



TV MASS UPDATES

NEW! Harlingen-Weslaco-
Brownsville-McAllen, TX
KGBT ch. 4 (CBS)
6:30 a.m.

NEW TIME!
Sacramento, CA
KQCA ch. 58 (My58)
8:00 a.m.

NEW! Traverse City-Cadillac, MI
WPBN ch. 7 (NBC)
6:30 a.m.

Washington, DC
NEW! WDCA ch. 20 (Fox 5 Plus)
6:30 a.m.

WMDE ch. 36
8:00 a.m.

Parable of Independence

In honor of Independence Day, please allow me to present a real-life parable.

Colonial Catholics encountered widespread persecution, but William Penn gave Christians in Pennsylvania religious freedom. An inscribed bell for the State House commemorated Penn's Charter of Privileges. The Old Testament inscription read, "Proclaim Liberty Throughout All the Land unto All the Inhabitants Thereof." Sadly, the bell immediately cracked.

Two foundry workers melted the bell, added another metal to the alloy, and made a replacement. It clunked dismally and got recast again. The new bell sounded better but not great. It proved sturdier and didn't crack right away. That imperfect bell likely pealed to call Philadelphians to hear the Declaration of Independence proclaimed. Abolitionists later christened it the Liberty Bell.

In 1777, British troops surely planned to plunder large church bells and the Liberty Bell to make munitions. Patriots spirited bells swaddled in hay to the town of Bethlehem (the one in Pennsylvania) and beyond. They hid the Liberty Bell beneath the floorboards of a church in what is now Allentown. In 1846, as it rang in honor of George Washington's birthday, an existing crack widened beyond repair.

What does our parable mean? The original bell that cracked is people who hear the Word but fail as soon as it comes to putting faith to use. The recast bell that clunked is people who want to improve but put too much faith in their own knowledge. The second recast bell represents imperfect disciples who can still call others to believe. The bell beneath floorboards is hidden faith in the Lord, who came to Bethlehem. Instead, His message should resound from the bell towers and steeples of faith and good works. The Liberty Bell's large crack reminds us that freedom to practice our faith remains a fragile gift.

During this month when we celebrate our nation's birth, please donate to Heart of the Nation. Your gift or pledge will proclaim your vibrant faith, clear as a bell.



Fr. Mark Payne
Chaplain

Summer Fund Drive



Your gift to Heart of the Nation serves the Lord in "the glorious freedom of the children of God" (Romans 8). Please donate today!

“I am pretty much disabled. I sort of got away from attending church for 20 years, and about 4 years ago, I found the Heart of the Nation Sunday Mass. I am a regular viewer.”

~Pat



“With my parents going through health issues and my work schedule, you don’t realize what a Godsend you have been!”

~Kathryn



“Thank you for being there for me when I can’t attend Mass—it’s a blessing.”

~Matilda

Rainbow of Hopes

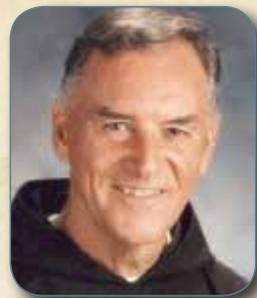
Jesus appointed disciples to go in pairs to the towns He planned to visit on the last missionary trip of His lifetime. The itinerary included Samaria—not a friendly place. For the 72 sent forth “like lambs among wolves,” things looked gloomy, to say the least.

All of us experience the gloom when hope gets clouded by earthly concerns. We want brighter days. God gives us rainbows as a sign that His love will come through for us.

Imagine the joy that the pairs of disciples would have experienced if blessed by the sight of a twinned rainbow along the way. Many of us have seen double rainbows, with one arc above the other. Twinned rainbows appear even more rarely, right next to each other and connected only at the very base in the middle.

Picture Jesus as the base. As His followers, we branch out from Him in the different directions

that our talents, activities and vocations take us.



**Fr. Tony Scannell
Chaplain**

The elusive twinned rainbows form when two different rain showers occur at the same time, left and right. One storm has big, heavy drops, and the other produces light, refreshing rain.

Air resistance flattens the big raindrops to the shape of a hamburger, and meteorologists even



call the squashed drops “burgeroids.” The gently falling, lighter drops stay pretty round. Sunlight shines through the two shapes of drops, and one of the twinned rainbows forms in each rain shower.

Events in our lives can squash our hopes. We feel like burgeroids, while people next to us may feel refreshingly blessed. As Church, we help one another to weather whatever comes our way.

Jesus came as Light. Especially after a storm’s gloom, side by side with Him and with our lives centered in Him, the Light can shine through us to glorious effect.

Summer Fund Drive

Abraham sat by a landmark terebinth tree, named after his ally Mamre. According to the Book of Genesis, the Lord appeared. Abraham saw three men and quickly invited them to sit under the tree while he brought them something to eat. One of the three promised that within a year, Abraham and Sarah would have a son in their old age. Abraham had met the Lord, served Him (with Sarah’s help), and faithfully received the promise of a miracle!

“Shade trees line a driveway leading to the landmark seminary where we gather in the chapel for TV Mass. There, we encounter the Lord,” said Fr. Mark Payne, chaplain for Heart of the Nation. “Your donation during the Summer Fund Drive will serve the Lord as a gift brought to Him.”

Abraham had asked the Lord and His companions for the privilege of serving them. One pledged to come back the next year. Heart of the Nation depends on donations and pledges to keep coming back with the TV Mass.

July 4th Prayer

Loving Father,

Among the treasured blessings
You have given to humankind
Is the gift of freedom
To seek You with heart, soul,
and mind.

May we faithfully choose to do
What is pleasing in Your sight,
And know the peace of heart
that comes
From doing what is right.

May we never take for granted
Life enjoyed in liberty;
We pray for people now afraid
To praise You openly.

May our pursuit of happiness
Go hand in hand with being
One in the Body of Christ,
In whom we find our meaning.

We remember in our prayers
The souls of all whose lives
are spent
In upholding sacred truths
While trusting in
Your providence. Amen.

Patriots and Patron Saints

In 1776, Puritans throughout the 13 original English colonies despised Catholics, even though the first U.S. census (1790) recorded a Catholic population of less than two percent. The Declaration of Independence did not declare freedom of religion, as the Bill of Rights did later, but George Washington stood up for Catholics.

As Commander-in-Chief of the Continental Army, Washington issued an order against burning effigies of the Pope and, moreover, stated a duty to thank Catholics fighting for the nation's freedom. As President, Washington addressed a letter to Catholics, expressing gratitude for their part in the Revolution and wishing them "spiritual felicity." Archbishop John Carroll, the first bishop in the United States of America, eulogized Washington as "a most luminous proof of that truth which was so rooted in his soul." Washington may have converted to Catholicism shortly before death.

After a unanimous vote by the nation's bishops in 1846 and a subsequent decree by Pope Pius IX, the **Blessed Virgin Mary** of the Immaculate Conception became patron saint of the United States. Other saints have more colorful ties with Independence Day.

St. Barbara serves as patroness for safe fireworks and artillery militia members. After her conversion to Christianity in the third century, her pagan father beheaded her in retaliation and then suffered his own death when struck by lightning. **St. Catherine of Alexandria** openly challenged Christian persecution in the Roman Empire. When she touched the torture wheel intended for her execution, it fell apart. "Saint Catherine's Wheel" firecrackers have a spiral in the center with spoke-like sparklers around it. Because of the many answered prayers linked to their intercession, Catholics include St. Barbara and St. Catherine among the Fourteen Holy Helpers.



Summer Prayer

Lord Jesus,

Who ministered from place
to place,
I pray for loved ones traveling
and ask You to keep them safe.

Lord Jesus,
Who calmed wind and
stormy seas,
I join in prayer for weather
gentle as Your love and mercy.

Lord Jesus,
Who told parables of seed,
may I grow in loving faith
and turn to You unfailingly.

Amen.

July Feast Days

July feast days honor two Apostles with intriguing nicknames, St. Thomas (July 3) and St. James (July 25). Scripture does not explain calling Thomas "the twin," but the Apostle coupled his destiny with that of Jesus. When the Lord announced that He would go to His friend Lazarus, who had just died, Thomas said that the Disciples might as well go along and die with Jesus in hostile Judea. Seeing the Risen Lord, Thomas said, "My Lord and my God"—the only instance in the Bible of someone addressing Jesus as God. The Apostle James witnessed the healing of Peter's mother-in-law, the raising of Jairus' daughter, and the Transfiguration. Jesus called James and his brother John "sons of thunder." The two once asked Jesus if they should call down fire from the sky upon a village that refused to welcome Him.



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 envelope, 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.) **Thank you!**

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CATHOLIC MASS

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