



MONTHLY BULLETIN

May 2026

At Home with the Lord

When Mother's Day comes around, flowers make a wonderful gift. From an only child, Mom might receive a single bloom in thanks for her love and care. Siblings might decide to present their mom with a bouquet as colorful as the bunch of personalities in the family. If she has mentioned kids or grandkids seeming to grow up fast, a quick-growing wisteria could send an understanding message.

Special Delivery

Our Savior came into the world and life shared with us when the heavenly Father chose to give Jesus a mother. If we ponder that part of the Divine plan, we realize the great dignity bestowed on the vocation of motherhood. Ask a child's opinion, and we might get a simple reminder that God the Father just knew Jesus would like having a mom.

Anyway, Mary gave birth, and the world received its Savior. Jesus grew up in a

Flowering Vine

human family of three that serves as a domestic model for the Church and the family of God.



Fr. Mark Payne
Chaplain

Instead of describing His family tree, Jesus compared Himself to a vine. We assume that the Lord meant a grapevine. In another place in history, He might have pictured a wisteria.

Clinging to the Vine

Grapes and wisteria come in several varieties. Wisteria flowers bloom in white, pink, lavender, or blue. Fragrance ranges from delicate to strong. Like a cutting used to start a new

vine, Jesus grew as Divinity intertwined with humanity given to Him through Mary. On the Monday after

Pentecost, we celebrate Mary as Mother of the Church that stemmed from the life of her Son.

Uncontained Growth

Wisteria vines grow in rapid profusion. In Sierra Madre, California, one humble vine brought home in a gallon container in 1894 now shades about an acre of land. When in bloom, well over a million flowers gloriously adorn the branches, and crowds gather for an annual festival in amazed celebration.

Gardeners can choose a more humble variety of wisteria that will not grow rampantly like the feted vine in Sierra Madre. On the other hand, we can seek to grow abundantly in faithful attachment to the Son while sharing in the desire to see His glory cover the Earth.



Mother's Day and Father's Day Spiritual Bouquet

Please use the enclosed, two-sided spiritual bouquet card to send the names of beloved mothers and fathers for remembrance at Mass on Mother's Day (May 10) or Father's Day (June 21).



“I’ve been blessed in this past year to enter the Catholic Church. I watch Heart of the Nation after I go to Mass at Church. It has been a comfort to me and a help in educating me in the Catholic faith.”

– Elizabeth



“Thank you for this broadcast. I would be lost without it.”

– Carole

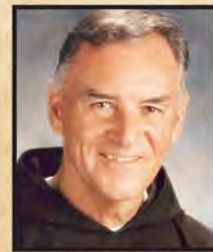


“I take delight in tuning in your weekly Masses. I am confined to my house now. Many years ago, I used to sing in our choir and loved every moment of it.”

– Paul

An Uplifting Story

In 1867, a British architect received a patent for “An Improved Lift, Hoist, or Mechanical Elevator Adapted for Hotels, Warehouses, Railway Stations, and Other Places, and Intended to Facilitate and Render Easy the Ascent of Persons and Goods.” His invention became known, for short, as the Paternoster lift—the Our Father elevator.



Fr. Tony Scannell
Chaplain

Life has its *up*’s and *down*’s. Before the Crucifixion, Jesus had told the Twelve that He would go ahead of them, prepare a place, and come back.

Even Jesus’ closest friends failed to understand, especially when the Lord said that they already knew the way. We could imagine ourselves sputtering beside Saint Thomas, “What? Where?”

Jesus’ death floored the Apostles, but the Lord kept His promise and soon returned. Like building upward with architectural blueprints, the Risen Lord’s life continued in keeping with the Father’s creative, enlightening plan.

One Step at a Time

Peter Ellis, inventor of the *Paternoster* lift,

also designed the Oriel Chambers office building. Wall-to-wall, floor-to-ceiling bay windows provided lots of light.

The Building News and Engineering Journal ran an article in 1868 that described the façade as “greenhouse architecture run mad” and, more over the top, “lunar Gothic.” Ellis left room in the interior design for an elevator.

Perhaps a Prayer

Ellis’ *Paternoster* lift might just as easily have acquired the nickname “Hail Mary elevator.” Cars to carry elevator passengers moved in a vertical loop resembling beads on a giant Rosary.

Once Ellis received his patent and worked out some kinks, he had

a *Paternoster* installed in the Oriel Chambers building. Although it could stop, the lift generally moved continuously. As passengers got on and off, prayer couldn’t hurt when opting to take the engine-powered lift, instead of the stairs.

Lifted Up

Jesus’ Disciples asked if He had come to restore the kingdom to Israel. Right before His Ascension, the Lord answered by instructing the Apostles to witness to Him.

Two men in white appeared, asking why the Disciples just stood there, gazing skyward. Lifting up our hearts to the Lord, we, too, should seek to rise to the challenges in our life stories.

When a blind man named Bartimaeus sprang up from the spot where he had sat to beg for alms, the Lord asked what he wanted. Jesus saw his faith, granted his prayer to see, and sent him on his way. Bartimaeus saw the way He wanted to go and followed Jesus. Heart of the Nation asks for donations, and when you step up to help, your generosity will become visible in Holy Mass, faith-filled publications, online resources, and a one-to-one prayer line.



Mother's Day Prayer

Virgin Mary, Holy Mother,

With blessed gentleness
and your understanding care,
Please keep mothers dear to me
in your loving prayers.

Reflecting on the joy
of awaiting Jesus' birth,
Please pray for mothers-to-be
and newborns on this Earth.

Having nurtured Jesus,
who grew in wisdom and strength,
Please pray for mothers teaching
their children love and faith.

Remembering the Cross,
suffering not borne alone,
Please pray for mothers feeling
children's pain as their own.

For the blessings they are,
here and in heaven's glory,
Please pray for mothers living
here and in memory.

Amen.



Prayer & Worship Guide

For yourself or someone you love, order a free subscription to use during TV Mass and throughout each week. Each issue contains the prayers and text for Mass, weekly reflections, where to find daily Mass readings in your Bible, and seasonal prayers. Please contact Heart of the Nation with the recipient's name and address (see page 4).

Just Say, "Yes"

Fr. Mark Payne listens as viewers describe coming to TV Mass for the first time. "There are stories to be told of health reasons or just coming across the Mass," he said. As for Fr. Mark's own experience, Heart of the Nation came to him.

In a pew at Fr. Mark's home parish, Heart of the Nation's executive director saw a pastor that he wanted to recruit. Fr. Mark suggested asking a retired priest instead—someone with more time. Saying "no" got nowhere. "So I gave in and fell in love with the ministry. I love it to this day," Fr. Mark summarized.



Second-youngest in a brood of four brothers, Fr. Mark admitted that his parents "had a handful." In fifth grade, he started thinking about priesthood. "I remember a wonderful priest. I wanted to be like him. He was so engaging with all of us as students," Fr. Mark reminisced. Initially, though, Fr. Mark set his sights on becoming a parochial schoolteacher.

After college, teaching for an academic year, and continuing discernment, he headed to the Pontifical University of Saint Thomas Aquinas, in Rome. There, he earned an advanced degree in theology.

"I love to travel and explore this wonderful world."

Back in Wisconsin, priesthood and teaching finally melded together when Fr. Mark's first assignment as a newly ordained priest took him to Notre Dame de la Baie Academy. Besides teaching religion and speech, he coached forensics and served as the high school's chaplain and campus minister.

Now, in collaboration with professional lay ministers, Fr. Mark shepherds a group of parishes in the midst of a merger and resource sharing. "The rewarding part is seeing the communities come together for a single purpose," Fr. Mark said. He also sees oneness in Heart of the Nation's faith community.

"The homebound add a richness of depth to the power of prayer," he explained. "To pray for the world, pray for the sick, pray for people we don't know adds to the power of prayer, making a difference in the world." On a more personal level, he added, "The homebound, through their dedication to prayer, help me and all the rest of us who need that extra prayer."

Fr. Mark enjoys reading and, come spring, heading outdoors for gardening, hiking, and bicycling on Wisconsin's patch of Creation. As a winemaking hobbyist, he passes the art along to others, while as a priest he hopes to share and ferment faith.

Prayer for Those Who Serve

Lord Jesus, in a world needing great remedy, I come to You with thoughts of those who serve. As they await joyful homecomings, I pray that longed-for reunions will occur.

In faith and hope, I offer this prayer for all who have sacrificed their lives in war. I pray, too, for those who have been hurt and seen things unimaginable before.

Lastly, I ask that meaning be found in resolute desire for peace pursued. May selfless sacrifices be blessed and honored with unforgotten gratitude.

Get a Jump on Faith

Catholics live on Pentecost Island, in the South Pacific. So do participants in a tropical version of bungee jumping—a native ritual of hope for a bountiful yam crop. Vines used instead of bungee cords get measured and tested before the jumps, yet it takes trust to conquer fear and take the leap.

Jesus compared Himself to a vine, with the faithful attached to Him like branches. Before Ascending to heaven, He instructed the Apostles to wait for Baptism in the Holy Spirit. With the sound of a driving wind and the appearance of fire, the Spirit came on Pentecost.

People from all over had come to Jerusalem for a Jewish festival, and a multinational crowd gathered outside the house. Some heard what sounded like drunken gibberish, while others miraculously understood in their own languages. Standing with the other Apostles, Peter bravely tried to set the crowd straight as he jumped right into preaching about Crucifixion of the Messiah, repentance, and Baptism.

Pentecost continues as an occasion for the Church to rejoice in the power of the Holy Spirit. With burning desire, the Lord Jesus wants people to remain attached to Him, the strong and trusted vine.



Heart of the Nation.
CATHOLIC MASS



PRAYER LINE: (414) 475-4700

I would like a Heart of the Nation prayer minister to call me.

Name: _____ Phone: _____

*“Cast all your worries upon Him
because He cares for you.” (1 Peter 5:7)*

Return this form in the envelope provided, or call to speak with a prayer minister from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Central Time. (At other times, please leave a message for a call back.)

MASS SCHEDULE

Sunday, May 3, 2026
Fifth Sunday of Easter

Sunday, May 10, 2026
Sixth Sunday of Easter
(Mother's Day)



Sunday, May 17, 2026
The Ascension of the Lord
(or Seventh Sunday of Easter)

Sunday, May 24, 2026
Pentecost Sunday

Sunday, May 31, 2026
The Most Holy Trinity

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,
please visit**

www.HeartoftheNation.org

or

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