



MONTHLY BULLETIN

March 2024

At Home with the Lord

Kids make castles of cardboard, using tubes for turrets and a box for walls. When an eager catechism class of first graders learning about God’s kingdom made a little cardboard church, they added an altar, pews, and pasted-on windows using colored paper for stained glass. Such projects require the blessings of supplies and imagination.

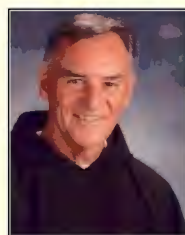
Paper tubes formed a real church, too! After an earthquake and fire destroyed the wooden Catholic church and two-thirds of the surrounding buildings in Kobe, Japan, an imaginative architect named Shigeru Ban surveyed the damage. He saw people with few resources to rebuild and designed a 1,615-square-foot church supported by 58 laminated paper tubes.

Word of the project spread, donated supplies and funds arrived, and 160 volunteers set to work on construction. Building the “cardboard church” took

Cardboard Church

five weeks.

Two priests served the parish and announced that the church would provide a place to worship but also a place for the distraught community to gather in hope. Welcoming everyone would follow the Lord’s example.



Fr. Tony Scannell
Chaplain

In Biblical times, Israelites had built the temple in Jerusalem after their return from exile. Massive rebuilding before and during Jesus’ lifetime expanded the temple area.

Only Jews entered the temple itself, but Gentiles could gather around it.

Instead of a holy and ecumenical place, merchants and money changers had created a commercial venue. Jesus ransacked the marketplace they had set up. Having come into the world for everyone, the Lord’s anger flared for good reason.

People asked what right Jesus had to turn the place into a shambles by flinging around a hastily made whip and overturning tables. If they wanted a sign of His authority, our Savior answered, they could destroy the Temple and watch Him raise it up in three days. They had no idea that He meant the Temple of His Body.

Compared with wooden architectural pillars, the tubes used for the cardboard church in Japan supported about half the weight. Jesus took on the full weight of humanity’s sins when He died on the wood of the Cross. As children of God, we have enough strength and every blessing needed to continue building the Church.

Daylight Saving Time Begins on March 10, 2024

To wake up on time for Sunday TV Mass on March 10, set your clocks ahead one hour before going to bed on Saturday night.



At-Home Volunteer Opportunity

Heart of the Nation needs volunteers for its advisory board, which meets online six times per year. Your experience in accounting management, investment, or business finance will help Heart of the Nation to use donations as best we can. Please contact Bruno John, executive director, at (414) 475-4700 or Bruno@HeartoftheNation.org.

“I am handicapped and do not drive, so the TV Mass is a blessing. I hope it can always be on TV. I will be making my yearly donation.”

– Jeanne



“I just had to write to congratulate all of your priests. Even if your priests talked longer, I would be listening to every word.”

– Steve



“Heart of the Nation, thanks for all the help over the years.”

– Tony

The Fishermen’s Friend

In the garden of Gethsemane, the Lord asked Peter, James, and John to stay watchful while He prayed nearby. Returning to check, Jesus found the three fishermen asleep and suggested that they pray. Twice more, they failed to keep watch or even stay half awake.

Constantine I, ruler of the Roman Empire, believed in the Christian God. He donated the site of the Lateran Basilica. For lighting in the fourth-century church, he provided a chandelier with 80 golden oil lamps shaped like dolphins.

Mariners on the Mediterranean Sea encountered dolphins and their benevolent majesty. Different from fish, which stay underwater, dolphins rise to the surface to fill their lungs with air.

Some people dive right into Lent, fasting and abstaining on Ash Wednesday and choosing a personal penance for the entire Lenten season. Ideally, Lent brings the need for spiritual work to the surface.

Giving up TV time can give us more time for prayer that we will

miss if we go back to our old ways. Going on a Lenten diet, we can discover that sacrifice benefits both body and soul. Unplugging the



drip coffee maker during Lent can raise awareness that much of the world lacks even a drop of clean drinking water.

On the other hand, through the third, fourth, fifth, and sixth weeks of Lent, we might find ourselves tempted to drift along until Easter. Jesus wants us to stay alert to avoid danger in our spiritual lives.

Dolphins offer an eye-opener on

alertness. Only half of a dolphin’s brain sleeps at a time, and one eye stays open. If a dolphin slept more than halfway, it would fail to come up for air and die.

Jesus came to share life-breath with us. He immersed Himself in the human experience, even though it meant suffering a crown of thorns and Crucifixion.

Imagine an ancient, circular chandelier with 80 shining dolphins as lamps. Jesus’ sacrifice continues to gather people around Him and enables us to bring the light of faith into the world. We can adorn His crown of majesty.

Dolphins fend off shark attacks, protecting each other and even humans—especially the small and weak. From the depth of His love, our Risen Lord came to save us.

Every Pledge and Gift Matters!

On the fourth Sunday of Lent (past the halfway mark), Saint Paul teaches that “we are...created in Christ Jesus for the good works that God has prepared.” Your Lenten donation to Heart of the Nation will join in the work of sharing the blessings of faith with people at home, in healthcare settings, in prison, and in other places. With much gratitude, Heart of the Nation includes Circle of the Heart monthly giving club members in perpetual prayers placed at the altar for every Sunday TV Mass. If you do not already belong to this special group, please consider pledging any amount that you can.

Holy Week Prayers

Palm Sunday (March 24):

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:

With saints and angels I pray
that, in any struggle I face,
You will bless me
with faithfulness,
steadfast love for You, and grace.

Tuesday of Holy Week:

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:

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

Holy Thursday:

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

Good Friday (March 29):

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

Holy Saturday:

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.

Easter Prayer

Lord Jesus, Risen Savior,

To You I offer joyful praise
for the compassion that You give.
Grateful prayer to You I raise,
who have shown me how to live.

In faith, I want to Follow You,
although I sometimes stumble.
May love guide all that I pursue—
Your love, Savior most humble.

You know without my voicing
every blessing, dream, and care.
With Easter hope and rejoicing,
I come to You in thankful prayer.

Amen. Alleluia!

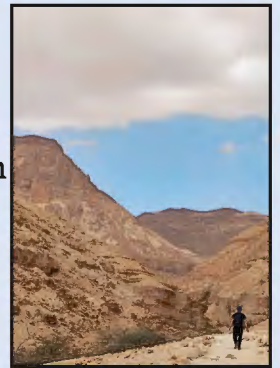
Faith to Move Mountains

During Lent, adults seeking new membership in the Catholic Church prepare to receive the Sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation, and the Holy Eucharist at the Easter Vigil. People who already belong to the Church renew their commitment to the Baptismal promises to reject evil and have faith.

Backtrack to the Church in the fourth century, threatened by heresy that erupted into riotous conflicts. In particular, Arianism denied the Divinity of Jesus, wrongly asserting that God existed first and created the Son later in time. The Roman emperor Constantine I called the first Council of Nicaea, which developed a creed confirming God the Father and Son of one substance. Still, Arianism did not disappear.

Saint Cyril of Jerusalem, a priest and future bishop, gave a series of lectures during Lent and Easter week, teaching new believers with Scripturally based understanding—the reason he has the title "Doctor of the Church." He told his students that the Son remains present to redeem people who come to Him. Catechumens should regard penitence as washing their robes before presentation to God for Baptism.

Faith, Saint Cyril further taught, means belief in true doctrines learned with the mind but also a gift from God—faith that Jesus said can move a mountain. He spoke about the existence of the Son before all ages, and the Holy Ghost included in the Trinity. As a bishop, he conflicted with Acacius, bishop of Caesarea but a powerful believer in Arianism.



“Did You Know?”

The Meaning of the Paschal Mystery

Jesus and the Twelve had gathered for the Last Supper when, suddenly, Jesus got up and said that He wanted to wash the Disciples’ feet. The Twelve found His actions puzzling—something a servant would normally do for arriving guests. A greater mystery would soon unfold.



The Paschal Mystery comprises the Passion (Jesus’ suffering), His death, burial and descent among the dead, the Resurrection, and Ascension.

(Catechism of the Catholic Church, no. 512)



Jesus foretold His suffering and death, but the Crucifixion still occurred as a mystery to people when His earthly life ended. Liturgy on Good Friday serves as a continuation of the Evening Mass of the Lord’s Supper on Thursday. No consecration of the Eucharist occurs on Good Friday as the faithful focus on the Cross.

Before the Easter Vigil Mass on Holy Saturday, a large Paschal candle gets lit from a fire outside. People follow in procession into church, where the flame of the Paschal candle gets shared in the lighting of tapers held by the people.

Christ came as Light for the world in accordance with God’s mysterious plan of salvation. Jesus’ Ascension to heaven seemed to take Him away again, but the Easter season does not conclude until the celebration of Pentecost. It became clear on the first Pentecost that Christ’s Paschal Mystery led to a Church guided by the Spirit.

MASS SCHEDULE

Sunday, March 3, 2024
Third Sunday of Lent

Sunday, March 10, 2024
Fourth Sunday of Lent
(Daylight Saving Time begins; set your clock ahead one hour on Saturday night.)

Sunday, March 17, 2024
Fifth Sunday of Lent

Sunday, March 24, 2024
Palm Sunday
of the Passion of the Lord



Sunday, March 31, 2024
Easter Sunday of the
Resurrection of the Lord

Online Mass on Sundays and Holy Days:

Available all day at
www.HeartoftheNation.org

Prayer & Worship Guide

February 18 – April 13, 2024



Heart of the Nation
CATHOLIC MASS

To order a free subscription to the *Prayer & Worship Guide* for yourself or someone you love, please send the recipient’s name and address to Heart of the Nation.

Seven issues per year arrive in the mail to provide the readings, responses, and prayers for Sunday TV Mass in easy-to-read type. Additional sections offer a guide showing where to find daily Scripture readings in the Bible, reflections on each week’s readings, and seasonal prayers from Heart of the Nation.

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CATHOLIC MASS

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

or

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