



Faith As Close As Your TV

Monthly Bulletin

**MARY, MOTHER OF GOD
HOLY DAY – JANUARY 1**

Join Heart of the Nation for Holy Day Mass online throughout the day on January 1 at www.HeartoftheNation.org.



NEW! TV MASSES

Sunday TV Mass now airs on these local CW broadcast channels:

9:00 a.m.

Billings, MT
KTVQ ch. 2.2

Brownsville-McAllen-Harlingen, TX
KCWT ch. 21.1

Duluth, MN / Superior, WI
KDLH ch. 3.1

Lincoln-Hastings-Kearney, NE
KCWH ch. 18.1

Rochester, MN
KTTC ch. 10.2

10:00 a.m.

Albany, GA
WGCW ch. 36.1 / WALB ch. 10.4

Charlottesville, VA
WVIR ch. 29.3

Chico-Redding, CA
KHSL ch. 12.2

Florence-Myrtle Beach, SC
WWMB ch. 21.2

Lafayette, IN
WLFI ch. 53.1



January 2020

Following Your Star

It seemed like a good idea at the time—a sudden perception, an epiphany!—that two inventors saw as their rising star. Why not add pizzazz to wallpaper by making it 3-D? In the “anything goes” era of the 1950’s, the inventors followed up on their idea by fusing two pieces of plastic shower curtain together, with air bubbles caught in between. Bubble Wrap® was born.

Ancient astronomers believed that the appearance of a new star signified the birth of a ruler. We celebrate the Epiphany of the Lord as the manifestation of our Savior, divine and human, on Earth. The magi saw the new star at its rising and set out to find Him.

In an Epiphany sermon, St. John Chrysostom explained that Gentiles believed the words of a prophet named Balaam, who said that the Christ, born of a virgin, would come from Israel. The Jewish people believed that the specific birthplace would be Bethlehem. Arriving in Jerusalem, the magi asked Herod where they could find the newborn King.

Have you ever popped the bubbles on a piece of Bubble Wrap that you didn’t need anymore? Well, Herod didn’t need a competitor for the throne to burst his dynastic bubble. He instructed the magi to find the Child and report back. When the magi left, the star preceded them until it stopped over a particular house, where they found Mary and Jesus. They didn’t tell Herod.

As home décor, Bubble Wrap didn’t catch on. The inventors test-marketed it as greenhouse insulation, also with less than stellar results. Like the magi following the Star of Bethlehem, they continued the journey. Their star shone brightly when IBM needed a way to protect computers during shipment. With newly found purpose, their invention was saved.

The liturgical season of Christmas concludes on the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord (January 12, 2020). Your gift or pledge to Heart of the Nation will wrap up this joyous time of year as we continue to follow the Light of the Lord.



**Fr. Mark Payne
Chaplain**

Fr. Mark

"When our priest must travel 40 miles to celebrate the Mass in our mission parish but is unable to do so in adverse weather, I can celebrate via Heart of the Nation."

~LaVonne



"I am a priest. In 2016, I had a stroke. I participate in the Liturgy on television. Thank you for your outreach to those with physical disabilities."

~Msgr. Michael



"I recently discovered the program on my free TV channel. It does give a sense of belonging."

~Dorothy

Homing in on Heaven

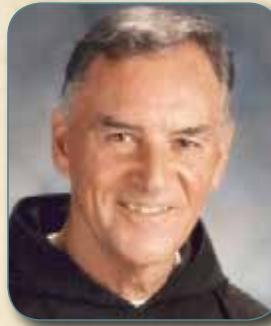
God could have chosen the eagle, symbol of soaring hope in the Lord (Isaiah 40). He could have chosen the sparrow that finds a home, symbol of the heavenly Father's love and care for the lowly (Psalm 84). Instead, the Holy Spirit appeared like a dove at the Baptism of Jesus.

The white doves sometimes released after a baptism, wedding, or funeral are really homing pigeons. Likewise, in the Old Testament, when Noah released a dove from the ark, it flew around and then homed in on the familiar ark.

Jesus knows that we can get stuck going in circles. We go from sin to sorrow to forgiveness, when our Savior wants us to "Go, and sin no more." We sometimes go around and around in prayer, too, asking with dizzying frequency, despite God's familiarity with every need we have.

A week after the first try, Noah released the dove again. When it returned with a leaf from an olive tree in its beak, he knew

that new life had begun to emerge as the flood water receded. Noah soon released the dove a third time, and it didn't return. Freedom from the confining ark had come.



**Fr. Tony Scannell
Chaplain**

In the New Testament, we meet John the Baptist. People came to him, repentant and determined to turn over a new leaf.

When Jesus appeared at the Jordan River for baptism, John wanted things the other way



around. He wanted Jesus to Baptize him! Our Savior intended to show us the difference between symbol and Sacrament.

The coming of the Holy Spirit through the Sacrament of Baptism cleanses souls—not just symbolically, but really. Baptism frees us. Original sin no longer confines us.

John the Baptist recognized the dove as a manifestation of the Spirit. Of course, it homed in on Jesus! Onlookers then heard the heavenly Father's voice saying, "This is my beloved Son." Gloriously, the Holy Trinity was revealed!

Homing pigeons have delivered messages. Jesus did more than convey the Word of God. Get the message?

Ringing in a New Resolution

Each New Year invites us to make a resolution or two. We might resurrect resolutions that didn't get crossed off the "to-do" list last year. For inspiration to try something new, use these ideas or some of your own:

- When you send a get-well card, add a note about Heart of the Nation's Sunday Mass. (Contact Heart of the Nation for times/channels nationwide.)
- During each week, use the reflections and seasonal Catholic prayers in the back of each issue of the *Prayer & Worship Guide*. (See page 4 to order.)
- A special New Year's gift or a new pledge in the Circle of the Heart monthly giving club will help the faithful who depend on Heart of the Nation because of illness, dangerous winter roads, or other struggles that bring viewers to the TV Mass. (Thank you for your generosity!)

Marian Prayer for Peace

Mary, Holy Mother of God,
Who gave birth to Your
beloved Son,
I pray for peace that is His gift:

For peace, if only just begun—
a moment focused only on Him;

For peace with violence overcome,
humanity found on the same side;

For peace because justice is done,
with eyes wide open and
voices heard;

For peace where love
is the reason,
banishing disquiet and fear;

For peace as people join as one,
coming together in faith
and prayer. Amen.



Epiphany Prayer

Lord Jesus,

Who came as newborn Savior
To share life with us on Earth,
In Your love, may I find favor,
Hope, joy, and blessing
through Your birth.

Like the magi who once saw
The rising of a new star,
May Your light lead me to rejoice,
Following in wonder and awe.

Continuing life's journey,
As did magi from afar,
In Your love, O Lord most holy,
May I seek You with all my heart.

On the 8th Day of Christmas

Honoring Mary, the Holy Mother of God, takes on wider dimension as we also celebrate World Day of Peace and New Year's Day on January 1. The expansiveness—intentional in light of the Second Vatican Council—gives Catholics an annual occasion to newly contemplate and celebrate our faith.

At the Holy Day Mass, the joyful Octave of Christmas concludes. The Gospel recalls Mary reflecting on the arrival of shepherds led by angelic tidings to find the newborn Savior. Devotion to Mary reminds us to reflect on what God does for us and through us.

Pope Paul VI, in an apostolic exhortation (formal instruction), said that Marian devotions harmonize with liturgy for the twofold purpose of increasing our desire to do God's will and giving Him glory. Mary believed God's Word. She prayed. She experienced the Holy Spirit's intercession. Uniting herself with Jesus, she made her life an offering.



In the first reading at Mass for the January 1 Holy Day, the Lord gives Moses a blessing to pass along: "The Lord look upon you kindly and give you peace." Pope Paul VI established World Day of Peace and called the Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God, "a fitting occasion" to ask God, through the Blessed Mother, for the gift of peace. His Papal message for the first celebration, in 1968, expressed hope that the Day of Peace would engage the Church, other organizations dedicated to peace, and people affected by discord or violence.

Oppression can create orderliness, but not peace. Making progress toward peace, Pope Paul VI continued, requires "truth, justice, freedom, love." In deference to Mary, the Day of Peace does not appear on liturgical calendars, but at Mass on January 1, we honor Mary while praying that the Lord will grant us peace.

A Pioneering Saint

Although not in a covered wagon heading into the Wild West, St. Elizabeth Ann Seton made pioneering inroads in the same era. She co-founded the Society for the Relief of Poor Widows and Small Children (and knew their plight firsthand as a 29-year-old widow with five young children). Although she had converted to Catholicism, she took a job in a Protestant school to support her family. When a priest approached her with the idea of opening a school for Catholic girls, Elizabeth and a small group of women took up the challenge. The group, under Mother Seton's leadership, became the first women's religious community established in the United States. Elizabeth Ann Seton, the first canonized saint born as a U.S. citizen, serves as patron saint of Catholic schools and widows.



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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Mr. & Mrs. Joe Ares
Marita Arias
Dr. James E. Auer
Madeline Bartlett
Elaine Bauerly
Stephen A. Bender
Donald Bentz
Mr. & Mrs. Joseph Blake
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January Week of Prayer

Jesus came into the world for all people. The International Week of Prayer for Christian Unity (January 18-25) invites ecumenical prayer for oneness in the Lord. "They showed us unusual kindness" (Acts 28:2), the theme for 2020, invites us to follow St. Paul's example of evangelization that encompasses appreciating people of different beliefs, sharing our faith, and embracing the Lord's desire that all will become one in Him.



For local time and channel information, please visit www.HeartoftheNation.org

or
Contact Us:

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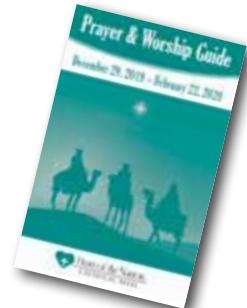
Prayer & Worship Guide: Order for Yourself Or As a Gift for Someone You Love

Please start a free annual subscription to the large-print *Prayer & Worship Guide*, published 7 times per year by Heart of the Nation. Send it to the person listed below:

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Please return this form to **Heart of the Nation**, P.O. Box 14428, Milwaukee, WI 53214.

Allow 4-6 weeks for delivery. **Thank You!**