

The Ascension of the Lord

May 16, 2021

Date	Intentions	Requested by
5/16 11:00	William Madden & Family	Gerard Walker
5/19 12:00	Special Intention	
Latin		
5/20 12:00	Bob & Keri Allen	
5/21 9:00	Sarah Bryan	Carmen Allen
5/23 11:00	William Allen	Carmen Allen



YOU HAVE SEEN AND HEARD NOW GO DO

It isn't enough to say we believe in Jesus. We are called to live as members of Christ's body and share the joy of faith with others. We do this by discerning and fulfilling our vocation, the ways in which God calls each of us to live. Often when we think of vocation, the first thing that comes to mind is the priesthood. But each of us experience vocational calls, to our state in life and to the ways in which we live, work, and serve. Each of us has been given different gifts and are called according to our gifts. We are equipped with talents and skills through which we may contribute to bringing the mercy, compassion, truth, goodness, and beauty of God's love to the world. What are your particular gifts and talents? How may you be called to use them to bring Christ's love to others, leading them to see and hear the Good News of Jesus Christ?

Our Lady of the Mountains—Offertory (Weekend of May 9, 2021)

Offertory—\$1,826 Attendance—72

Please consider making your offertory donations on-line. Visit our website:
<https://olmhighlands.com/online-giving>
 for more details.

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. Sanitizing hands is encouraged upon entering and leaving. Hand sanitizer is available at the entrances.
3. The wearing of masks is highly encouraged.
4. All physical contact between congregants is suspended such as hand-holding at the Our Father and the Sign of Peace.
5. The priest sanitizes his hand between households during the distribution of Holy Communion.
6. Distribution of the Precious Blood is suspended.

The next Parish Council Meeting will be held on Thursday, June 10th at 10:30. All parishioners are welcome to attend.

Second Collection

The second collection this weekend combines five collections into one. This International/National Combined Collection contributes toward the Catholic Relief Services Collection, the Collection for the Holy Land, the Collection for the Works of the Holy Father, the Catholic Communications Campaign, and the Catholic University of America. Thank you for your generosity.

Father's Column

St. Peter: The Church's Rock and Stumbling Block An Adaptation from an article in the Highlander by Fr. Barone

Interestingly, no less than three Gospels on three different occasions does Christ commission Peter in his role as chief shepherd, while simultaneously highlighting Peter's weakness and sinfulness. In the Gospel of Luke, Our Lord tells St. Peter "Satin has demanded to sift you like wheat, but I have prayed for you [Peter] that your faith may not fail; and when you will have converted, strengthen the brothers" (Luke 22:32). Here Christ charges Peter to strengthen the faith of the other Apostles, but only after he himself has converted—a conversion that presumes, of course, a fall.

The end of John's Gospel likewise gives us a beautiful account of Peter's commissioning. Three times the Lord asks Peter "do you love me more than these?" next to a charcoal fire (see Jn 21:15). After each of Peter's positive responses, Jesus then tells him to feed and tend his flock. The three-fold commission reversed the three-fold denial (that, too, took place by a charcoal fire).

Lastly, Matthew's Gospel utilizes the strongest language, both for Peter's authority and his weakness. The Lord says to him "you are Peter and upon this rock I will build my church" (Mt 16:18). The very next paragraph, the Lord calls Peter "Satan" and says "you are a stumbling block to me." Peter is both the rock on which the Church is built, but also a stumbling block. The similar language between "rock" and "stumbling block" is striking. Further, in Greek "stumbling block" is *scandalon*, whence we have the word "scandal."

Peter does remain sometimes a source of scandal. Saint Paul even rebukes him harshly in Galatians 2 for acting duplicitously in the presence of different factions in the Church. Nonetheless, Peter is the clear leader in Acts of the Apostles.

Was the Lord wrong in choosing such a weak man to shepherd his flock? Could He not find anyone better abled? The Lord seems to have chosen Peter precisely for his weakness to assure the Church in all ages that despite the frailties of its leaders, the Lord Himself continues to shepherd His flock.

**BECOME MORE INVOLVED AT
OUR LADY OF THE MOUNTAINS!**

Women's Club Men's Club

Lector Usher Flowers

Fellowship Brunch

Please call the office for more details!

Ladies of OLM

Join us for a Woman's Ministry Planning Luncheon! We are starting something new and would love your input. We will meet in Fellowship Hall at 11 am on Thursday, June 17th to share your ideas and have a little fun. Contact Janet at 828-526-4590 or email prescherjanet@gmail.com if you have any questions.

Pope Francis' Monthly Intention for May

The World of Finance

Let us pray that those in charge of finance will work with governments to regulate the financial sphere and protect citizens from its dangers.

Saint of the Week

Remember to care for the soul more than the body, since the former remains, the latter perishes.

~Blessed Alcuin of York, (735-804), Monk, Scholar,

Feast Day May 19

Please pray for our parishioners and their relatives and friends:

Sarah Bryan, Donna Barry, Nancy McGowan, Carolyn Neupauer, Alsia Sutton & Family, Christine Walker, Laura Sanders, Mary Catherine Cann, 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.

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