

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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Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord

March 28, 2021

Date	Intentions	Requested by
3/28 11:00	Bertha Lachance +	Pauline Cavanaugh
3/31 12:00	No Mass	
	Latin	
4/01 12:00	No Mass	
4/02 9:00	No Mass	
4/04 11:00	OLM Parishioners	



Our Lady of the Mountains—Offertory

(Weekend of March 21, 2021)

Offertory—\$1,907 Attendance— 63

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.

Palm Sunday invites us to follow Jesus through the rest of Holy Week. By moving us to feel the injustice and the suffering endured by Jesus, this week's liturgies and devotions present us with those same choices. Perhaps, like the unnamed woman, we can open ourselves to others' suffering and respond with love and compassion. Or perhaps, like the Twelve, we will be conspicuous by our absence.

Saint of the Week

Become aware of God, in whose presence you are while you pray...Then take a formula of prayer and recite it with perfect attention both to the words you are saying and to the Person to whom you are saying them.

~ St. John Climacus (579-649), Author of Ladder of Divine Ascent, Feast Day March 30

Father's Column **The Private Mass**

June 2nd of this year will mark nine years of priesthood for me. One of my greatest gratitudes is offering Holy Mass daily, despite travel, sickness, or even surgery. Thanks be to God, since the day of my ordination, I have only been prevented once from offering Mass due to grave sickness and no local access to an altar.

Telling people that I offer Mass daily, despite whether others are present, inadvertently serves as a litmus test as to whether a person understands the true nature of the Mass. Some give inordinate emphasis to the gathered community, and so it would seem strange to offer Mass alone. That mentality, however, neglects its primary purpose, namely to offer to the Father the sacrifice of Christ in a sacramental way for the salvation of the world. Surely, the Church prefers the presence of the faithful; however, the priest is still a member of the Church. Further, as the angels and saints are present at every Mass, the priest is never truly alone. Fundamentally, the *raison d'être* of the priest is to offer sacrifice. It is his highest and noblest duty—it is his identity. Such is the reason to offer Mass daily, even if alone.

If one considers all the evil in the world, one is sometimes left with the question: how does God allow a sinful earth to continue. Perhaps it is the daily offering of the Son to the Father on altars around the world that prevents His justified wrath from consuming the globe. We ought not only think globally, but locally—it must certainly be comforting to know that daily your priest is interceding to God for you by the most powerful means at his disposal: the Eternal Sacrifice.

Sadly, another mentality exists in some quarters, namely that priests ought only to say public Mass. This past Monday, for instance, at a very heart of the Church at St. Peter's in Rome, a new policy went into effect essentially prohibiting the offering of private Masses in the basilica. Formerly, the early morning was abuzz with dozens of priests offering their daily Mass at the innumerable side altars, sometimes with a small gathering of faithful, sometimes alone.

Now an eerie silence like that of an empty museum fills the sacred building.

This past year, a worldwide pandemic prevented Masses in St. Peter's. Now, as the world re-opens, countless private Masses will be prohibited voluntarily. So many graces the world the Vatican desperately need will be prohibited. Consider attending more daily Masses, if you can, in reparation. Lord, have mercy!



A priest offering his private Mass at St. Peter's

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

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