

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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The Third Sunday of Lent

March 7, 2021

Date	Intentions	Requested by
3/07 11:00	John Horvath +	Joanne La Poma
3/10 12:00	Mark Outman + Latin	Ellen Nolan
3/11 12:00	Pat Pittari +	Claire Galam
3/12 9:00	Pat Pittari + & Family Latin	Fred & Maddy Wooldridge
3/14 11:00	Shirley Trailies +	Boyd & Gloria Doxtader



Our Lady of the Mountains—Offertory

(Weekend of February 28, 2021)

Offertory—\$1,031 Attendance— 53

In this time of Covid-19
please consider making your offertory donations on-line. Visit our website:
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 reading from Exodus tells of God giving the Ten Commandments to Moses; this passage is well known to Christians, but it is only the introduction to the entire Mosaic Law, or Torah. The Psalm is a small section of the longest in the Psalter-172 verses-which are generally couplets (two lines) praising the Law as perfect, true, just, right, and so on. The Law is both the source of Jewish identity and the centerpiece of the Jewish intellectual tradition. Paul briefly compares this tradition with those of the Greeks, the two groups in the church at Corinth that were often quarreling. The passage from John's Gospel shows Jesus' righteous anger as he chases the moneychangers from the temple. His actions are a sign of Jesus' own reverence for "my Father's house," which in turn reflects his deep appreciation for the Law. Catholics, like first-century Jews, have our regular means for living in God's presence. We have liturgy, sacraments, devotions, and personal prayer. During Lent, we are asked to be a little stricter with ourselves, listening for God's own voice. IF we do, we might discover that we, too, are being called to something "more."

Saint of the Week

With outstretched arms Jesus begs us to turn toward Him, to weep for our sins and to become the servants of love, first for ourselves, then for our neighbors. Just as water extinguishes a fire, so love wipes away sin.

~ St. John of God (1495-1550), Feast Day March 8

Father's Column

Reintroducing the Sprinkling Rite

There is a close connection for many people between visiting a church and taking holy water. Unfortunately, the long list of COVID victims includes this ancient and venerable practice. It has been nearly a year without holy water stoops welcoming people at the entrances of churches. Some companies have employed their entrepreneurial spirit and began creating touchless holy water dispensers for the faithful. Perhaps, however, there is another solution, at least for Sundays, that is also very traditional.

Up until the late 1960s, most Catholics attending "High Mass" on Sundays will remember the *Asperges* or sprinkling rite that began Mass. The priest, usually wearing a cope (liturgical cape), would kneel at the foot of the altar and intone a chant: *Asperges me*. The choir would then take up the rest of the chant while the priest walked around sprinkling everyone with holy water. He would then return to the foot of the altar, chant a prayer, then go to his chair to switch out vestments from a cope to his Mass vestment, the chasuble. Then the prayers at the foot of the altar would begin.

It is unfortunate this particular ritual has fallen into neglect as it is deep in symbolism. In general, the act of sprinkling the faithful with holy water reflects two things: 1) the washing away of sin and 2) recalling the baptismal graces that made us part of the Church. We sinners ought to recognize our sinfulness when we enter into

The presence of God. This is not to be melancholic; rather, this is one side of a coin, the other being the good news of God's mercy, forgiveness, and welcoming spirit. By recalling our baptism, we are reminded that we are now sons and daughters of God—everything in the spiritual life is a gift.

The words of the chant outside of Easter come from Psalm 50, the great psalm of repentance: "You will sprinkle me with hyssop, O Lord, and I shall be cleansed. You will wash me and I shall be whiter than snow. Have mercy on me, O God, according to your great mercy." After Easter, we will consider the words of the paschal sprinkling rite, the *Vidi Aquam*.

March Novena

Please join us in praying the St. Joseph Novena

<https://www.praymorenovenas.com/st-joseph-novena>

March 11—19

On Friday March 19th we will have Mass at 9:00

followed by brunch downstairs in Fellowship Hall.

All are welcome.

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