



# MONTHLY BULLETIN

April 2025

## At Home with the Lord

**F**or about 90 minutes before and after low tide, cars and pedestrians can cross a couple of miles from mainland France to Noirmoutier Island. Some people stop to dig for clams or oysters along the Gois Passage. Built upon a natural ridge on the ocean floor, the causeway at high tide becomes invisible under water up to 13 feet deep.

### Making Minutes Count

As Lent progresses, Scripture introduces a man at the Pool of Bethesda who had suffered illness for 38 years. Jesus mercifully cured Him. Accused of violating the Sabbath, Jesus explained that He followed His Father's work ethic.

Scribes and Pharisees, increasingly desperate to dig up a way to stop Him, tried to entice Jesus into blatantly defying Mosaic Law. With a sinful woman in tow, they

## Rising Tide of Lent

asked if He agreed that she should receive the lawful punishment of stoning. Jesus said to let the person without sin throw the first rock.



Fr. Mark Payne  
Chaplain

During Lent, we know our need for improvement. We use the penitential time of Lent to work on it.

### Turning the Tide

Daily timetables show the approximate window of opportunity to safely traverse the Gois Passage, but when the tide comes in, the water rises at an alarming rate. People busy filling baskets with shellfish

look up and find themselves in peril, disoriented by invisibility of the road and surrounded by rising water.

When we need direction, Jesus does not clam up! He promised that His Word and belief in the One who sent Him lead to eternal life. Looking at how we have spent Lenten days so far gives us time to get our bearings.

### High and Low Points

Along the Gois Passage, nine rescue towers always remain visible. Stranded pedestrians wade, swim, and climb ladder rungs to refuge on a platform above water.

Our Lord cared deeply enough to immerse Himself in human life. In His highest act of love, Jesus accepted the Cross as the chosen platform for salvation. When we come to Him, Jesus leads us safely on the causeway to eternal life.

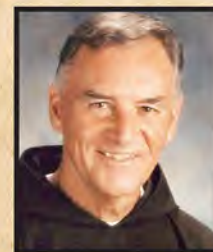


## Mother's Day Spiritual Bouquet

Heart of the Nation's chaplains will include Mother's Day prayer intentions when they celebrate Mass in their home parishes on May 11. Please use the enclosed spiritual bouquet request to send the names of your mother, grandmothers, and other special mothers for remembrance at Mass. To send your request online, visit [www.heartofthenation.org/mothers-day-memorials](http://www.heartofthenation.org/mothers-day-memorials).



# Going to Great Length



Fr. Tony Scannell  
Chaplain

*Sticking to our Lenten observances takes determination. We may have given up a favorite food to gain spiritual strength or given up a leisure activity to devote more time to God. Over the weeks and weeks of Lent, we know that we can use more improvement, but willingness starts to fade. Choosing a mascot could brighten our resolve. (How about a giraffe, for instance?)*

**L**ike people, giraffes have seven vertebrae in their necks. Their long bones give giraffes a towering profile on an African savannah.

On the first Sunday of Lent, Scripture depicted our Lord in a desert. Surely weak from hunger, He resisted temptation. Although we endure far less, remaining steadfast throughout Lent can still seem like a tall order.

Jesus humbly went to great length to fully experience trials of human life. Our lofty giraffe mascot reminds us to do the best we can.

## After Supper

Preference for dining on the leaves of acacia trees becomes clear as a giraffe navigates

around dangerously sharp thorns to obtain its food. Unique mouth features help. As high as a giraffe can reach, acacia branches become bare, accentuating a tree's wide crown of leaves at the top.



Especially when we face thorny issues, God helps us to avoid sin. At the Last Supper, Jesus provided the very first Eucharistic meal.

Soon, He would suffer the sharp mockery of a crown of thorns and the bare wood of His Cross. By sacrificing Himself in the crowning event of His lifetime, Jesus gave us hope of

eternal life, despite our failures and shortcomings.

## Taking Heart

After supper, Jesus foretold that Peter would deny knowing Him three times before morning. Upon hearing the call of a rooster, Peter suffered the heartrending realization that he had failed in his lofty promise to stand by the Lord.

Within a giraffe beats a heart about two feet across. Its strength allows us to take heart!

Just as giraffes become vulnerable to predators when they lower their heads to drink, we too have weaknesses. Our mascot stands as a sign of our need to look up to the forgiving, loving, Risen Lord.

***"I live in a nursing home. It is truly a blessing to be able to 'attend' Mass with your congregation."***

—Helen



***"When I am taking care of my elderly parents, we always watch your Sunday Mass."***

—Joanna



***"I just wanted to let you know how wonderful Mass was today! I even shared it in Facebook with all my family and friends."***

—Norma

## SPRING FUND DRIVE

Jesus came back, and St. Peter felt driven to tell people! Known as uneducated fishermen, the Apostles Peter and John listened as learned judges of the Sanhedrin ordered them not to say or do anything further in the name of Jesus. Peter said "impossible," and the undeterred Apostles went back to the community. They had more to do!

Please consider a donation or pledge during the Spring Fund Drive in any amount that you can possibly give. Your generosity and prayers will enable you to join in Heart of the Nation's ministry of making the Lord known.



## Easter Prayer

At the dawning of this new day, please renew in me the certainty that You desire for each a place with You for all eternity.

In the light of Easter morning, please reawaken Your love in me; Your compassionate care outpouring, let me show to others in need.

As Your plan before me unfolds, may heaven's glory I envision remain always in my heart to hold, for You have lived, died, and risen! Amen.



## Act of Spiritual Communion

My Jesus, I believe that You are present in the Most Holy Sacrament. I love You above all things, and I desire to receive You into my soul. Since I cannot at this moment receive You sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart. I embrace You as if You were already there and unite myself wholly to You. Never permit me to be separated from You. Amen.

– St. Alphonsus Liguori

## Holy Week Homework:

**Holy Week** starts on Palm Sunday, April 13. During Mass, imagine yourself in Jerusalem, surrounded by people shouting to crucify the Lord. Pray that your reaction will give Him comfort.

**The Easter Triduum** begins on Holy Thursday, April 17, with the Mass of the Lord's Supper. Reenacting the humility of Jesus, the priest may wash the feet of 12 people. Serve someone today through prayer or a gesture of kindness.

**Good Friday** liturgy continues the Mass of Holy Thursday, with consecrated Hosts reserved for use on Friday. Fasting, abstinence, and veneration of the Cross provide ways to seek the Lord's saving grace.

**Holy Saturday**, April 19, brings the faithful together after sunset. Lighting a new fire dispels the darkness. To share the Light of the Lord, pray for new members welcomed into the Sacramental life of the Church during Easter Vigil Masses.

## Sunday of Divine Mercy

Second Sunday of Easter, April 27, 2025

While providing spiritual direction to Sr. Faustina Kowalska, a priest listened to her describe visions of the Lord—how He looked and what He said to her. Jesus, she relayed, declared His desire for an annual occasion of extraordinary mercy. In 2000, Pope John Paul II canonized Sr. Faustina and designated the Second Sunday of Easter as the Sunday of Divine Mercy.



Although not considered doctrine, the Catholic Church allows belief in the revelations to St. Faustina. She said that Jesus desired an occasion to forgive the sins and all due punishment of those who have prepared for this gift. With trust in His merciful love, prepare by going to Confession; then, on the Sunday of Divine Mercy, receive Holy Communion. (If you do not have access to the Sacraments, pray an Act of Spiritual Communion, and ask with great trust to receive the Lord's extraordinary mercy.)

On April 27, you may also doctrinally seek an unlimited number of partial indulgences for yourself and souls in purgatory. While free from mortal sin, state your desire that God will grant the indulgence. Next, pray with a contrite heart, "Merciful Jesus, I trust in You." Seeking full pardon (generally only one request allowed on days of indulgence) has further requirements that include complete detachment from all sin.



# Did You Know?

Electronic games have turned “being all thumbs” from lamentable clumsiness to laudable skill. As a teen, Carlo Acutis played video games but spent most of his computer time compiling information about Eucharistic miracles. He gathered facts through online research and visits to holy sites with his family. In 2006, Carlo died at age 15 from a rapidly aggressive form of leukemia. His canonization as a saint was scheduled as part of the Jubilee 2025 days focused on teenagers.




***Jubilee Days of Prayer and Celebration:***  
***April 5-6: The Sick and Health-Care Workers***  
***April 25-27: Teenagers***  
***April 28-29: People with Disabilities***



After receiving First Communion while in primary school in Italy, Carlo became devoted to daily Mass and the Rosary. His mother found the practice of her faith growing from sporadic to inspired as she accompanied her son.


Carlo said that disappointments give birth to new dreams. Disappointed in seeing long lines at concert venues versus no wait for Eucharistic devotions, he conceived the idea of a traveling exhibition. It took more than two years and help from his parents to create the display that Carlo dreamed would lead to heavenward devotion. To see the online version of the exhibit’s featured miracles and revelations, visit [www.miracolieucaustici.org/en/liste/list.html](http://www.miracolieucaustici.org/en/liste/list.html).



**Prayer & Worship Guide**  
April 27 - June 21, 2025

**Prayer & Worship Guide**

Seven issues yearly provide readings and prayers for Sunday TV Mass, plus reflections, where to find daily readings in the Bible, and seasonal prayers. **For a free subscription**, please send the recipient’s name and address to Heart of the Nation.



**Circle of the Heart**

**Thank You!**

With gratitude, Heart of the Nation includes perpetual prayers for Circle of the Heart members in every Sunday TV Mass. Joining Circle of the Heart by becoming a monthly donor shares spiritual hope through TV Mass, online resources, and free Catholic publications. Please mark the box on your donation reply card, and indicate the amount of your pledge.

## MASS SCHEDULE

**Sunday, April 6, 2025**  
**Fifth Sunday of Lent**

**Sunday, April 13, 2025**  
**Palm Sunday:**  
**The Passion of the Lord**



**Sunday, April 20, 2025**  
**Easter Sunday:**  
**The Lord’s Resurrection**



**Sunday, April 27, 2025**  
**Second Sunday of Easter**  
**(or Sunday of Divine Mercy)**

Online Mass on Sundays and Holy Days:

Available all day at [www.HeartoftheNation.org](http://www.HeartoftheNation.org)

 **Heart of the Nation.**  
CATHOLIC MASS

**For local time and TV channel information, please visit**

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