

MONTHLY BULLETIN

March 2026

At Home with the Lord

When a 17th-century shoemaker in Bologna, Italy, picked up a stone in the nearby foothills, he found it surprisingly heavy. Not only that, but the form of the rock resembled rays of sunlight.

Besides his day job in the cobbler shop, Vincenzo Cascariolo dabbled in alchemy. He wondered if maybe, just maybe, he had found a fabled stone to process in a way that would turn everyday metals into gold or make a potion for eternal youth. Back then, it didn't seem like a bunch of baloney, and he gathered up more stones to take home.

Seeing and Believing

Scripture Gospel readings during the Lenten weeks of March begin on a mountainside, where Peter, James, and John saw the Lord in His heavenly glory. His familiar, drab clothes appeared whiter than any cleaner could make them—

Baloney - Bologna

as “white as light.” His face “shone like the sun.” Moses and Elijah appeared with Him, and from a cloud came the voice of the heavenly Father, who said to listen to His beloved Son.



Fr. Mark Payne
Chaplain

Jesus instructed the three Disciples not to tell anyone about the vision until after He rose. They had thought that Elijah would return first and asked Jesus about that. In what the Disciples saw and heard that day, God revealed to them a very thick slice of theology.

Glowing Results

Later, alchemists like Vincenzo figured that using

stone with the potential to make them rich or even immortal would require grinding it up for mixing or melting. Although he failed to achieve the results desired, Vincenzo found that exposure to sunlight made his previously crushed and heated stone glow spectacularly in the dark.

Others took notice and discovered that traces of copper in the stone (barite) caused the luminosity. Crushing the stone in a copper bowl increased the effect, while using an iron bowl quashed it.

No Stone Unturned

Jesus had escaped stoning. Nevertheless, He faced the iron spikes used for crucifixion, the mockery, and all of the torments endured on a day filled with the darkness of sin.

Our cobbler had no idea why his stone glowed. Likewise, disciples of Jesus did not understand His death until the Resurrection and its bright promise of eternal life for those who believe.

Daylight Saving Time Begins on March 8

To wake up on time for TV Mass on March 8, set your clocks ahead one hour before going to bed on Saturday night.



Lenten Reminders

- Fridays:** Abstinence from meat or poultry
- April 3:** Good Friday (fast & abstinence)
- April 4:** Easter Vigil (Personal Lenten observances traditionally end right before the vigil Mass.)

“Up at 5 a.m. each Sunday for the program/Mass—great start to a new day.”

— James



“Thank you for the reverent and beautiful Mass this morning! It buoyed my spirits after the passing of my dear cousin and a talented friend.”

— Pamela



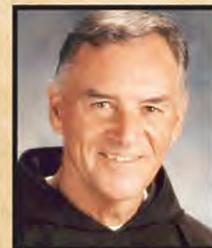
“Today, because of bad weather, I did not want to travel out. I really enjoyed the singing of the kids.”

— Paul

Well, Go Deeper

Jesus had begun to draw even bigger crowds than John the Baptist, and word had gotten around to the Pharisees. Our Lord decided to head back to Galilee for a while.

On the way, He rested at Jacob’s well while the Disciples went into the Samaritan town of Sychar to buy some lunch. Surprisingly at that time of day, a woman came to the well to draw water.



**Fr. Tony Scannell
Chaplain**

Women would typically gather at the community well during cool hours of the day. Although a chore, obtaining water to carry home also provided a refreshing opportunity to socialize. Coming to the well alone, the Samaritan woman seemed like an outcast not in the mood to chat.

Rope attached to a clay vessel or a bucket made of animal hide enabled going deep enough to reach the well’s water level. Not having a bucket with Him, Jesus struck up a conversation with the woman.

You Don’t Say

Oy veh! Surely He knew that a Jewish man had no business talking to a Samaritan woman or using her water jar.

Instead of stepping back and waiting for Jesus to go away, she snapped at Him. Even that impudence failed to put Him off.

First Things First

Today, pumps draw up well water. I liken this Gospel passage, though, to a true tale at a different kind of well.

With the ink barely dry on his college diploma, an accountant headed to his first job—an oil drilling site in Texas. Like Jesus waiting at Jacob’s well, a hard-hat foreman greeted the newcomer.

After the accountant had put his suit jacket and briefcase in the office, the foreman welcomed him to verify inventory on hand. He pointed the way.

Seeing a way to help, Jesus told the Samaritan woman that He could give her

living water to drink and never thirst again. Instructed to come back with her husband, she soon realized that Jesus knew full well about her. He revealed His identity as the awaited Messiah.

Taking Inventory

Cued in advance that the accounting firm had sent a rookie, the foreman said to climb an oil rig and check the dipstick. (Seriously?) Finally, the foreman admitted to just wanting to see if the accountant would believe him.

Hastening back to town, the Samaritan woman told people about Jesus, and many came to believe. During Lent, we have the opportunity to take stock of our spiritual lives and the level of our faith in the Lord, who deeply knows us.



Sure Place to Find the Lord

At age twelve, Jesus decided to stick around in Jerusalem after the Passover festival. Mary and Joseph finally found Him in the Temple, His Father’s house—the first place Jesus said they should have looked. Gifts to Heart of the Nation enable people to seek the Lord at Mass and listen to His teaching that gives hope to those who believe and do good works in His name.

Holy Week Prayers

Palm Sunday (March 29)

Crowds came to listen
to Your Word
and to beseech Your healing.
May each "Hosanna"
that I raise
echo hope in You, our King.

Monday of Holy Week (March 30)

With saints and angels,
not alone,
I pray that in all I face,
You will bless me
with faithfulness,
steadfast love for You,
and peace.

Tuesday of Holy Week (March 31)

Please give me patience
to endure
when Your timeline isn't mine.
Help me to do Your will today—
my life and Yours intertwined.

Wednesday of Holy Week (April 1)

May all the love that I give
reflect Your compassion for me.
With gentleness, may I live,
here and in heavenly glory.

Holy Thursday (April 2)

How should I attend to You?
Please awaken in me insight
to notice opportunities
for serving You, Lord and Light.

Good Friday (April 3)

I come with a heart laden,
knowing the sins You bore
for me.
In love, You sacrificed Yourself,
although I am unworthy.

Holy Saturday (April 4)

Please help me as I seek You,
longing to see joy on Your face,
greeting me where You
have gone
to prepare a heavenly place.
Amen.

An Expandable Album

Whether as a TV Mass celebrant, missionary, or pastor of four urban Milwaukee parishes, Fr. Mike Wolfe points out some of his life experiences like snapshots. Without knowing what God plans for the album, its pages fill.

Growing up in a family of six, Fr. Mike attended public school. As pizza lids opened at parish youth events, he "started to be open to some sort of call to serve the Church." He joined the youth council, became an acolyte, and helped to lead Confirmation retreats.



In college, a semester-long immersion experience led him to a parish in the Dominican Republic served by the Community of Saint Paul. Deciding to join that Wisconsin-based association of ordained and laypeople, Fr. Mike described his excitement as he "sprinted to finish my degree in Spanish literature and culture."

Returning to the Dominican Republic, he studied philosophy at a Jesuit college there. Beyond the classroom, he engaged in parish ministry, care of the sick, and development projects such as a small town's clean water system. He could picture himself as a priest.

He attended Saint Francis de Sales Seminary in Milwaukee, and ordination followed. For his ordination prayer card, he chose the theme, "Harden Not Your Hearts" (Psalm 95:8; Hebrews 3:15).

"Through the witness of faith that I saw in many Dominican and Haitian people, I came to realize that we have to be decisive in keeping from being hardened by life's difficulties," Fr. Mike said.

"Once the heart is hardened, it is really, really hard to see any good or reasons for hope in the world around us."

Serving as a missionary, both in the Dominican Republic and in Colombia, has proved "fundamental to who I am today as a man of the Church," he continued. "It has helped me, I think, to have a clearer understanding of what is core to our lived experiences as people of faith."

As pastor, he melds ministering to crowds and connecting with individuals. "I try to be present and not in a rush when I am at events, and to stay after Masses. This also feeds me ministerially, more than focusing on the 'bigger picture' of collaboration."

Before college, Fr. Mike had contemplated a career in TV and film—lighting, videography, film editing, or even acting. He marvels now at "having my interest in the media connected with my ministry as a priest."

Fr. Mike also feels a very personal connection. "Among the homebound, we have some of the most dedicated prayer warriors," Fr. Mike said. "My grandmother was one of them, and the Heart of the Nation Masses were important to her. That's why I was interested in being a part of the Masses."

Lent in High Style

When it comes to style, we might think of clothing, architecture, or art. In a merciful style of observing Lent, almsgiving can clothe the poor and feed the hungry. Making time during Lent to console, forgive, instruct, or reassure people can build up the brokenhearted. Jesus showed us the art of attentiveness to people and mercy given with humility.

Our Lord taught and went about doing different kinds of good works. In summary, He challenged His disciples: "Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful" (Luke 6, in the Gospel for March 2).



*God wants us to strive for holiness.
If we could wholly succeed, Lent would come
once in a lifetime, not once a year.*



Gospel readings this month recall Jesus giving numerous examples of good, merciful works. Forgive, just as you want forgiveness, time and again. Forgive like the father of the prodigal son! Serve others, as Jesus did, like a humble servant going about the lowly task of washing the Apostles' feet and then walking to His death for our sins. Care about suffering that you would rather not see—whether distant or practically on your doorstep. Love God and neighbor as much as you can. Try to do the right thing, as Joseph did after learning of the Virgin Mary's pregnancy. Accept the Lord's forgiveness, as Peter would need to do after denying even knowing Jesus three times.

Pope Leo's Apostolic Exhortation (formal instruction) on care for the poor teaches that poverty exists in many forms. In a world where people hunger for food but also for spiritual hope, will any Lenten observance that you personally choose have the element of mercy that God desires?

Prayer & Worship Guide

Seven issues per year contain text for TV Mass, reflections, prayers, and where to find daily readings in your Bible. To order a free subscription, contact Heart of the Nation with the recipient's name and address.



Circle of the Heart

Thank you, Circle of the Heart members, for your monthly donations. Heart of the Nation gratefully includes members in perpetual prayers placed before the altar for every Sunday TV Mass. To join, please use the reply card mailed with your bulletin, or contact Heart of the Nation.

MASS SCHEDULE

Sunday, March 1, 2026
Second Sunday of Lent

Sunday, March 8, 2026
Third Sunday of Lent
(Daylight Saving Time Begins)



Sunday, March 15, 2026
Fourth Sunday of Lent

Sunday, March 22, 2026
Fifth Sunday of Lent

Sunday, March 29, 2026
**Palm Sunday of the Passion
of the Lord**

**Online Mass on Sundays
and Holy Days:**

Available all day at
www.HeartoftheNation.org



Heart of the Nation.
CATHOLIC MASS

**For local time and TV
channel information,
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