

Twenty-First Sunday in Ordinary Time August 23, 2020

Date	Intentions	Requested by
Sun. 8/23 11:00	Francis &Patty Laux	
Wed. 8/26 9:00	William Barry +	Carmen Allen
Thurs. 8/ 27 12:10	Lou Bruns	
Fri.. 8/28 9:00	Ellen Nolan	
Sat. 8/ 229 4:00	Lee Smith +	Dixie Barton

Stewardship Thought

“Love one another as I have loved you...I have chosen you to go forth and bear much fruit.” (John 15:12,16)

Saint of the Week

St. Moses the Black, Martyr August 28

Moses was an Ethiopian born into slavery around the year 330. At first, he worked in an Egyptian official's house, but because of his stealing, his vicious nature, and his evil tendencies, he was dismissed from service. He then became the leader of a band of brigands who terrorized the countryside. Eventually the whole tenor of Moses' life changed, perhaps when he fled from the authorities and took refuge among hermits at the monastery of Petra in the Skete desert in Lower Egypt. Eventually he became a monk at that monastery. Known for his severe discipline, Moses lived as a hermit, although he was later ordained a priest by Archbishop Theophilus of Alexandria. In 405, at the age of seventy-five, he along with six other monks was murdered by marauding Berbers when—in imitation of his Divine Master—he refused to defend himself.

Our Lady of the Mountains Guidelines and Precautions during the Covid-19 Pandemic

We are taking the following precautions to keep everyone safe at Mass.

1. The obligation to attend Mass is still lifted.
2. Social distance of 6ft is observed at all times.
3. Seating is limited to every other pew to facilitate social distancing.
4. Sanitizing hands is encouraged upon entering and leaving . Hand sanitizer is available at the entrances.
5. The wearing of masks is highly encouraged. Masks are available at the entrances.
6. Reusable items in the pews have been removed, such as hymnals and missals.
7. Congregational singing is suspended.
8. All physical contact between congregants is suspended such as hand-holding at the Our Father and the Sign of Peace.
9. The priest sanitizes his hand between households during the distribution of Holy Communion.
10. Distribution of the Precious Blood is suspended.
11. All high-contact surfaces are disinfected after Mass.

Let's all do our part to stay safe!

Sunday 21st Sunday in Ordinary Time Is 22:19-23; Ps 138:1-2, 2-3, 6, 8; Rom 11:33-36; Mt 16:13-20
Monday Saint Bartholomew, Apostle Rv 21:9b-14; Ps 145:10-11, 12-13, 17-18; Jn 1:45-51
Tuesday Saint Louis 2 Thes 2:1-3a, 14-17; Ps 96:10, 11-12, 13; Mt 23:23-26
Wednesday 2 Thes 3:6-10, 16-18; Ps 128:1-2, 4-5; Mt 23:27-32
Thursday Saint Monica 1 Cor 1:1-9; Ps 145:2-3, 4-5, 6-7; Mt 24:42-51
Friday Saint Augustine, Bishop, Doctor 1 Cor 1:17-25; Ps 33:1-2, 4-5, 10-11; Mt 25:1-13
Saturday Passion of Saint John the Baptist 1 Cor 1:26-31; Ps 33:12-13, 18-19, 20-21; Mk 6:17-29
Sunday 22nd Sunday in Ordinary Time Jer 20:7-9; Ps 63:2, 3-4, 5-6, 8-9; Rom 12:1-2; Mt 16:21-27

Father's Column

How the Church is Endowed with Authority

Authority has always played a central role in salvation history. Moses had to contend with his claim to authority against the constant refrain: “who made you a ruler over us?” Solomon had to fight for his rightful place as king. This topic is intensified in the New Testament where the authority of Christ is of central concern. The Father sent Christ with authority over nature (in calming the wind), sickness (in healing many), death (raising Lazarus). He also possessed authority in preaching (“He teaches as one having authority”), in expelling demons (“He has authority even over unclean spirits”), and most controversially in forgiving sin (“And now, to convince you that the Son of Man has authority to forgive sins...(Mk2)”).

The authority of Christ did not depart with His Ascension; rather, He granted that same authority to His Apostles. In fact, the word “apostle” comes from the Greek *apostolein* meaning to be sent with authority such as a legate. “All authority on heaven and earth has been granted to me. Go, therefore... (Mt 28)” “As the Father has sent me, so I send you... (Jn 20)”. The Apostles were given authority over sickness, demons, death, and even to forgive sins: “Whose sins you forgive are forgiven them; whose sins you retain are retained” (Jn 20).

The authority given to the Apostles did not die with their passing, but continued in their successors. The first such example of Matthias who replaced Judas following the latter's suicide (Acts 1). The entire early Church understood a line of authoritative successors as being the will of Christ—an understanding never challenged until the Protestant Reformation 1,500 years later. St. Ignatius of Antioch, a direct successor of the Apostles themselves, even writes; “See that you all follow the **bishop**, even as **Jesus Christ** does the **Father**” (Letter to Smyrnaeans, Ch. 8).

The Father gave authority to Christ, who, by the Holy Spirit, gave that authority to the Apostles, and through them, to their successors. That same authority continued for 2,000 and continues today in the Catholic and Orthodox Churches.

**In this time of Covid
please consider making your
offertory donations on-line.
Visit our website for more
details.
olmhighlands.com**

Faith Formation

It is that time again!

It's time to register for children's faith formation classes. Classes will begin the week after Labor Day. Please register by August 28th. For more information and to register please call Bonny Dodge at 828- 342-0039

Parish Council Meeting

**Our next Parish Council meeting will be
on
Sep. 10, 2020 at 10:15 am**

Please pray for our parishioners and their relatives and friends:

Ellen Nolan, Griffin Harper, Suzette Oleksyk, Patricia Pittari, Adele Hopkins, Nick Klingler, Shawn Webster

Also for those in our book of prayer intentions, and those for whom there is no one to pray.
Please pray for all the men and women serving the United States in the military.

Please pray for the souls of our beloved deceased.
Fr. Carl Beavers, Earl Goodrow and Ron Simmons