



# HEARTBEAT

*News Notes and Inspiration*

*For the People of Sacred Heart Parish*

*Volume 1 – No. 4*

*March 25/26, 2017*

**FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT**

**Laetare Sunday**

## LAST WEEK – FIRST RECONCILIATION



Three of our younger parishioners who are preparing to receive their First Holy Communion last week received the Sacrament of Reconciliation for the first time. They are pictured above left – Jonathan, Arthur and Frances, and in the second picture they are joined by their parents and siblings, their teacher Clara Metzhangopian and Father John.

There will be one more First Reconciliation service after Easter for another group of students and First Communion on May 6<sup>th</sup>. Several of the children will celebrate their First Communion in their home parish.

## **SHARE YOUR EVENTS – OR EVENTS YOU KNOW ABOUT**

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.

## UPCOMING SPECIAL EVENTS AND CELEBRATIONS

### BLESSING BASKETS FOR THE EASTER VIGIL

There is a tradition in several different communities of blessing Easter baskets at the Great Vigil on Holy Saturday. I was asked if we could celebrate this at our ceremony and I was delighted to say Yes. I am enclosing some pictures of different kinds of baskets, and I invite any family or individual who wants to bring a basket on Holy Saturday to please let me know, so we can be sure to have enough space to accommodate everyone's basket.

Baskets often feature eggs (both plain and decorated), salt, different kinds of meat, and bread. They can be simple or quite elaborate. At the end of the ceremony, each family or individual collects the basket they brought, and takes it home for their own celebration of Easter.





### **FIRST HOLY COMMUNION – Saturday May 6 – Sweifieh**

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

### **SCHEDULE FOR HOLY WEEK AND EASTER**

*I am pleased to note that these days and times have been confirmed.*

**PALM SUNDAY** – April 8/9 - The usual weekend schedule, 2<sup>nd</sup> 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, - 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, 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.

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS AND CELEBRATIONS

- March 25 – Feast of the Annunciation. Only celebrated at the morning Mass, 8:30 AM  
March 31 – At midnight of March 30/31, clocks turn AHEAD one hour to 1 AM on March 31.  
April 1 – Social Gathering after Mass, Sweifieh  
50 Anniversary of the Chapel at St. Jean Baptiste de LaSalle, 7 PM Celebration  
April 7 – First Friday. Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament following the 8:30 Mass.  
St. Jean Baptiste de LaSalle (Memorial)  
**April 8/9 – 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday Collection at St. Mary of Nazareth and St. Jean Baptiste de LaSalle**  
April 9 – PALM/PASSION Sunday  
April 13 – Holy Thursday - No morning Mass at the Jesuit Center  
(See above for the schedule for the Triduum and Easter Sunday)  
April 16 – Birthday of Pope Benedict XVI  
April 21 – Fr. John at Jabal Weibdeh – 12:00 Noon  
April 22 - 6:00 PM - Mass of 4th Sunday of Lent, Sweifieh  
April 23 - 11:30 AM - Fr. John at Jabal Amman  
6:00 PM - Mass of 4th Sunday of Lent, Jabal Hussein  
April 25 – Feast Of St. Mark, Apostle  
April 27 – St. Peter Canisius, SJ (Memorial)  
May 1 – St. Joseph the Worker  
May 3 – Feast of SS. Philip and James, Apostles

### 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 a woman trying to decide if she should have surgery  
For Fred Schwally, diagnosed with a returning cancer, the doctors give him a short time to live.  
For a young woman, Kaitlyn, fighting cancer  
For Ray Olfky, who has been diagnosed with cancer

*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.*

### PLEASE REGISTER!!!

There are usually registration slips at the back of the Church. There are four 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.

This weekly bulletin is available on the website (look at the section “Latest from Our Pastor”), on our Facebook Group Page (Parish Group) and if you wish, I can send it to you via Email. Let me know so I can print fewer copies.

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## A REMINDER

### ENGLISH MASS SCHEDULE

Monday to Saturday – 8:30 AM – Jesuit Center, 43 Al Razi Street, Jabal Hussein

3<sup>rd</sup> Friday, 12 Noon - Jabal Luweibdeh, St. Mary of the Annunciation

Every Saturday at 5 PM– Sweifieh, St. Mary of Nazareth

3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday – Jabal Amman, St. Joseph – 11:30 AM

Every Sunday – 6 PM - Jabal Hussein, St. Jean Baptiste de LaSalle

Most weekend 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](mailto:pastorsh@jordanjesuits.org)

Fr. John’s Phone: Office: 06 461-4190, Ext 29

Mobile: 079 013-8985

Website: [Jordanjesuits.org](http://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 so you can post.

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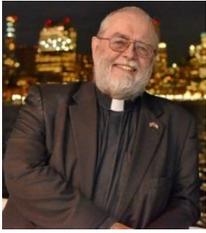
FIND GOD IN ALL THINGS

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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.



## Ramblings of the Reverend Redactor

My mother used to have a saying, “It gets late early.” She usually invoked it when she was trying to get us to plan ahead. This week I want to use this space to encourage us to plan ahead. In this issue I have listed the several events for Holy Week. Because of conflicting schedules and the availability of space, most of the events take place at St. Jean Baptiste deLaSalle, and I sincerely hope that people from other Mass sites will make every effort to attend.

But there is one that is particularly important. In fact, it is THE most important single celebration in the Church calendar, the Easter Vigil. It is the soul of the liturgy, and as numerous Church documents say, it is important for the faithful to attend and participate. The Mass on Easter Sunday is important – each time we gather to celebrate the Eucharist is important – but there is no celebration during the year that speaks so directly to the heart of our faith as the Vigil.

We begin with the sense of mystery that should surround the resurrection, gathering in the darkness to bless and light the Paschal fire. From that blessed flame we light the Paschal candle, and we follow it through the darkness of the night into the darkness of the church. As the light of Christ is proclaimed, we each light our own individual candles from that central light, until the church is alight with the light of Christ,

Then is sung the great call to worship, the Exsultet, asking all of nature to rejoice at the salvation that is taking place. We hear the Word of the Lord read and sung and proclaimed. Bells are rung and the Gloria is sung as all the lights come up, celebrating the triumph of light over darkness, life over death, goodness over evil. We bless the water and together renew our own Baptismal promises.

Next week I will have a booklet entitled “What Am I Doing for Triduum This Year?” to help us prepare for these extraordinary three days – Holy Thursday, the “birthday” of the Church and the great ceremony of the washing of the feet. Good Friday, with the reading of the Passion, and the adoration of the crucified Christ – the one day in the year when NO Mass is celebrated anywhere in the world. And Holy Saturday, the Great Vigil of the Church. At one point the booklet author says about the Vigil, “It will be long. But that is the point. We need time to celebrate the mystery of our faith. Approach the Vigil with hungry anticipation.”

I strongly encourage everyone to plan on participating in this central celebration of the liturgical year. Bring the children. Take a nap in the afternoon to be rested. It is more important than New Year’s Eve or any other reason we stay up late. It should be a family event, and I hope that parents will prepare their children with the sense of mystery and anticipation and respect that these solemn celebrations deserve.

*Fr. John*