

The Magnificat



In Celebration

This month we will celebrate the retirement of Dr. Carol Culton as choir director and organist at St Mary's for 20 years. It is an incredible accomplishment to serve a faith community for that length of time! Carol has served with dedication and passion in her ministry, honoring music as a way to support the Worship Service.

I have been thinking about her incredible service to St Mary's as I work with others to plan her retirement celebration on Sunday, February 9th @ 10:00am during a special breakfast hour. We will have a beautiful breakfast sponsored by our ECW along with special music and gifts to celebrate her service. As I think about Carol's ministry at St Mary's I have been asking myself, "What is music?"

Music at its core is ordered sound. Silence, which is the absence of sound, creates the framework for which we experience this ordering. We know that God, in creation, is the source of all sound and silence. As the created cosmos was being ordered by its creator, the song of creation was recorded in Holy Scripture:

"Where were you when I laid the foundation of the earth? Tell me, if you have understanding. Who determined its measurements-surely you know! Or who stretched the line upon it? On what were its bases sunk, or who laid its cornerstone when the MORNING STARS SANG TOGETHER AND ALL THE HEAVENLY BEINGS SHOUTED FOR JOY?" Job 38:4-7.

The very first poem song that we see in the Bible is in Genesis 1, *"When God began to create the heavens and the earth, the earth was complete chaos, and darkness covered the face of the deep, while a WIND FROM GOD swept over the face of the waters."* Genesis 1:1-2. This first movement of the wind over the water is the first music that God sings over his earthy creation. During the days of creation, God directs the disordered rumble into ordered measure. And as the days of creation progress, we see the expression of God's divine creative sound. The light dispelling darkness, the dome of separation cradling the earth like a mother singing to her newborn baby, water swooshing across the dry land, trees unfurling their leaves reaching branches in praise of their creator, the songs of the creatures, human voices; and finally, God resting, the blessing of silence.

The earliest recorded scripture, "The Song of the Sea", is a prayer set to music. Miriam sings, *"Sing to the Lord, for he has triumphed gloriously; horse and rider he has thrown into the sea"* (Exodus 15:20-21). The second oldest written Biblical passage is also a song; The Song of Deborah, *"Awake, awake, Deborah! Awake, awake, utter a song!"* (Judges 5:12). In fact, the three oldest scriptures in the Bible are all believed to be songs!

Music connects us to God and allows us to experience God's nature and spirit in a uniquely intimate way. Music allows us to enter worship; to be lifted beyond this earthy realm and connect with the being of God. Since we know that all things divine, including music, comes from the creator, we experience music as a way to become immersed in the beauty of God's holiness. We bypass our mind and connect to the eternal part of our being; the part that sings with stars and worships with the wind.

May our hearts be grateful for the Ministry of Carol as we celebrate her gift of music. And may we continue to celebrate all of the creative powers of our God through music as we approach his throne of Grace each Sunday at St Mary's.

In Christ with Love,
Mother Leanne+

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The 3rd Sunday of each month the Episcopal Church Women, and the St. Mary's Men's group will meet between services, in the hall (10:10am).

All women and men who attend St. Mary's are invited and encouraged to join these two meetings.  
Cathy Parker, ECW president. Phillip Odom, Men's President.

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February 1st
10:00am to 1:00pm

**Work Day at
St Mary's**

**Please join your St Mary's
family for a work day
around our campus.**

**Thank you for helping
get our campus ready
for spring!**



**WORK DAY
• a t t h e •
CHURCH**

Please come celebrate the retirement of

Dr Carol Culton

Music Director and Organist at St Mary's for 20 years

Please join us as we host a 'Love of Music'
themed celebration during the Breakfast Hour.
Special live music will be provided.

SUNDAY
FEBRUARY | 9 | 10:00AM

*Please consider bringing a gift card to place in a basket
to be presented to Carol. She has many interests: books,
music, restaurants, genealogy, pets, etc

ECW Members—Please call or text Cathy Parker 850-515-6525 or Ann Cole 850-516-1775 with your food donation for this celebration! Thank you!

WEDNESDAY EVENINGS

Adult Formation Classes

IN PARISH HALL

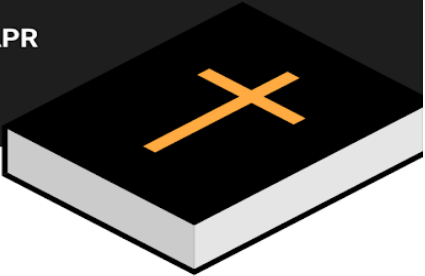
Contact Mother Leanne
 prieststmarys@gmail.com or 850-623-2905

FEB, MAR, & APR

5:30-7:00 PM

ALL ARE WELCOME

Details Coming Soon



Continual Christian education is important for our faith growth. St. Mary's is offering an evening class for adults. Starting, Feb. 5th, please join us every Wednesday evening for informational and engaging group discussions as we explore Books, people and topics of the Bible.

The class will meet at 5:30pm in the hall. Meals or finger foods may be available and will be planned once the group meets. Bring your own soda, tea, water.

Calling all YOUTH ages 13-18!
 Starting Feb. 5th!

Join us at St. Mary's every Wednesday night, in the Rectory! (yellow house)
 5:30pm to 7pm

Expect food, activities, conversation & just hanging out with other teens!

Join us for the fun & bring along a friend or two!

YOUTH ST MARY'S GROUP

Wednesday Evenings in the Rectory
 February, March, and April
 5:30pm dinner 6:00pm-7:00pm Youth Group

Food*Fun*Formation

Contact Mother Leanne for more information
 prieststmarys@gmail.com



Make A Difference!

Feeding the 5,000 Sunday

In support of the St Mary's Food Pantry, the first Sunday of each month is Feeding the 5,000 Sunday. Please bring non-perishable food items to place in our little red wagon. *Thank you!*



Feeding the 5000 is a ministry at St. Mary's to help provide food for those in need.

Throughout the month, please bring non-perishable foods to fill the wagon that's located at the church entrance. This food is used to help support the pantry.

The Food Pantry is open every Thursday, from 9am to 10:30am, in the hall. Volunteers prepare grocery bags to give out to community residents who provide a valid Santa Rosa County ID.

Thank you for helping this important ministry.

February, 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1 10am to 1pm-- Work Day
2 UTO Offering Feeding the 5000 9am Worship Rt II 10am Men host Breakfast 11am Worship Rt II	3	4	5 9:45am Center Prayer 10:30am Bible Study 11:30am Worship 5:30pm Youth Grp. 5:30pm Adult Class 5:30pm Choir 6:30pm Bells	6 9:30am Pantry	7 Office Closed School for Ministry	8 School for Ministry
9 9am Worship Rt II 10am Carol Culton Retirement Party 11am Worship Rt II	10	11 6pm—Vestry Mtg.	12 9:45am Center Prayer 10:30am Bible Study 11:30am Worship 5:30pm Youth Grp. 5:30pm Adult Class 5:30pm Choir 6:30pm Bells	13 9:30am Pantry	14 Office Closed	15 Catechism/ Joe Taylor
16 9am Worship 10am ECW host Breakfast. ECW/Men mtg 11am Worship	17	18	19 9:45am Center Prayer 10:30am Bible Study 11:30am Worship 5:30pm Youth Grp. 5:30pm Adult Class 5:30pm Choir 6:30pm Bells	20 9:30am Pantry	21 Office Closed Diocesan Convention	22 Diocesan Convention
23 9am worship 10am Vestry/DOK host Breakfast 11am Worship	24	25	26 9:45am Center Prayer 10:30am Bible Study 11:30am Worship 5:30pm Youth Grp. 5:30pm Adult Class 5:30pm Choir 6:30pm Bells	27 9:30am Pantry	28 Office Closed 2025 Men's Conference	

2025 Men's Conference

Friday, February 28-Sunday, March 2 –

Beckwith, 10400 Beckwith Ln, Fairhope

"How the Desert Fathers Help Us Pray" with the Rev. Adam McCoy, O.H.C.

All men of the diocese are invited to the 42nd Annual Men's Conference. We are pleased to welcome the Rev. Adam McCoy O.H.C., presently a solitary monk not in residence and serves as assisting priest in two parishes in Cathedral City, CA. He took life vows in the Order of the Holy Cross in 1978. Subsequently, he has served as the Novice Master of the order and prior to the Calvary Monastery Retreat House in Santa Barbara, CA. In addition to his monastic responsibilities, Father McCoy has been a rector to two parishes and has led other ecclesiastical activities both in the Diocese of New York and the Diocese of Los Angeles. Father McCoy has written several articles relating evangelism to Anglican monasticism. He enjoys leading retreats for both clergy and laity and likes to discuss the influences of the Desert Fathers upon contemporary prayer life.

Cost varies. Please register and pay by February 21.

[REGISTER ONLINE](#)

2025 Men's Conference

Feb 28 - Mar 2, 2025 | Beckwith

How the Desert Fathers Help Us Pray
with the Rev. Adam McCoy, O.H.C.



John 10:3, Jesus describes the Good Shepherd as one that "...calls his own sheep by name..."
 St. Mary's wants everyone to know your name, for this, we invite you to order a nametag.
 Please contact the office if you would like to order a magnetic name tag, \$10.00 each.
 An order will be sent by the end of February.
stmarysmiltonflorida@gmail.com 850-623-2905



St. Mary's is a part of the Diocese of the Central Gulf Coast.

We invite you to click this link to [SUBSCRIBE TO DIOCESAN COMMUNICATIONS](#) or Text DIOCGC to 22828.

This will help keep you informed of what's going on around our diocese.

February Birthdays

2/08 Dorothy Johnson
 2/16 Fox Gampher
 2/25 Carol Culton
 Phillip Odom
 2/28 Carol Stewart
 2/29 Vicki Blackmon

February Anniversaries

2/16 Wayne & Linda Hamilton
 2/24 Jennifer & Jesse Reeves

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

Vestry:

Mary Salinas - Sr. Warden
 850-777-7882 mlydia10@gmail.com

Julia Hotmer-Drao—clerk--2028
 518-596-4000 hotmermurphy@gmail.com

Don Thompson--Jr. Warden--2027
 850-572-0432 dt1962@gmail.com

Wayne Hamilton—2025
 850-418-0350 episjay7@gmail.com

Ann Cole—2028
 850-516-1775 sailo328@yahoo.com

Prayer Requests

Family

Dawn McFadden
 Dotty Jonson
 Connie Harris
 Edith Reese
 Jackie Cook
 Jack Biblo III
 Zoe Bilbo
 Ben Bilbo
 Jessica Morawski
 Jim Longshore
 Jesse & Jennifer Reeves
 Michael Johnson
 Nikki Presley
 Sam Harris
 Vicki Blackmon
 Elsie
 Tucker
 Arden

Our Friends

Gregg Bleamer
 Mary Raisler

Military

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

Those in California affected by the fires.

March 5th, 2025



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

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

Sunday Services at 9am & 11am
 Wednesday Service at 11:30 am
 "To build up one another in Christ"