

The Magnificat

The Liturgical Church year ends on Christ the King Sunday. Then we enter into the four Sundays of Advent followed by the Christmas season which ends on Epiphany. The Sunday after Epiphany we gather to celebrate the Baptism of our Lord. These important Liturgical events, Christ the King, Advent, Christmas and Epiphany usher us into a rededication of our own Baptismal Vows as we celebrate the sacrament of Holy Baptism.



Baptism is one of the most important and sacred sacraments of our Christian faith. In the early church, candidates for baptism underwent a rigorous process of education, formation, and preparation for their Baptism. Sometimes this time of preparation would last 2-3 years!

While we could hold a baptism service at any time during the year, it is traditional to baptize on the following days: The Feast of the Baptism of Our Lord, the Easter Vigil, Pentecost, and All Saints Day. It is also traditional to celebrate baptisms during the visitation of the Bishop.

Many of us were baptized as an infant or small child. This was an act of faith and dedication, in which our families presented us to the Church and agreed to raise us in the Christian faith and life. Some of us were baptized as older children, youth, or adults; an act of commitment to our own Christian testimony.

However, whether you were baptized as an infant and cannot remember the event, or you were baptized when you were older and entered into this covenant with Christ by your own testimony, there is one part of the Baptismal Covenant that connects us to the early church, to each other, and to all Christians around the world.

After the candidates repeat their vows, or the parents do on behalf of the infant, the celebrant turns to the congregation and asks this question, "Will you who witness these vows do all in your power to support these persons in their life in Christ?"

And we as the Body of Christ respond, "We will."

Then we, the Church, join with our newly baptized brothers and sisters in renewing our own Baptismal Covenant. It is a holy moment. A moment in which we dedicate our lives to Christ once more and we dedicate our hearts to helping the newly baptized and all Christians in their journey in Christ. This communal affirmation of faith is one of the main reasons that Baptisms are not private events. We join together to celebrate, affirm, and dedicate our hearts anew to Christ and to each other.

That is the beauty of the Body of Christ.

May 2026 bring us all into a deeper awareness of our familial bonds as children of our Heavenly Father at St. Mary's. And may these bonds of faith strengthen our love, respect, and support of each other and our beautiful parish home.

Amen.

In Christ,
Mother Leanne+





UTO--The Episcopal Church's United Thank Offering is a personal discipline of thanksgiving and gratitude that supports God's mission throughout the world. The goal of UTO is to give thanks always, everywhere and in all things by placing coins or bills into your UTO box; remembering the things you are thankful for throughout the day.

St Mary's in-gathering will be held Sunday, January 25th at both services.

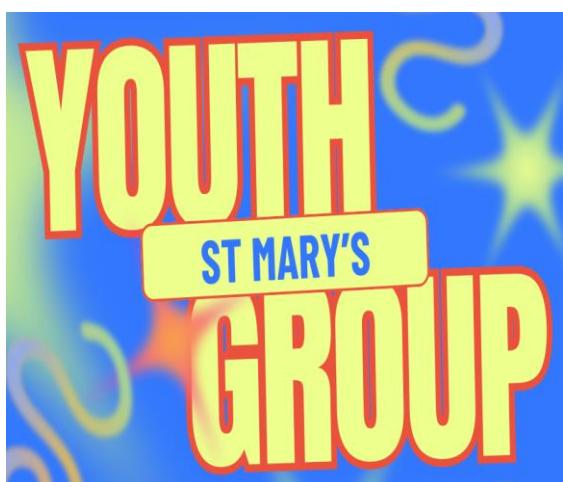
Bring your filled box with loose change as we offer our 'thankfulness' by means of a noisy offering! Checks may be made out to the "St. Mary's" with UTO on the memo line.

Find more information on UTO at the [Episcopal Church Ministries website](#).



UTO NOISY OFFERING

SAVE YOUR SPARE CHANGE AND
BRING IT TO ST MARY'S ON SUNDAY,
JANUARY 25th FOR OUR ANNUAL
NOISY OFFERING DONATION TO THE
UNITED THANK OFFERING, UTO.
WE WILL ALSO BE HANDING OUT UTO
BOXES IN JANUARY FOR YOU TO
COLLECT YOUR SPARE CHANGE IN.
THANK YOU FOR YOUR WILLINGNESS TO
BE A BLESSING TO OTHERS!

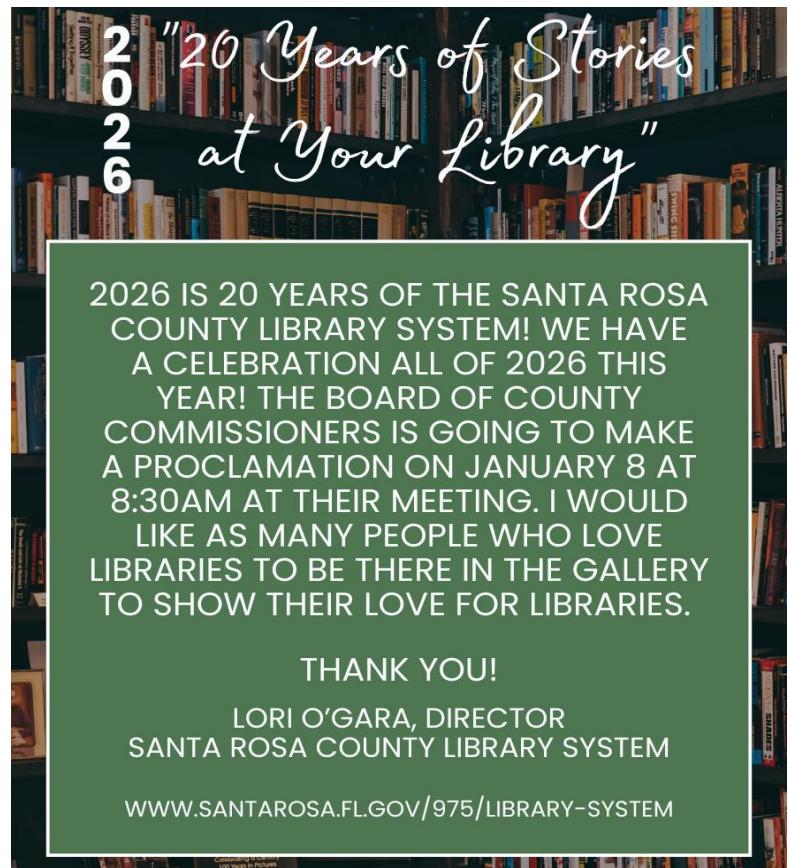


YOUTH GROUP starts back up January 7th! All Youth ages 10 to 17 are invited to attend St. Mary's Youth Group every Wednesday evening with snacks/food at 5:30pm followed by activities and a lesson discussion.

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

Community Event—Join Santa Rosa County Libraries in the celebration of “20 years of Stories at Your Library”.

For more information visit the [Library website](#) or speak to Lori O’Gara lorileighogara@outlook.com



2026 "20 Years of Stories at Your Library"

2026 IS 20 YEARS OF THE SANTA ROSA COUNTY LIBRARY SYSTEM! WE HAVE A CELEBRATION ALL OF 2026 THIS YEAR! THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS IS GOING TO MAKE A PROCLAMATION ON JANUARY 8 AT 8:30AM AT THEIR MEETING. I WOULD LIKE AS MANY PEOPLE WHO LOVE LIBRARIES TO BE THERE IN THE GALLERY TO SHOW THEIR LOVE FOR LIBRARIES.

THANK YOU!

LORI O’GARA, DIRECTOR
SANTA ROSA COUNTY LIBRARY SYSTEM

WWW.SANTAROSA.FL.GOV/975/LIBRARY-SYSTEM



St Mary's **Medical and Safety Training**

Join Us!

Training provided by the Santa Rosa County Sheriff's Office.

Learn CPR, First Aid, Stop Trauma Bleeds, and AED application and use.

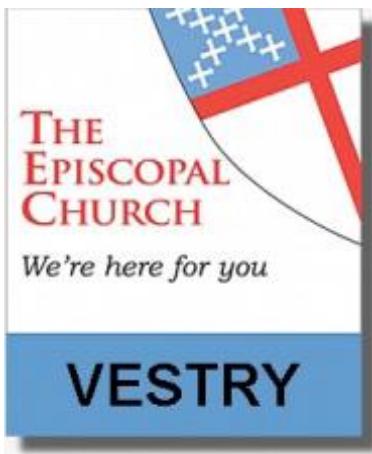
A discussion on church campus safety will also be included.

**Saturday,
January 24th,
8:30am to 1:00pm
in Parish Hall**
Sign-in & Breakfast at 8:30am
Program 9:00am-1:00pm

Register at:
<https://StMarysSafetyMedicalTraining.eventbrite.com>
or contact the St Mary's office
stmarysmiltonflorida@gmail.com
or 850-623-2905

Doors open at 8:30am with the training starting at 9am sharp.

[Register HERE](#)



**The St. Mary's Vestry will meet
January 27, 5:30pm in the Rectory.**

January 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday.	Saturday
				1 New Year's Day Office Closed	2 Office Closed	3
<u>Epiphany</u> 4 9am H. E. Rt. II 10am Breakfast Men's Group 11am H. E. Rt II 1pm Evangelism Lay School	5 9am Food Pantry Volunteer Morning	6 10am Rectory Cleanup!	7 9am Pantry Vols. 10:15am Centering Prayer 11am Bible Study Noon H.E. Rt II & Prayer 5:30pm Choir 5:30pm Youth 6:30pm Bell Choir	8 8am Food Pantry Distribution	9 Office Closed	10
11 <u>Baptism of Our Lord</u> 9am H. E. Rt. II Daughters of the King meeting 10am Breakfast ECW 11am H. E. Rt II Noon Creative Ministry Mtg-Hall 1pm Lay School	12 9am Food Pantry Volunteer Morning	13	14 9am Pantry Vols. 10:15am Centering Prayer 11am Bible Study Noon H.E. Rt II & Prayer 5:30pm Choir 5:30pm Youth 6:30pm Bell Choir	15 8am Food Pantry Distribution	16 Office Closed School for Ministry	17 School for Ministry Pastoral Care Lay School
18 9am H. E. Rt. II 10am Breakfast Potluck ECW & Men's mtg 11am H. E. Rt II &	19 Office Closed in recognition of Martin Luther King, Jr Day 9am Food Pantry Volunteer Morning	20	21 9am Pantry Vols. 10:15am Centering Prayer 11am Bible Study Noon H.E. Rt II & Prayer 5:30pm Choir 5:30pm Youth 6:30pm Bell Choir	22 8am Food Pantry Distribution	23 Office Closed	24 9am-Safety & Medical Training 10-Noon Dr. Campbell
25 <u>UTO Noisy Offering</u> 9am H. E. Rt. II 10am Breakfast Vestry & DOK ECW & Men's mtg 11am H. E. Rt II &	26 9am Food Pantry Volunteer Morning	27 5:30pm Vestry meeting	28 9am Pantry Vols. 10:15am Centering Prayer 11am Bible Study Noon H.E. Rt II & Prayer 5:30pm Choir 5:30pm Youth 6:30pm Bell Choir	29 8am Food Pantry Distribution	30 Office Closed	31

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

THE ST. MARY'S MEN'S GROUP MEETING

Gentlemen, please join us the 3rd Sunday of each month between services in Parish Hall for our monthly meeting



**Episcopal
Church Women**

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

FEEDING THE 5,000

The St Mary's Food Pantry is projected to feed 5,000 people this year!



How you can help:

**Prayers, Volunteering,
Food Donations, and Monetary Gifts**

The first Sunday of each month at St Mary's will now be honored as "Feeding the 5,000 Sunday".

Please help those we serve by bringing nonperishable food items to our worship services on the first Sunday of each month. All food items are welcome and appreciated! We will also offer one "greatly needed" item each month. **This month it is canned meats.**

Please fill our little red wagon with food items on the first Sunday of the month so that our children can bring the wagon forward for Prayers of Blessings during the 11:00am service.

Thank you for helping to serve those most in need in our community.

Volunteer Opportunities for Feeding the 5000 ministry include helping to unload, sort, and pack food every Monday and Wednesday at 9am, in the hall or help every Thursday with the food distribution to the community members who come to our drive through food pantry. For more information speak with Wayne Keen or call the church office. 850-417-5918

save the date

ST MARY'S ECW RETREAT

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 21ST

8:30 AM - 12:30 PM

The Diocese of the Central Gulf Coast

The Rt. Rev. James Russell Kendrick,
Bishop

St. Mary's Episcopal Church

The Rev. Leanne Beaumont, Rector
850-623-2905

prieststmarys@gmail.com

Vestry:

Heather Lindsay--Sr. Warden-
850- 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

January Birthdays

- 1/04 Angel Zandikarimi
- 1/06 Jennifer Reeves
- 1/07 Chuck Sturtevant
- 1/08 Mimi Hamilton
- 1/08 Beverly Samuelson
- 1/08 Shirley Henning
- 1/09 Joel Hamilton
- 1/13 Christopher Palmer
- 1/17 Jane Martin
- 1/25 Joe Xenos
- 1/28 Heather Lindsay

January Anniversaries

- 1/07 Mimi & Joel Hamilton
- 1/07 Rudman & Mimi Stevens
- 1/16 Nikki & David Presley

If we missed your special day, please
email the church office to be added to
the Birthday/Anniversary list.

St. Mary's Episcopal Church
6841 Oak Street, Milton, Florida 32570

Office: 850-623-2905

Sunday Services at 9am & 11am. Wednesday Service at Noon
"To build up one another in Christ."

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
- Beverly Younce
- Carol Culton
- Dotty Johnson
- Glennnda Artinger
- Gina Braswell
- Jack Bilbo
- Jim Longshore
- Jesse & Jennifer Reeves
- Janette Grey-Cusack
- Kimberly Olafson
- Robert Lenzo
- Sam Klauss
- Scott DeLoatch
- Sylvia Stern
- Vicki Blackmon

Our Friends

- George Morado
- Kelley & Pam Edding
- Mary Raisler
- Mike Schele

Military

- Bradley James
- Cade Campbell
- Gabriel Bustillo
- Caleb Parks
- Christopher Vance
- 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