



**SPECIAL  
DAYS OF PRAYER**

**January 18-25  
Week of Prayer for  
Christian Unity**

Please pray along with Catholics and other Christians worldwide for unity while contemplating this year's theme, "Do good; seek justice" (Isaiah 1:17).

**January 23  
Day of Prayer for the  
Legal Protection of  
Unborn Children**

Catholics believe that an unborn child has a soul from the moment of conception. Although the U.S. Supreme court has overturned the federal Constitutional right to abortion, perilous laws in some states remain in effect.



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someone you love. Please send the recipient's name and postal address to Heart of the Nation, P.O. Box 14428, Milwaukee, WI 53214.

**\*Take Note of the Star**

Numbers on a typewriter or computer keyboard go in sequence, 1 to 9. Press the "shift" key, and those same keys type symbols instead, in no apparent order. Hunt-and-peck typists just look for the "and" sign, number sign, the star (asterisk), and all the rest.

Magi, ancient scholars especially in the field of astronomy, believed that a new star would herald the awaited King's birth. The Star of Bethlehem showed them the place where they found our newborn Savior.

On one typewriter key, a star appears above number 8. The line of the 8 has no beginning or end, like God the Father. The figure eight and the two circles it makes comprise a Trinity. Notice the crossover in the middle, like Jesus sent at one point to intersect with humanity.

Touch typists can type more than 100 words per minute without even looking at the keys. Meanwhile two-finger typists grumble at the seemingly haphazard arrangement of the letter keys. God and typewriter creators work in mysterious ways.

If you grew up in the era of manual typewriters, you may have learned from experience that the skinny metal arms with letters, numbers, and symbols on the end jammed together sometimes. The quirky, QWERTY keyboard, with those six letters at the beginning of the first row of alphabet keys, originated to prevent even more jams. Jesus' birth placed Him in the best position to help us.

*Epiphany* means a realization. In 1888, the First World Speed Typing Championship happened to bring together two Catholic Knights of Columbus. They used different typewriters and different methods. Touch typing offered an epiphany for the Knight who came in second, using hunt-and-peck. Many more would soon see the wisdom of touch typing.

We celebrate the Epiphany of the Lord (January 8 this year) because wise men from afar recognized the Lord's light shown to them. Today, whether reading typed passages in the Bible or listening to Scripture proclaimed at Mass, we realize that the Lord came to offer His words and healing touch. He became for us the key to experiencing His love.



**Fr. Mark Payne  
Chaplain**



***“The Mass was beautiful. It reminded me of many years ago (I’m 93 now) when I attended St. Mary’s Catholic School and served at Mass.”***

– Newton



***“We feel as if we are there with you through the prayers, homily, and beautiful music.”***

– LeAnn & Wayne



***“I shared your Mass times/channels with my family. I appreciate the Spiritual Communion prayer.”***

– Katherine

## Getting the Picture

*Cameras meant for beginners have just a few settings and—yes!—the automatic focus option. Some models have an underwater setting, although many a diver has photographed colorful coral and other marine life but emerged with pictures that looked mostly blue.*

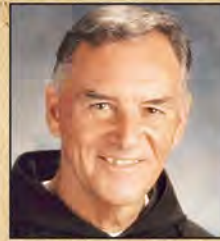
After the births of John the Baptist and the Lord Jesus, Scripture gives us only a snapshot look at the years from childhood to manhood. John “grew and became strong in spirit” (Luke 1). Jesus “grew and became strong, filled with wisdom” (Luke 2).

On January 9, we celebrate the Baptism of the Lord. Jesus asked John to baptize Him in the Jordan River, even though the Lord had no need for a baptism of repentance. Afterward, the Holy Spirit came upon Jesus like a dove, and the voice of the Father announced, “This is my beloved Son.” John got the picture!

What looks to us like white light actually contains a rainbow of colors. Underwater photos

look blue because water blocks a lot of the red, orange, and yellow wavelengths.

Events in our lives can leave us feeling blue. Our



Fr. Tony Scannell  
Chaplain

faith sometimes gets watered down, and we can scarcely see the glorious spectrum of the Lord’s love for us.

Jesus came as Light for the world. Words of Scripture give us wonderful images of His teaching and preaching.

Taking pictures in water works best close up. In His lifetime and now, Jesus wants people to come close to Him.

On a scuba outing, an instructor looked at a diver’s camera, knew the pictures would turn out blue, and lent him a red filter. Although not an interchangeable part between cameras, a bit of duct tape attached it. Jesus always gives us blessings that will work.

People wondered if John the Baptist might be the Messiah. Instead, John served as a viewfinder pointing toward Jesus.

When John the Baptist’s ministry led to his imprisonment, Jesus took up the mantle of preaching repentance but went farther. Along the Sea of Galilee, the Lord soon called four fishermen as the first of Twelve Apostles.

Jesus calls us, too, inviting us to focus and see ourselves through the lens of His love.

## Hooked on the TV Mass

From the shoreline of the Sea of Galilee, Jesus spotted Peter and Andrew casting a fishing net into the water. He promised to make them fishers of men. A little farther along, two brothers in a boat with their father had set about the task of mending their nets. Called by the Lord, James and John dropped what they were doing to follow Him, too.

It takes a boatload of donations to meet Heart of the Nation’s costs in providing Sunday TV Mass and free prayer publications. During this new year, caught up in the Lord’s love, please donate or pledge any amount that you can.





## New Year's Prayer

Lord Jesus, as this new year begins, what would You have me leave behind?

Meandering footprints along my way, when I could have turned to You?

Yet at this crossroads, I give You thanks for detours You took to watch over me.

Lord Jesus, as this new year begins, what would You have me leave behind?

Time spent on the familiar, dog-eared page, when new chapters awaited?

In Your Word, may I discover ways of delighting You with my life story.

Lord Jesus, as this new year begins, what would You have me leave behind?

The song, the thought, the fear stuck in my head, when Your blessings went unsung?

Like one note held within a symphony, please hold me to give me renewed joy. Amen.



## Epiphany Prayer

Lord Jesus,

You 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 wise men from afar, in Your love, O Lord most holy, may I seek You with all my heart.

## One Day and Three Reasons to Celebrate January 1

Pope Paul VI designated January 1 as a World Day of Peace, beginning in 1968. The first reading for Mass on that day repeats words of a blessing that God gave Moses to hand down. The blessing says, in part: "The Lord look upon you kindly and give you peace!" Yearly papal messages have highlighted aspects of becoming peacemakers, ranging from embracing more than mere pacifism to embarking on shared projects.

January 1, a holy day of obligation, falls on Sunday this year and celebrates Mary, the Holy Mother of God. Her kinswoman Elizabeth called Mary "the mother of my Lord" (Luke 1). Mary also serves as Mother of the Church, and honoring her in all aspects of her motherhood always directs the faithful toward her Son.

When opening a new calendar on January 1, consider a New Year's resolution based on lessons from Jesus and Mary. How can you become a better peacemaker? What can you do to more closely follow Mary's example of devotion to serving and glorifying God?



**"Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God." (Matthew 5)**

## The Angelic Doctor and Dumb Ox

Classmates called the big boy who hardly spoke a "dumb ox." Little did they know that Thomas Aquinas would later become an influential speaker and a canonized saint known by the nickname of "Angelic Doctor." Catholics celebrate his feast day on January 28.

The title "doctor of the Church" formally recognizes a saint who has significantly contributed to Catholic theology. Calling him angelic may have derived from his teachings about angels or his high level of theological understanding in general.

As a Dominican (Order of Preachers) friar, he embraced the order's dedication to theological study and preaching. In the Middle Ages, when many people believed that reason opposed faith, the Angelic Doctor taught that reason and faith together contribute to knowing the truth.

Also known for having a prodigious memory, Saint Thomas Aquinas taught his students a version of the ancient Greek "journey method." Living before the advent of mechanical printing, the Angelic Doctor called memory a "treasure house." Using the journey technique, a person can imagine going from place to place in a room or building and putting a bit of information in each location. The disparate bits of knowledge become linked together and recalled by picturing a walk through the place. Consider your own floor plan for Bible study in search of treasures that you want to keep in mind.





# New Circle of the Heart Members: THANK YOU!

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 call, e-mail, or send a note to Heart of the Nation.)

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