



**St. John's**  
Episcopal Church  
*a beacon in the heart of Montgomery*

**SUNDAY, JANUARY 25, 2026, 10:30 A.M.  
THE THIRD SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY**

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HOLY EUCHARIST: RITE II

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THE PRELUDE

*I want to walk as a child of the light  
Thou Whose Almighty Word*

Paul Manz  
Gerald Near

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THE OPENING HYMN 542 *Christ is the world's true light*

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THE OPENING ACCLAMATION (BCP p. 355)

*All stand.*

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

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

*Celebrant* Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy Name; through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

## GLORIA

1. Glo - ry to God in the high - est, and  
 peace to his peo - ple on earth. 2. Lord God, heaven - ly  
 King, al - might - y God and Fa - ther, we wor - ship you, we  
 give you thanks, we praise you for your glo - ry. 3. Lord Je - sus  
 Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa-ther, Lord God, Lamb of God, 4. you  
 take a - way the sin of the world: have mer - cy  
 on us; 5. you are seat - ed at the right hand of the Fa-ther: re -  
 ceive our prayer. 6. For you a - lone are the Ho - ly One,  
 you a - lone are the Lord, 7. you a - lone are the Most  
 High, Je - sus Christ, with the Ho - ly Spi - rit, in the  
 glo - ry of God the Fa - ther. A - men.

Music: Robert Powell (b. 1932), rev. Setting: Copyright © Church Publishing Inc.

## THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People And also with you.

Celebrant Let us pray.

Give us grace, O Lord, to answer readily the call of our Savior Jesus Christ and proclaim to all people the Good News of his salvation, that we and the whole world may perceive the glory of his marvelous works; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

## THE FIRST LESSON: ISAIAH 9:1-4

*All sit.*

A Reading from Isaiah.

There will be no gloom for those who were in anguish. In the former time he brought into contempt the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, but in the latter time he will make glorious the way of the sea, the land beyond the Jordan, Galilee of the nations.

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness—on them light has shined. You have multiplied the nation, you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as people exult when dividing plunder.

For the yoke of their burden, and the bar across their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

## PSALM 27:1,5-13

*Sung by the choir.*

<sup>1</sup>The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom then shall I fear? \*

the Lord is the strength of my life; of whom then shall I be afraid?

<sup>5</sup>One thing have I asked of the Lord; one thing I seek; \*

that I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life; <sup>6</sup>To behold the fair beauty of the Lord \*

and to seek him in his temple.

<sup>7</sup>For in the day of trouble he shall keep me safe in his shelter; \* he shall hide me in the secrecy of his dwelling and set me high upon a rock.

<sup>8</sup>Even now he lifts up my head \*  
    above my enemies round about me.  
<sup>9</sup>Therefore I will offer in his dwelling an oblation  
with sounds of great gladness; \*  
    I will sing and make music to the Lord.  
<sup>10</sup>Hearken to my voice, O Lord, when I call; \*  
    have mercy on me and answer me.  
<sup>11</sup>You speak in my heart and say, “Seek my face.” \*  
    Your face, Lord, will I seek.  
<sup>12</sup>Hide not your face from me, \*  
    nor turn away your servant in displeasure.  
<sup>13</sup>You have been my helper;  
cast me not away; \*  
    do not forsake me, O God of my salvation.

## THE EPISTLE: 1 CORINTHIANS 1:10-18

## A Reading from Paul's First Letter to the Corinthians

Now I appeal to you, brothers and sisters, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you be in agreement and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be united in the same mind and the same purpose. For it has been reported to me by Chloe's people that there are quarrels among you, my brothers and sisters. What I mean is that each of you says, "I belong to Paul," or "I belong to Apollos," or "I belong to Cephas," or "I belong to Christ." Has Christ been divided? Was Paul crucified for you? Or were you baptized in the name of Paul? I thank God that I baptized none of you except Crispus and Gaius, so that no one can say that you were baptized in my name. (I did baptize also the household of Stephanas; beyond that, I do not know whether I baptized anyone else.) For Christ did not send me to baptize but to proclaim the gospel, and not with eloquent wisdom, so that the cross of Christ might not be emptied of its power.

For 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.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

*People* Thanks be to God.

SEQUENCE HYMN 490 *I want to walk as a child of the light*

## THE GOSPEL: MATTHEW 4:12-23

*Remain standing.*

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

Now when Jesus heard that John had been arrested, he withdrew to Galilee. He left Nazareth and made his home in Capernaum by the sea, in the territory of Zebulun and Naphtali, so that what had been spoken through the prophet Isaiah might be fulfilled: “Land of Zebulun, land of Naphtali, on the road by the sea, across the Jordan, Galilee of the Gentiles—the people who sat in darkness have seen a great light, and for those who sat in the region and shadow of death light has dawned.” From that time Jesus began to proclaim, “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.”

As he walked by the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon, who is called Peter, and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the sea—for they were fishermen. And he said to them, “Follow me, and I will make you fish for people.” Immediately they left their nets and followed him. As he went from there, he saw two other brothers, James son of Zebedee and his brother John, in the boat with their father Zebedee, mending their nets, and he called them. Immediately they left the boat and their father, and followed him.

Jesus went throughout Galilee, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the good news of the kingdom and curing every disease and every sickness among the people.

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

THE NICENE CREED (*BCP* p. 358)

*The Celebrant and people say together*

We believe in one God,  
the Father, the Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth,  
of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,  
the only Son of God,  
eternally begotten of the Father,  
God from God, Light from Light,  
true God from true God.

begotten, not made,  
of one Being with the Father.  
Through him all things were made.  
For us and for our salvation  
    he came down from heaven:  
    by the power of the Holy Spirit  
    he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary,  
    and was made man.

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;  
    he suffered death and was buried.

On the third day he rose again  
    in accordance with the Scriptures;  
he ascended into heaven  
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.  
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,  
and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,  
    who proceeds from the Father and the Son.  
With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified.  
He has spoken through the Prophets.  
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.  
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.  
We look for the resurrection of the dead,  
    and the life of the world to come. Amen.

nation and of the world; and for victims of violence and conflict, especially in Eastern Europe and in the Middle East;

For this community, the nation, and the world;  
**For all who work for justice, freedom, and peace.**

For an awareness and sense of gratitude for the beauty of the world around us;  
For the just and proper use of your creation,  
**For the victims of hunger, fear, injustice, and oppression.**

For all who are in danger, sorrow, or any kind of trouble;  
**For those who minister to the sick, the friendless, and the needy.**

For the peace and unity of the Church of God;  
**For all who proclaim the Gospel, and all who seek the Truth.**

For Sean, our Presiding Bishop, Glenda our Bishop, Duncan and Mark our priests, for Stewart our seminarian, for those who are candidates for the election of our next bishop, and for all bishops and other ministers.  
**For all who serve God in his Church.**

For the special needs and concerns of this congregation especially \_\_\_\_\_.

Hear us, Lord;  
**For your mercy is great.**

We thank you, Lord, for all the blessings of this life.

We will exalt you, O God our King;  
**And praise your Name for ever and ever.**

We pray for all who have died, that they may have a place in your eternal kingdom, especially those for whom the altar flowers have been given:\_\_\_\_\_.

Lord, let your loving-kindness be upon them;  
**Who put their trust in you.**

We pray to you also for the forgiveness of our sins.

**Have mercy upon us, most merciful Father;**  
**in your compassion forgive us our sins,**  
**known and unknown,**  
**things done and left undone;**  
**and so uphold us by your Spirit**  
**that we may live and serve you in newness of life,**  
**to the honor and glory of your Name;**  
**through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

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THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

*All kneel as able.*

*Celebrant* In peace, we pray to you, Lord God.

We pray today for those who serve in our local hospitals, care facilities, schools, colleges, and correctional facilities; for those who serve in law enforcement and in the legal system; and for members of the military and those serving overseas, especially Ben and Eric;

For all people in their daily life and work,  
**For our families, friends, and neighbors, and for those who are alone.**

For our President Donald, our Governor Kay, and our Mayor Steven; for members of our state legislature, and our national representatives and senators, that there may be respectful and wise governance for the welfare of our

*Celebrant*

Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. **Amen.**

THE PEACE

*The people stand to greet one another.*

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

*People* **And also with you.**

THE HOLY COMMUNION

*The celebrant will say an offertory sentence. The people sit.*

THE OFFERTORY ANTHEM      *In Thee Is Gladness*      Sue Mitchell-Wallace

*All stand to sing the offertory verse when the offertory is brought up to the altar.*

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.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING (PRAYER A, (BCP p. 361)

*All stand.*

*Celebrant* The Lord be with you.

*People* **And also with you.**

*Celebrant* Lift up your hearts.

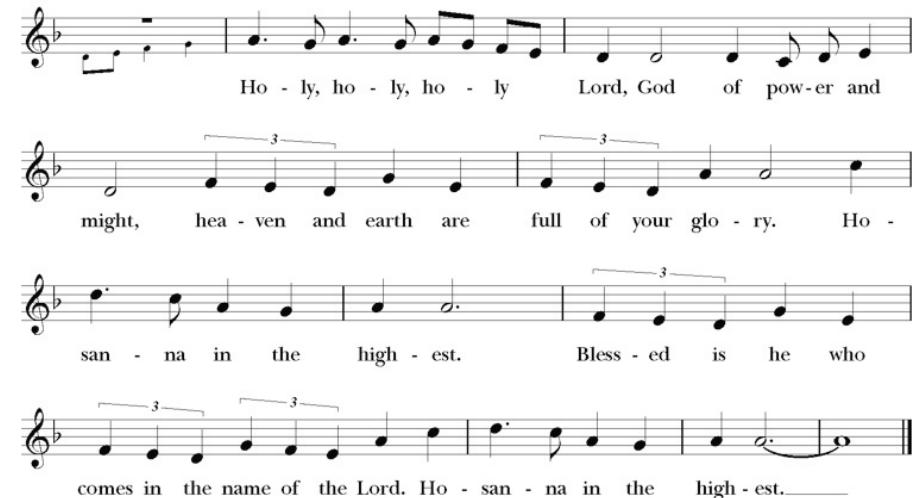
*People* **We lift them up to the Lord.**

*Celebrant* Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

*People* **It is right to give him thanks and praise.**

*Celebrant*

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth, because in the mystery of the Word made flesh, you have caused a new light to shine in our hearts, to give the knowledge of your glory in the face of your Son Jesus Christ our Lord. Therefore, we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who forever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:



*Celebrant*

Holy and gracious Father: In your infinite love you made us for yourself; and, when we had fallen into sin and become subject to evil and death, you, in your mercy, sent Jesus Christ, your only and eternal Son, to share our human nature, to live and die as one of us, to reconcile us to you, the God and Father of all.

He stretched out his arms upon the cross, and offered himself, in obedience to your will, a perfect sacrifice for the whole world.

On the night he was handed over to suffering and death, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and said, "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

After supper he took the cup of wine; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and said, "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith:

*Celebrant and people*

**Christ has died.**

**Christ is risen.**

**Christ will come again.**

We celebrate the memorial of our redemption, O Father, in this sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving. Recalling his death, resurrection, and ascension, we offer you these gifts.

Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be for your people the Body and Blood of your Son, the holy food and drink of new and unending life in him. Sanctify us also that we may faithfully receive this holy Sacrament, and serve you in unity, constancy, and peace; and at the last day bring us with all your saints into the joy of your eternal kingdom.

All this we ask through your Son Jesus Christ. By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and forever. **AMEN.**

And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,

*Celebrant and People*

**Our Father, who art in heaven,**  
hallowed be thy Name,  
thy kingdom come,  
thy will be done,  
on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread.  
And forgive us our trespasses,  
as we forgive those  
who trespass against us.  
And lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom,  
and the power, and the glory,  
forever and ever. Amen.

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#### THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD

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*Celebrant* Alleluia. Christ our passover is sacrificed for us.

*People* **Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.**

*The Celebrant presents the holy gifts to the congregation saying*

The Gifts of God for the People of God. Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you and feed on him in your hearts by faith with thanksgiving.

*The priest receives the Sacrament, and then serves the people with these words:*

The Body of our Lord Jesus Christ keep you in everlasting life. **Amen.**

The Blood of Christ, the cup of salvation. **Amen.**

*You are very welcome to receive Holy Communion if you have been baptized in any Christian church. Those who wish not to receive Holy Communion may come to the altar rail, fold their arms across their chests, and receive a blessing from the priest.*

*Communion is offered in both kinds at the communion rail or station on the floor. Communicants may receive the wine by intinction or by drinking directly from the cup.*

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#### THE AGNUS DEI

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*Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us.*

*Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us.*

*Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, grant us peace.*

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#### THE POST-COMMUNION PRAYER (BCP p. 365)

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*All kneel as able.*

*Celebrant*

Let us pray.

Eternal God, heavenly Father,  
you have graciously accepted us as living members  
of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ,  
and you have fed us with spiritual food  
in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood.  
Send us now into the world in peace,  
and grant us strength and courage  
to love and serve you  
with gladness and singleness of heart;  
through Christ our Lord. Amen.

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#### THE BLESSING

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Go out in response to the voice of God who calls you.

Go out to proclaim the message of repentance,  
for the Kingdom of heaven is near.

Go out united in purpose  
and do not be afraid when your purpose is called foolishness.

And may God be a sheltering tent above you  
and a firm rock below;  
May the foolishness of Christ Jesus be your wisdom;  
And may the Holy Spirit be the light  
that overcomes your darkness and sets you free.

THE CLOSING HYMN 371 *Thou whose almighty word*

THE DISMISSAL

*Celebrant* Let us go forth in the name of Christ. Alleluia, alleluia.  
*People* **Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia.**

THE POSTLUDE                    *In Thee Is Gladness*                    J.S. Bach

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TODAY'S SERVERS

**Clergy:** The Rev. Dr. Duncan Johnston, *Rector*

**Director of Children's Formation:** Sarah Collier

**Director of Youth Ministries:** J.R. Marshall

**Organist:** Joel Gregory

**Acolytes:** Thomas Arrington, Chloe Cumuze, Costa Cumuze, Suzanne Holmes

**Altar Guild:** James Rinehart

**Lector and Intercessor:** Rich Anderson, Tracey Campbell

**Eucharistic Ministers:** Maria Pacheco, Mary-Nelms Parsons, Dudley Perry

**Ushers/Greeters:** Florence Tyson, Sommerville Hill, Liam McMullen, Ashley Roseboro

**Flower Guild:** Jean Smyth, Karen Westhauser

**Flower Delivery Team:** Jeanne Drummond, Debbie & George Wakefield

**Videographer:** Ken Kline

**Altar Flowers are given in memory of:** Essie Whitefield Reese, Warren S. Reese, Sr., Gen. Warren S. Reese, Warren S. Reese, Jr., Margaret Billingsley Reese

**Your prayers are requested for the following parishioners:**

Phillip Brown, Rick Durden, Marla Foster, Dave Funk, Carolyn Fillmore, Anne Hill, Emily Crump Johannes, Carma Marks, Richard McCrory, Pat McDonald, Eddie McDowell, Martha Collier Mosely, Cameron Napier, Bud Nason, Jerry Pickett, Elizabeth Potter, Shirley Price, Hawthorne Ramsey, Debbie Steindorff, Barbara Wallace, Stewart Wallace, Florence Young

**Prayers are also requested for these friends:** Gail Alsobrook, Mac Burton, Lizzy Dickens, John Ferguson, Bob Geddie, Roger Holliday, Stephanie Holmes, Josie Lee, Charles Lewis, Leslie Little, Nicole Lusk, Margaret Moore, Karen Pacheco, Pat Patterson, Serge Ruffato, Alice Sewell, Ron Skoneki, Johnny Smith, Madera Spencer, Chandler Taylor, Connie Thomas, Katherine Weidner, Frank Winkler, Sharon Carney Wright

*Please notify us when you are sick or hospitalized so that we might provide pastoral care.  
The prayer list will be updated monthly, please notify us if names need to remain longer.*

**Pastoral Care Team for January:** Virginia Banister, Martha Tyson, Ashley Hamlett, Britney Schremser, Kathleen Bradford, Laura Knapp

### Rector's Forum: Welcome Course

Beginning Sunday, January 11, at 9:15 a.m. in the Library, join Duncan for an 8-week Welcome Course. This is an engaging program of presentations and discussions about the Christian faith and Episcopal tradition. Email [Duncan@stjohnsmontgomery.org](mailto:Duncan@stjohnsmontgomery.org) to register.

### Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper

Join us on Tuesday, February 17 at 6:30 p.m. at St. John's for a beloved Shrove Tuesday tradition! Enjoy a hearty supper of pancakes, bacon, and plenty of coffee and tea. The meal is cooked and served by the Scouts, and all proceeds benefit Scout Troop 8. Tickets are \$6 per plate, making it an easy (and delicious) way to support our local Scouts as we prepare for the season of Lent. Bring your family, invite a friend, and come share good food and good fellowship before the solemnity of Ash Wednesday.

### STAY CONNECTED TO ST. JOHN'S

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### Breeze System Gives Access to Directory, Calendar, & Giving

St. John's has recently implemented a new system called Breeze for its giving, directory, calendar, website, and app. Parishioners received an invite via email to create an account. Information guides are printed and available in the church office or on the St. John's website. Please call the church office or email [emily@stjohnsmontgomery.org](mailto:emily@stjohnsmontgomery.org) for assistance. *Please note: Breeze is recommended for parishioners, but not required. Printed directories are available upon request.*

### St. John's e-Newsletter

The St. John's e-newsletter goes out every Tuesday at 6 p.m. If you are not receiving the newsletter and would like to, please email [emily@stjohnsmontgomery.org](mailto:emily@stjohnsmontgomery.org) to get added to the mailing list. If you are not receiving emails from the church office, please email [churchoffice@stjohnsmontgomery.org](mailto:churchoffice@stjohnsmontgomery.org) or call 334-262-1937.

The Right Reverend Glenda S. Curry, PhD, Bishop of Alabama

### St. John's Clergy & Staff

The Reverend Duncan H. Johnston, DMin, Rector  
The Reverend Mark E. Waldo, Jr. Associate Rector  
Joel Gregory, Organist & Choirmaster  
Sarah Collier, Director of Children's Christian Formation  
J.R. Marshall, Director of Youth Ministries  
Emily Howard, Director of Communications  
Constance Rodgers, Assistant to the Rector  
Myron Smoke, Maintenance Superintendent

### Vestry and Officers

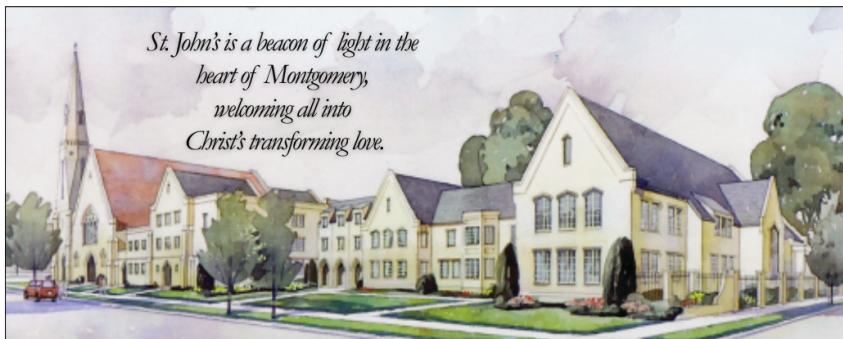
Bill Eskridge, Senior Warden  
Florence Tyson, Junior Warden  
Richard Bradford, Treasurer

Class of 2026: Elizabeth Lawlor, Liam McMullan, Mary Martin Mitchell, Ashley Roseboro, Cole Wise

Class of 2027: Richard Anderson, Jon Dailey, Bill Johnson, Jim Marshall III, Florence Tyson, Karen Westhauser

Class of 2028: Libby Beck, Tracey Campbell, Sommerville Hill, Ken Kline, Nick Prillaman

*St. John's is a beacon of light in the  
heart of Montgomery,  
welcoming all into  
Christ's transforming love.*



## We're glad you are at St. John's today.

Whether you are visiting for the first time or attending regularly,  
you are a part of the St. John's family.

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Visitor Card



Visitors, please use this QR code to provide us with some information about you and your family so that we can better serve you.

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Visit our website to see service times, news from  
the parish, upcoming events,  
mission opportunities and more.

[stjohnsmontgomery.org](http://stjohnsmontgomery.org)



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### Online Giving



If you wish to make a gift to St. John's,  
our online giving portal makes it easier than ever.

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