



SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 22, 2026, 10:30 A.M.  
THE FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT

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HOLY EUCHARIST: RITE II

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THE PRELUDE

*Adagio (Trio Sonata in E-flat)*  
*Savior, When In Dust To You*

Johann Sebastian Bach  
Paul Manz

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THE OPENING HYMN

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THE PENITENTIAL ORDER BCP p. 351

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*Celebrant* Blessed be God who forgives all our sins.

*People*      **His mercy endures for ever.**

*All kneel.*

Hear the commandments of God to his people:

I am the Lord your God who brought you out of bondage.

You shall have no other gods but me. **Amen. Lord have mercy.**

You shall not make for yourself any idol. **Amen. Lord have mercy.**

You shall not invoke with malice the Name of the Lord your God.

**Amen. Lord have mercy.**

Remember the Sabbath day and keep it holy. **Amen. Lord have mercy.**

Honor your father and your mother. **Amen. Lord have mercy.**

You shall not commit murder. **Amen. Lord have mercy.**

You shall not commit adultery. **Amen. Lord have mercy.**

You shall not steal. **Amen. Lord have mercy.**

You shall not be a false witness. **Amen. Lord have mercy.**

You shall not covet anything that belongs to your neighbor.

**Amen. Lord have mercy.**

*The celebrant offers the following sentence*

If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. *1 John 1:8,9*

*The Celebrant then says*

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor. *Silence may be kept.*

Most merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We are truly sorry and we humbly repent. For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us; that we may delight in your will, and walk in your ways, to the glory of your Name. Amen.

*The Priest stands and says*

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 KYRIE



#### THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

*Celebrant* The Lord be with you.

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

*Celebrant* Let us pray.

Almighty God, whose blessed Son was led by the Spirit to be tempted by Satan: Come quickly to help us who are assaulted by many temptations; and, as you know the weaknesses of each of us, let each one find you mighty to save; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

#### THE FIRST LESSON: GENESIS 2:15-17; 3:1-7

*All sit.*

A Reading from Genesis.

The Lord God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to till it and keep it. And the Lord God commanded the man, “You may freely eat of every tree of the garden; but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall die.”

Now the serpent was more crafty than any other wild animal that the Lord God had made. He said to the woman, “Did God say, ‘You shall not eat from any tree in the garden?’” The woman said to the serpent, “We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden; but God said, ‘You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in the middle of the garden, nor shall you touch it, or you shall die.’” But the serpent said to the woman, “You will not die; for God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.” So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate; and she also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate. Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together and made loincloths for themselves.

*Reader* The Word of the Lord.

*People* **Thanks be to God.**

#### PSALM 32

*Sung by the choir.*

<sup>1</sup>Happy are they whose transgressions are forgiven,  
and whose sin is put away!

<sup>2</sup>Happy are they to whom the Lord imputes no guilt,  
\*

and in whose spirit there is no guile!

<sup>3</sup>While I held my tongue, my bones withered away, \*  
because of my groaning all day long.

<sup>4</sup>For your hand was heavy upon me day and night; \*  
my moisture was dried up as in the heat of summer.

<sup>5</sup>Then I acknowledged my sin to you, \*  
and did not conceal my guilt.

<sup>6</sup>I said, “I will confess my transgressions to the Lord.” \*  
Then you forgave me the guilt of my sin.

<sup>7</sup>Therefore all the faithful will make their prayers to you in time of trouble;  
when the great waters overflow, they shall not reach them.

<sup>8</sup>You are my hiding-place;  
you preserve me from trouble; \*  
you surround me with shouts of deliverance.

<sup>9</sup>“I will instruct you and teach you in the way that you should go; \*  
I will guide you with my eye.

<sup>10</sup>Do not be like horse or mule, which have no understanding; \*  
who must be fitted with bit and bridle,  
or else they will not stay near you.”

<sup>11</sup>Great are the tribulations of the wicked; \*  
but mercy embraces those who trust in the Lord.

<sup>12</sup>Be glad, you righteous, and rejoice in the Lord; \*  
shout for joy, all who are true of heart.

#### THE EPISTLE: ROMANS 5:12-19

A Reading from Paul's Letter to the Romans.

Just as sin came into the world through one man, and death came through sin, and so death spread to all because all have sinned—sin was indeed in the world before the law, but sin is not reckoned when there is no law. Yet death exercised dominion from Adam to Moses, even over those whose sins were not like the transgression of Adam, who is a type of the one who was to come.

But the free gift is not like the trespass. For if the many died through the one man's trespass, much more surely have the grace of God and the free gift in the grace of the one man, Jesus Christ, abounded for the many. And the free gift is not like the effect of the one man's sin. For the judgment following one trespass brought condemnation, but the free gift following many trespasses brings justification. If, because of the one man's trespass, death exercised dominion through that one, much more surely will those who receive

the abundance of grace and the free gift of righteousness exercise dominion in life through the one man, Jesus Christ.

Therefore just as one man's trespass led to condemnation for all, so one man's act of righteousness leads to justification and life for all. For just as by the one man's disobedience the many were made sinners, so by the one man's obedience the many will be made righteous.

*Reader* The Word of the Lord.

*People* **Thanks be to God.**

#### SEQUENCE HYMN 143 *The glory of these forty days*

#### THE GOSPEL: MATTHEW 4:1-11

*All stand.*

*Priest* The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.

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

After Jesus was baptized, he] was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. He fasted forty days and forty nights, and afterwards he was famished. The tempter came and said to him, “If you are the Son of God, command these stones to become loaves of bread.” But he answered, “It is written, ‘One does not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.’”

Then the devil took him to the holy city and placed him on the pinnacle of the temple, saying to him, “If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down; for it is written, ‘He will command his angels concerning you,’ and ‘On their hands they will bear you up, so that you will not dash your foot against a stone.’” Jesus said to him, “Again it is written, ‘Do not put the Lord your God to the test.’”

Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendor; and he said to him, “All these I will give you, if you will fall down and worship me.” Jesus said to him, “Away with you, Satan! for it is written, ‘Worship the Lord your God, and serve only him.’”

Then the devil left him, and suddenly angels came and waited on him.

*Priest* The Gospel of the Lord.

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

#### THE SERMON

The Rev. Dr. Duncan Johnston

*All sit.*

*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.

*Celebrant*

Let us pray for the Church and for the world.

Grant, Almighty God, that all who confess your Name may be united in your truth, live together in your love, and reveal your glory in the world. We pray especially for Sarah, the Archbishop of Canterbury, Sean, our Presiding Bishop, Glenda our Bishop, for Richard our Bishop-Elect, Duncan & Mark our priests, and for Stewart our seminarian.

Lord, in your mercy

**Hear our prayer.**

Guide the people of this land, and of all the nations, in the ways of justice and peace; that we may honor one another and serve the common good. 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 nation and of the world; and for victims of violence and conflict, and for members of the military and those serving overseas, especially Ben and Eric.

Lord, in your mercy

**Hear our prayer.**

Give us all a reverence for the earth as your own creation, that we may use its resources rightly in the service of others and to your honor and glory.

Lord, in your mercy

**Hear our prayer.**

Bless all whose lives are closely linked with ours, and grant that we may serve Christ in them, and love one another as he loves us.

Lord, in your mercy

**Hear our prayer.**

Comfort and heal all those who suffer in body, mind, or spirit; especially \_\_\_\_\_. Give them courage and hope in their troubles, and bring them the joy of your salvation.

Lord, in your mercy

**Hear our prayer.**

We commend to your mercy all who have died, especially those for whom the altar flowers have been given, for \_\_\_\_\_; that your will for them may be fulfilled; and we pray that we may share with all your saints in your eternal kingdom.

Lord, in your mercy

**Hear our prayer.**

*The Celebrant adds a concluding Collect.*

*Celebrant*

Let us confess our sin against God and our neighbor.

**Most merciful God,**

**We confess that we have sinned against you**

**In thought, word, and deed,**

**By what we have done,**

**And what we have left undone.**

**We have not loved you with our whole heart;**

**We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.**

**We are truly sorry and we humbly repent.**

**For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ,**

**Have mercy on us and forgive us;**

**That we may delight in your will,**

**And walk in your ways,**

**To the glory of your Name. Amen.**

*The Priest stands and says*

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** *Remember, O Thou Man*

Thomas Ravenscroft

*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.

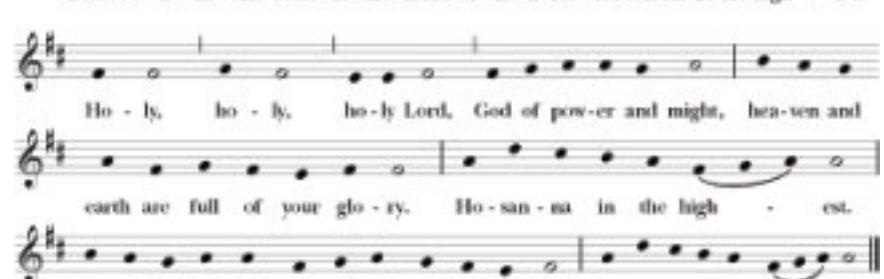
*People* **We lift them up to the Lord.**

*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:



*All kneel as able.*

*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**

*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**

*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.*

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.

## THE BLESSING

Go now, confessing Christ as Lord, in word and deed.  
Worship and serve the Lord your God and no other.  
Stand firm in the time of trial;  
tell the story of God's goodness,  
and trust in the Lord whose saving word is always with you.

And may God instruct angels to guard you wherever you go;  
May Christ Jesus be your refuge and stronghold;  
And may the Holy Spirit lead you  
and put God's Word on your lips and in your hearts. Amen.

THE CLOSING HYMN 441 *In the cross of Christ I glory*

## THE DISMISSAL

Celebrant Let us go forth in the name of Christ.

People      **Thanks be to God.**

THE POSTLUDE      *Prelude & Fugue in e minor*      Johann Sebastian Bach

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## TODAY'S SERVERS

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

The Rev. Mark E. Waldo, Jr., *Associate Rector*

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

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

**Organist:** Joel Gregory

**Acolytes:** Eloise Carlisle, Chloe Cumuze, Costa Cumuze, Robert Marshall

**Altar Guild:** James Rinehart

**Lector and Intercessor:** Reg McLane, Scott Mitchell

**Eucharistic Ministers:** Virginia Banister, Dudley Perry, Radney Ramsey

**Ushers/Greeters:** Cole Wise, Rich Anderson, Florence Tyson, Ashley Roseboro

**Flower Guild:** Mary Ward Wisnewski, J.R. Marshall

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

**Videographer:** Ken Kline

**Altar Flowers are given in memory of:** Mary Oliver McLemore, Andrew Jackson McLemore, William Oliver Rees, Thomas Oliver McLemore, Martha Thigpen McLemore, William Henry McLemore, Ruth Cook McLemore, Joy McGlynn McLemore, Andrew Jackson McLemore, Jr.

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

Laura Brendle, Rick Durden, Marla Foster, 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, Nicole Lusk, Margaret Moore, Karen Pacheco, Pat Patterson, Serge Ruffato, 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 February:** Anne Hamner, Cindy Seibels, Florence Tyson, Margaret Ann Selman, Susan Harris, Lacy Gibson

### **Lenten Lunch Series: Encounters with Jesus**

Join us for a Lenten Lunch Series at St. John's on Wednesdays during Lent at 12:05 p.m. Each week we will gather for midday prayer followed by a short message reflecting on Encounters with Jesus in John's Gospel—stories that invite us to slow down, listen, and notice how Christ meets people where they are. A simple soup lunch will be served for \$6 following the service. Come nourish your spirit and your body in the midst of the Lenten season.

### **Lenten Dinner Series: Lost for Words**

Join us for a Lenten Dinner Teaching Series at St. John's beginning Wednesday, February 25, at 6 p.m. Each week, a full dinner will be served for donations, followed by a thoughtful teaching exploring a question many are asking: Why has the church lost relevance—and what can we do about it?

Over the five middle Wednesdays of Lent, Lost for Words will take an honest look at the causes of church decline in America and invite us into new ways of witnessing to Christ in our own time and place. Topics will include integrity, empathy, substance, cultural awareness, and discovering where God is already at work beyond church walls. Come for good food, meaningful conversation, and renewed hope for the church.

### **Journey Boat Workshop**

On Wednesday, March 18, from 1:30–5 p.m. in the Parish Hall, join us for a creative and contemplative Journey Boat Workshop led by artist Camilla Armstrong. Using natural and found materials, participants will build a small "journey boat" as a way to reflect on where they are in their spiritual lives and how God is moving with them through the unpredictable currents of life. This hands-on workshop offers space for quiet reflection, creativity, and meaningful conversation. Come for the Lenten Lunch Series and stay for this unique afternoon of spiritual exploration. For more information, contact Camilla at 334-320-8269.

### **Living Well through Lent**

You're invited to join a Lenten small group hosted by Marney Garzon, gathering weekly throughout Lent for prayerful reflection and conversation. The group begins Sunday, February 22, at 6:00 p.m. at Marney's home, 2453 E. Cloverdale Park. Please park in the back and enter through the back door.

The group will use this year's Lenten devotional booklet as a guide. A PDF version is available on the St. John's website, and printed copies will also be available at the church desk.

### **Education for Ministry Opportunity at St. John's**

Education for Ministry (EfM) is a four-year small-group formation program from the University of the South in Sewanee, designed for lay people seeking a deeper understanding of Scripture, church history, and theology, as well as those discerning a call to ordained ministry. The program includes two years of Bible study (Old and New Testaments), followed by church history and theology, with a strong emphasis on theological reflection and lived faith. An EfM seminar group is forming at St. John's for Fall 2026 with 8–10 participants. To learn more, visit [efm.sewanee.edu](http://efm.sewanee.edu) or speak with the rector.

### **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.

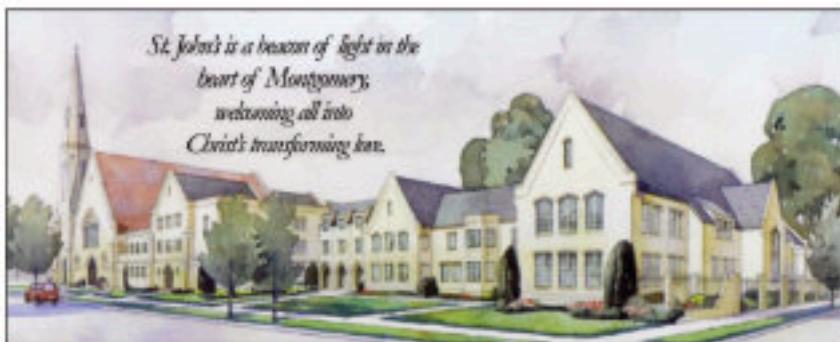
### **Giving statements now available**

St. John's giving statements for 2025 are now available for pickup in the church office. Please look for the box labeled "2025 Giving Statements" and locate the envelope with your name on it.

### **Day by Day Devotionals**

St. John's provides Forward Day by Day to parishioners as a simple and effective daily prayer practice. Each day features a Bible verse from the daily readings and a related reflection written by a different author each month, all in less than 200 words. It even includes the daily feast days, as well as prompts to take faithful action in your daily life. Booklets are available in the Narthex, Parish Hall, and Church Office. Large print available upon request.

*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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