



Heart of the Nation.
CATHOLIC MASS

MONTHLY BULLETIN

August 2026

At Home with the Lord

Jesus sent the Spirit to remain with us in the times and places of our daily lives—even the most unlikely places. Take a store's aisle for laundry and cleaning supplies, for instance.

On the shelves, we find detergents, bleach, and spot removers, liquids, powders, and gel sticks. We have all we need to look our Sunday best.

Bright White

Jesus invited Peter, James, and John to hike up a high mountain with Him. They might work up a sweat, and the Lord surely would not get fussy about the tunics they wore for the climb.

In the Gospel of Luke, the Disciples fall to sleep while Jesus takes time to pray on the mountain, but they snap awake in time to see the Transfiguration of the Lord. Three of the Gospels describe how Jesus looked in that

Heavenly Aisle

glimpse of His heavenly glory, with His clothing as “white as light,” dazzling, and brighter than any fuller could make it.



Fr. Mark Payne
Chaplain

In Biblical times, fullers cleaned fabric both before and after it got made into clothing. They used malodorous alkaline “soap” and rubbed certain types of clay into the fabric to remove oil and dirt. They washed and rinsed, stomped on wet fabric, and brushed the cloth once it dried.

Jesus came into the world because sinfulness stinks. In the Transfiguration, He

appeared with Moses and Elijah. While Mosaic Law and the prophets could help people clean up their acts, Jesus came to bring salvation.

Peter, James, and John heard the voice of the Father proclaiming the beloved Son. They already believed in Jesus as the Messiah, the Son of God. They believed that He would come into His Kingdom in glory. Before the Transfiguration, Jesus had already said as much. He also said that He would build the Church.

Colorfast Faith

We rejoice in the bright white worn when Baptism removes the stain of Original sin and welcomes new members into the Church. Faith colors our lives, but it can fade. In the image of the Lord in His glory, we have the assurance that He continues to clothe us in His vibrant love.

Prayer & Worship Guide
June 29–August 15, 2026



Prayer & Worship Guide

To order a free subscription for yourself or someone you love, please contact Heart of the Nation with the recipient's name and address (see page 4). Each issue contains the text to follow along during Sunday Mass, weekly reflections, where to find daily readings in your Bible, and seasonal prayers.



THANK YOU, Circle of the Heart members, for your monthly gifts. Heart of the Nation gratefully includes

members in perpetual prayers placed at the altar for every Sunday TV Mass. To join, please use the reply card mailed with your bulletin, or contact Heart of the Nation (see page 4).

“I love the music during Mass. I used to be the leader of our church band that was geared toward our youth.”

— Deena



“Thank you for making Mass accessible to all of us!”

— Shelby

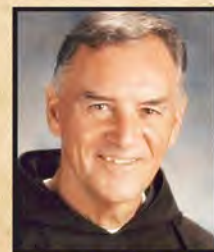


“I am really blessed by seeing the Mass. I love hearing the choirs, the priests, and the message.”

— Russell

Keys that Fit the Lock

People speculated about Jesus' identity, but Peter got it right when he called Him “the Messiah, the Son of the living God” (Matthew 16). Jesus responded by giving Peter a key role in the building of the Church, including the ability to forgive sins. In short, Jesus handed Peter the keys to heaven. Of course, a key only works in the right keyhole.



Fr. Tony Scannell
Chaplain

Travelers to Italy, whether for sightseeing or spiritual pilgrimages, put the Vatican and Saint Peter's Basilica on their itineraries. Some also climb Rome's Aventine Hill in search of a wooden door in the garden wall surrounding the Priory of the Catholic Order of Malta (a lay religious order).

Finding a Keyhole

Standing at the closed green door and looking through the keyhole focuses on a partial vista of the Vatican and the islandic nation of Malta, where Saint Paul survived a shipwreck. Most spectacularly, Saint Peter's Basilica appears perfectly framed by the tarnished brass keyhole.

Jesus came to establish the Church

and encountered some closed doors. For example, John the Baptist had helped to pave His way, but King Herod had John locked up and beheaded.

Jesus wanted to withdraw for a while, but He took pity on the crowd that had found Him. He healed the sick and multiplied five loaves and two fish to satisfy the people's hunger. By his actions, Jesus taught the key lesson that love puts others first.

More Key Moments

Still wanting to take time for some one-to-one prayer with the heavenly Father, Jesus made the Disciples leave by boat without Him. Later, the Lord walked on the water to catch up with them.

By inviting Peter to come to Him on the water, Jesus seemed to

have found a fitting way to open the exuberant Disciple to greater faith. In the wind and waves, however, Peter became fearful and started to sink. Jesus saved Him, just as He reaches out to us when, out of fear or anxiety, we founder.

Master Key

Jesus called Peter the rock upon whom He would build the Church. Then the Lord talked about the suffering that He would endure, and Peter objected with no openness at all to that part of the Master Builder's plan.

Like Peter, we have hopes. When doors seem to slam in our faces, the Lord invites us to look through the keyhole. We never understand the whole plan, but He can help us focus on the view that we need to see.

Blessings Shared and Multiplied

Before sending a crowd home, Jesus told the Disciples to bring Him the five loaves and two fish on hand. With His blessing, that meager fare became more than enough food for everyone. Donations to Heart of the Nation bring blessings to the homebound and serve as offerings to the Lord. Please give any amount that you can.

In His 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.



Mary, My Help

Blessed Virgin Mary, please be
with me as I pray:

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.

Holy Mary, Mother of God, please
be with me as I pray:

When I feel abandoned or
afraid, longing for
encouragement, please hold me
gently in your heart, wellspring
of comfort through your faith.

Mary, Queen of Heaven, please be
with me as I pray:

In my 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.



Roses symbolize Mary—even the
dog rose variety, if its lowly name
reflects the humility of the Blessed
Virgin. Generations would call her
“blessed” because of the great things
God had done for her.

In Hildesheim, Germany, a singular
dog rose shrub has shown the greatness
of God for generations, too. Known as
the “thousand-year rose,” it has grown to
cover much of an outside wall of the Assumption of Mary Cathedral.

About eight centuries from the time that Mary and Jesus
walked the earth, the emperor called Louis the Pious had a
reliquary—a vessel holding sacred relics. Legendarily, he had
it with him on a hunting excursion, and the precious relic of the
Blessed Virgin somehow got stuck in a dog rose bush. Unable to
free the reliquary, the emperor surmised a sign from God and
had a chapel built on the site.

Before the turn of the century, a bishop founded the
Cathedral of the Assumption of Mary. Fire struck the cathedral
in 1046 A.D., but the rose bush reputedly survived. Although
rebuilt, the cathedral again met destruction in World War II,
and just the stump of the thousand-year rose remained.

*Two years later, new buds
appeared on the humble dog rose.*

On August 15, Catholics celebrate the Assumption of the
Blessed Virgin Mary, taken body and soul to heaven. Throughout
Mary’s life, she believed beyond what she could understand. She
had experienced fear as the Holy Family fled from King Herod,
anxious days of searching when twelve-year-old Jesus stayed
behind in Jerusalem without telling His parents, and heart-
rending sorrow at the Crucifixion. Thousands of years later,
Mary’s example continues to inspire resilient faith.

Having grown to more than 30 feet tall, the likewise resilient
thousand-year rose has become larger and lived longer than any
other dog rose. It might take dogged faith, but spiritual growth
can emerge even from devastating events in our lives. God wants
to find us, like Mary, ready, waiting, and believing.

Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary

There is no Holy Day
obligation this year, but you
can join in Mass on August
15 throughout the day at
www.HeartoftheNation.org.



Figs in the Food Group

Jesus can make a person feel like a fig. Blossoms never appear on the branches of a fig, because the fruit itself contains small flowers that remain hidden even as they produce the tiny seeds that give figs their unique texture. The Lord knows us inside and out.

In the process of choosing the Twelve Apostles, Jesus invited Philip to follow Him. Philip, in turn, found Nathanael, who seriously doubted that the One to come would hail from Nazareth.



*Whatever hopes or doubts Nathanael held inside,
Jesus already knew.*



As Nathanael approached, Jesus called him a “true Israelite,” someone who counted himself among God’s chosen people. God had promised their ancestors a land of spring water, grains, olives, honey, and figs (Deuteronomy 8). During the reign of Solomon, the people had felt blessedly secure as owners of vines and fig trees.

Our Lord also commended Nathanael as a person without duplicity—not one for crafty, Pharisaical double-talk. Unsurprisingly, Nathanael got right to the point and asked how Jesus knew him. Before Philip had beckoned him to come, Jesus explained, He had already seen Nathanael in the shade of a fig tree.

Jesus had seen right through him! Moreover, Nathanael received the grace to recognize the Lord. No longer skeptical, Nathanael called Jesus “the Son of God” and “King of Israel”!

Although not listed as one of the Twelve, Nathanael and half a dozen other Disciples met the Risen Lord at breakfast along the Sea of Tiberias. In contrast, the Apostle Bartholomew gets mentioned only on Gospel rosters of the Twelve. Nathanael and Bartholomew may be one in the same, and readings at Mass on August 24, the Feast of Saint Bartholomew, include the encounter at the fig tree.



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 **PRAYER LINE: (414) 475-4700**

☐ *I would like a Heart of the Nation prayer minister to call me.*

Name: _____ Phone: _____

*"Cast all your worries upon Him
because He cares for you." (1 Peter 5:7)*

Return this form in the envelope provided, or call to speak with a prayer minister weekdays from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Central Time. (At other times, please leave a message for a call back.)

MASS SCHEDULE

Sunday, August 2, 2026
Eighteenth Sunday
in Ordinary Time

Sunday, August 9, 2026
Nineteenth Sunday
in Ordinary Time

Saturday, August 15, 2026
Assumption of the
Blessed Virgin Mary
(online Mass with no Holy
Day obligation in 2026)

Sunday, August 16, 2026
Twentieth Sunday
in Ordinary Time

Sunday, August 23, 2026
Twenty-First Sunday
in Ordinary Time

Sunday, August 30, 2026
Twenty-Second Sunday
in Ordinary Time

Online Mass on Sundays and
Holy Days:

Available all day at
www.HeartoftheNation.org



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channel information,
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or

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