

Our Lady of the Mountains

Catholic Church

Highlands, North Carolina



The Roman Catholic Diocese of Charlotte

MASS SCHEDULE

Saturday Vigil Mass: 4:00 p.m.
(May 25-Oct 26, 2024)

Sunday Mass: 11:00 a.m.

Tuesday: Latin Mass 9:30 a.m.

Thursday: English Mass 9:30 a.m.

HOLY DAY SCHEDULE

New Year's Day 11:00 a.m.

CONFESSION

Tuesday 9:10 a.m. - 9:25 a.m.

Thursday 9:00 a.m. - 9:15 a.m.

ADORATION

Thursday: 8:30-9:15 a.m.

BENEDICTION

Thursday 9:15 a.m.

MORNING PRAYERS/LAUDS

Tuesday 9:10 a.m. - 9:25 a.m.

Thursday 9:00 a.m. - 9:15 a.m.

PARISH OFFICE HOURS

Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday
9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.

SACRAMENTAL EMERGENCY

(828) 634-1377

December 25, 2023

The Nativity of the Lord

Sunday Cycle: B



The angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for behold, I proclaim to you the good news of great joy that will be for all the people. For today in the city of David a savior has been born for you who is Christ the Lord. And this will be a sign for you; you will find an infant wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in a manger."

Luke 2:1-14

Mission Staff

Parochial Administrator—Rev. Fr. Jason Barone

Secretary—Lori McCarley

Executive Assistant—John Paul Torres

Sacristan—Mary Dodge

Address: 315 N. 5th St., Highlands, NC 28741 * Phone: (828) 526-2418

Email: olmountainshighlands@rcdoc.org * Website: olmhighlands.com



The Nativity of the Lord December 25, 2023

Our vision is to become a beacon of Catholic faith on the plateau by giving due glory to God and greater love to our neighbors.

Our mission is to walk humbly in God's presence through prayer and service as a loving Catholic community dedicated to the redemptive work of Jesus Christ.

Liturgical Schedule

| Date | Mass | Intention/Requested |
|----------|-------------------|---|
| 12/25/23 | Sung English Mass | Parishioners of OLM |
| 12/31/23 | Sung English Mass | Mario & Joanne LaPoma By the LaPoma Family |
| 1/1/24 | Low English Mass | Scott I Peek, Sr.+ By Nancy & Ted McGowan |
| 1/2/24 | Low Latin Mass | Benefactors of Capital Campaign |
| 1/4/24 | Low English Mass | Steven Caruso+ Ray and Pattey Bradick |
| 1/7/24 | Sung English Mass | Deacon & Mrs. Gene Brady+ By Joan and Scott Love |

Mass Key

Low Mass: little/no singing and no incense.
Sung Mass: hymns and moderate chanting and may have incense.
Solemn Mass: hymns, extensive chanting, and incense.

| Mass Date | Offertory | MTD Online Giving | Attendance |
|---------------|------------|-------------------|------------|
| Dec. 10, 2023 | \$2,090.00 | \$814.53 | 105 |
| Dec. 17, 2023 | \$2,210.00 | \$1,850.30 | 113 |

*Includes Sunday offertory collection and mailed in donations.

CAPITAL CAMPAIGN NUTS AND BOLTS

Thank you to everyone for making payments to your pledge. Reminders will be sent via mail or email but, you may make a payment at anytime. Payments can be made via mail, or by dropping it off in the offertory basket or at the office. Notate capital campaign in the memo line. You may also pay online by using your Parish Soft Offering account or create an account at this [Link](#).

Stock Gifts—When using stock for your donation, complete form provided on OLM website. Page 1 is to be mailed to the diocese. Page 2 is given to your broker. Diocese cannot process in a timely manner unless Page 1 is received.



PARISH CALENDAR

Friday, December 22
Office and Church Closed

Saturday, December 23
Office and Church Closed

Sunday, December 24
Rosary @ 10:40am
Mass @ 11:00am

Monday, December 25
Confessions 10:30 a.m.
Christmas Carols 10:45 a.m.
Mass @ 11:00am

Tuesday, December 26
Office and Church Open 9:00am-3:00pm

Wednesday, December 27
Office & Church Open 9:00am-3:00pm

Thursday, December 28
Office and Church 9:00am-3:00pm

Friday, December 29
Office and Church Closed

Saturday, December 30
Office and Church Closed

Sunday, December 31
Rosary @ 10:40am
Mass @ 11:00am

Monday, January 1
Mass @ 11:00 a.m.
Confessions 10:40 a.m.
Office and Church Closed

Tuesday, January 2
Office and Church Open 9:00am-3:00pm
Confession 9:10am-9:25am
Morning Prayer/Lauds 9:15am
Mass @ 9:30am

It's Not Too Late to Pledge

You may still make a pledge to *Building a Beacon of Catholic Faith* capital campaign either by dropping your commitment card in the offertory basket or at the office. You may also pledge online on our website or at this [Link](#).



Christmas Mass

December 25th:

Confessions @ 10:30 a.m.
11:00 a.m. @ OLM

Solemnity of Mary

January 1st:

9:30 a.m. @ St. Jude;
Confessions @ OLM 10:40am
11:00 a.m. @ OLM

Father Barone's Column

“Venerable Fulton Sheen on the Meaning of Christmas”

Excerpts from an article from catholicnewsagency.com



Fulton Sheen said that people often make the mistake of thinking that their virtuous acts are what earn God's love, but he asserted that “that isn't the way it operates at all.” “God loved us first,” he said. Sheen emphasized that religion is “fundamentally a response, rather than an initiative on the part of man.”

Sheen explained to the audience that there is a “hierarchy of creation,” starting with chemicals at the bottom, then plants, followed by animals, and man at the top. There is a “law” that “runs through the universe,” he said, which states that “nothing ever mounts to a higher level except the higher thing comes down to it.” Step by step, Sheen explained how each level in the hierarchy of creation can only “live a higher life” if it dies to its lower existence and is in some way brought into communion with the higher being. But for that to happen, Sheen said, the higher being must come down to it.

The process does not stop at man, Sheen said. A higher life exists above man and that is God. “If man is ever to be lifted up,” Sheen said, “God, in some way, must come down to man.”

Sheen gave a picturesque overview of the annunciation of the archangel Gabriel to Mary, and marveled over the mystery of divine omnipotence existing as a babe in the manger.

Sheen ultimately concluded that Christ did not come “to make us nice people.” Instead, he “came to make us new men, to change our natures, because everything else in nature is changed by being lifted up.”

“Suppose any of us who are just creatures, just men, certainly began to be children of God, so that the divine nature began to pulsate within us; so that we were lifted up by offering our human nature as Mary offered the first human nature; so that we could in a [inaudible] way be united with the divine person; so that his truth with all that great wisdom would begin to flood our mind and that his will and his love would begin to possess us and would begin to impregnate and suffuse itself over every single love that we had. Oh if that ever came to pass and it does come to pass. That would be the meaning of Christmas.”

Coat Drive

Donate new or slightly used/clean coats to Highlands families in need.

Drop off is at the church office T,W,R or in the bins at each church door when coming to Masses.



Collection Envelopes for 2024-2025

Are you wanting collection envelopes printed with your family name?

Email or call the office by Jan 17th,
New season starts May 1, 2024



PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

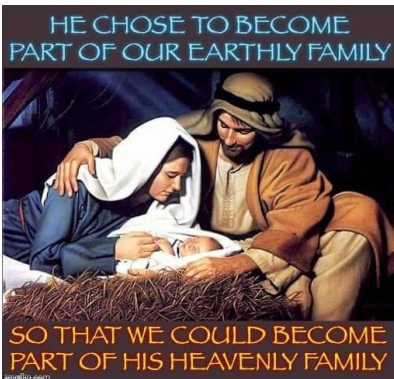
Suzette Oleksyk, Denise Cook, Bishop Gregory, Maureen Pierce, Marianne Mahaffey
Zan Smith, Mary Beth Brody, John Wilding, Paul Schmitt, Carolyn Bruce

MILITARY/DEPLOYED

Please pray for all the men and women serving the United States in the military and contract workers deployed in dangerous areas.

REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS THE SOULS OF OUR FAITHFUL DEPARTED

Jim and Thelma Petrone, Jef Kotzan, Adele Hopkins, Fred Wooldridge, Dorice Pulte, James Urbanski,
Pat Pittari, Clara Lewicki, Fr. Ubald Rugirangoga, Scott Peek, Sr., Stewart Austin, Ron Simmons, Harry Vaughn,
Lucille Devane, Carolyn Neupauer, James and Laure Walsh, Joan Hatch, Steve Fox, Lee Smith,
Sue Schulte, Marilyn Riva, George Schmitt, Frank Neely, Patricia Bollinger



The Reason For The season!

Are you in need of catching up on your sacraments? Have you not yet received baptism, first Holy Communion, confirmation? Do you need to have your marriage regularized in the Catholic Church? Please contact the office. We would like to help.



Seminarians in Need
 "Occasionally, a seminarian will ask me (Father Barone) if I know someone who can sponsor a particular need. For instance, airfare to Newark because he has a free trip to the Holy Land, but is responsible for getting to Newark. I thought it might be helpful to have a private list of potential benefactors so that when a request comes my way, I can

Guest Speaker: Paul Zucarelli
 Presentation on His Near Death Experience
[Click here to view](#)



Visit our **YouTube Channel**



Watch or share Father Barone's homily for Fallen away Catholics that now has 275K views on YouTube.

We welcome you to
Mass this Christmas!

There are 2 holy days of obligation this year – one to celebrate the Fourth Sunday of Advent, and one to celebrate Christmas:

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT
 SUNDAY, DEC. 24
 *Please attend Mass sometime after 3 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 23, and before 2 pm. Sunday.

CHRISTMAS
 MONDAY, DEC. 25
 *Please attend Mass any time after 2 p.m. Sunday or on Monday.

Ongoing Donations
Highlands Food Pantry

The OLM Ladies Club are collecting donations of toiletry items each week to support our local community food bank. Bins are located at each door for drop offs.

Fr. Barone's door is always open.
 If you'd like to schedule an appointment, please call John Paul at 828-526-2418 or email him at ExecAsstOLMSTJ@gmail.com



Pray your rosary!