



ST. MARY OF THE HILLS EPISCOPAL CHURCH BLOWING ROCK, NORTH CAROLINA MARCH 23, 2025 THIRD SUNDAY IN LENT

WELCOME TO ST. MARY OF THE HILLS

Connection Card in the pew rack so that we might connect with you further. More information about our parish is available online at www.stmaryofthehills.org. Members of our Vestry (*elected lay leadership*) are identified by name tags with yellow lanyards. Seek them out for details about our congregation's life and ministry.

PARISH ANNOUNCEMENTS

LENTEN OFFERINGS

- **Book Study** – Join Fr. Andrew in reading Henri Nouwen's classic book, "Life of the Beloved: Spiritual Living in a Secular World." Conversation circles convene on Tuesdays from noon to 1 pm in the Barrett Room.
- **Evening Prayer** – Held at 4 pm in the Church on Wednesdays
- **Stations of the Cross** – Prayed on Fridays at noon in the Church
- **Rite of Reconciliation** – The Reconciliation of Penitent, or 'Confession', is offered on Fridays from 11 am until 11:45 am, and anytime by appointment. Contact Fr. Andrew to learn more.

Visit <https://stmaryofthehills.org/lent> to learn about our Lenten offerings.

SUNDAY CHRISTIAN FORMATION OFFERINGS

- **Youth:** Youth Formation occurs at 9 am in the St. Mary room.
- **Rector's Forum:** We continue our series "Signs of Life: Why Church Matters," developed for use by the Society of St. John the Evangelist.
- **Children & Worship:** This offering runs through the first portion of the 10:10 am service. The children begin church as usual, process from the Church together and rejoin their families during the Peace. This week the children will learn about the journey to freedom through Exodus story.

THE ANNUNCIATION OF OUR LORD – Join us for Holy Eucharist on Tuesday, March 25, at 9 am in celebration of the Annunciation of our Lord.

MEN'S BREAKFAST MARCH 27 – The Men's Breakfast will occur on Thursday, March 27. Eucharist is at 7:30 am followed by breakfast, fellowship and conversation with Stephan Dragisic of BRAHM.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR THESE MARCH 30 EVENTS

- **Fifth Sunday Parents Circle:** Parents of children all ages are invited to join us for Fifth Sunday coffee and conversation from 9:10 am to 9:50 am in the Parish Hall by the fireplace. Children can be dropped off in the nursery or meet upstairs for special programming. This month's Parents Circle is hosted by [Michelle Curry](#).
- **Open Hearts & Spring Stories:** While parents are at Fifth Sunday Parents Circle, children, youth and adults can gather upstairs at 9 am for a variation of a new collaborative Formation program centered around storytelling out of the Episcopal Diocese of Olympia in Washington. We'll read together, talk Scripture together and get creative together. We can't wait to share this new and exciting program with you.
- **Brunch Hosted by ECW:** Join us for brunch on Sunday, March 30, after the 10:10 am service, around 11:20 am or so. The ECW will see to the main courses. Bring a side, or a dessert, or a salad or bread. [RSVP in Realm](#) under the Events section where you see the Brunch event listed, or you may use the **sign up sheet in the foyer**. Let us know how many are in your party and what side dish you'd like to bring, which you can place in the comments section of the RSVP.

EASTER FLOWERS – If you would like to make a gift toward flowers or music in honor of or in memory of a loved one as we approach Easter, please complete the form located outside the main office. You can place your form in the offering plate, the wooden box outside the office or return it via mail. April 13 is the deadline for inclusion in the Easter bulletins.

VESTRY HIGHLIGHTS – View highlights from the March meeting at <https://stmaryofthehills.org/vestry>.

ABOUT THE ANNUNCIATION OF OUR LORD

Feast Day: March 25
9 am: Holy Eucharist

The Feast of the Annunciation commemorates the announcement by the angel Gabriel to Mary that she would be the mother of God's Son, Jesus, and Mary's assent in faith to God's invitation (Luke 1:26-38). It symbolizes the Incarnation, God becoming one of us in order to save humanity. It is estimated that this Feast Day was celebrated as early as the fourth or fifth century. (Adapted from episcopalchurch.org and franciscanmedia.org)

PARISH PRAYER LIST

For the Church: Sean, our Presiding Bishop; José our Bishop; Andrew, Sam and Gary, our clergy; for our Vestry and staff; for all the people of this parish

In our Parish Prayer Cycle, we remember this week:

03/23: Betty Green

03/24: Susie Greene

03/25: JoAnn Hallmark

03/26: Dean Hamric & Burt Mulford

03/27: Helene Harper & Mike Tinka

03/28: Kevin & Christina Hayes

03/29: Andy & Claudia Heath

In the Diocesan Cyle of Prayer: Peace in the Diocese of Jerusalem

For our nation and those in positions of public trust: Donald our President; Josh, our Governor; all those who hold elected office

For all who suffer from war throughout the world and especially for the people of Ukraine and Russia, the Korean peninsula, Yemen, Ethiopia, the Sudan, Israel and Palestine

For all affected by natural disaster, especially those impacted by Hurricanes Helene and Milton, and those impacted by fires throughout California

For healing: Dale, Bill & Jorgann Rogers, Jeff Hedden, Christine, John, Ann Greene, Bob Barham, Clare, Emily R., Bob, Marty, Joe D., Charlie, Lance, Gae, Lynn Turnbow, Wayne, Hunt Phyllis, John, Angelina, Tom, Sheila, Stan, Nicholas, Emily, Jennifer W., Kristin L., Corrine C., Nick, Kim, Rebecca

****Please note that the names on this list will remain for four weeks,
unless the office is notified that the person(s) needs to remain on the list for a longer period of time.****

For those who have died: Cloe, Thomas Whittington, Ira Pierce, George, Ed, Fred

For those with other concerns: Mary, Marcia, Paul, Corinne D., Emily, Spencer Armstrong Family, a family in distress

For those who are traveling: Darlene, JoAnn, Josh

For safe pregnancy and delivery: Caitlyn, Chelsea, Hanna, Katherine, Kelley, Taylor Griffis, Anna, Libba, Nicole, Amanda

For those celebrating a birthday:

03/24: Linda Elksnin, Jon Commander

03/28:Lynn Couthard

03/29: Luella Rundell