

Heart of the Nation
CATHOLIC MASS

Monthly Bulletin

November 2026

At Home with the Lord

Mudroom Message

As children of God, we picture heaven as a house with many rooms that Jesus has prepared for us. We also know that God's kingdom encompasses our earthly dwellings, including homes with mudrooms.

At ground level, right inside the door, a mudroom provides a place to take off boots or shoes so that mud will not get tracked into the rest of the house. Besides mats for footwear, the mudroom might have cubbyholes for hats and mittens, hooks for jackets, and nooks for sports equipment. Some mudrooms provide a place for the laundry and utility sink, plus sundry supplies needed to clean up muddy stuff.

Inside and Out

Children love to stomp in puddles. On a rainwashed sidewalk, the spray glistens in the sun. Mud puddles, in contrast, sully footwear and spatter pant legs.

In a mudroom, we see the indications of activities pursued and choices made. Spiritually speaking, we do well to look at whether our actions have sparkled with



Fr. Mark Payne
Chaplain

the purity of Baptismal water or leave us with some cleaning up to do in our soulful mudrooms.

On All Saints Day, we celebrate the inspiration of holy men and women who have made their splash on Earth before us. Even the most virtuous saints did not lead perfectly holy lives, though. When the Lord greets us at the door to heaven, picture a welcome mat for all who enter to leave the last traces of sins on Earth behind.

At Mass for All Saints, the first Letter of Saint John points out the great love of the heavenly Father for His children. In the Gospel, Jesus preaches the Beatitudes.

We mourn disheartening losses and feel dispirited at times. We find it hard to endure without resenting things we can't change. Our loving God challenges us to mature in righteousness, peacemaking, and mercy.

On the Tool Shelf

Blessings will come! Jesus promised that the clean of heart will see God, who supplies the grace we need to spiff up and move from earthly mudrooms to awaited places in the Father's house.

Perpetual Prayers

Every Heart of the Nation TV Mass includes perpetual prayers for **Circle of the Heart** monthly giving club members and donors who have given through a will, trust, or other bequest. Please use the enclosed reply slip to join Circle of the Heart or request a free brochure about legacy giving.



Reminder: Set Your Clocks

Daylight Saving Time ends on Sunday, November 1. Set your clocks back one hour before going to bed on Saturday night.

"I found your ministry on TV and find it very comforting and inspiring. Your Mass is a blessing to me."

– James

"My thanks and compliments to all who put in such effort for a marvelous and meaningful experience worshipping our Savior."

– Pamela

"I watch your Mass every Sunday morning from our Ann Arbor home. Today, I clicked on Closed Captioning. Fantastic!"

– Tom

"I have long enjoyed the Sunday Mass, the choirs, and the floral arrangements."

– Margaret

Making Adjustments



Anyone planning to build a tower would run the numbers for expenses first, and Jesus told a crowd that following Him likewise has costs. When a poor widow placed two small coins into the Temple treasury, the Lord observed her willingness to offer all that she had to God.

Turning toward a crowd that had joined Him in His travels, our Lord decided that the time had come to explain the high costs of discipleship. He set forth the challenges of giving discipleship top priority, carrying the heavy weight of crosses borne, and following in the direction He leads.

Tall Orders

In the tower of Westminster Palace, home of the United Kingdom's Parliament, the clock faces of Big Ben overlook London in every direction. It takes 334 steps to reach the belfry, where the huge bell of Big Ben tolls the hours. Four "quarter bells" intone portions of the "Westminster Chimes" every 15 minutes.

Among the specific challenges in the contest to choose a clockmaker to design Big Ben, an exacting Astronomer Royal required that the clock chime within one second of the actual time—a very tall order. With the clock's pendulum set in motion in 1859, telegrams sent twice a day to the Greenwich Observatory confirmed that Big Ben's time matched the international standard.

Big Ben's pendulum weighs just over 660 lbs. In our world, where atomic clocks now determine standard time, Big Ben still keeps pace without high-tech pizazz.

Small Change

Our Lord wants us to check in with Him in daily prayer as we strive to do precisely as He taught. He also understands that even venial sins can get us out of sync and necessitate making some adjustments.

Jesus gave us the Word of God, as timely today as two millennia ago. He also knew the value of keeping a lesson simple.

Others might wonder why a poor widow bothered to make her small donation. In contrast, Jesus pointed to her as a disciple willing to give her all. She carried the cross of poverty with faith in the Lord. Her example, Jesus saw, would stand the test of time.

Take a Second

When Big Ben runs more than a second too slow or fast, workers add or subtract one small coin at a time to the pendulum's weight. Placed on a collar that holds the predecimal pennies, each one alters the clock's speed by four tenths of a second per day.

Big Ben and small coins invite us to ask ourselves what makes us tick as disciples of the Lord.

Gifts That Bring Thanksgiving

On Thanksgiving Day, the first reading at Mass comes from Sirach, a sage in the second century before Christ, who desires that the people will experience heartfelt joy individually and peace communally. When you donate to Heart of the Nation, you join in ministering to the homebound and others grateful in knowing that they are not alone in their prayers.

Thanksgiving Prayer

Lord Jesus,

Thank You for every
blessing received,
The gifts that help me
to believe.
Still, I ask in prayer
for greater faith
In Your compassionate
love, and grace.

As I envision
heaven's banquet
Around a table
You have set,
On Earth, may You
be the centerpiece
And I, a servant
among the least.

Kind in my words
and in what I do,
Following You, both Life
and Truth,
May I echo Your Word
that uplifts,
And give love to others
as Your gift.

This Thanksgiving Day,
I come to You,
With struggles
and yet gratitude,
Trusting that You
do not turn away,
Loving, caring,
and my hope always.

Amen.



Opening the Door

Who? What? Where? Before Fr. Ariel Orozco had discerned a call to priesthood or even decided to meet with a vocations director to talk about it, a proactive priest set up a meeting for him. "I was shocked that I was there," Fr. Ariel recalled.



While growing up as the oldest of five siblings, he had thought of becoming a doctor. After high school graduation, he ventured into living on his own, found university tuition out of reach, but earned an associate degree in criminal justice. He also gave life as an entrepreneur a try as co-owner of a flooring installation business.

Meanwhile, the pastor at his parish blurred invitation and insistence in tapping Fr. Ariel to become an Extraordinary Eucharistic Minister. If that got his feet wet, Fr. Ariel dove in when given the opportunity to humbly represent Jesus in a presentation of the Lord's Passion.

Fr. Ariel found himself doing more than just memorizing dialogue. "My 'listening' began as I meditated on the passages," he explained.

"I asked myself what was going on in Jesus' heart? How did he feel?"

More specific questions came to mind, as if the Lord invited him to delve deeper. Discernment of an invitation to priesthood—to serve as Christ's representative—continued.

Friends had mixed reactions when Fr. Ariel brought up the idea of attending an undergraduate college seminary. His parents advised him to think about it for a year, which he did. Once enrolled at St. Joseph College Seminary at Loyola University, Fr. Ariel maintained an openness to priesthood.

"My four years in college were not so much about receiving assurance about becoming a priest as they were about receiving peace in being where God wanted me to be at that time—that is, as a seminarian in formation. Confirmation about my call to the priesthood came later in my theology years." (Priests earn a graduate-level Master of Divinity degree.)

Since his ordination to priesthood in 2022, Fr. Ariel said, "the most challenging part of my ministry is entering into the sorrowful moments with parishioners. There are situations in which your priestly heart simply is crushed, and there is nothing to do other than be there and walk with them—for example, when you bury a ten-year-old who died of cancer. Sometimes it's a difficult Confession and wondering if you said the right thing."

To refresh his heart, Fr. Ariel added, "I love John 17, the priestly prayer of Jesus." In that Gospel message, Jesus says that He prays for the Disciples and for those who come to believe through them. TV Mass presents the particular challenge of a half-hour time slot while trying to take care of the spiritual needs of the homebound who tune in. Fr. Ariel summarized, "They are part of the body of Christ, too."

Too Good to Scrap

Sent to minister on the island of Lamb Holm, a priest received permission to use two half-shell, corrugated metal huts for the church that a POW on the island wanted to build. End to end, the huts would stretch out behind the doors of the Italian Church's façade.

Domenico Chiocchetti, a poor but talented artist, had to leave behind his apprenticeship as a church painter to serve in the Italian military during World War II. Captured in Libya, he and more than a thousand other POW's got transferred to build marine barriers to protect the Royal Navy's base in the Orkney Islands.



At Mass on Veterans Day, November 11, the Letter of Saint Paul to Titus talks about the love and mercy of God, who sent Jesus as our Savior, and about renewal in the Holy Spirit. God gives whatever we need to have hope. On Lamb Holm, POW's found the gifts needed to construct a church.

Domenico designed the exterior façade, and fellow POW's used concrete to build it. Painted embellishments inside and out look three-dimensional. For inspiration to paint the altarpiece, Domenico used a holy card given to him by his mother as he departed for war. Making glorious use of basic paints, he also created faux stained-glass windows and adorned the ceiling with an image of the Holy Spirit in the form of a dove.

Other POW's got involved in turning scrap into sacred art. Tins from corned beef became lamps. From a ruined ship destined for the island barriers came wood for the tabernacle and brass for candlesticks. Domenico designed a filigreed metal screen to border the altar space, and a POW skilled in metalwork turned the design into reality. Using an abandoned truck's suspension spring as the pedestal foundation of a holy water font, Domenico stayed on Lamb Holm to complete the font after other POW's returned home in 1944.

Known only as the Italian Church, the building on Lamb Holm still stands. Its artistry gives tribute to God and to veterans who used their talents as they carried faith with them into war and back.





Free: *Prayer & Worship Guide*

Seven issues each year provide text for Sunday Mass, weekly reflections, seasonal prayers, and where to find daily Mass readings in your Bible. To order a free subscription for yourself or someone you love, please contact Heart of the Nation with the recipient's name and postal address.

Mass Schedule

Sunday, November 1, 2026
Solemnity of All Saints

Sunday, November 8, 2026
32nd Sunday
in Ordinary Time

Sunday, November 15, 2026
33rd Sunday
in Ordinary Time

Sunday, November 22, 2026
Our Lord Jesus Christ,
King of the Universe

Sunday, November 29, 2026
1st Sunday of Advent

Online Mass on Sundays and Holy Days:
Available all day at
www.HeartoftheNation.org

For those who can get out to church, TV Mass does not meet the Sunday Mass obligation.

Heart of the Nation.
CATHOLIC MASS

For local time and TV channel information, please visit
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