

# Our Lady of the Mountains Catholic Church

Highlands, North Carolina



## MASS SCHEDULE

Wednesday Latin Mass 9:00 am  
Thursday Mass 12:10 pm  
Friday Mass 9:00 am  
Saturday Mass 4:00 pm (**TBD See Website**)  
Sunday Mass 11:00 am

### Sacrament of Confession

15 minutes before Mass or by appointment

**Parochial Administrator—Rev. Fr. Jason Barone**  
**Sacristan—Mary Dodge    Faith Formation—Bonny Dodge**

**Office Hours: Tues, Wed, Thurs. and Fri. 9:00 am to 3:00 pm**

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**For Sacramental Emergency: 828-634-1377**

# The First Sunday of Lent

## February 21, 2021

Date	Intentions	Requested by
2/21 11:00	Amy Polaskey & Family	Ellen Nolan
2/24 12:00	No Mass	
	Latin	
2/25 12:00	No Mass	
2/26 9:00	No Mass	
	Latin	
2/28 11:00	Monique Miralles & Family	Ellen Nolan



**Our Lady of the Mountains—Offertory**  
**(Weekend of February 14, 2021)**  
**Offertory—\$1,622 Attendance— 64**

**In this time of Covid-19**  
**please consider making your offertory dona-**  
**tions on-line. Visit our website:**  
**[www.olmhighlands.com](http://www.olmhighlands.com)**

### **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.

Today's readings suggest two different meanings and experiences of baptism. The second reading (from 1Peter) makes an analogy between Noah's ark and Catholic baptism: just as Noah and his family were saved from death by going through the waters of the flood in the ark, Christians are saved from sin and death by going through the waters of baptism. The first reading from Genesis, portrays the world after the flood: washed clean of its prior wickedness, embraced by God's promises that the world will never again be destroyed by water. The psalmist expresses a desire to follow the ways of God, as if re-establishing the harmony between God and humanity destroyed by sin. This peaceful scene is very different from the drama and urgency in Mark's description of Jesus after his baptism. Jesus battles demons, receives sustenance from angels, and begins preaching: "Repent. The kingdom of God is at hand."

### **Saint of the Week**

It is not sinners, but the wicked who should despair; it is not the magnitude of one's crime, but contempt of God that dashes one's hopes.

~ St. Peter Damian February 21

**There will be no weekday Mass February 24th**  
**through February 26th.**

## Father's Column

### The History of Lent

The word *Lent* is derived not from Latin, but from the Teutonic word *lencten* meaning the season of "spring," the time during which the season of Lent generally occurs. The Latin word for Lent is *Quadragesima*, literally meaning "fortieth," reflecting the fortieth day before Easter and so representing more broadly the forty days of Lent.

The number forty appears numerous times throughout Scripture: God purified a sinful Earth with forty days and forty nights of rain; Moses prepared to receive God's revelation for forty days. For Christians, the Lord Himself fasted and prayed in the desert the same forty days. The idea of memorializing significant events in salvation history is also deeply embedded in God's Word. God commanded the Jews to observe the Passover as a perpetual and annual memorial by which subsequent generations could participate in God's saving action in Egypt. Immediately, the Apostles and disciples adopted such a memorialization by celebrating annually (and weekly—Sundays) the Lord's Passion, Death, and Resurrection in the New Passover or Easter.

As appears to be driven by human nature, rituals develop over time. The Passover itself, for instance, developed over the centuries between the time of Moses and Christ. Not surprisingly, then, Christians slowly developed the liturgical year eventually giving liturgical expression to the entirety of the Lord's life, including His forty days in the desert as a period of preparation for Easter. The Origins of Lent are a bit obscure in part due to the length of time of 2,000 years and in part due to Christianity's prohibition for its first 280 years, preventing the religion from operating openly and uniformly. Nonetheless, we know some preparation for Easter goes back to the apostolic period. St. Leo the Great (d.461), for instance, claimed that the practice of Lent was of apostolic origin. However, the precise practice differed greatly. Eusebius chronicles a letter from St. Irenaeus (d.202) to Pope Victor (d.199) in which he complains about the various observances of the pre-Easter fast. The Council of Nicea (325AD) mentions Lent in passing without any detail.

St. Athanasius of Alexandria (d.373) makes reference to forty days of fasting prior to Holy Week. It is clear by the time of St. Ambrose (d.397) that a forty-day Lent was established in the West.

How Christians calculated forty days of fasting differed between East and West. Eastern Christians fasted Monday through Friday, thus requiring eight weeks. Western Christians fasted Monday through Saturday, so they settled for six. To this day Eastern Christians begin their Lenten observances two Sundays prior to Ash Wednesday, Meatfare and Cheese-fare Sundays, after which they abstain from meat and dairy respectively as they prepare for a vegan diet the remaining six weeks. In the West, though, fasting six days per week for six weeks only adds up to thirty-six. While there was a beautiful significance in that number, namely one-tenth of the year or a way of tithing spiritually, Western Christians eventually added four days to achieve the symbolically-rich number of forty; hence, Ash Wednesday, four days prior to the first Sunday of Lent, came to introduce the season.

### Holy Week Schedule

***The Triduum will be held at St. Jude's***

Holy Thursday Mass 6 pm

Good Friday Stations of the Cross 12 pm

Good Friday Liturgy 3 pm

Holy Saturday Liturgy 8 pm

Easter Sunday

St. Jude's 9 am

Our Lady of the Mountains 11 am

**Please pray for our parishioners and their relatives and friends:**

Nancy McGowan, Carolyn Neupauer, Alsia Sutton & Family, Christine Walker, The Pittari Family, Laura Sanders, Mary Catherine Cann, James Urbanski, Griffin Harper

**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.**

Pat Pittari, Clara Lewicki, Fr. Ubald Rugirangoga, Scott Peek, Sr., Stewart Austin, John Powers, and Ron Simmons, Harry Vaughn