



*Two Parishes,  
One Family*



**PARISH STAFF**

**Pastor:**  
The Very Rev.  
Stephen Vrazel

**Deacon:**  
Mark Thompson

**School Principal:**  
Corinne Cuffle

**Pastoral Assistant:**  
Laurel Wallace

**Dir. of Development:**  
Marcelle Naman

**Volunteer Coordinator:**  
Millie Dixon

**Parish Bookkeeper:**  
Anna Summersell

**Music Director:**  
Dr. Collin Lowery

**Dir. of Religious Ed.:**  
Steve Dolan, Jr.

**Bulletin & Website  
Coordinator:**  
Lindsey Binion

**RECONCILIATION:**

5:00-6:00pm Tues. and Thurs. or by appt.

**MASS TIMES – HOLY DAYS:**

Vigil–5:30pm; 6:00am, 8:15am (school year)  
and 5:30pm

**ADORATION:**

6:30am-4:00pm Fridays in the Chapel

**PARISH OFFICE:**

Open M–F 8:00AM–3:00PM  
106 Providence St. | Mobile, AL 36604  
251-432-8678

**SCHOOL OFFICE:**

Open M–F 8:00AM–3:00PM  
107 N. Lafayette St. | Mobile, AL 36604  
251-433-9904

[www.stmarymobile.org](http://www.stmarymobile.org)



To visit our online donation page, open your smart phone's camera and aim it at the coded square. Touch the link that pops up on your phone.

**PARISH STAFF**

**Pastor:**  
The Very Rev.  
Stephen Vrazel

**Deacon:**  
Douglas McEnery

**Organists:**  
Richard Jones,  
MaryAnne Cieutat

**Secretary:**  
Lynn Anderson

**RECONCILIATION:**

3:30-3:55 pm Saturday and by appt.

**PARISH OFFICE:**

Open M, W, F 9:00AM–12:00PM  
1260 Elmira St. | Mobile, AL 36604  
251-432-3505  
office@stjoanofarc.net  
[www.stjoanofarcmobile.com](http://www.stjoanofarcmobile.com)

**STEWARDSHIP REPORT**

Week of 12/18/2–12/25/23  
Offertory: \$ 5,734.22



Scan this QR code to give online!

**STEWARDSHIP REPORT**

**Week of 12/18/23–12/25/23**

4<sup>th</sup> Sunday 12/24/23: \$2,012.23  
Christmas 12/24 & 25: \$5,626.91  
Mailed in: \$12,900.00  
Online: \$10,405.79  
**Total: \$30,944.93**

**Week of 12/26/23–12/31/23**

Main Collection: \$3,890.22  
Mailed in: \$3,250.00  
Online: \$25,699.05  
**Total: \$32,839.27**

**SECOND COLLECTIONS**

St. Vincent DePaul Society – Dec. 31  
\$1,014.57

January 7, 2024 | The Epiphany of Our Lord

**MASS SCHEDULE & INTENTIONS**

DAY	DATE	WHERE	WHEN	INTENTIONS
Sat.,	Jan 6	St. Joan	4:00pm	Holy Souls in Purgatory
Sun.,	Jan 7	St. Mary's	6:00am	
		St. Joan	8:30am	Muriel Blanchette (d)
		St. Mary's	9:30am	Parishioners of St. Mary's
		St. Mary's	11:30am	Nazmi Ozakur (d)
Mon.,	Jan 8	St. Mary's	9:00am	
Tues.,	Jan 9	St. Mary's	6:00am	Antoine Shaw (d)
Wed.,	Jan 10	St. Mary's	6:00am	Mary & Greg Hahn (l)
Thurs.,	Jan 11	St. Mary's	6:00am	Elizabeth Vanees (l)
Fri.,	Jan 12	St. Mary's	6:00am	



## PLEASE PRAY FOR the Sick

Christy Blackmon, Hoagy

Kearns, Janet Pierre, Kathy Wall, Ann Schillings, Karen Clark Andrews, Michael Newburn, Milton Days, Betty Spotswood, Frances Arata, Betsy McAleer, Daniel Lawrence, George Finkbohner, Anne Hall, Laura Cummings, Felice Lomangino, Philip Tapia, Preston Griffith, Karen Johnson, Sandra Edwards, Mary Lou Noletto, Sandi Clark, Guillermo Herrera, Marsena Walsh, Douglas Laird, Bill Klein, Idella Lang, Claire Morrow, Richard Harrington, Carolyn Harrington, Jim Fibbe, Mary Davis Rutledge, Sr. Mary Agnes Nagle, Doris Reed, Westey and Kathleen Hurst, Susan Thornton, Carolyn Simmons, Virgil Graham, Joe Kenny, Kate Myers, Sr. Elizabeth Ann Cannon, Wendy Maken, Jean Rathle, Sharon Laird, Elizabeth Vannees, John Johnson, Louise McPherson, Jackson Johnson, Carol Rathle, Angela Nagle, Judy Daly, Denise Smith, Geri Barnett, Adele Kearns, Viola Henderson, Eva Haustein, James LeGrone, Coach Phillips Murphy

### PRAYER GROUP

### WOMEN'S ROSARY GROUP

The WOSM Rosary Group meets twice each month in the Chapel, on the 1<sup>st</sup> Saturday at 8:30am This group is led by Alexis Talbott. The next meeting is **Sat., January 6.**

### NOW HIRING

### ST. MARY'S CATHOLIC SCHOOL EARLY CHILD DEVELOPMENT CENTER

is seeking a full-time caregiver for the children ranging in ages from 6 weeks to 2 years. Please contact our principal, Corinne Cuffle, at ccuffle@stmarymobile.org for more information.

### WAYS TO SERVE

### BE A EUCHARISTIC MINISTER OR LECTOR!

We are always in need of new lectors and Eucharistic ministers to serve on the altar, and if they are interested to contact Laurel Wallace in the parish office at lwallace@stmarymobile.org or 251-432-8678.

## RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

**CHILDREN'S LITURGY** at the 9:30AM Sunday Mass welcomes children ages 3-8. They'll be led to the chapel for the Liturgy of the Word, to return to their pews after bringing up the gifts at the Offertory.

**CCD CLASSES** meet on Sundays from 10:30-11:20 in the St. Mary's School building. Please contact Steve Dolan at sdolan@stmarymobile.org for inquiries.

**HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH GROUP** meets in the Youth Building at 111 N. Lafayette St. at 12:30 to play games and eat pizza together. At 1:30, the girls and boys separate for their own focus groups, led by Elizabeth Rafferty and Fr. Vrazel.

**ST. MARY CONFIRMATION CLASS** meets next on Wednesday, Jan. 3, at 7:00PM in the Sisters of Mercy Building.

**RCIA CLASSES** meet on Thursdays from 7PM-8PM in the Sisters of Mercy Building for any adults interested in learning more about or joining the Catholic faith. Please contact the parish office at (251) 432-8678 for more information.

## EPIPHANY HOME BLESSING



To bless your home for the epiphany, use blessed chalk (grab some from the basket at church after Mass!) to write on the lintel of your door or on the top o the door itself the numbers and letters you see in the graphic above.

The letters C, M, B have two meanings. They are the initials of the traditional names of the three magi: Caspar, Melchior, and Balthazar. They also represent the Latin words "Christus mansionem benedicat" which means "May Christ bless the house." The "+" signs symbolize the cross and the 20 and the 24 represent the year, 2024.

### PRAYERS FOR THE EPIPHANY HOME BLESSING

Lord God of heaven and earth, you revealed your only-begotten Son to every nation by the guidance of a star.

Bless this house and all who inhabit it. Fill them (us) with the light of Christ, that their (our) concern for others may reflect your love.

We ask this through Christ our Lord. R/. Amen.

The leader concludes the rite by signing himself or herself with the sign of the cross and saying:

May Christ Jesus dwell with us, keep us from all harm, and make us one in mind and heart, now and forever.

R/. Amen.

## EVENTS



Please join us for Marriage Night on January 24th from 6PM-8PM in the Sisters of Mercy Building. \$30 suggested donation, and please bring a bottle of wine to share! Contact Laurel Wallace at lwallace@stmarymobile.org or 251.380.8772 to make your reservation.

### Mary's Shelter

**Gulf Coast**  
*Be My Valentine TV* **\$10,000 Draw Down**  
*Last ticket pulled wins \$10,000!*  
**Silent/Live Auction**  
*Get your tickets today*  
**Only 500 tickets for sale!**



**\$100 per ticket**

*Need not to be present to win*

**Scan the QR code to purchase tickets online or call 251-986-6351**

**Our Lady of the Gulf**  
308 E. 22nd Avenue, Gulf Shores  
Sunday, February 18, 2024  
12:00 p.m.-4:00 p.m.

**Special guest appearance and performance by "Elvis!"**



## UPCOMING EVENTS

<b>Jan. 24</b> 6:00pm	<b>Marriage Night</b> SOM Building
<b>Feb. 3</b> 8:30am	<b>WOSM Rosary Group</b> Chapel
<b>Feb. 7</b> 12:00pm	<b>50+ Valentine's Luncheon</b> SOM Building
<b>Feb. 13</b>	<b>Ash Wednesday</b> Ashes distributed at: 6:00am, 8:10am Mass 5:30pm (Vespers—not a Mass)
<b>Mar. 18</b> 6:00pm	<b>Marriage Night</b> SOM Building
<b>Mar. 19</b> 5:30pm	<b>St. Joseph's Altar &amp;</b> Pasta Dinner, school gym
<b>Sun. Mar 24</b> 6:00am, 9:30am, 11:30am	<b>Palm Sunday</b> Masses
<b>Thurs. Mar 28</b> 7:00pm	<b>Holy Thursday</b> Mass of the Lord's Supper
<b>Fri. Mar 29</b> 3:00pm 3:00pm 7:00pm	<b>Good Friday</b> Passion Liturgy Stations of the Cross Tenebrae
<b>Sat. Mar 30</b> 9:00am 3:00pm 8:00pm	<b>Holy Saturday</b> Tenebrae Confessions Easter Vigil
<b>Sun. Mar 31</b> 6:00am, 9:30am, 11:30am 10:30am	<b>Easter Sunday!</b> Masses Easter Egg Hunt
<b>April 21–27</b>	<b>Steak Out Weekend!</b>
Apr. 21	Spring Swing, 12:00pm
April 25	Mix & Mingle, 6:30pm
April 27	Love Like Lillis Walk, 8:00am
April 27	Kids' PlayDay, 9:00am
April 27	Steak Out, 6:00pm
<b>May 1</b> 6:00pm	<b>Marriage Night</b> SOM Building



2B Choices for Women

PREGNANCY AND  
PARENTING SUPPORT

Call us at 251-343-4636 for assistance.

Pregnant? Parenting?

2B Choices for Women in Mobile can help! We are building a culture of encounter and accompaniment as we walk with moms and parents in need.

2B Choices for Women in Mobile provides free pregnancy testing, prenatal/parental education, and baby essentials.

To learn more about our ministry please visit [catholicsocialservices.org/2b-choices-for-women](http://catholicsocialservices.org/2b-choices-for-women) or follow us at [facebook.com/2BChoices](https://facebook.com/2BChoices)

## January 7, 2024 | The Epiphany of Our Lord

### GOSPEL MEDITATION (©LPI)

A stranger in a foreign land, I was exhausted and homesick as my summer Spanish immersion ended in Guatemala. The rusty minivan arriving outside my small residence filled me with joyful hope. I was flying home to the U.S. and would be, at long last, completely happy. Or so I thought. After about half an hour of being home, I thought to myself, "This place is boring. I want to go somewhere." So, I hopped in my car and left to see my friends. As I drove, I wistfully wondered, "Where am I truly at home?"

The feast of Epiphany has a lot to do with our notion of home. Where is our origin? Where are we going? When is our wandering done? Saint Matthew tells us of the Magi, "**They were overjoyed at seeing the star.**" This star will bring them home, to a place where their questing will end, and they will be satisfied. Their

real home is neither in the East nor in the earthly Jerusalem. Somehow, their home is wherever this boy and his parents are.

If you're a teenager or older, you probably know by now that every physical home we have is temporary. So, we look up at the countless stars in our proverbial skies: things which bedazzle and beckon us to follow toward peace. The Gospel invites us to behold that — at long last — God has sent us a star to follow home, one that whispers, "Follow me! I will take you home!" Perhaps that star is your spouse. A friend. An opportunity. A cause. An intuition about a new direction. A prayer group. What is it for you? How will you know? It will lead you to Mary and Joseph and their son, and you will be home.

— *Father John Muir*



### SUNDAY BRUNCH SOCIAL

Everyone is welcome to join us for brunch following the Sunday morning Mass. Thank you to all who prepare this wonderful social - please contact the office or Helena Smith if you would like to be put on a brunch team.

#### Schedule:

1/7/24: Elizabeth Hughes, Samantha Anderson, Helena Smith, Savannah Browning  
1/14/24: Melanie Winter, Caroline Hassell, Jenna Strickland, Lauren Dempsey

### VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

This week we are happy to give special recognition to Michele Healy for lending her time and talent to St. Joan of Arc. Michele and her husband Bill not only donated the beautiful flower arrangements beside the tabernacle on Gaudete Sunday and Christmas, but Michele spent hours arranging them herself. Thank you for helping to make our church beautiful!

### CHURCH DECORATIONS

Thank you to all who volunteered to decorate the church – it was especially beautiful this year! We are asking for your help again removing the Christmas decorations following brunch on Sunday.