



# ST. MARY OF THE HILLS EPISCOPAL CHURCH BLOWING ROCK, NORTH CAROLINA

DECEMBER 21, 2025

## WELCOME TO ST. MARY OF THE HILLS

We are so glad that you are here to share in worship of the Living God and in this community with one another.

Restrooms are in the hallway beyond the Foyer. A nursery is available for children and is located in the hallway beyond the Parish Hall. Coffee and Refreshments are served following each service, in Foyer following 8:00AM and in the Parish Hall following 10:10AM.

More information about our parish is available online at [www.stmaryofthehills.org](http://www.stmaryofthehills.org).

## PARISH ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Christmas Flower/Music Offerings** – As anticipate the arrival Christmas, you may wish to honor or remember a loved one with a gift toward Christmas flowers and greenery or music. Forms are available in the Foyer or you may contact Michael Marshall ([michael@stmaryofthehills.org](mailto:michael@stmaryofthehills.org)) in the Parish Office. Please be sure to note 'Christmas flowers' or 'Christmas music' with your gift.

**Tell Out My Soul – Annual Giving 2026** – Many in our community have responded so generously to our 2026 campaign; however, there are still many from whom we've not yet heard. Pledge cards for 2026 are available in the Foyer and Parish Hall, as well as on our website.



## Christmas at St. Mary of the Hills

### Christmas Eve

5:00PM Holy Eucharist  
with Children's Pageant  
10:00PM Holy Eucharist  
Sung Service with Incense  
Prelude begins at 9:45PM

### Christmas Day

11:00 AM Holy Eucharist  
with Carols of the Season

**Rector's Forum – Canticles of Advent** – Advent is filled with some of the Church's most beautiful music repertoire; sometimes overlooked are its beautiful canticles, hymns of praise taken directly from the biblical text. Join Fr. Andrew this morning at 9:00AM to explore one of these Advent canticles – The Song of Zechariah. All are welcome!

**Advent Party for Children and Families – Rescheduled for Today at 4:00PM** – We gather in the Parish Hall today at 4:00PM for an Advent/Christmas Party for our Children and Families. All are invited to bring a side dish as well as a package of refrigerated cookie dough that will be donated to Blowing Rock Cares. Join us!

### **Worship During the Week –**

- Morning Prayer is offered each weekday morning at 8:30AM; this service lasts approximately 15-20 minutes and includes readings from scripture along with prayers of intercession for our full parish prayer list. *Morning Prayer will not be offered on Christmas Day.*
- Holy Eucharist *will not be offered* at 12:00PM this Wednesday, December 24. Regular Wednesday 12:00PM Eucharists return on Wednesday, December 31.

### **Feast Days this Week –**

- **St. Thomas – Monday, December 22** – Holy Eucharist at 9:00AM, following Morning Prayer.
- **St. Stephen – Friday, December 26** – Holy Eucharist at 9:00AM, following Morning Prayer.
- **St. Thomas – Saturday, December 27** – Holy Eucharist at 9:00AM, following Morning Prayer.

**Parish Office Hours & End of Year Giving** – The Parish Office will have irregular hours throughout the next two weeks, as staff observe the holiday season, closing December 24-26 and on January 1. Fr. Andrew continues to be available for pastoral emergencies; contact him directly at 336.848.4052. If you have questions about end of year giving, please e-mail or call Michael Marshall (828.295.7323 / [michael@stmaryofthehills.org](mailto:michael@stmaryofthehills.org)).

**Western Youth Network Christmas Angels** – Many thanks to all who filled the Foyer with gifts for friends at Western Youth Network (WYN)! Gifts were delivered this week to WYN for distribution to families across the High Country.

**Supporting Heifer during Advent** – The Outreach Committee is offering a table in support of Heifer International on each of the Sundays in the season of Advent. Stop by to learn more and to shop for an alternative gift to share with someone this season.

## PARISH PRAYER LIST

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

**In our Parish Prayer Cycle, we remember this week:**

12/21 Cindia Thomas  
12/22 John Thompson & Lee Rocamora  
12/23 John & Patti Turner  
12/24 Darlene Van Dyke  
12/25 Tom Veale & Robert Kling  
12/26 Anna Ward  
12/27 Jim West

**In our Diocesan Cycle of Prayer:** Holy Family, Mills River; St. Mary's & St. Stephen's, Morganton

**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 Gaza.

**For those affected by natural disaster** and especially for the people of Cuba & Jamaica in the aftermath of Hurricane Melissa.

**For healing:** Katherine; Valerie P.; Pete P.; Olivia; Luba; Lynn S.; Mike & Sarah; David; Dale; Bill & Jorgann; Jeff Hedden; Christine; Ann Greene; Susie; Bob; Clare; Evie; John H. Pat B.; Lucy A.; Myra; Chris M.; Mary M.; Larry, Joan Anderson, Tony; Margaret; Patsy; Jim; Denny; Lambert; Daniel R; Marie; Pam; Bill; Jonathan; Robert; Anthony; Melanie, Leigh K.; Sarah Johnson; Susan; Todd, Steve B.; Josh; Kerry R.; Mary; Allie; Cullie; Patti; Cammie; Mary Pearce; Jennifer; David; Susan B.

*\*\*\*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 with other concerns:** The Matthews Family; Josh; Corinne; Joe Dulaney; The Reece Family; Ruby & Family; Sylvia

**For those who travel:** Booker Purcell, David & Aarti Matthews; Yue Zhang; Blair & Oliver

**For safe pregnancy and delivery:** Sydney, Caitlyn, Katherine, Anna, Hanna, Jennifer, Corinne, Dani, Jessica

**Thanksgiving for the birth** of Harrison Fanklin Shelton to Amy and James Shelton on December 7, 2025

**For those celebrating a birthday :**

12/21 Joellyn Gibbons  
12/22 Robert Kling  
12/25 Megan Redford; Randy Ouzts  
12/26 Marjory Holder, Duncan McGill  
12/27 John Carlson

**For those celebrating an anniversary :**

12/22 Fr. Rick and Beth Lawler

**For those who have died:** David; Posie Duphiné; Lisle; Scott; David; Louis Hughes