

The Magnificat



Starting this Sunday, we are going to be praying Eucharist Prayer C in our celebration of the Eucharist until Lenten season. I asked Jim Johnson to write his thoughts and explanation of the "science" behind this prayer. This prayer emerged in the 1970's in an effort to honor the creative power and majesty of God within our Liturgy.

Jim is an incredible human being and a beloved member of St Mary's. His knowledge of science, and the solar system, combined with his creative abilities, allows him to seek knowledge and comprehend information in ways that are truly extraordinary. God bless you Jim! You are so loved and respected at St Mary's. –Mother Leanne+

Prayer C the Size of Our Universe and Creation, Jim Johnson

"At your command all things came to be: the vast expanse of interstellar space, galaxies, suns, the planets in their courses, and this fragile earth, our island home. By your will they were created and have their being"

Vast: How big is the interstellar space? First, math 101. The number 10 raised to a power is 1 followed by that many zeros. Before the first telescope in 1608, a foot long, 1inch in diameter, the count of stars was 6,300. By 1610, Galileo raised that to a big number, his 1633 insurrection, under strong debate, house arrest till death.

Enter Isaac Newton. Before 1888 there was one galaxy, our Milky Way. The Australians photo'd an area in Abel. The negative plate showed lots of funny shaped stars. The Americans called that bad equipment. Forty years later, 1921, the Americans photographed the same area and did not release the negative plate because it had the exact same funny stars. The odd stars were determined to be galaxies. When mapped to the entire sky, there were millions; 1 followed by 6 zeros. The Hubble space telescope raised the count to hundreds of millions, 10 to the 8th. The James Webb space telescope raised that to 2 trillion, 10 to the 12th . The JWST can see a galaxy 18.3 billion light years in any direction, in miles in diameter in the year 2026 AD. 1 followed by 24 zeros. The average galaxy has about 400 billion stars. Yielding the count of stars to 10 to the 23rd power.

There are about 4 planets per star, the 24th power. Half of the planets are rouge planets, ripped from their sun by a passing sun. Again, Isaac Newton.

Back to Prayer C. "The planets in their courses and this fragile earth, our island home." This is intelligent design. Prayer C. "From the primal elements you brought forth the human race and blessed us with memory, reason, and skill". Primal elements: In your high school biology class, there was a large sheet on the wall called the periodic table. An organized list by row and column of about 100 elements found on our earth. Each element has about 63 subatomic quantum parts and fields per each proton and neutron. The chart, still gaining information and 300 years in the making. You are made from those elements by the chemical direction of a large right-handed spiral molecule named DNA, deoxyribonucleic acid outlined in the early 1950's.

Our earth is 4.8 billion years old and the fossil record shows that life has been on our earth for over 2 billion years. How the 15 million different life forms on our planet developed is by God's intelligent design.

In a season marked by division, fatigue, and heavy hearts, Bishop Russell offers a pastoral word of hope and grounding. Reflecting on Scripture, prayer, and our shared baptismal calling, he invites the Diocese of the Central Gulf Coast into a diocesan-wide practice of prayerful discernment—rooted not in uniformity, but in love.

Join your St. Mary's family and Diocesan brothers and sisters for this online ZOOM Prayer Vigil, Monday, Feb. 2nd, 6-7pm.

In the link below you will find the Bishop's invitation video, the Zoom link, and the Liturgy. link to the zoom

<https://www.diocgc.org/>

ONLINE

PRAYER VIGIL

with Bishop Russell



Monday, February 2nd 6pm-7pm

Find the liturgy and the link to join at:
DIOCGC.ORG

Rededication of Sacred Spaces

Please join us on
Sunday, February 15th 10:00am
for the Rededication Service
of The Chapel of the Good
Shepherd (Nursery) and
The Garth



Due to the cold weather the rededication has been

RESCHEDULED!

Join us for a special rededication of both spaces, 10am, Feb. 15th. Thank you to Paula Presnell and Jane Martin for your hard work and dedication to cleaning and freshening up the Garth and the Nursery!

Shrove Tuesday

February 17th @ 6:00pm



**All are welcome to join us in
Parish Hall for a Pancake Supper
and Great Fellowship**

The St. Mary's Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper is a festive meal, held the day before Ash Wednesday, where we eat pancakes and have fun in fellowship before the Lenten fast.

We will see you there!

A graphic for Ash Wednesday. The background is a close-up of a cross shape made of dark ash on a light surface. The text is overlaid on the right side of the graphic.

ASH
WEDNESDAY
join us for
THE BEGINNING OF
OUR LENTEN JOURNEY
Services
with the
Imposition
of Ashes
February 18th
at **noon**
and **6:00pm**

Ash Wednesday marks the start of Lent, a 40-day, solemn season of fasting, prayer, and almsgiving for Christians leading to Easter.

The receiving of ashes, often made of burnt palm branches from the previous Palm Sunday, are placed on the forehead in the shape of a cross as a sign of mortality and repentance, accompanied by the words: "Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return."

This is a time to focus on turning toward God, renewal, and spiritual preparation.

St. Mary's will have many opportunities for you to journey through your Lenten season by offering various studies and prayer. See the link below for resources given from our Diocese-- 2026 guide through Lent.

<https://www.diocgc.org/post/2026-guide-to-lent>

(On Ash Wednesday there will be no Centering Prayer, Bible Study, or Youth Group. All are invited to attend the Ash Wednesday service instead.)

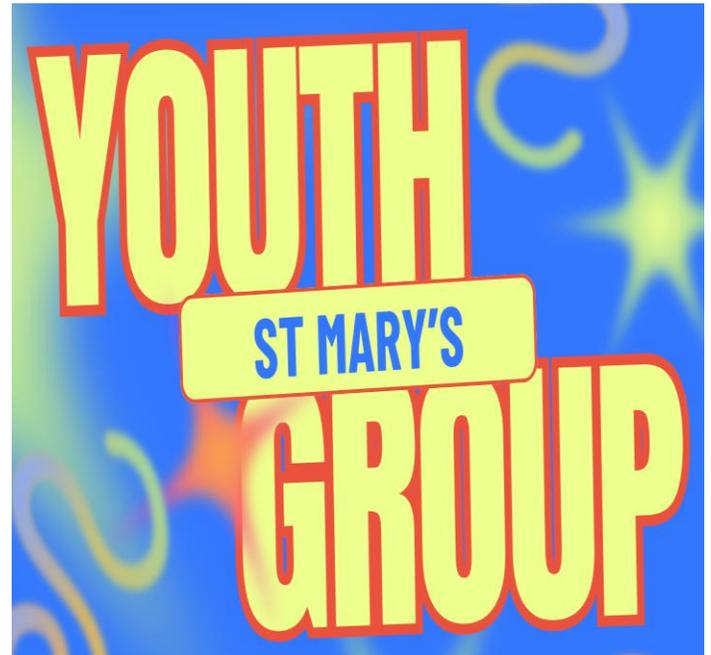
What's Happening at Youth Group! The past few weeks, the Youth have been studying and memorizing scriptures from the Bible. They get into wonderful discussions as they dissect the scripture and talk about how it may apply to each one of us in our current life.

All Youth ages 10 to 17 are invited to attend St. Mary's Youth Group every Wednesday evening with snacks/food at 5:30pm followed by activities and a lesson discussion.

How can you support the youth of St. Mary's? Kids love to gather and to eat! Donations of snacks, chips, soda, bottle water, desserts, pizza, or financial donations to provide a meal, are very much appreciated.

SUMMER CAMP—it may not feel like summer out now, but now is the time to get registered for summer camp 2026 at Camp Beckwith. Elementary and High School youth are invited to attend! If your youth would like to go to camp, please speak with Mother Leanne. Included in this article is the Registration Link for camp dates. [CAMP REGISTRATION HERE](#)

Scholarships are available. Camp Donations are graciously accepted and any donation helps a St. Mary's youth attend a fun, spiritually filled week that they will always remember.



St. Mary's is building a great team to support its youngest members! To help fill those remaining 3 to 4 volunteer slots in the nursery, here is a clear summary of what's needed:

- **The Commitment:** Just one Sunday a month acting as a second adult support for Charlie.
- **Safety First:** You'll need to complete a background check and watch brief safety videos, both of which will be sent via email.
- **The Goal:** Ensuring a safe, supervised environment that meets the 2-adult safety guideline for children and families at St. Mary's.

If you're ready to step up, please reach out to the church office to get the process started.

You're invited to discover what the Flower Guild Ministry is all about!



FLOWER GUILD MEETING

**Sunday, February 1st @
10:15am during breakfast
in the Parish Hall. This
meeting is for all current
Flower Guild members and
those interested in joining
this ministry.**



ECW Planning Retreat

The women of St. Mary's are invited to a planning retreat on
Saturday, February 21, 8:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

Topics will include:

- Reviewing updated ECW bylaws
- Church needs and how ECW can support
- Planning for the year ahead
- A gifts assessment
- Working as a team (with special guest speaker)

Light breakfast and refreshments will be provided.

RSVP: <https://ECWStMarysRetreat.eventbrite.com>
or contact the St Mary's Office.

VESTRY

**The St. Mary's Vestry will meet
February 24, 5:30pm in the Rectory.**

February 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday.	Saturday
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
<u>9am</u> H. E. Rt. II <u>10am</u> Breakfast Men's Group <u>11am</u> H. E. Rt II	<u>6pm</u> Diocesan Prayer Vigil ZOOM			Office Closed	Office Closed School for Ministry	Bell Choir Workshop School for Ministry Pastoral Care Lay Class
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
<u>9am</u> H. E. Rt. II Daughters of the King meeting <u>10am</u> Breakfast ECW Flower Guild mtg <u>11am</u> H. E. Rt II <u>1pm</u> Evangelism Lay Class	<u>9am</u> Food Pantry Volunteer		<u>9am</u> Pantry Vols. <u>10:15am</u> Centering Prayer <u>11am</u> Bible Study <u>Noon</u> H.E. Rt II & <u>Prayer</u> <u>5:30pm</u> Choir <u>5:30pm</u> Youth <u>6:30pm</u> Bell Choir	<u>8am</u> Food Pantry Distribution	Office Closed	
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
<u>9am</u> H. E. Rt. II <u>10am</u> Rededication of the Garth and Nursery <u>10am</u> Breakfast Potluck ECW/ Men's Group meetings <u>11am</u> H. E. Rt II <u>Noon</u> Creative Ministry Mtg-Hall <u>1pm</u> Lay School	<u>9am</u> Food Pantry Volunteer	<u>6pm</u> Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper	<u>9am</u> Pantry Vols. <u>Noon</u> Ash <u>Wednesday</u> <u>Service</u> <u>6pm</u> Ash <u>Wednesday</u> <u>Service</u>	<u>8am</u> Food Pantry Distribution	Office Closed	<u>8:30am</u> ECW Retreat
Lent One 22	23	24	25	26	27	28
<u>9am</u> H. E. Rt. II <u>10am</u> Breakfast Vestry/DOK <u>11am</u> H. E. Rt II &	<u>9am</u> Food Pantry Volunteer	<u>5:30pm</u> Vestry Meeting	<u>9am</u> Pantry Vols. <u>10:15am</u> Centering Prayer <u>11am</u> Bible Study <u>Noon</u> H.E. Rt II & <u>Prayer</u> <u>5:30pm</u> Choir <u>5:30pm</u> Youth <u>6:30pm</u> Bell Choir	<u>8am</u> Food Pantry Distribution Diocese Convention	Office Closed Diocese Convention	Diocese Convention <u>10--Noon</u> Preaching Lay Class

H. E. =Holy Eucharist Rt.II =Rite Two



All women of St. Mary's are invited to meet the 3rd Sunday of each month for the ECW meeting. Remember to register for the upcoming Retreat!



The St. Mary's Men's Group is a valuable ministry to St. Mary's and there are plenty of ways to become involved and to enjoy fellowship together. All men are welcome to join the monthly meeting to help coordinate upcoming projects and events.

The Diocese of the Central Gulf Coast
The Rt. Rev. James Russell Kendrick,
Bishop

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 The Rev. Leanne Beaumont, Rector
 850-623-2905
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Vestry:
 Heather Lindsay--Sr. Warden-
 205-223-3447 dragonflypuma@gmail.com

Ann Cole—2027
 850-516-1775 sailo328@yahoo.com

Julia Hotmer-Drao—2027
 518-596-4000 hotmermurphy@gmail.com

Melodie Rowland—2028
 850-291-4694 musicodiemel@gmail.com

February Birthdays

2/08 Dorothy Johnson
 2/16 Fox Gampher
 2/25 Carol Culton
 2/28 Carol Stewart
 Gracie O'Gara
 2/29 Vicki Blackmon

February Anniversaries

2/13 John & Rachel Allred
 2/24 Jennifer & Jesse Reeves

St. Mary's Episcopal Church
 6841 Oak Street, Milton, Florida 32570 Office: 850-623-2905
 Sunday Services at 9am & 11am Wednesday Service at Noon

Office Hours: Mon-Thurs, 8:30am to 1pm
 email: stmarysmiltonflorida@gmail.com
 website: <http://www.stmarysmilton.org>

All are welcome!

Prayer Requests

Family
 Alec Garza
 Alice Grillo
 Barbara Johnson
 Carol Culton
 Glenda Artinger
 Gina Braswell
 Henry Green
 Jim Miller
 Jim Longshore
 Jesse & Jennifer Reeves
 Janette Grey-Cusack
 Kimberly Olafson
 Patsy Johnson
 Robert Lenzo
 Sam Klauss
 Scott DeLoatch
 Sylvia Stern
 Vicki Blackmon

Our Friends
 Bonnie & Jim
 Kelley & Pam Edding
 Mary Raisler
 Mike Schele
 Rhonda Watson
 Scott Boulton
 Thomas Atwell

Military
 Bradley James
 Cade Campbell
 Gabriel Bustillo
 Caleb Parks
 Edward Estrada
 Fischer Morgan Lay
 Gage
 Kevin Murphy
 Lena Ryan
 Leo
 Lou Andrade
 Joshua Krause
 Nick Rinaire
 Phillip Holmes
 Taylor Emerson
 Tyler Hart
 Tom Ryan

Names are kept on the prayer list for 30 days. If a name needs to stay on the list, please submit a prayer card found in the pews.