



Heart of the Nation.
CATHOLIC MASS

MONTHLY BULLETIN

August 2025

At Home with the Lord

In the small, Turkish town of Pamukkale, which means “Cotton Castle,” tourists marvel at the nearby terrain. Although rock solid, the land appears as white as billowy cloud formations in a summer sky.

From mineral springs, water forms pools that reflect a blue sky. Streams of the water trickle down terraced rock formations, leaving wondrously white, calcium-rich deposits behind—hard as rock, despite the cottony appearance. Even in Jesus’ time, thermal pools attracted visitors to the area, located between Ephesus and Cappadocia.

Biblical Sightseeing

Jesus led three of the Disciples up a mountain, where they glimpsed the Lord in heavenly glory. We celebrate the Transfiguration of the Lord on August 6, when the day’s Gospel

Kings and Castles

describes Jesus’ clothes as “dazzling white.” Through a cloud came the voice of the



Fr. Mark Payne
Chaplain

heavenly Father, who told the Disciples to listen to His beloved Son.

Rock of the Church

Following the Feast of the Transfiguration, the next day’s Gospel recalls Jesus asking the Disciples who people thought that He was.

While some speculated that John the Baptist or one of the prophets of old had returned, Simon called Jesus the Son of God.

In response, Jesus gave him the name Peter, which means “rock.” To begin building the Church, the Lord also gave Peter authority to forgive sins.

The Kingdom’s Castle

Rather than eroding the rock terraces at Pamukkale, water flowing from the mineral springs adds layer upon white layer to the Cotton Castle. Think of the sprinkling of Baptismal water as we receive a first layer of forgiveness and grace. Throughout our lives, we have opportunities to let the Lord’s love spring forth in us and stream down to others in lasting ways.

Glorious cloud formations get whisked away. In contrast, Jesus came to Earth, showing us steps to help us reach the higher terrace of everlasting glory with Him in the Kingdom of Heaven.

New Chapters for TV Mass Participants

Two brothers, Dominic and Jack, have served together as TV Mass acolytes. Heading off to college, Dom hopes to continue serving when home on academic breaks. TV Mass viewers will also miss the familiar faces of Don and Liz in the congregation. After 14 years of participation, they are no longer able to attend in person. Please pray for all graduates embarking on new ventures and for everyone unable to attend Mass in person because of age, health, or other circumstances.



“The homilies have been outstanding. My husband and I have been recovering from surgery and unable to attend Mass in our parish.”

— Norma



“Please pray for our mom, as her health is fragile, and our dad, who is so strong and faithful, but emotional as his wife-partner of 72-ish years is walking this journey.”

— Cathy

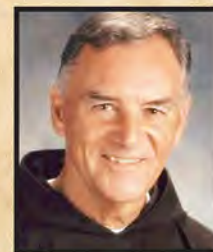


“As a shut-in, I look forward to the Sunday TV Mass.”

— John

Flagship Family

In the days of uncharted coasts and legends of monsters at sea, christening ships with the names of saints sought heavenly protection. England’s navy in the early 1500’s, for instance, had its Mary Rose flagship. Of course, wooden vessels sailed with carpenters and their sundry tools on board to make repairs. In faith we, too, pray and use our skills on life’s voyage.



Fr. Tony Scannell
Chaplain

Unlike us, the Virgin Mary did not have to wait until the end of time for redemption of her body. On August 15, we celebrate her Assumption into heaven, body and soul.

Jesus’ Moorings

In the Gospel for the Assumption, Mary has become an expectant mother. She visits a relative named Elizabeth, who realizes that Mary believed and became the Mother of the Lord! Joseph also believed and embarked on the course that God charted for his family.

Jesus’ experience of humanity had its moorings in the Holy Family, with Joseph at the paternal helm. As a child, Jesus

would have seen his parents’ faith and love. Surely, He also saw Mary as His nurturing Mother and homemaker, with Joseph as protective head of the family and breadwinner.

On Board

Ship artifacts now in the *Mary Rose* Museum include a toolbox and an array of carpentry tools. Iron parts of the tools rusted away under water after the ship sank, but wooden portions, such as handles, remain.

At the foot of the Cross, Mary saw the earthly life of her Son taken away. Jesus later welcomed Mary into heavenly glory. For us, the enduring effects achieved by

Jesus on the wood of the Cross give us a handle on hope of seeing the Lord and Mary in heaven.

The Right Tools

Skilled hands using planes to smooth rough wood, rulers to take measure, hand drills, mallets, and other implements made ships’ carpenters essential crew members. At times, we can get sinking feelings, yet God buoys us when we try to do His will.

Jesus serves as our flagship. Mary models faithfulness and gladly brings our prayers to her Son. Joseph gives us an example of accepting an individual role in God’s plan and then nailing it!

Lofty Thoughts

Jesus told a parable using barnyard imagery. After a bountiful harvest, a landowner decided to build bigger barns and store enough to live in leisure for years to come—with no provision for his spiritual needs.

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Give Him Glory

Lord Jesus,

Transfigured before
Disciples in awe,
may the glimpse You let
them see
inspire and help me
to follow You
to everlasting glory.

When tasks before me are
less than dazzling,
may grace and humility
be blessings enabling
what I do
to serve and give You glory.

In the heavenly place
You have prepared,
may I live eternally,
lowly servant reaching
the height
of fullness in Your glory.

Amen.



Marian Prayer

Blessed Virgin Mary,

When I wonder what God
desires of me, or how it can be
so, please ask Your Son, our
Lord and Savior, to help me
respond in faith.

Weighed down by weariness,
anxiety, or doubt, though I have
come this far, please stay by
my side and share my hope
in things possible with faith.

Amen.

Ye Olde Pen Pals

Two aristocrats wrote to each other for more than 15 years in spirited letters. When it comes to inspiring lively faith, Saint Francis de Sales and Saint Jane Frances de Chantal did more than founding a religious order to serve the sick and poor.

From a castle in the Alpine region of Savoy, Francis de Sales grew up with the parental expectation that he would one day fill the legislative seat held by his father. He earned a law degree, yet priesthood remained his calling, hope, and dream. Two years later, despite his father's wishes, Francis received ordination and the ecclesial title of provost.



Less than five years younger than Francis and living in France, Jane saw two kinds of nobility in her own father. When his wife died in childbirth, he became a single parent on top of his governmental position. Jane would need the same kind of resilience. She married and had six children, but two died in infancy. Tragedy struck again when a hunting accident took her husband just seven years into their happy marriage.

Enter Francis, who had become a bishop. Jane first heard him preach in 1604. In person and in correspondence with Jane and others, Francis combined profound teaching and simplicity.

Writing to Francis, Jane admitted that God's help seemed far away—a little light that brought joy “which lasted only about the time of half a Hail Mary.” Who among us has never wanted more than a glimmer of hope?

Like Jesus, Francis could weave a lesson into a story. Taking free rein to elaborate upon a Greek myth, he wrote to Jane about little birds called halcyons. In Francis' rendition, halcyons built spherical nests, watertight except for a small air vent at the top. If pulled into a stormy sea by a wave, the nest remained afloat. Thus, he taught that God can work with even a little openness to Him.



Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary: Holy Day Mass Online All Day on August 15

Heart of the Nation invites you to celebrate the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary, body and soul, into heaven. Please join in the **Holy Day Mass online** at any time throughout the day at www.HeartoftheNation.org.

Did You Know?

Seashells wash onto shore at the Sea of Galilee, also called the Lake of Gennesaret. Spiral (turritella) snail shells found there offer a meaningful symbol of God's plan of creation and salvation, wonder and mystery.

On August 29, we recall the Passion of Saint John the Baptist. Jesus participated in the human experience of getting baptized by John, who had proclaimed the One to come. Time went on. Learning of John's martyrdom, the Lord wanted to withdraw into His shell in grief. Seeing a crowd gathered at the normally deserted place He had chosen, Jesus set aside His time for mourning.



*Creation gives us clues
to wondrous mysteries.*



In His public life, our Lord continued to engage in a swirl of activity, teaching, healing, and setting an example. Like the diminutive tip of a seashell and the upwardly widening spiral as it grows along with the mollusk inside, Jesus' ministry expanded.

As the son of a carpenter, the Lord might have compared a turritella shell to an auger among the tools of Joseph's trade. Scribes and Pharisees taught drilled-in rules, but Jesus put all kinds of holes in their hypocrisies.

In a spiral shell, the opening at the wide end enables the snail inside to obtain food from the surrounding water. Jesus wants us to remain open to the grace He provides.

Seashells may have colorful, lined patterns and ridges. How and why the patterns develop remains scientifically unknown. While other creatures have coloring that blends into their environments, the coloring of some shells makes them stand out. Jesus stood out in His desire to help people attain upwardly spiraling faith.

MASS SCHEDULE

Sunday, August 3, 2025
18th Sunday
in Ordinary Time

Sunday, August 10, 2025
19th Sunday
in Ordinary Time

Friday, August 15, 2025
The Assumption of the
Blessed Virgin Mary
(Holy Day of Obligation*)

Sunday, August 17, 2025
20th Sunday
in Ordinary Time

Sunday, August 24, 2025
21st Sunday
in Ordinary Time

Sunday, August 31, 2025
22nd Sunday
in Ordinary Time

* Online Mass on Sundays and
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CATHOLIC MASS

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