



S T. MARY'S
ON THE HIGHLANDS
BIRMINGHAM, ALABAMA

February 1, 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 Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany. In the weeks that follow our Epiphany celebrations of the Visitation of the Magi and Jesus' Baptism in the Jordan River, we continue to explore, in word and song, how Christ revealed himself as Lord to his disciples. Likewise, during this stretch of Ordinary Time between the Season of Nativity and the Lenten Season, the Church invites us to explore how, in our midst of our daily lives, Christ reveals himself to 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.

Be present, be present, O Jesus, our great High Priest, as you were present with your disciples, and be known to us in the breaking of bread; who live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, now and for ever. Amen.

— The Book of Common Prayer, 834

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” *Psalm 46:11*

Voluntary –

Maestoso/Andante sostenuto (Kleine Präludien und Intermezzi)

Hermann Schroeder

Hymn in Procession 477 – All praise to thee, for thou, O King divine

Engelberg

THE WORD OF GOD

Celebrant Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

People **And blessed be his kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.**

The Collect for Purity

BCP 355

Gloria in excelsis **S278**

setting – William Mathias

The Celebrant says to the people

The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Celebrant Let us pray.

The Collect of the Day

BCP 215

Almighty and everlasting God, you govern all things both in heaven and on earth: Mercifully hear the supplications of your people, and in our time grant us your peace; 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

Micah 6:1-8

Hear what the LORD says: Rise, plead your case before the mountains, and let the hills hear your voice. Hear, you mountains, the controversy of the LORD, and you enduring foundations of the earth; for the LORD has a controversy with his people, and he will contend with Israel. “O my people, what have I done to you? In what have I wearied you? Answer me! For I brought you up from the land of Egypt, and redeemed you from the house of slavery; and I sent before you Moses, Aaron, and Miriam. O my people, remember now what King Balak of Moab devised, what Balaam son of Beor answered him, and what happened from Shittim to Gilgal, that you may know the saving acts of the LORD.” “With what shall I come before the LORD, and bow myself before God on high? Shall I come before him with burnt-offerings, with calves a year old? Will the LORD be pleased with thousands of rams, with tens of thousands of rivers of oil? Shall

I give my firstborn for my transgression, the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul?" He has told you, O mortal, what is good; and what does the LORD require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?

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

Psalm 15 (*sung by the choir*)

chant – Richard H. Pinwill Coleman

1 LORD, who may dwell in your tabernacle? *
 who may abide upon your holy hill?
2 Whoever leads a blameless life and does what is right, *
 who speaks the truth from his heart.
3 There is no guile upon his tongue;
 he does no evil to his friend; *
 he does not heap contempt upon his neighbor.
4 In his sight the wicked is rejected, *
 but he honors those who fear the LORD.
5 He has sworn to do no wrong *
 and does not take back his word.
6 He does not give his money in hope of gain, *
 nor does he take a bribe against the innocent.
7 Whoever does these things *
 shall never be overthrown.

The Second Lesson

1 Corinthians 1:18-31

The message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. For it is written, "I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart." Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, God decided, through the foolishness of our proclamation, to save those who believe. For Jews demand signs and Greeks desire wisdom, but we proclaim Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, but to those who are the called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. For God's foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and God's weakness is stronger than human strength. Consider your own call, brothers and sisters: not many of you were wise by human standards, not many were powerful, not many were of noble birth. But God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong; God chose what is low and despised in the world, things that are not, to reduce to nothing things that are, so that no one might boast in the presence of

God. He is the source of your life in Christ Jesus, who became for us wisdom from God, and righteousness and sanctification and redemption, in order that, as it is written, “Let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord.”

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

Sequence Hymn 160 – Cross of Jesus, cross of sorrow

Cross of Jesus

The Gospel

Matthew 5:1-12

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

When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain; and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. Then he began to speak, and taught them, saying: “Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. “Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted. “Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth. “Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled. “Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy. “Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God. “Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God. “Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness’ sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. “Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.”

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

Children ages 1st-3rd grades follow the crucifer to Children's Chapel.

The Sermon

The Rev. H. Huey Gardner

The Nicene Creed (*standing*)

BCP 358

The Prayers of the People (*standing*)

BCP 387

Confession of Sin (*kneeling*)

BCP 360

The Peace (*standing*)

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/

At the Offertory – Listen, sweet dove setting – Grayston Ives
Listen sweet dove unto my song, and spread thy golden wings in me; hatching my tender heart so long, till it get wing and flie away with thee. Such gifts thou didst bestow the earth did like a heav'n appeare, the stares were coming down to know if they might mend their wages and serve here. The sunne which once did shine alone, hung down his head and wisht for night, when he beheld twelve sunnes for one going about the world and giving light. Lord though we change thou art the same sweet God of love and light: restore this day for thy great name, unto his ancient and miraculous right. George Herbert

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 setting - William Mathias

The Breaking of the Bread BCP 364

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.

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.

Ushers will be in the center aisles.

Music during Communion

Hymn 656 – Blest are the pure in heart (*sung by all*)

Franconia

Hymn 593 – Lord, make us servants of your peace (*sung by all*)

Dickinson College

Postcommunion Prayer

BCP 365

Blessing

May Christ, the Son of God, be manifest in you, that your lives may be a light to the world; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you, and remain with you always. Amen.

Hymn in Procession 542 – Christ is the world's true light

St. Joan

Dismissal

BCP 366

Minister Let us go forth in the name of Christ.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Voluntary – Poco vivace (Kleine Präludien und Intermezzi)

Hermann Schroeder

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

Madelyn Burdick Olson

ASSISTING IN OUR WORSHIP TODAY

Preacher

The Rev. H. Huey Gardner

Celebrant

The Rev. Richard Ahlquist

Deacon

The Rev. Kaki O'Flinn

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

Musicians

The St. Mary's Choir

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

Assisting in Worship

Pam Stone

Chalice Bearers

Hugh Rushing

Melissa Bailey

Jim Park

Lay Readers

Dale Stone

Jennifer Dewees

Prayers of the People

Stacy Moon

Acolytes

Frances McCalley

Alex Wahl

Bibb Wahl

Ushers

Brian Wahl

Greg Ellis

Crawford Badham

Blair Badham

Greeters

Margaret Ellis

Melodie Elam

Altar Guild

Jennifer Dewees

Judi Seitel

Phyllis Pelham

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 worshiping 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! We look forward to a great year as we continue our journey of faith together.

~Cheryl Brakefield, Stewardship Chair

PARISH EVENTS



Events Page

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

St. Mary's Mercado Benefiting Amistad Mission (Bolivia) TODAY!!!/ 8:30 AM-12:30 PM / Randolph Memorial Hall

We will have food items, crafts, art, gift items, and more! PLUS a fabulous silent auction! The Mercado will open at 8:30 AM in RMH; come browse while you enjoy breakfast. We will stay open until 12:30 PM or until we sell out.

Parish Fellowship Breakfast 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

- **Adult Forum in Randolph Memorial Hall**
 - **February 1 and 15:** Jeff Leonard, Professor of Biblical Studies at Samford University, joins us to discuss two themes from his latest book *Seekers in the Hands of an Elusive God*: "The Bible's Elusive God" (February 1) and "Seeking an Elusive God" (February 15).
 - **February 8:** Bevelle Worthen will lead us through the concept of "Radical Grace." Her passion for this growing theology seeking to understand the fullness of God's grace is inspiring. Bevelle has found many helpful resources including preachers and thinkers who can help us all continue this conversation beyond the class itself.
- **Bible Study Discussion in Room 309**
 - **Through February 15:** A four-part series on "Women of the Bible" Jennifer Dewees, Emily Yancey and Micki Haralson are surveying important, but historically overlooked, characters in the Bible: women! Join them as they study the women whose stories reveal God's purposes in unexpected ways. We will study the texts themselves, how the women of the Bible have been depicted in art, and how these women have been remembered and interpreted over time.

Weekly Study Gatherings

- **Rector's Bible Studies:**
 - **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).
- **Devoted Small Group for Women:** Tuesdays, 9:15-10:30 AM in Room 307 This gathering involves group discussion, not a lecture, and is open to all! We explore scripture, devotionals, and Christian literature. Please drop in and experience it yourself. Questions? Contact Kaki O'Flinn at kaki@stmarysoth.org or 205-305-1514.

- **NEW Bible & Book Study for Women!! Tuesday beginning February 3, 1:00-2:00 PM in the Level 3 Atrium** This will be a discussion-based gathering. We'll begin with a study of *Liturgy of the Ordinary* by Tish Harrison Warren. Copies are available for purchase on the table outside of Randolph Memorial Hall. Questions? Contact Katie Dewees: katie@stmarysoth.org.

Women of the Church Lunch Monday, February 2 / 11:30 AM / Randolph Memorial Hall

Join Women of the Church for lunch and fellowship and to hear a presentation by **the Rev. Jayne C. Pool**. Check with Pam Stone for last-minute availability (205-612-3773 or pamelalstone@aol.com). \$10 per person for lunch from Taziki's served by the Daughters of the King. Please take your seats early!

EYC Super-Bowling! Sunday, February 8 / 1:00-2:30 PM / Vestavia Bowl

St. Luke's, All Saints', and St. Mary's youth are going bowling before the Super Bowl! We have lanes reserved from 1:00-2:30 PM at Vestavia Bowl. **We will cover the bowling and shoe fees; please bring money for snacks and arcade games if you would like.**

“Road Runners” Road Trip Around Birmingham! Thursday, February 12 / Meet at 9:00 AM / Motor Court

The second “Road Runners” trip will be a local one as we visit several of Birmingham’s historical houses of worship. **All are invited!** We will meet in the motor court at 9:00 AM and leave by chartered bus afterward. **Scan the QR code at the top of the announcements to visit the Events page and sign up.**

- **Morning Stops:** Downtown churches the Cathedral of St. Paul (Roman Catholic, First Presbyterian, and Holy Trinity + Holy Cross Greek Orthodox Cathedral).
- **Lunch:** We head back to St. Mary’s for a catered lunch in Randolph Memorial Hall.
- **After lunch:** Walk or ride the bus to South Highlands Presbyterian and Temple Emanu-El.
- **Cost:** To cover the expense of the bus rental and lunch, we ask \$30 pp in advance. No refunds, but scholarships are available!. We are capped at 30 people, so don’t delay!
- **If you do not have access to the internet**, you may call Melodie Elam to register (205-881-1261). Please call Jim Park (205-516-5091) with any other questions.

Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper & Old Fashioned Hymn Sing February 17 / 5:30 PM / Randolph Memorial Hall

The *Music at St. Mary's* series continues with a Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper & Old-Fashioned Hymn Sing! The evening features dinner (pancakes/sausage, red beans/rice, and beverages), and a hymn sing with two pianos. **Scan the QR code to make your reservation** and be sure to include your hymn requests. (We will honor as many as time permits.) Suggested dinner donation: \$20/person or \$45/family max. Proceeds benefit the St. Mary's Choir Wells Cathedral (UK) Residency in July.



**Who Knew? Seeking a spiritual discipline for a richer Lent
Thursday, February 19 / 12:30-2:00 PM / Living Room**

Join us as we take our first steps into a richer Lent. The mood will be quiet as we explore a variety of spiritual practices together, activities that invite us into closer company with Jesus. Kaki O’Flinn, Emily Rushing, and others will be our guides as we consider journaling, breath prayer, rule of life and other practices.

**St. Mary’s Book Club
Thursday, February 26 / Noon / Living Room**

This month, Sharon Whatley will lead us in a discussion about the book ***The Names*** by Florence Napp, a moving novel about identity, family, and the deep meaning hidden in the names we are given. See you there!

Registration for Children’s Ministries Summer Events

- **Created for a Purpose: July 20-24** Rising 3rd-8th grade girls are invited to join us for a week of creativity, fellowship, and the truths of the Gospel! Registration opens for St. Mary’s parishioners on **Monday, February 9 at 9:00 am**. Please take advantage of this window before registration opens for the general public on February 16. This camp fills quickly, so mark your calendars for registration!
- **VBS: June 8-10** We can’t wait for Vacation Bible School this summer! Children rising 4K-6th grade will register as campers beginning **Monday, March 2**. Students rising 7th-12th and adults will serve as volunteers. Would you like to be a part of the planning team? Contact Emily Ball: emily@stmarysoth.org or 800-8649.

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.

**Centering Prayer
Tuesdays / 11:00 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 a hybrid format: in-person and via Zoom. Enter Drennen House and take the elevator to Level 3. For Zoom: meeting ID is 3891069314; password is Prayer.

Clothing Collection

- Our community ministry partner, Highlands United Methodist Church, manages a clothing closet for our neighborhood friends in need. **We are collecting ONLY 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 (t-shirts, tops, sweatshirts, jackets, belts, pants)
 - Gently used men’s and women’s tennis shoes
 - New men’s and women’s underwear and socks

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.

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, Maggie and Henry Morris, Katherine and Jamie Justice, Ellie and Bradford Kidd

Please pray for our parishioners and staff:

John, Ann, Margaret, Bill, Pat, Ron, Phil, Dana, Gina, Mike, George, Nan

For our families, friends, and neighbors:

Donna, Sarah, Kathryn, Craig, Laura

For those who are grieving:

Family of Hugh Thornton, Family of Mary Ruth Lorimer Ball, Family of Nancy Stewart Litwak

For those who experience ongoing challenges:

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

And for those serving in the Armed Forces:

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

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 Kaki O'Flinn, Deacon/Pastoral Care
The Rev. John I. Kennedy Jr., MD., Deacon/Episcopal DIOALA Chaplain to UAB Medical Center
The Reverend Grady Richardson, Associate Clergy
The Reverend Gates Shaw, Associate Clergy

LAY STAFF

Emily Ball – *Asst. Children's Minister*
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*
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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