



TV MASS NATIONWIDE

Please invite anyone you know to join Heart of the Nation for the uplifting experience of Holy Mass on TV or online. Visit www.HeartoftheNation.org for the nationwide broadcast, cable, and satellite time and channel guide.

MOTHER'S AND FATHER'S DAY PRAYER INTENTIONS

Please use the enclosed, two-sided spiritual bouquet card to send the names of beloved parents, grandparents, and godparents to be remembered in special Masses celebrated by Heart of the Nation's chaplains on Mother's Day (May 10) and Father's Day (June 21).



Constellation of Love

Connect the dots. A complicated dot-to-dot might have hundreds! Connect the dots in order, and a picture emerges. Still, the completed picture remains just an outline.

Astronomers have charted stars and connected them in celestial dot-to-dots. Stargazers can look for a charioteer or herdsman, a compass or a carpenter's level, an altar or a bird of paradise. (The carpenter's level and thirteen other constellations got their names from an 18th-century Catholic deacon and astronomer.) Like the simplest dot-to-dots, smaller groups of stars called asterisms, such as the big and little dippers, also capture imaginations.



Fr. Mark Payne
Chaplain

Our Risen Lord stayed around for 40 days. Like the pages of a children's dot-to-dot activity book, Jesus presented one picture at a time while preparing the Apostles to carry on His ministry as Church leaders and yet children of God.

Comparing Himself to the gate of a sheepfold, Jesus taught that we can only get to heaven through Him. In Biblical times, when a son got married, he built an addition onto his father's house to serve as the marital home. Jesus invited His friends to picture the Heavenly Father with rooms prepared by Jesus (the groom) for His bride (the Church).

Jesus told the Disciples that He would soon go to the Father but would meet up with them later. Thomas asked how they could possibly know the way to go, when they didn't even know the place. Philip thought that if Jesus showed them the Father, they would stay on track. When Jesus said, "I am the way," the Disciples still didn't see the connection between the Father and Son. Jesus said to keep working. The Holy Spirit would help them connect the dots.

After Jesus ascended to heaven, two men in white asked why the Disciples continued to stand there, looking up at the sky. Followers of the Lord have much to do! Picture the numbers on a dot-to-dot, going from small to large. Your gift to Heart of the Nation in any amount will connect you with the Lord and others in the wondrous activities of prayer and worship.

Fr. Mark

“How wonderful to be able to ‘attend’ Sunday Mass while homebound.” ~Jim



“My son found your program on TV. It helped me feel much better.” ~Patricia



“I feel comfort to know that you are there for me in this difficult time.” ~Maria



“I have nothing but praise for your commitment to us Catholics who are homebound.” ~Larry

NOTE TO CONCERNED SUNDAY MASS VIEWERS:

Heart of the Nation taped Masses in advance of the coronavirus. Choirs and congregation members did not come together for Mass tapings during the outbreak.

Where the Wind Blows

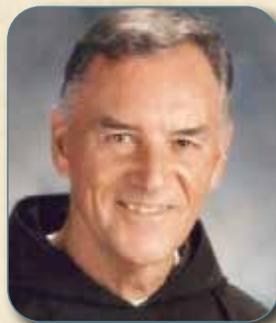
In the era of silent movies, “trap drummers” brought musical drums to theatres, along with the trappings needed to produce other sound effects that brought films to life. Canvas draped over a shaft turned with varying amounts of vigor, for example, created anything from rustling breeze to roaring gale. Something like that happened at Pentecost.

When the Risen Lord appeared in a locked room, He breathed the Holy Spirit into the Apostles. The power to forgive sinners came in that breath. In His name, the Apostles could forgive with the gentle compassion shown by our Savior.

Jesus used His brief time on Earth after the Resurrection much as He had before. He talked about the Kingdom of Heaven. He worked miraculous signs. He also reassured the Apostles that they would receive power from the Holy Spirit to serve as His messengers far and wide.

On the first Pentecost, the sound of a strong, driving wind filled the room where Jesus’

Disciples had waited. Enter the Holy Spirit! Mere walls could not contain the Spirit, and a crowd gathered outside at



**Fr. Tony Scannell
Chaplain**

the sound that suddenly drummed up interest.

Visitors had flocked to Jerusalem for an annual Jewish festival. The pilgrims hailed from various cultures and countries, spoke different languages, and yet understood the Galilean Disciples proclaiming

God’s wonders. The Lord’s language of love got translated through the gift of tongues.

Moviegoers no longer look for a trap drummer adding sound effects. Modern technology easily fills a TV room at home with the “surround sound” of a movie theater. Worldly trappings surround us.

Often, we tune in the latest news but tune out what doesn’t interest us. We might breeze along until a gust of tragedy, like the coronavirus, comes along.

Our prayers reach God, even without sound. To receive the gentle strength of the Holy Spirit, silent listening has wondrous effects.

Here for Each Other

Disciples stared as our Resurrected Lord ascended to heaven. In the face of illness, fear, and devastation in these past few months, we have looked heavenward. We never want to lose sight of Jesus.

In Scripture, the Ascension opens the part of the Bible called the Acts of the Apostles. Two men in white garments came and stood beside the Disciples, bringing their gaze back to earth and reassuring them. We can help each other. If you can’t donate much in these challenging times, even a small amount will help to keep Sunday Mass available as the need for hope and reassurance continues. As followers of the Lord, our actions matter!

Jesus promised to send the Holy Spirit to Baptize the Disciples and remain with them. “We share that same Baptism and know that, in the Lord, we are here for each other,” said Fr. Mark Payne, chaplain for Heart of the Nation.



Prayer for Strength

Heavenly Father, Almighty and yet all-loving, we have come to know first-hand the fragility of humankind. We pray for strength when we have grown tired.

Lord Jesus, loving Savior, Who experienced our humanity, You taught us to have faith. We pray that, when we feel abandoned, we will turn to You.

Holy Spirit, You come with gentleness to reach disciples human, fearful, confused, and yet beloved. We pray, together in Spirit, for peace that is Your gift.

Amen.

Mother's Day Prayer

Lord Jesus, to You I pray:

In thanks for my mother who
first held me,
Touching my heart with
her gentle love;
For the lessons taught
on how to live:
Pray, forgive, and rise above.

For her comfort as I tried
my wings,
Sometimes falling when I
longed to soar;
For encouragement
to try again,
While loving me all the more.

For the motherly love
of others
Holding in my heart
a treasured place;
For ways of seeing,
doing, bearing—
With humility and grace.

Amen.

A Parent's Love and Devotion

Parents love and comfort, sacrifice and celebrate, plan and improvise, listen and teach, do what they can and pray for help with the rest. With understanding, the Blessed Virgin Mary and other parents among the saints bring prayers to the Lord on behalf of the faithful who ask. During the month of May, the Church especially encourages devotions to Mary, knowing that in coming to her in prayer, we honor her, too.

Pope Paul VI's 1965 encyclical *Mense Maio* ("In May") urges the faithful to pray for God's gift of peace through the intercession of Mary. God chose her as the Mother of Jesus and steward of His blessings. Praying the Rosary, particularly while contemplating the Glorious Mystery of the Crowning of Mary, brings hope of resolution to crises in the world.

Scripture tells us that Mary held much within her heart. In his apostolic exhortation *Amoris Laetitia* ("The Joy of Love"), Pope Francis invited the faithful to look to the treasury of her heart for help. God wants to communicate with people through the experiences of family life—a life that Mary fully embraced.

Jesus grew up in a loving family. Scripture affirms that lessons passed along continue to lead, protect, and guide even grown children (Proverbs 6). Writing to Timothy, a convert to Christianity and fellow missionary, Saint Paul said, "I recall your sincere faith that first lived in your grandmother Lois and in your mother Eunice and that I am confident lives also in you" (2 Timothy 1).



Saints Who Soldiered On

Soldiers on battle fronts and mothers serving the Lord at home have attained sainthood since ancient times. Their sacrifices inspire.

In ancient Egypt, the pharaoh mandated killing all newborn Hebrew males. **St. Jochebed**, mother of Moses, put him in a basket set afloat in the Nile. The pharaoh's daughter found the infant and unknowingly hired his mother, who posed as a nursemaid.

In the Middle Ages, a cannonball struck **St. Ignatius of Loyola**, injuring both of his legs. While a prisoner of war in France, he had a vision of Mary and made a sickbed promise to serve God if he survived. He later founded the Society of Jesus (the Jesuits).

Saints canonized in the 21st century include **Gianna Beretta Molla**, a pediatrician, wife, mother, and Catholic activist. Knowing the risks of a delayed hysterectomy, she succumbed to illness shortly after giving birth to her youngest child. **Marie-Azélie Guérin Martin** and her husband, canonized together by Pope Francis, humbly welcomed the poor to family meals in their home and visited the elderly. They had nine children, and the five who lived beyond infancy all entered religious life.

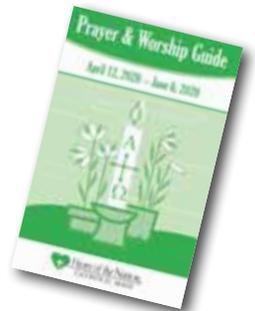


With gratitude, Heart of the Nation welcomes new members to the Circle of the Heart monthly giving club. As a member, you will be included in prayers placed before the altar for every Sunday TV Mass. To join, please mark the box on your donation reply card, and indicate the amount of your pledge. (If you need to change or cancel your pledge, just contact Heart of the Nation.) **Thank you!**

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