see all event info and registrations!*

Parish Fellowship Breakfasts

Sunday Mornings / 8:45 to 9:25 AM / Randolph Memorial Hall

On any Sunday with Christian Education, we also offer a hot breakfast. Join us in RMH for delicious food and even better company! Suggested donation: \$5 per person ages 6+ / \$20 family max.

Adult Christian Education

Sunday Mornings / 9:30 AM to 10:15 AM

This fall, we offer two excellent opportunities for learning, study, and fellowship!

- **TODAY! Special Guest the Rev. Cameron Nations in Randolph Memorial Hall**
“Called: A Short Course on Finding God’s Purpose for Your Life” Everyone longs to live a life of consequence—a life brimming with meaning and purpose. Yet often we get caught up in the day-to-day and don’t take the time to listen, discern, and respond to the things that will make a difference. Join us as we explore how to identify God’s specific call on your life and how it relates to the universal call of every Christian.
- **Hidden Treasures: The Parables of Jesus**
Led by Dave Dresher, Micki Haralson, David Cain, and Cheryl Brakefield in the Living Room, through November 16. These short and simple stories contain limitless wisdom that grows with each encounter. Come prepared to hear these stories with fresh ears and uncover what hides below the surface.

Weekly Study Gatherings

- **Devoted Small Group for Women: Tuesdays, 9:15-10:30 AM / Room 307** This gathering involves group discussion, not a lecture. We explore scripture, devotionals, and Christian literature. Currently, we are doing a 6-week study of Priscilla Shirer’s *Voice of God*. All are welcome! We invite you to drop in and experience it yourself. Questions? Contact Kaki O’Flinn at kaki@stmarysoth.org or 05-305-1514.
- **“The Chosen” Viewing and Discussion: Thursdays, 10:15 AM-Noon / Living Room**
Watch the latest season of “The Chosen” followed by a discussion facilitated by Kaki O’Flinn.
- **Rector’s Bible Studies:** This fall, we are exploring several writings of Paul.
 - **The Men’s Study: Tuesdays** at 7:10 AM in Room 309.
 - **The Women’s Study: Wednesdays** at 10:10 AM in Randolph Memorial Hall.
 - Both are offered via Microsoft Teams. Email Melodie Elam to be added to the distribution list for study notes and Teams link (melodie@stmarysoth.org.)

Newcomers Drop-in Reception

Sunday, November 2 / 11:30 AM / Living Room

Are you new to St. Mary’s?? To help you get connected, we’re hosting a New Member Drop-In Reception, and we’d love for you to join us. **It’s a casual, come-and-go gathering** — a chance to meet other parishioners, chat with staff, and learn about ways to get involved here at St. Mary’s. We’ll have light refreshments and plenty of friendly faces.

“Road Runners” Parish Road Trip to Cullman!

Tuesday, November 4 / Meet at 9:00 AM / Motor Court

The Parish Engagement team and the newly created group, the “Road Runners,” have planned a day trip to the Cullman area on November 4. **All are invited!** We will meet in the motor court at 9:00 AM and leave by carpool shortly afterward.

Sign up on the Events page or scan the QR code.



- **First Stop: The Ave Maria Grotto.** It's a fascinating place! Admission is \$10, and a walk-through can last as long as you wish, but about an hour at most.
- **Lunch:** Meet for lunch at **LawLer's BBQ** (5781 Hwy 157) around 11:30. (Please note that everyone will be responsible for their own meal.)
- **After lunch:** We'll head to Hanceville and the **Shrine of the Most Blessed Sacrament**, a Catholic shrine in rural Alabama. There's no charge to visit this cathedral.
- You will likely be home before 3:00.

Please call Jim Park at 205-516-5091 with any questions. We hope to sponsor 2-3 day trips each year, so there will be more opportunities to join the fun!

A Service of COMPLINE

sung by the Gentlemen of the Choir

Sunday, November 9 / 6:00 PM (following the 5:00 service)

The Office of Compline (Night Prayer) is the final service of the day, placing its emphasis on spiritual peace. The half-hour liturgy consists of plainsong chant and anthems, sung by candlelight, presented by members of the St. Mary's Choir. If you have not experienced this beautiful and peaceful service, plan to attend and invite some friends.

Junior Creative Arts Ministry

Sunday, November 9/ 3:30-5:00 PM

All 4th, 5th, and 6th-grade girls are invited to come to create a mixed media angel painting on canvas. Register on the Events page of our website.

St. Mary's November Book Club

Tuesday, November 11 / Noon / Living Room

Join us for our next book club discussion as we dive into **Ocean Vuong's latest novel, *The Emperor of Gladness***. This is a beautifully written, moving book about love, loss, and finding light in unexpected places. Bring your lunch; we will have drinks and desserts.

Club 456 Burgers & Breakout

Tuesday, November 11 / Noon-2:00 PM / Randolph Memorial Hall

All youth in grades 4-6 are invited to enjoy lunch then join a team to solve the breakout box game and learn more about “Are you my neighbor?” **RSVP to katie@stmarysoth.org.**

Daughters of the King “Friendsgiving”

Thursday, November 13 / 11:00 AM / Living Room

Everyone is invited to the DOK Friendsgiving Feast! Please drop by to be nourished, celebrated, and thanked for who you are! **We will provide food and drinks.** Just bring yourself and a friend or loved one. **If you plan to attend, please text DeAnna Fields at 205-790-8714 so we can get an**

accurate headcount. Questions? Contact Debbie Drescher at debbie.drescher@gmail.com or Kaki O'Flinn at kaki@stmarysoth.org.

2024 Annual Parish Meeting & Vestry Election
Sunday, November 23 / 9:15 AM / Randolph Memorial Hall

At this gathering, various reports will be provided, and other important business will be conducted, including the vote on the slate of parishioners to serve a 3-year term (2025-2027) on our Vestry.

Pursuant to the Bylaws of our Parish, the Nominating Committee has proposed the following for election to Vestry for a term beginning in 2026:

Brooks Adams Bert Amason
Stuart Beale Kelly Seibels
Elizabeth Wyatt

For more information about these individuals, please pick up a candidate bio flier or visit our website at www.stmarysoth.org.

ONGOING ANNOUNCEMENTS

Weekday 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. On the first Thursday of the month, members of our choir lead a sung service of Morning Prayer.

Clothing Collections

- Our community ministry partner, Highlands United Methodist Church, manages a clothing closet for our neighborhood friends in need. **We are collecting the items listed below to support this ministry:** *All donations can be left in the St. Mary's Outreach office.*
 - Gently used men's and women's clothing (such as t-shirts, tops, sweatshirts, jackets, belts, and pants)
 - Gently used men's and women's tennis shoes
 - New men's and women's underwear and socks
- **Winterwear Collection:** We are collecting **new or gently used coats, hats, and gloves** for Grace Episcopal Church to distribute to the Woodlawn community. Please bring donations to the Outreach office.

Opportunities to Serve

- **GED Food 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 to help, please contact Allison Manley at 205-266-1199 or Allison.manley@gmail.com.
- **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.

Glen Iris Christmas Bag Packing Project

We are partnering again with The Advent and St. Luke's to support Glen Iris Elementary students during Christmas. **We are currently asking for funds to buy food for the bags. Scan the QR code to donate online or send a check to St. Mary's with "Glen Iris bag packing" in the memo.** We will pack bags on Saturday, December 13, 1:00-3:00 PM at Randolph Memorial Hall.



Pastoral Care Ministries

- **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.
 - **Hospital Visits:** If you would like to specifically request a visit from the clergy or Pastoral Care Team member, please contact Kaki O'Flinn.
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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, Evalyn and Hampton McFadden, Maggie and Henry Morris,
Katherine and Jamie Justice

Please pray for our parishioners and staff:

John, Ann, Jean, Margaret, Bill, Linda, John, Jean, Carolyn, Pat, Andrew, Gavin

For our families, friends, and neighbors:

Bill, Jennifer, Donna, Sarah, William

For those who are grieving:

Family of Tommy Tucker, Family of Denise Dow, Family of Paul Hartz

For those who experience ongoing challenges:

Linda, Sue, Patty, Sherry, Judy, Patrick, Todd, Norma, Carley, Andy, Betty, Bart, Natalie

And for those serving in the Armed Forces:

Alex, Brian, Steven, Daniel, Marjory, Jack, Jesse, Richard, Jonah, Robert, John, Isabelle

ST. MARY'S ON THE HIGHLANDS EPISCOPAL CHURCH

1910 12th Avenue South, Birmingham, Alabama 35205

205-933-1140 / www.stmarysoth.org

CLERGY

The Reverend H. Huey Gardner, Rector

The Reverend Richard Ahlquist, Associate Rector

The Reverend Deacon Kaki O'Flinn, Deacon / Pastoral Care

The Reverend Grady Richardson, Associate Clergy

The Reverend Gates Shaw, Associate Clergy

LAY STAFF

John Bryant – *Facilities Assistant*

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*

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

Clint Thompson – *Sr. Warden*

Cheryl Brakefield – *Jr. Warden*

Kathy Clayton

Meg Krawczyk

Clay McCollum

Dean Nix

Lora Blalock

David Cain

Gordon Martin

Clayton Trotter

Camille Epps

Emily Holmes – *Clerk*

Jeanie MacKenzie

George Newton

Larry Sedar

Michael Schilleci – *Treasurer*

Bentley Sloan – *Asst. Treasurer*

Meade Whitaker – *Legal Counsel*



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