

# The Magnificat



## “What is Lent?”

The first thing for us to realize about Lent is that it is an ancient spiritual practice. Early Christians began the observance of the coming celebration of Easter by entering into a period of fasting and praying. Early Christians also practiced a time of fasting and praying for forty days before their baptisms; which often coincided with the Easter celebration. So, as the early church engaged in the spiritual practices of the preparation for baptism at Easter, the tradition of “preparing oneself” became associated with the forty days leading to Easter. The first mention of early Christians observing a 40-day period of Lent can be found in the Canons of Nicaea in the year 325 AD. Eventually the Season of Lent was established as the forty days before Easter.

Throughout history, this season has been observed by Christian believers around the world. Over time it has become revered as a time of reflection, holiness, sacrifice, humility, repentance, and spiritual renewal. The marking of the beginning of the Season of Lent with the receiving of ashes on the forehead was established by Pope Gregory in the Year 601 AD. Christians gather on Ash Wednesday to hear sacred liturgy reminding them of their mortality. One of the most stark reminders of our human frailty on Ash Wednesday is the imposition of Ashes. The priest, or other spiritual leader, takes the ashes from the burned palms from the previous year’s Palm Sunday celebration, and making the sign of the cross on each person’s forehead, recites these sacred words; “Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return”.

This observance of ancient Christian spiritual traditions speaks to us even in modern times. Sanctifying forty days prepares our hearts for the celebration of Christ’s resurrection on Easter morning. Lent is a time to reflect on the sacrifice that Jesus made for us so that we may grow in our personal faith and in the communal spiritual practices of the local body of Christ.

So, what is Lent? It is a time for us to remember our spiritual heritage and embrace our current spiritual growth and life. Many people “give up” things for Lent; like meat, sugar, entertainment, or other pleasures in an effort to make space to draw closer to God. Where this is a good practice, I would invite us to “fill” the space we give up by taking up spiritual practices that will truly draw us closer to God. This can be done by attending Sunday morning Worship Services, Wednesday morning Centering Prayer, Bible Study, and Worship Service, participating in the Wednesday evening formation classes, engaging in reading or being a part of Morning, Noon, and Evening Prayer, exploring our own prayer life, reading scripture or sacred readings, and engaging in acts of service and charity at St Mary’s, our local community, or the world.

What is Lent? I pray that you answer that question by considering the information that I have presented and asking the Holy Spirit to speak to you this season so that you engage in spiritual practices that are both ancient and new. And as I invite you “into the observance of a holy Lent” on Ash Wednesday, my prayer for you is that whatever the answer is, that it is holy indeed.

Prayerfully,

Mother Leanne+

**Feeding the 5000 Sunday!** March 2 is the day to bring your non-perishable food items to the Red Wagon in the church. Food that is donated will be utilized in the food pantry on Thursday mornings! The Food Pantry is serving an average of 60 households in the Milton community. Thank you for your food donations. **HELP**—Pantry Monday Team, 3-4 people are needed to help unload food & put on shelves. Contact the church office for more info.

*Final chance for savings!*  
Visit the Closing Sale at  
The Shoppe—Sat. 3/1,  
9am to 1pm.  
**CASH ONLY**—  
All sales final.

*Closing Sale*  
Sat, March 1st  
9:00am - 1:00pm  
**THE SHOPPE**  
6849 OAK ST, MILTON



**75% OFF ALL MERCHANDISE**

## Shrove Tuesday

**March 4th @ 5:30pm**



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

The St. Mary's Men's Group will host a  
Pancake Supper for Shrove Tuesday!  
You're invited for fun, fellowship  
and a great meal!

Join us for a service of Holy Eucharist and an  
Imposition of ashes at the St. Mary's  
Ash Wednesday service.


The Youth will gather in the Rectory at  
5:30pm for a meal,  
then go to the church to experience the Ash  
Wednesday service.

If anyone is willing to cook & bring an easy  
meal for the youth, please contact Mother  
Leanne or the church office.

**ASH WEDNESDAY**  
*with imposition of ashes*

*St Mary's  
invites you to the  
observance of a  
Holy Lent*

*Wednesday,  
March 5th  
12:00pm and 6:00pm*



## Camp Beckwith 2025 Camp Dates

Registration is open for Summer Camp. Staff applications are also being accepted. Visit Beckwith's website for information on dates, rates and tiered pricing system. [Register here.](#)

SPONSOR A YOUTH--If you'd like to sponsor a child, please memo your gift "CAMP" and place in the offering plate or send to the office. St. Mary's generally has a few youth who like to attend. Camp cost is \$460 to \$560 per camper.

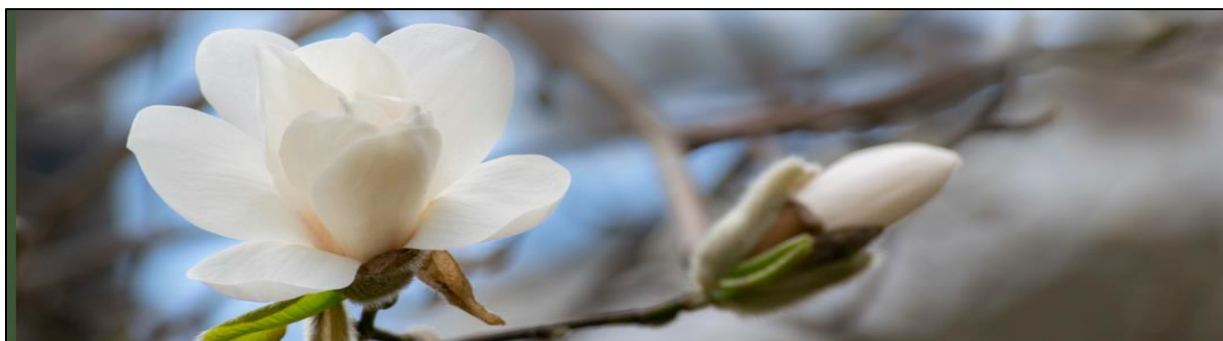


# Beckwith



**Episcopal Church Women (ECW) of St. Mary's.** Ladies, if you attend St. Mary's you are a member of the ECW. We are a group of women who get together to support our church, our community and each other. The ECW generally meets the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of each month, between services (March 16<sup>th</sup>). We will use this time to discuss events, discover helpful speaker services that may be available to visit St. Mary's, and to support & pray for each other. All women of the church are invited to attend & participate. So come, share your ideas and visions.

*Episcopal Church Women Prayer--Almighty God, we pray that You will bless our work in mission and ministry in the world. Help us pray fervently, labor diligently and give liberally to make known the power of your love given through your Son Jesus Christ. Let us not forget the lessons from the past nor fear the challenges of the future. Anoint us with your grace and shine in our hearts as we reflect your light throughout the world. – Amen.*



## Lenten Retreat

Join St. Mary's Episcopal Church and  
Contemplative Outreach of Pensacola 

**Pray:** Contemplative Outreach of Pensacola will instruct and guide us through a centering prayer experience.

**Connect:** Further enrich your morning by sharing breakfast and great conversation with other attendees.

**Enlighten:** The Rev. Leanne Beaumont will explore music as prayer in our faith journey.

**Worship:** Be immersed in God's love through a worship service with healing liturgy and Taize music.

pray connect enlighten worship

SATURDAY, MARCH 29TH  
9:00am - 12:00pm  
Registration 8:45am

St Mary's Episcopal Church  
6849 Oak St, Milton  
stmarysmiltonflorida@gmail.com

Registration Required  
<https://StMarysLentenRetreat25.eventbrite.com>

Register for the Lenten Retreat hosted by St. Mary's. [StMarysLentenRetreat25.eventbrite.com](https://StMarysLentenRetreat25.eventbrite.com)

## March, 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1 Shoppe Final Sale 9am to 1pm
2 Feeding the 5000 9a Worship Rt II 10a Men host Breakfast 11a Worship Rt II	3	4 Shrove Tuesday 5:30pm Pancake Supper	5 Ash Wednesday Noon Ash Wednesday Service 6:00p Ash Wednesday Service	6 9-10:30a Food Pantry	7 Office Closed School for Ministry	8 School for Ministry Pastoral Care Lay class
9 Lent 1 Daylight Savings Time 9a Worship Rt I 10a ECW Host Breakfast 11a Worship Rt I	10	11	12 10:15a Center Prayer 11 a Bible Study Noon Worship 5:30pm Youth Grp. 5:30pm Adult Class 5:30pm Choir 6:30pm Bells	13 9-10:30a Food Pantry	14 Office Closed	15 Catechism/ Joe Taylor
16 Lent 2 9a Worship Rt I 10a POTLUCK—bring a dish to share 10a: ECW/Men mtg 11a Worship Rt I	17	18 10a: Prayer Shawl Ministry 6p—Vestry Mtg.	19 10:15 a Center Prayer 11 a Bible Study Noon Worship 5:30p Youth Grp. 5:30p Adult Class 5:30p Choir 6:30p Bells	20 9-10:30a Food Pantry	21 Office Closed	22
23 Lent 3 9a Worship Rt I 10a Vestry/DOK host Breakfast 11a Worship Rt I	24	25	26 10:15a Center Prayer 11 a Bible Study Noon Worship 5:30pm Youth Grp. 5:30pm Adult Class 5:30pm Choir 6:30pm Bells	27 9-10:30a Food Pantry	28 Office Closed	29
30 Lent 4 9a Worship Rt I 10a Breakfast 9a Worship Rt I	31					

## Dates to remember for Lent and Easter at St. Mary's!

### We invite you to join us at this Most Holy Time

March 4th, 5:30pm - Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper

March 5th, Noon & 6:00pm - Ash Wednesday Services w/ Imposition of Ashes

March 29th, 9:00am to Noon - Lenten Retreat

April 13th, 9:00am & 11:00am - Palm Sunday - Procession of the Palms

April 17th, 6:00pm - Maundy Thursday - Foot Washing Service with Taize Music

April 18th, Noon - Good Friday - Stations of the Cross

April 19th, 6:00pm - Holy Saturday - Service of the Light

April 20th, 9:00am & 11:00am - Easter Sunday Worship Services

10:00am - Easter Brunch provided by St Mary's

Portraits with baby lambs

Easter Egg Hunt after the 11:00am Worship Service



### *March Birthdays*

- 3/01 Don Taylor  
3/07 Sharon Deloatche  
Wayne Keen  
Daemun Marcus  
3/08 Sharon Erichsen  
3/10 James McGuyre  
Megan McGuyre  
3/11 Peter Hotmer-Drao  
3/13 Mary Starr  
3/15 Pat Weir-Dunn  
3/28 Ann Cole  
Mary Beth Williamson  
Belle Gampher

### *March Anniversaries*

- 3/11 Caroline & Don  
Thompson  
3/28 Chuck & Laraine  
Sturtevant  
3/31 Heather & David Milliron

### **The Diocese of the Central Gulf Coast**

*The Rt. Rev. James Russell Kendrick,  
Bishop*

#### **St. Mary's Episcopal Church**

Clergy:

*The Rev. Leanne Beaumont*  
850-529-0207 [prieststmarys@gmail.com](mailto:prieststmarys@gmail.com)

Vestry:

Mary Salinas - Sr. Warden  
850-777-7882 [mlydia10@gmail.com](mailto:mlydia10@gmail.com)

Julia Hotmer-Drao—clerk--2028  
518-596-4000 [hotmermurphy@gmail.com](mailto:hotmermurphy@gmail.com)

Don Thompson--Jr. Warden--2027  
850-572-0432 [dt1962@gmail.com](mailto:dt1962@gmail.com)

Melodie Rowland--2025  
850-291-4694 [musicodiemel@gmail.com](mailto:musicodiemel@gmail.com)

Ann Cole—2028  
850-516-1775 [sailo328@yahoo.com](mailto:sailo328@yahoo.com)

### *Prayer Requests*

#### Family

Arden  
Dotty Johnson  
Connie Harris  
Edith Reese  
Elise  
Ian Williams  
Jessica Morawski  
Jim Longshore  
Jesse & Jennifer Reeves  
Michael Johnson  
Ray & Alice Etheridge  
Sam Harris  
Scott Deloatch  
Sam Rowe  
Tucker  
Vicki Blackmon  
Wayne Hamilton

#### Our Friends

Elianna Shaffer  
Clayton Shaffer  
Gregg Bleamer  
Mary Raisler  
Minnie

#### Military

Anthony Cunningham  
Bradley James  
Christopher Vance  
Fischer Morgan Lay  
Joshua Krause  
Kevin Murphy  
Lena Ryan  
Leo  
Lou Andrade  
Nick Rinaire  
Phillip Holmes  
Tom Ryan  
Tyler Hart

*Church Directory*—please submit your picture (family or individual) to help update the St. Mary's family directory. Once the directory is complete, copies will be available for everyone. We will have someone take pictures at church if you are not able to take/send your own.

Email pictures and contact information to the office.

[stmarysmiltonflorida@gmail.com](mailto:stmarysmiltonflorida@gmail.com)

### **St. Mary's on Social Media!**



Catch the Sunday & Wednesday sermons on the new St. Mary's Youtube channel.  
<https://www.youtube.com/@StMarysMiltonFL>

The St. Mary's Facebook page is where you can find the latest news & events at the St. Mary's campus. Share, like, and comment on posts!

St. Mary's Episcopal Church  
6849 Oak Street, Milton, Florida 32570  
Office: 850-623-2905

website: <https://stmarysmilton.org>  
email: [stmarysmiltonflorida@gmail.com](mailto:stmarysmiltonflorida@gmail.com)  
Office Hours: Mon-Thurs, 8:30am to 1pm

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