



HEARTBEAT

News Notes and Inspiration

For the People of Sacred Heart Parish

Volume 1 – No. 2

March 11/12, 2017

SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT

UPCOMING SPECIAL EVENTS AND CELEBRATIONS

Even though we celebrate in several different locations, we are one parish and so I will share special events for all of our locations and communities. If you know of an event coming up,

please do NOT assume I know about it. Tell me, and I will find room for it. In addition to the weekly HEARTBEAT, events can be posted on the website and on our new Facebook group if I know about them. If you are on Facebook, search for Parish Group and you will be taken to our page. It is a private group, so you have to be admitted – which you will be.



*Our First Communion candidates
and their teacher.*

FIRST RECONCILIATION – 4:30 PM – Saturday March 18 – Sweifieh

All are invited to join the First Communion candidates and their parents as we celebrate their receiving the Sacrament of Reconciliation for the first time. There will be a short ceremony, the children will make their First Confession, and there will be a special blessing. The candidates will be formally presented at Mass that evening as our candidates for First Holy Communion.

It is a special event in the life of our Church and of these children, so please try and come early on this Saturday to be part of the ceremony.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION – Saturday May 6 – Sweifieh

We will be celebrating the First Holy Communion of two children of our parish on this day, which is a very special event.

(The third is celebrating back at his home parish.)

TENTATIVE SCHEDULE FOR HOLY WEEK AND EASTER

(We will let you know as soon as these times and places are confirmed)

PALM SUNDAY – April 8/9 - The usual weekend schedule, 2nd collection for the English Parish

HOLY THURSDAY – April 13 - No morning Mass at the Jesuit Centre. Evening Mass at 5 PM at St. Jean Baptiste de LaSalle Church, Jabal Hussein

GOOD FRIDAY – April 14 – No Masses are celebrated on this sacred day

Solemn Liturgical Service at Noon, St. Jean Baptiste de LaSalle Church, Jabal Hussein.

HOLY SATURDAY – April 15 – 5 PM St. Mary of Nazareth, - An abbreviated Easter Vigil Service

10 PM – St. Jean Baptiste de LaSalle Church, Jabal Hussein – Full Easter Vigil.

EASTER SUNDAY – English and Tagalog at Jabal Amman at 11:30 AM

6PM – Mass at St. Jean Baptiste de LaSalle Church, Jabal Hussein as usual

JUNE 3 AND 4 - IN BOTH

ST. MARY OF NAZARETH and ST. JEAN BAPTISTE de LaSALLE

That weekend we will be celebrating the great feast of Pentecost. At both Masses, we will also celebrate the renewal of marriage vows. There will be more details forthcoming, but mark your calendars for this very special occasion.

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PRAYERS AND INTENTIONS

St. Ignatius always said that God listens to our prayers, and when something important was coming up, he would encourage the early Jesuits to “storm heaven with can be included here and all of our parish will join in praying with you.

For Theresa Sheehan, Fr. John’s sister, who will have angioplasty on March 20 with heart surgery to follow a week or two later.

For Fred Schwally, diagnosed with a returning cancer, the doctors give him 2 to 3 weeks to live. *Sunday Mass is always offered for the intentions of the community, and individual intentions for other Masses often cannot be announced. If you wish to have a Mass celebrated for a special occasion (birthday, anniversary, memorial of a death) or to have a Mass said for the repose of the soul of someone who has died, there are envelopes at the rear of the Church or ask one of the Fathers. There is no charge for a Mass (you cannot “buy” a Mass!) but it is customary to offer a stipend, usually the equivalent of a meal out.*

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PLEASE REGISTER!!!
There are registration slips at the back of the Church and they will be there for the next several weeks. If you have already registered – please do it again, so we can verify email addresses and phone numbers. There are three ways to register:
1) Fill out the slip of paper and give it to me.
2) Go onto the website and there is a space where you can register online.
3) Send me an email with the basic information.
4) If you are on Facebook, go to Parish Group and leave me a message. I will admit you to the group and you can leave your details in a private message there as well.

HEARTBEAT, the weekly newsletter, will be available in print at the weekend Masses. It is also available on the website (look at the section “Latest from Our Pastor”), and on the Facebook page, and it can be delivered to your personal email address. Obviously the last three save us money – but the important thing is to make sure you have the information you need.

Last week I sent an email to everyone we have in our record base. If you did NOT receive an email from me, please send me an email at johnrsheehan13@gmail.com or at pastorsh@jordanjesuits.org. Include your name, since email addresses do not always reflect the person sending the message and I will be sure you are added.

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A REMINDER

ENGLISH MASS SCHEDULE

Monday to Saturday – 8:30 AM – Jesuit Center, 43 Al Razi Street, Jabal Hussein
3rd Friday, 12 Noon - Jabal Luweibdeh, St. Mary of the Annunciation
Every Saturday at 5 PM– Sweifieh, St. Mary of Nazareth
3rd Sunday – Jabal Amman, St. Joseph – 11:30 AM
Every Sunday – 6 PM - Jabal Hussein, St. Jean Baptiste de LaSalle

Most Masses have confession for 30 minutes prior to the beginning of the Mass. Fr. John or other Jesuit priests are available to hear confessions by appointment as well.

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Fr. John’s Email: pastorsh@jordanjesuits.org
Fr. John’s Phone: Office: 06 461-4190, Ext 29
Mobile: 079 013-8985

Website: Jordanjesuits.org and there is a separate section for the Sacred Heart Parish
Facebook: If you are on Facebook, go to Parish Group and on your first visit you will request to be admitted. After that the system will recognize you.

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FIGIAT

FIND GOD IN ALL THINGS

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PRAYER INTENTION OF THE HOLY FATHER FOR MARCH

Support for Persecuted Christians. That persecuted Christians may be supported by the prayers and material help of the whole Church.

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EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS

If you ARE a Eucharistic Minister, please be alert. If you see there is only one priest on the altar, you know that we will need at least two more to help with Communion. Even if you have not been asked, please come forward. If more people come forward than we can use, it is always good to have too many than too few.

If you are NOT a Eucharistic Minister, but if you think you would like to help with this sacred task at Mass and in the Church, please get in contact with me – Email is often best, but in writing. (If you tell me at Mass you KNOW I will forget!) We can arrange a class and install you usually in a couple of weeks. At this time, this is only open to men. This is a diocesan regulation and not something I get to decide.

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THANK YOU!!!

On March 10 I celebrated my one-month anniversary of arriving in Amman. Since arriving, I have been welcomed by many people and made to feel welcome. Thank you especially to those who organized the reception for me last week at St. Mary of Nazareth Church – it was a lovely party, and a delight to get to spend a little more time with people, than just shaking hands on the way out the door.

God willing, I look forward to many happy years here, and I am very pleased that people are already coming forward to ideas and suggestions of things we can add or improve in the worship and community life we share. For now, my motto will be “Festina Lenta” – make haste slowly. I need to learn the parish and the people before I can evaluate some ideas, and I need to be able to find out the history of these different groups before I can guess what might work better or not.

So thank you for the warm welcome, thank you for the enthusiastic initial support and I look forward to many Masses and conversations and who knows, even the occasional party.

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As we continue our experiment with music during Lent, please join in. We will be singing the same hymns and the same service music each week, so everyone will have a chance to learn the songs. Remember – the object is to be a part of the singing, not to be a trained singer or show off a beautiful voice. If you HAVE a beautiful voice, wonderful!

Share it! If you have an average voice, we need that too. And if you have a bad voice – remember that if everyone is singing no one will hear you, and God only hears your heart.

Thank you for your cooperation and participation!



Ramblings of the Reverend Redactor

This is my chance to share with you some observations or reflections that are NOT “the homily,” thoughts which may or may not be based on Scripture. For those not familiar with the term, a “redactor” is an editor, and I like the way the “R” sounds flow together – so I am “The Rambling Reverend Redactor.”

In last Sunday’s homily, I mentioned that when most of us hear that Jesus went “out into the desert,” we think of sand and dust and a dry arid place. That’s the desert we know today, and the way that many of us think of “the Holy Land.” I also mentioned that an archaeologist friend told me that in Jesus’ time, the better word would be “wilderness,” a place where men have not gone, because the land we know now as desert was in those days lush and green. Not for nothing was this part of the world known as “the fertile crescent.”

I mention this because in conversation at the reception after the Mass at St. Mary of Nazareth, someone said that this new information was going to disturb his prayer. And I want to assure him and you that this should NOT be the case. St. Ignatius urges us to use our imaginations when we pray. (And when I say “pray,” I of course mean being silent and listening for God, not talking TO God or reciting prayers.) God can speak to us through our imagination, and we should trust God and ourselves. St. Ignatius says to imagine people in the Gospel scenes – what does the scene look like, what are the sounds, what are people saying? He specifically says that if the people are dressed differently in your imagination, or are saying words that are not in the Gospel, or if the scene goes beyond what the Gospel has described, we are to continue and see what we hear, what we see, what we can learn.

History is one thing, and for me, it is interesting to know that the climate and the environment have changed drastically since the time of Christ. On the other hand, it does not – and should not – influence how we pray. It can, of course. I have learned things about Jewish burial customs that have caused me to re-think the scene of Christ being laid in the tomb, and I know more about how John the Baptist was beheaded than I did last year and when I sit to use those scenes for my prayer, I can’t tell what will happen. But the basic truth, the essence of the Gospel narrative, stays the same, and its importance is in how it can help me connect with God.

Ignatius further says about prayer that if you find something that helps you in prayer, use it. If it stops being useful, find something else that is helpful. If it helps you to kneel for prayer, terrific. I have separated tendons in both knees, so I sit. I have a friend who prays lying down. I tried that, and promptly fell asleep. Whatever is most helpful to you, that is what you should use.

God is like a radio station, constantly broadcasting. We are like small receivers, trying to pick up the signal. Sometimes the signal comes in loud and clear, and sometimes we have to fiddle with the dial and move the antenna around to get the signal more clearly. Whatever we need to do, the result is always worth it.

God bless you.

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Even though this is a little late, I just received it and thought I would share it with you. This prayer, and the daily Lenten reflections, are available on the website (in the section “Feasts and Seasonal Schedules”), on the Facebook group, and I can send things to you directly by email.

Celebrating Lent

PRAYER ON ASH WEDNESDAY



*O Jesus, in honor of the forty days
you spent in the desert praying and fasting,
we begin this season of Lent.*

*During this holy time of sacrifice, prayer, and good works
may we prepare our hearts, our souls, our minds and bodies
for the greatest feast in the Church,
the feast of Your Resurrection.*

*May we follow in Your footsteps
as we journey with You to Jerusalem.
At each Mass that we participate in during this Lent,
may we be reminded of the Last Supper
and Your gift of Eucharist.*

*May we continue with You to Calvary,
accepting the crosses that are given to us each day.*

*May we stay with Your Mother Mary
as she stands by Your Cross.*

*We ask You to forgive us our sins
and thank You for the sacrifice You have made for us.*

*Grant us, O God, the perseverance
to strive each day of this holy season of Lent
to become better Christians.*

*May our preparation for Easter
make us one with the Risen Christ on Easter
and every day of our lives. Amen.*