



ST. MARY OF THE HILLS EPISCOPAL CHURCH

BLOWING ROCK, NORTH CAROLINA

JULY 26, 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

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.

Bishop McLoughlin Farwell Picnic – Join friends from across the Diocese of Western North Carolina for a joyful and fun-filled celebration of Bishop José on Saturday, August 1st at Christ School, Asheville, beginning at 12:30PM. Lunch is provided. Please RSVP via the Diocese of WNC website (diocesewnc.org). And consider honoring Bishop José by making a donation to his Hermitage Matching Fund Challenge to complete 2 or more hermitages at Valle Crucis Conference Center at [Bishop's Hermitage Challenge](#).

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

We Made It! A huge shout out to everyone who helped to make the 68th Annual Tour of Homes a success! It truly takes a village, and you stepped up. To our chairs, workers, sponsors, and participants--to each and every one of you who contributed to this charity drive in any way--*our heartfelt thanks*.

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.

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.

Organ Concert August 2--Organist Joseph Franklin brings "Pedals and Pipes from Around the World" to our next Friends of Music concert on Sunday afternoon, 8/2, at 3 p.m. featuring music by Bach, Buxtehude, and many more! All are welcome for a wonderful free concert showcasing our fabulous organ and the artistry of Mr. Franklin!

Feast of the Transfiguration--Come celebrate the Feast of the Transfiguration on Wednesday, 8/6, at noon.

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 by at [Kid's Night In](#) or contact [Malia](#).

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.

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 so as 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 and in loving memory of Gail Albertson by Chris Albertson and Joe Coyne.

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:

7/26 John and Jane Chanon
7/27 Marion Church
7/28 Larry and Sande Churchill
7/29 Emily Cole
7/30 Dillon and Tama Coleman
7/31 Jon and Bryan Commander
8/1 Louise Cone

In our Diocesan Cycle of Prayer: St. James Episcopal Church, Black Mountain NC; St. James Episcopal Church, Hendersonville NC; St. James Episcopal Church, Lenoir 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: Anthony, Beth S, Bill C, Bonnie H, Chris, Chris M, Clare, Debbie, Emily and family, Evie, Joe D, Kathy, Kristina, Lucy A, Mary, MaryKate, Mary M, Maxine, Myra, Neal H, Pat F, Peggy, Rick M, Sylvia, Toby, 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, Zane

For those celebrating a birthday

7/26 Kempton Smith
7/29 Bob Browning, Denise Story

For those celebrating an anniversary

For those who are traveling: Lynn and Greg

For those who have died: Brittany Jordan, Deja, Gail Albertson, Perse Ahmadi, Marilyn W, Weatherby