



SUNDAY, OCTOBER 18, 2026, 10:30 A.M.
THE TWENTY-FIRST SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

HOLY EUCHARIST: RITE II

THE PRELUDE

THE OPENING HYMN 365 *Come, thou almighty king*

THE OPENING ACCLAMATION

All stand.

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

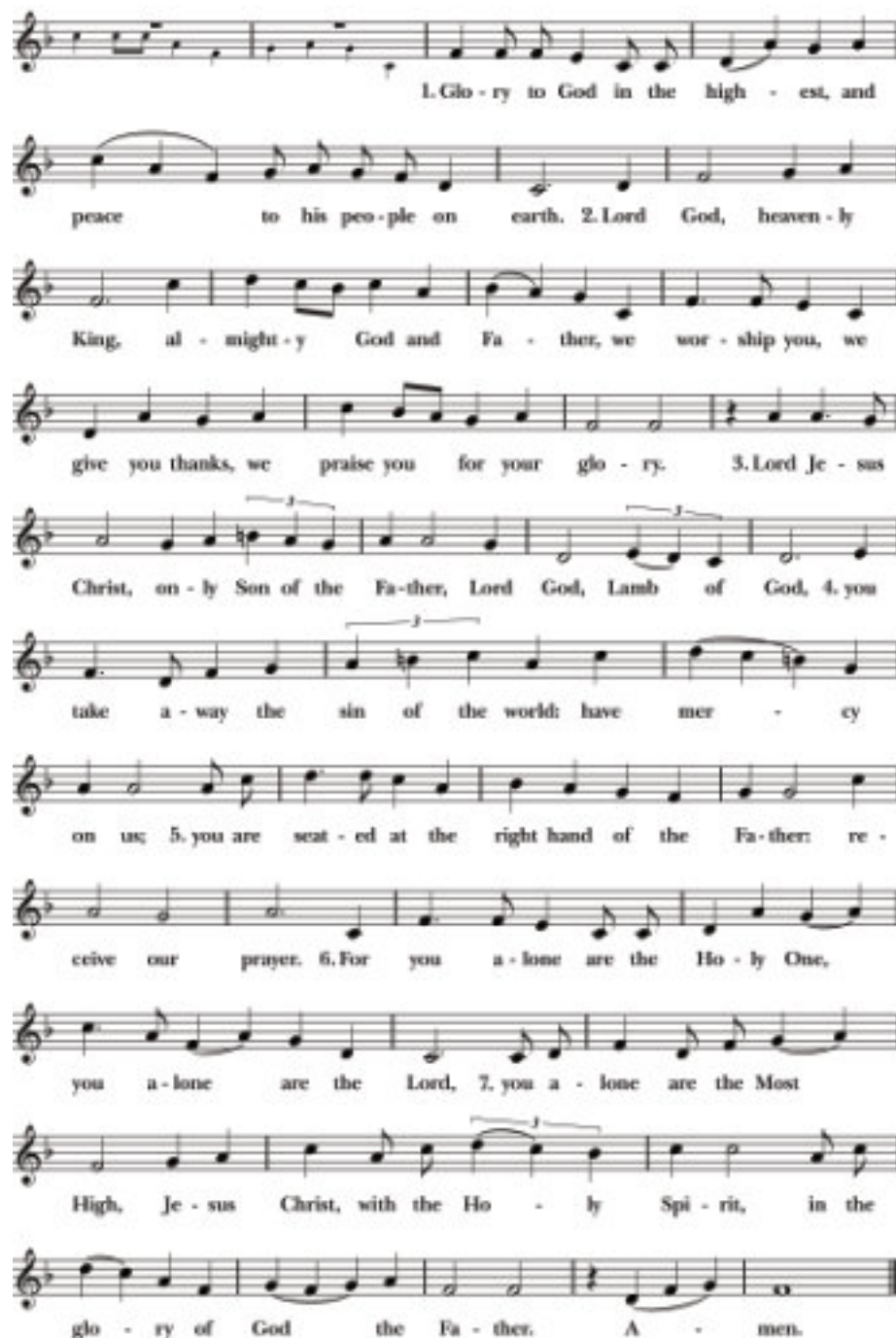
People **And blessed be his kingdom, now and forever. Amen.**

THE COLLECT FOR PURITY

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.**

Welcome to St. John's, A Beacon in the Heart of Montgomery
We're glad you're here. Whether St. John's has been your church home
for years or you are joining us for the first time, you are welcome.
We invite you to worship, connect, and discover with us the
transforming love of Christ.

THE 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.

Almighty and everlasting God, in Christ you have revealed your glory among the nations: Preserve the works of your mercy, that your Church throughout the world may persevere with steadfast faith in the confession of your Name; 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: ISAIAH 45:1-7

A Reading from Isaiah.

Thus says the Lord to his anointed, to Cyrus, whose right hand I have grasped to subdue nations before him and strip kings of their robes, to open doors before him—and the gates shall not be closed: “I will go before you and level the mountains, I will break in pieces the doors of bronze and cut through the bars of iron, I will give you the treasures of darkness and riches hidden in secret places, so that you may know that it is I, the Lord, the God of Israel, who call you by your name.

For the sake of my servant Jacob, and Israel my chosen, I call you by your name, I surname you, though you do not know me. I am the Lord, and there is no other; besides me there is no god. I arm you, though you do not know me, so that they may know, from the rising of the sun and from the west, that there is no one besides me; I am the Lord, and there is no other. I form light and create darkness, I make weal and create woe; I the Lord do all these things.”

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM 96:1-9

Sung by the choir.

¹Sing to the Lord a new song; *

sing to the Lord, all the whole earth.

²Sing to the Lord and bless his Name; *

proclaim the good news of his salvation from day to day.

³Declare his glory among the nations *

and his wonders among all peoples.

⁴For great is the Lord and greatly to be praised; *

he is more to be feared than all gods.

⁵As for all the gods of the nations, they are but idols; *
but it is the Lord who made the heavens.
⁶Oh, the majesty and magnificence of his presence! *
Oh, the power and the splendor of his sanctuary!
⁷Ascribe to the Lord, you families of the peoples; *
ascribe to the Lord honor and power.
⁸Ascribe to the Lord the honor due his Name; *
bring offerings and come into his courts.
⁹Worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness; *
let the whole earth tremble before him.

THE EPISTLE: 1 THESSALONIANS 1:1-10

A Reading from Paul's First Letter to the Thessalonians.

Paul, Silvanus, and Timothy,
To the church of the Thessalonians in God the Father and the Lord
Jesus Christ: grace to you and peace.

We always give thanks to God for all of you and mention you in our prayers, constantly remembering before our God and Father your work of faith and labor of love and steadfastness of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ. For we know, brothers and sisters beloved by God, that he has chosen you, because our message of the gospel came to you not in word only, but also in power and in the Holy Spirit and with full conviction; just as you know what kind of persons we proved to be among you for your sake. And you became imitators of us and of the Lord, for in spite of persecution you received the word with joy inspired by the Holy Spirit, so that you became an example to all the believers in Macedonia and in Achaia. For the word of the Lord has sounded forth from you not only in Macedonia and Achaia, but in every place your faith in God has become known, so that we have no need to speak about it. For the people of those regions report about us what kind of welcome we had among you, and how you turned to God from idols, to serve a living and true God, and to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead—Jesus, who rescues us from the wrath that is coming.

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

THE SEQUENCE HYMN 339 *Deck thyself, my soul, with gladness*

THE GOSPEL: MATTHEW 22:15-22

All stand.

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

Then the Pharisees went and plotted to entrap Jesus in what he said. So they sent their disciples to him, along with the Herodians, saying, “Teacher, we know that you are sincere, and teach the way of God in accordance with truth, and show deference to no one; for you do not regard people with partiality. Tell us, then, what you think. Is it lawful to pay taxes to the emperor, or not?” But Jesus, aware of their malice, said, “Why are you putting me to the test, you hypocrites? Show me the coin used for the tax.” And they brought him a denarius. Then he said to them, “Whose head is this, and whose title?” They answered, “The emperor’s.” Then he said to them, “Give therefore to the emperor the things that are the emperor’s, and to God the things that are God’s.” When they heard this, they were amazed; and they left him and went away.

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

THE SERMON The Rev. Dr. Duncan Johnston

All sit.

THE NICENE CREED

All stand.

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.

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE: FORM IV

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.
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.
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, _____ 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 may add a concluding Collect.

The Celebrant then says

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

Celebrant and People

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.

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

All stand.

Celebrant The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People **And also with you.**

STEWARDSHIP MESSAGE Gibson Family

THE HOLY COMMUNION

All sit.

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.

THE OFFERTORY

**If you wish to give online, please use the QR code on the back page of the bulletin. All stand to sing the Offertory verse as the offering is brought 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 people remain standing. The Celebrant faces them and says

	The Lord be with you.
<i>People</i>	And also with you.
<i>Celebrant</i>	Lift up your hearts.
<i>People</i>	We lift them to the Lord.
<i>Celebrant</i>	Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
<i>People</i>	It is right to give him thanks and praise.

Then, facing the Holy Table, the Celebrant proceeds

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth, for you are the source of light and life; you made us in your image, and called us to new life in Jesus Christ our Lord.

Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

THE SANCTUS



The people stand or kneel. Then the Celebrant continues

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.

The Celebrant continues

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 for ever. **AMEN.**

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

People and Celebrant

**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.**

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 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.

THE POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

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.

THE BLESSING

Go now as those who have found favour in the sight of God.

Be imitators of Jesus Christ

and an example to all of the life of faith.

To the world in which you live, give your love and service,

and to God, give all that you are and all that you shall be.

And may the glory of God's goodness be revealed to you;

May the grace and peace of Jesus Christ take root in you;

And may the inspiration of the Holy Spirit fill you with joy. **Amen.**

THE CLOSING HYMN 379 *God is Love*

THE DISMISSAL

Priest Go in peace to love and serve the Lord. Alleluia, alleluia.

People **Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia.**

THE POSTLUDE

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TODAY'S SERVERS

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

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

Organist: Jim Sadie

Lector and Intercessor: Tracy Klinestiver, Natalie Snyder

Eucharistic Ministers: Virginia Banister, Fairley McDonald, Dudley Perry

Ushers/Greeters: Bill Eskridge, Elizabeth Lawlor, Nick Prillaman, Karen Westhauser

Flower Guild: Jean Smyth, Karen Westhauser

Flower Delivery Team: Melissa Carter, Doris Ball, Linda Hutchinson

Videographer: Jim Cannon

Instrumentalist: Robby Gibson, *guitar*

Altar Flowers are given in memory of: Frederick Wooten Wilkerson,
Valerie deSieyes Wilkerson, Alice Wilkerson Sarrett

Your prayers are requested for the following parishioners: Carolyn Fillmore, Marla Foster, Tom Horton, Emily Crump Johannes, Phillip Kinney, Carma Marks, Richard McCrory, Pat McDonald, Eddie McDowell, Cameron Napier, Eddie Patillo, Elizabeth Potter, Shirley Price, Jeanie Rue, Carrie Shaw, Debbie Steindorff, Bill Stewart, Julia Thompson, Barbara Wallace, Florence Young

Prayers are also requested for these friends: Courtney Cobb, Lizzy Dickens, John Ferguson, Mark Grantham, Roger Holliday, Stephanie Holmes, Jane Lampley, Josie Lee, Charles Lewis, Nicole Lusk, Margaret Moore, Lyl Parker, Sandra Pierce, Ron Skoneki, Alice Smith, Maude Van Dis, Lee and Freida Warren Frank Winkler, Sharon Carney Wright

Pastoral Care Team for October: Murray Bennett, Carrie Shaw, Margaret Peebles, Doris Ball

*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.*

ANNOUNCEMENTS

COMING EVENTS

Introducing: Family Dinner

Beginning in November, join us on the first Wednesday of each month at 6 p.m. in the Parish Hall for a potluck and fellowship. No programming, no frills--just community and a meal together. Bring a dish to share, bring the kids, and invite your neighbors. There's room for everyone at the table.

ECW Conference

All Episcopal Church Women are invited to the 137th ECW Fall Conference, October 23–24 at Church of the Epiphany in Guntersville. Visit alabamaecw.org for lodging information and conference registration, or scan the QR code on the event flyer. Please contact Kathleen Bradford with any questions at 334-201-2425.

Mark Your Calendars for Trunk or Treat--Trunks Needed

Join us for Trunk or Treat & Movie Night at St. John's on Wednesday, Oct. 28. Trunk or Treat begins at 5:30 p.m. in the parking lot—kids can collect candy, show off costumes, and snap photos. Volunteers are needed to set up trunks. At 6 p.m., settle in for some spooky favorites on the big screen. Bring chairs or blankets, invite friends and neighbors, and enjoy a festive evening of fall fun, treats, and community. All ages are welcome—no cost, just come and celebrate!

Please contact Maria at maria@stjohnsmontgomery.org if you would like to host a trunk.

Parish Retreat November 13-15 - Families Welcome

Join us for a Parish Retreat at Camp McDowell November 13–15 as we step away from the busyness of daily life for a weekend of fellowship, worship, reflection, and renewal. Mark your calendar and plan to be part of this special time of rest, community, and spiritual refreshment. Register via this QR code or pick up a registration form in the narthex or front desk.

REGISTER FOR
PARISH RETREAT



GET READY FOR THE ST. JOHN'S BAZAAR

Preparations are underway for the St. John's Annual Bazaar on Wednesday, November 18! There are plenty of ways to help:

- **Bazaar Cooking:** Join us at 9:30 a.m. for cooking and fellowship on Tuesdays and Thursdays!
- **Silent Auction Donations:** We're looking for quality items such as antique furniture, rugs, artwork, china and silver, lamps, and decorative housewares. Donations may be left under the stairs in the Christian Formation Building. Questions? Contact Kathleen Bradford at kbradbrad@aol.com or 334-201-2425.
- **Arts & Crafts:** Join us Thursdays from 9 a.m. - noon for some crafting and fellowship on the second floor of the education building. You can also share your creativity by donating handmade home décor, seasonal decorations, jewelry, woodcrafts, sewn items, and other handcrafted treasures. Please price-tag items and drop them off at the church office. Questions? Contact Murray Bennett at murray.bennett@earthlink.net or 334-430-8660.
- **Treasure Attic Donations:** Cleaning out? Donate gently used household items, collectibles, holiday décor, artwork, and more (no clothing, please). Drop donations under the stairs by the church office. If you would like to share in fellowship and help organize, price, or set up please contact Melissa Carter at melcart82@gmail.com or text her at 334-868-3251.

WORSHIP & CHRISTIAN FORMATION

Fall Teaching Series

Wednesdays, October 7, 14 & 21 | Dinner at 6 p.m. | Parish Hall

AI isn't going away—and the questions surrounding it are changing almost as quickly as the technology itself. That's why we're rebooting our conversation about AI and the Church.

Join us for three Wednesday evenings as we take a fresh look at how Artificial Intelligence is shaping our daily lives and consider what it means for our faith, relationships, work, and life together as the Church. St. John's welcomes back Dr. Jim Locke to guide our teaching and discussion.

Dinner begins at 6 p.m., with teaching and discussion at 6:30 p.m. Children's and youth activities will be offered during the adult teaching time.

12 for Today: The Minor Prophets Speak

Beginning Sunday, September 20, at 9:15 a.m. in the Library, join us for a new Rector's Forum, "12 for Today." These twelve prophets may be called "minor," but their messages are anything but small. Together, we'll explore these often-overlooked books of the Old Testament and discover what these ancient voices have to say about faith, justice, mercy, hope, and our lives today.

Looking Ahead: New Formation Class in November

Asking Better Questions of the Bible

What if our questions could lead us deeper into faith? Join us for a five-week series based on Marty Solomon's book Asking Better Questions of the Bible. Through scripture, reflection, and conversation, we'll explore how context, curiosity, and fresh perspectives can deepen our understanding of the Bible and shape our daily lives. Bring your questions and a willingness to listen and learn. No advance reading is required, but copies of the book will be available in the St. John's bookstore.

STAYING CONNECTED TO ST. JOHN'S

There is always something happening at St. John's, and we want to make it easy for you to stay informed, get involved, and know what's coming up. Whether you prefer print, email, social media, or our website, there are several ways to find the latest news and information from the parish.

• Sunday Bulletins & Announcements

Each Sunday's bulletin includes information about upcoming worship, formation, fellowship, outreach opportunities, and other parish events. Be sure to check the announcements as you plan your week.

• Weekly E-Newsletter

Our weekly e-newsletter is one of the best places to find a roundup of what's happening at St. John's. Email churchoffice@stjohnsmontgomery.org to subscribe.

• St. John's Website

Visit the St. John's website anytime for information about worship, ministries, formation, upcoming events, serving opportunities, and more.

• Facebook & Instagram

Follow St. John's on Facebook and Instagram for event reminders, photos, parish updates, and glimpses of life at St. John's throughout the week. Sharing our posts is also an easy way to invite others into the life of our parish.



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.

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.

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

stjohnsmontgomery.org



Online Giving



If you wish to make a gift to St. John's,
our online giving portal makes it easier than ever.
Your generosity supports our ministries
in Montgomery and beyond.

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