



Heart of the Nation.
CATHOLIC MASS

MONTHLY BULLETIN

October 2026

At Home with the Lord

By no mere coincidence, *Sunday* and *sundae* (as in ice cream sundaes) sound the same. Among towns that consider themselves the birthplace of the sundae, top contenders agree that the dessert originated at the “soda fountain” counter of a local drugstore.

Laws intended to make the Lord’s day holy became known as “blue laws.” Making it illegal to serve soda on Sundays certainly caused some blues.

In a Blue Mood

Pharisees wrongly equated holiness with strict observance of rules by the hundreds. When invited to dine at the home of a Pharisee, the Lord skipped the ritual washing of dishes already clean.

Jesus then compared the Pharisees to vessels filled with evil and called them fools. We find the Gospels and Letters of the New Testament filled with the

A Cherry on Top

wisdom of what Jesus did and taught.

For the Sundae Record

In a letter to the local historical society in Ithaca,



Fr. Mark Payne
Chaplain

New York, a soda fountain employee of the old Platt & Colt’s drugstore reminisced about a memorable Sunday in the late 1800’s. Having dished up ice cream for the store’s owner and a local pastor after church, the employee recalled, Mr. Platt decided to add a candied cherry and cherry syrup over the top. It had the visual and taste appeal of an ice cream float but obeyed the blue law against the

alleged spiritual menace of enjoying soda on Sundays.

Inspired by the day’s new treat, the pastor suggested calling it “Cherry Sunday.” Ads invited customers to try it for 10 cents. According to the historic letter, one of the soda fountain’s vendors coined the *sundae* spelling.

Out of the Blue

Like the fortuitous chance to do something new and good at the soda fountain, Jesus saw a crippled woman in the synagogue and freed her from years of suffering. Observing His work of mercy on the day of rest, the synagogue leader said that the woman could have waited a day.

Jesus pointed out that even livestock got untethered for watering on the Sabbath. Recalling the Biblical event treats us to a lesson on making Sundays holy.



All Souls’ Day Remembrances

Please use the enclosed spiritual bouquet request to send the names of departed loved ones for remembrance at Mass by Heart of the Nation’s chaplain on All Souls’ Day, November 2.

Snowbird Address

If you move for the winter, the post office will not automatically forward your bulletin or *Prayer & Worship Guide*. Please see page 4 to contact Heart of the Nation with your winter address.

“We have been members of Heart of the Nation for many years now. My wife and I love to hear a homily short and to the point.”

— Ray



“I played guitar on a church music team. I appreciate the work that goes into making the music a beautiful part of the worship experience.”

— Joe



“I was able to watch the Mass while traveling from Seville to Córdoba, Spain. It seemed that every petition was thoughtfully written to ask God’s help and blessings for nearly all of us.”

— Tania

Edmond & the Beanstalk

Jesus told a parable about a landowner whose gardener wanted one more chance to coax a fig tree into bearing fruit after three unproductive years. On Réunion, an island in the Indian Ocean, a 19th-century horticulturist fascinated by unusual plants had a vanilla vine on his estate. As a type of orchid, it flowered beautifully but failed to yield a single vanilla bean in twenty years.



Jesus had sent 72 Disciples to serve as missionaries. We can imagine childlike gleefulness when they reported back that they had even expelled demons in His name! Jesus gave thanks that the heavenly Father reveals to the childlike what remains hidden from others.

Masterful Wisdom

Little did the learned horticulturist on Réunion Island know that only a particular type of bee could pollinate his vanilla vine. In contrast, a 12-year-old boy named Edmond wondered with youthful curiosity if he could serve as a pollinator.

Edmond had eagerly learned from the horticulturist how to pollinate watermelon by hand

and thought that he could apply the idea to the vanilla vine. As children do, he gave it a try.

Blossoms to Beans

Each bloom on a vanilla vine shelters its reproductive anther and stigma, separated by a sort of membrane. All remain invisible until the flower’s petals open.

Using a splinter, young Edmond gently moved the membrane aside and rubbed the other two parts together to transfer pollen from anther to stigma. Voilà! Pollination occurred.

Only then could a vanilla bean form—the source of flavorful and fragrant vanilla extract. When the horticulturist observed the first beans on his vine, Edmond revealed his hand in the process.

Jesus taught us to make visible the Spirit within us as God’s children. Grace helps us to push aside whatever keeps us from fruitful work.

Ready for the Day

Each vanilla bloom opens once and only once, for about five hours. Edmond’s method proved surprisingly efficient in pollinating the open flowers. Teaching others sparked the vanilla industry on Réunion.

Smaller Yet

Jesus compared God’s Kingdom to tiny mustard seeds that grow into huge plants. Even tinier vanilla seeds may appear as flecks in vanilla ice cream. Besides its taste and aroma, vanilla reveals the potential of each speck of blessing within us.

Harvest Fund Drive

Jesus called those who humble themselves like children the greatest in heaven. Kids often have coin banks and envision what they might do with the riches received as the coins add up. Although airtime for TV Mass has a staggering price tag, donations added together enable Heart of the Nation to provide weekly Mass, free publications, a one-to-one prayer line, and online resources for information and inspiration. Please give what you can.

Prayer for Healing

Lord, who healed
through Your words and
touch, in faith I fervently
ask:

For healing of the sick
and injured, according to
Your will, and spiritual
strength needed while
suffering still;

For emotional healing of
heartrending needs
among those who long
for quietude and peace;

For spiritual healing
through forgiveness
received, and the hope
that comes to all who
believe;

For healing of people
after ravages of any kind,
and Your mercy for the
afflicted in body, soul, or
mind.

Amen.



PRAYER LINE:
(414) 475-4700

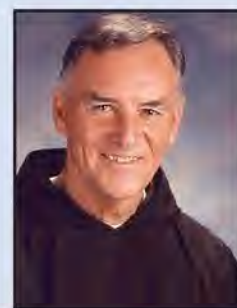
*"Cast all your worries upon Him
because He cares for you."
(1 Peter 5:7)*

*Call to speak with a prayer minister
weekdays from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Central Time. At other times, please
leave a message for a call back.*

In Memoriam: Fr. Anthony Scannell, OFM Cap.

+ 1928 – 2026 (Heart of the Nation Chaplain: 2004 – 2026)

Fr. Tony Scannell got his start in Catholic media by holding cue cards for a TV program that aired in Wausau, Wisconsin. After gaining TV experience and ministering as a classroom teacher, he headed west to provide innovative leadership in film and broadcast production. He also became an on-air personality for a Heart of the Nation talkshow station in Los Angeles.



"In 2004, Fr. Tony graciously accepted an invitation to serve as chaplain for Heart of the Nation," recalled Bruno John, executive director. Although Heart of the Nation relocated to Milwaukee, Fr. Tony continued, mostly long-distance, as chaplain for the rest of his 97 years. Summer trips back to Wisconsin, where he had grown up, enabled Fr. Tony to celebrate some TV Masses over the years.

*"TV Mass reaches people you could never
reach any other way. It's like being in a
worldwide room which still feels intimate."*

— Fr. Tony

Meanwhile, Fr. Tony gained prominence as production director and then president of the Franciscan Communications Center, which pioneered religious storytelling versus traditional preaching in its TeleKetics films. As a co-founder of Catholics in Media Associates, he brought entertainment professionals together for prayer. Fr. Tony became president of the national and international Catholic Association of Broadcasters, president of the Association of Catholic Television and Radio Syndicators, a member of the Pontifical Commission for Social Communications, and executive publisher of the Archdiocese of Los Angeles' newspapers. Receiving the *Pro Ecclesia et Pontifice* Medal, awarded by the Holy Father through the Pontifical Commission for Communications, recognized Fr. Tony's decades of Catholic media ministry, especially as president of the Vatican-sponsored Organization for Radio and Television.

At the parish level, Fr. Tony also integrated media into his ministry. During Lent and Advent, "Soup and Cinema" programs invited parishioners to share a simple meal, watch a movie, and engage with session leaders in discussion. "For Heart of the Nation's faith community, Fr. Tony contributed creatively through bulletin columns," said Joan Sobczak, publications manager. "He lived his vocation with combined far-reaching fervor and the simplicity of a Franciscan Capuchin friar."

Hymn Left Out in Hollywood

Just over three hours before *Titanic* struck an iceberg on the night of April 14, 1912, passengers had gathered in the second-class dining saloon to sing hymns. Saint John Henry Newman had composed the familiar lyrics for *Lead, Kindly Lead*.

Cardinal Newman lived from 1801 to 1890, mostly in England. As a titan of Church teaching through his sermons and other writing, he became the 38th "Doctor of the Church." Pope Leo XIV conferred the title and decreed an "optional memorial" celebrated by Catholics worldwide on October 9, beginning this year.

Using straightforward language, he delved into topics such as how to believe as if we have seen God or what it means to look for God's will in every occurrence or acquaintance.

"And a person who does this may be said almost literally to pray without ceasing."

— John Henry Newman, Sermon 15

Correspondence, too, reveals his outlook. For example, in his senior years, he thanked two friends for giving him a new "fiddle," feeling sure that playing the violin would enhance his work and potentially lengthen his life.

Originally ordained as an Anglican priest, Saint Newman converted to Catholicism on October 9, 1845. As a Catholic priest, he went to Ireland for about seven years as co-founder and then the first rector of Catholic University there.

At colleges and universities today, Newman Centers provide spiritual development and support, social and recreational activities, and community service opportunities. Especially on secular campuses, the Centers offer a Catholic presence as students navigate the freedoms of college life. Pope Leo XIV has declared Saint John Henry Newman a patron saint of the Church's educational mission.

In the lyrics of *Lead, Kindly Lead*, a traveler who formerly chose his own path with self-confidence wants to take a step forward with trust in God. Like the traveler, we can pray for guidance without asking to know what lies ahead.



**Thank You,
Circle of the
Heart
members!**

In gratitude, Heart of the Nation includes monthly donors in perpetual prayers placed at the altar for every Sunday TV Mass.



**Prayer &
Worship Guide**

To order a free subscription to use during TV Mass and throughout the week, please contact Heart of the Nation with the recipient's name and address.

MASS SCHEDULE

Sunday, October 4, 2026
27th Sunday
in Ordinary Time

Sunday, October 11, 2026
28th Sunday
in Ordinary Time

Sunday, October 18, 2026
29th Sunday
in Ordinary Time

Sunday, October 25, 2026
30th Sunday
in Ordinary Time

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**

www.HeartoftheNation.org

or

Contact Us:

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