



ST. MARY OF THE HILLS EPISCOPAL CHURCH

BLOWING ROCK, NORTH CAROLINA

AUGUST 2, 2026

WELCOME TO ST. MARY OF THE HILLS

We are glad that you are here to share in worship of the Living God and be 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.

PARISH ANNOUNCEMENTS

Rector's Forum--Join Fr. Andrew at 9 a.m. in the Parish Hall for the final discussion of Pope Leo XIV's encyclical *Magnificent Humanity*. The regular forum series will resume during the last week of August.

Organ Concert Today--Come hear organist Joseph Franklin as he brings "Pedals and Pipes from Around the World" to our Friends of Music concert today at 3 p.m. This free concert features music by Bach, Buxtehude, and more! All are welcome.

Feast of the Transfiguration--Come celebrate the Feast of the Transfiguration this Thursday, 8/6, at noon.

Coffee Minute Volunteers Needed--We all enjoy getting together after the 10:10 service to chat and enjoy a quick nosh. So do your part and sign up to host Coffee Minute. It doesn't have to be elaborate at all--just put out a few snacks and some plates and napkins. Make it more fun by doing it with a friend.

Honor Bishop José with a contribution--Bishop José has committed an initial \$150,000 of funding to construct two or more new hermitages at the Valle Crucis Conference Center. This initial funding will not complete all that he dreams for the Hermitages, but your donations can help to make those new Hermitages a reality. Please consider a gift to the [Bishop's Hermitage Challenge](#).

August Backpack Drive--The Outreach Committee is conducting their annual backpack drive to serve local kids in need. Please bring new backpacks along with school supplies to the foyer throughout the month of August.

Annual Blessing of the Backpacks--Calling all students and teachers! Bring your backpacks to church on Sunday, 8/16. Fr. Andrew will bless them (and you!) with prayers for a great school year.

Kid's Night In--Children of all ages are invited to St Mary of the Hills on Thursday, July 9th from 5:30 pm until 9:30 pm to play, read, craft, and enjoy dinner and a movie! Please RSVP at [Kid's Night In](#) or contact [Malia](#).

Save the Date--Join us for Choral Evensong for the Feast of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Sunday, August 16, at 3 p.m. All are welcome!

Save the Date II, Stephen Ministers' Orientation--Join leaders Lynn Searfoss and Torrence Harman for a lunch meet-and-greet where we will discuss class scheduling and more on Sunday, August 30, at noon in the Barrett Room.

Worship During the Week –

- Morning Prayer is offered M-F at 8:30 AM. Each service lasts 15-20 minutes and includes readings from scripture, silence, and intercessions.
- Holy Eucharist is offered each Wednesday at 12:00PM in the Church. Prayers for Healing, along with Laying on of Hands and Anointing, is offered on the third Wednesday of each month.

A Gentle Parking Reminder--Please park only in marked spaces, including the parking deck at BRAHM, downtown marked spaces, the St. Mary's lot, and at Blowing Rock School to avoid being ticketed. Be mindful of the needs of people with limited mobility and folks with small children by parking at BRAHM or downtown in order to leave space in our lot. If you park at Blowing Rock School, allow 8-10 minutes to walk to the church. Thank you!

Altar Flowers

This Sunday's altar flowers are given to the glory of God.

PARISH PRAYER LIST

For the Church: Sarah, Archbishop of Canterbury; Sean, our Presiding Bishop; José our Bishop; Andrew, Rick, Sam, and Torrence, our clergy; for our Vestry and staff; and for all the people of this parish.

In our Parish Prayer Cycle, we remember this week:

8/2 Dale and Lindsay Cook
8/3 Chris Cooley and Brendan Housler
8/4 Laura Copeland
8/5 Paige Copland
8/6 Jim and Sue Corcoran
8/7 Bob Amos and Sallie Corrigan
8/8 Mike Coston

In our Diocesan Cycle of Prayer: Church of the Transfiguration, Bat Cave NC; Church of the Transfiguration, Saluda NC.

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

For all who suffer from war and violence throughout the world, especially for the Middle East, for Iran and the U.S., Israel, Lebanon, and Gaza, for Ukraine and Russia. For the peace of the world. We pray for the cessation of war.

For healing: Bill C, Chris, Chris M, Emily, Joe D, Kristina, Lucy A, Mary, MaryKate, Mary M, Maxine, Myra, Neal H, Pat F, Rhonda Ann, Sally P, Sylvia, Todd, Valerie, Vinny.

We pray for those suffering from storms, flooding, and wildfires.

****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 safe pregnancy and delivery: Bre, Camille, Charlotte, Katie, Kelley, Caitlyn, Katherine, Anna, Jennifer, Corinne, Giuliana, Leah, Megan, Nicola, Tamar, Isabelle

For those with other concerns: Boe A, Cullie and Sylvia, Laura, Sean, Zane

For those celebrating a birthday

8/2 Leslie Billingsley
8/4 Bill Devereaux, Sally Page
8/6 Larry Watson
8/8 Laine Unkovic

For those celebrating an anniversary

8/2 Jerry and Genie Starnes
8/4 Frank and Meg Fary
8/6 Frank and Annie Helen Thomas
8/7 Bob and Charlene Barham
8/8 Carmen and Patty Patella

For those who are traveling: Peter and Valerie Purcell

For those who have died: Brittany Jordan, Deja, Gail Albertson, Julia Morton, Terri, Weatherby