

# 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**

\*\*\*\*\*

**315 North Fifth Street, Highlands, NC 28741**  
**Email: [olmountainhighlands@charlottediocese.org](mailto:olmountainhighlands@charlottediocese.org)**

**Office: 828-526-2418 FAX: 828-526-0249**  
**For Sacramental Emergency: 828-634-1377**

# The Fifth Sunday of Lent

## March 21, 2021

Date	Intentions	Requested by
3/21 11:00	Doris Hunt +	Pauline Cavanaugh
3/24 12:00	Paul Bollinger + Latin	Fred & Maddy Wooldridge
3/25 12:00	Jim & Ann Urbanski	Fred & Maddy Wooldridge
3/26 9:00	Scott Peek, Sr. +	Ted & Nancy McGowan
3/28 11:00	Bertha Lachance +	Pauline Cavanaugh



### Our Lady of the Mountains—Offertory

(Weekend of March 14, 2021)

Offertory—\$1,301 Attendance— 57

In this time of Covid-19  
please consider making your offertory donations 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.

In the Gospel reading Jesus says, “When I am lifted up from the earth, I will draw everyone to myself.” The narrator says that Jesus’ words indicate how he will die; the readers already know Jesus will be crucified. Jesus also speaks of divine judgment driving out the world’s rulers and of the need to be transformed, like a seed growing into a productive plant. He warns about loving our life and losing it. Unlike Jeremiah’s detailed vision, Jesus only hints at what kind of transformed life his death will bring.

What if we, like Philip’s friends, want to get close to Jesus? Does that mean that the discourse on death and judgment is addressed to us? If Jesus will draw everyone to himself as he is “lifted up,” does being closer to him mean joining him on his cross? (Do we want to be that close to Jesus?) Do we want to be transformed? If we say “yes,” the liturgy these next two weeks can show us the only way the Church knows to get closer to Jesus: to be willing to be “lifted up” with him in his suffering—and in our own.

### Saint of the Week

Christ said, “I am the Truth; he did not say, I am the custom”.

~Saint Turibius of Mongrovejo (1538-1606)

Patron of native rights    Feast Day    March 23

## Father's Column

### An Explanation of the Pope's Explanation

This past week, the Vatican released an important document addressing a pressing issue of today, namely the blessing of same-sex unions. A copy of the document is included in this weekend's bulletin and a link is provided below. Before jumping into its content, it behooves us to consider the broader topic of authoritative documents. The Pope is the successor of St. Peter and so fulfills his role as visible head of the Church Militant. A central responsibility is reflected in the words of Our Lord in Luke 22:32: "I have prayed for you [Peter] that your faith may not fail; and when you have turned again, strengthen your brethren." In other words, Peter's role is to strengthen the Apostles and all the faithful in the Deposit of Faith Christ Himself gave them. We see this process play out in Acts 15 when Peter settled definitively the matter of circumcision. One sees this process continue historically, in the form of an appeals process. When a debate erupted somewhere in the Church, be it in North Africa or the Near East, an appeal would be made to the Pope, for a final say on the matter. When he gave his decision, the topic was settled: *Roma locuta est, causa finite est* or "Rome has spoken, thus the matter is concluded."

It is critical to keep in mind, however, that when the Pope speaks, he does so with varying degrees of authority. Sometimes he uses the full weight of his authority, such as when declaring *ex cathedra* Our Lady's Immaculate Conception. Other times, for instance in airplane interviews when giving a mere opinion, he employs zero papal authority.

Such cases on either extreme are easy; however, many instances in between exist and must also be carefully considered.

This past week, the Congregation of the Doctrine of the Faith issued a direct answer to a direct question in an official way. This immensely important office is responsible for making clear what is to be considered orthodox versus heretical. To add further weight to the document's authority it is mentioned that Pope Francis "gave his assent" to its publication. The famous theologian Ludwig Ott wrote the following: "[T]he decisions of the Roman Congregations are not infallible. Nevertheless normally they are to be accepted with an inner assent which is based on the high supernatural authority of the [Vatican]."

<https://press.vatican.va/content/salastampa/it/bollettino/pubblico/2021/03/15/0157/00330.html#ing>

### 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, 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