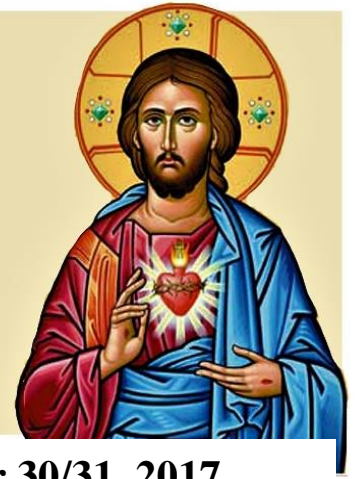


SACRED HEART HEARTBEAT

ENGLISH LANGUAGE
ROMAN CATHOLIC PARISH



**THE FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY – December 30/31, 2017
THE SOLEMNITY OF MARY, THE MOTHER OF GOD**

JANUARY 1, 2018

WORLD DAY OF PEACE –

Migrants and refugees: men and women in search of peace

HAPPY NEW YEAR!!!



Pope Francis'

MONTHLY
PRAYER
INTENTIONS

FOR JANUARY

Religious Minorities in Asia

That Christians, and other religious minorities in Asian countries, may be able to practice their faith in full freedom.

OUR PARISH PRAYS TOGETHER

Feel free to share your special needs and intentions, so they can be included here and all of our parish will join in praying with you. Individual names are welcome but not necessary.

For victims of natural disasters and violence
For family members who have died
For all those looking for work
For a woman concerned about her family
For those suffering from the cold
For the end to abortions

For those working for faith and justice
For the safety of all who are traveling
For a woman suffering from bone cancer
For those preparing for sacraments
For all those in pain
For justice for immigrants and refugees

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ENGLISH LANGUAGE
ROMAN CATHOLIC PARISH



*Find God
in All Things*

2018 CALENDAR

The SACRED HEART PARISH 2018 CALENDAR

has arrived. It is available after Mass, and at the Jesuit Center. We ask for a contribution of 2 JD for one, but 3 copies for 5 JD and 10 copies for only 15 JS. Help promote the parish and spread the word that we exist.

COMING SPECIAL EVENTS AND CELEBRATIONS

December 30 – 5 PM, Sweifieh – Mass of the Holy Family

December 31 – 10 AM, Jesuit Center – Mass of the Holy Family

December 31 – 6 PM – Freres Church, Vigil Mass of the Solemnity

January 1 – 8:30 AM, Jesuit Chapel – Mass of the Solemnity (Quiet Mass, no singing)

January 1 – 10 AM – Mass of the Solemnity with full singing and carols

January 4 – Fr. Peter Schineller leaves for the U.S.

January 5 – First Friday – Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament after the 8:30 Mass

January 6 – Epiphany, Holy Day of Obligation. Mass at the Jesuit Center – 8:30 AM

January 6 – Celebration of the Birth of John the Baptist, Sweifieh, 5 PM

(NOTE: Attending the Saturday evening Mass does NOT fulfill the Holy Day obligation)

January 7 – Celebration of the Birth of John the Baptist, 10 AM Jesuit Center

January 7 – Celebration of the Birth of John the Baptist, Freres, 6 PM

January 7 – The last day of the Christmas season. NOW you can take down the tree and decorations.

January 10 – Fr. Robert McChesney SJ arrives

January 12 – Confirmation class resumes

January 13 – First Communion class resumes

January 14 – World Day of Prayer for Refugees and Migrants

January 15 – 7 PM, “Ask Father John” at Paul David’s residence - 9 Anwar Al Khatib Street, Sweifieh

January 17 – Fr. Gerald on vacation until February 18

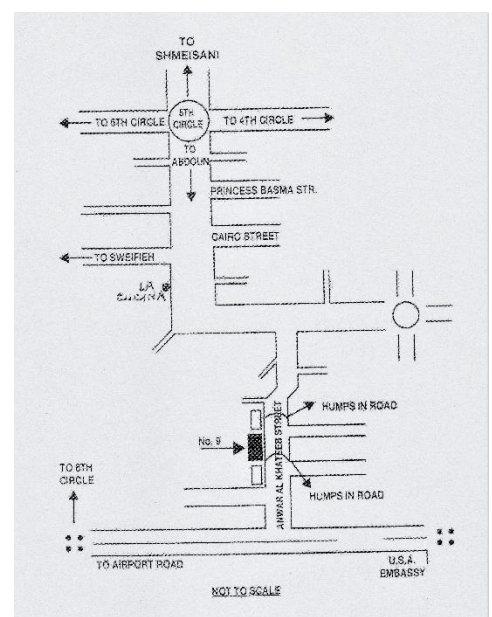
MASS SCHEDULE

DAY	TIME	LOCATION
Monday to Saturday	8:30 AM	Jesuit Center
Saturday	5:00 PM	Sweifieh, St. Mary of Nazareth
Sunday	10:00 AM	Jesuit Ctr Chapel
	6:00 PM	Jabal Hussein, St. Jean Baptiste de la Salle

Confessions are 30 minutes before weekend Masses, or available by appointment.

ASK FATHER JOHN *(Part II)*

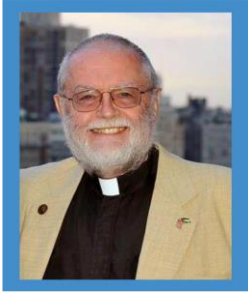
On Monday, January 15, there will be another session of “Ask Father John,” an open conversation about anything you want to know or ask. It will be at P.S. and Vivian David’s House, 9 Anwar Al Khatib Street, Sweifieh. Map on the right. Phone if you are lost – 079 588-9330.



HAVE YOU REGISTERED IN THE PARISH?

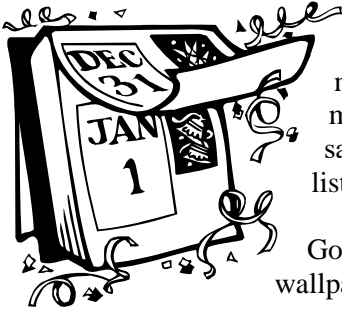
Go to www.jordanjesuits.org, go to the link for SACRED HEART PARISH and on the right side is a direct link so you can register on line.

Couldn't be easier. Thank you.



RAMBLINGS

OF THE REVEREND REDACTOR



HAPPY NEW YEAR! My first January 1 in Amman. In about six weeks I will celebrate my first year (although there was a 5-week interruption when I went back to put the rest of my life either on the selling block or in storage). I assume that the tradition here is about the same as other places, that with the coming of the new year, everyone makes “resolutions,” lists of things they are going to change or eliminate or try to do better.

Good luck with that. Several years ago I even put my resolutions on my computer as the wallpaper, so every time I opened the computer or looked at the home screen – there was my list.

It didn't help. My success rate that year was about the same as other years. So I have a suggestion for 2018. Pick one thing. Don't make a list – just pick one thing. Make it something reasonable, and something fairly important, at least for you. And don't just select something, make a plan about HOW you are going to change or eliminate or improve whatever it is. Attend Mass regularly –that's good one, because it is a Commandment of the Church. Losing weight – a regular favorite with many people, especially when they asses the caloric damage of the many Christmas parties. Exercising on a regular basis – another good one, and can be tied in with losing weight. But remember – only select one. Then make a plan as to how you are going to accomplish this, and then DO IT.

I predict that your success rate will surprise you. If there are moments when you slip, or forget or other things overwhelm you – welcome to the real world. But don't let that discourage you, just pick up your plan, take a deep breath, and keep going.

I know this works because this is also a proven way to eliminate sins from your life, the ones that keep recurring so often you feel embarrassed going to confession because it seems it is always the same stuff. Again – don't try to totally reform your life at once. Pick one sin – one temptation – and work out a plan for avoiding it, or resisting it. Then do it. And you will be pleasantly surprised that you CAN beat that whatever it is.

One final thought. The things to change don't always have to be removing bad stuff. Your resolution can involve doing good things as well. Volunteering for a charity or an NGO or even a Church (gasp!) are positive acts. Blocking out time in your life for quiet prayer or spiritual reading can be a rich way of improving your life. It can sometimes be as simple as consciously putting aside more time for your spouse or your parents or your children or someone who know who is lonely or alone or just needs company.

January 1 – the tradition is that today we have a blank slate, a whole new year in which we can do pretty much anything we put our mind to. That can be true if you will make it true. Go forth and change the world – one day at a time, one sin at a time, one temptation at a time, one good deed at a time. And if you can't change the whole world, change your world and see what happens then.

And let us continue to pray for one another.

Fr. John's Email: pastorsh@jordanjesuits.org

Fr. John's Phone: Office: 06 461-4190, Ext 29 Mobile: 079 013-8985

Website: Jordanjesuits.org with a link for the Sacred Heart Parish

Facebook: If you are on Facebook, go to Parish Group and on your first visit you request to be admitted. After that the system will recognize you so you can post.

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

- 1 Stephanie Madzey
Joseph Sabas
- 13 Alejandra Proana
- 14 Amy Mitchell
- 20 Anthony MacDonald
- 21 Ramon Senga
Nida Pante Lamadrid



AT THIS POINT – NO IDEA

Several people have asked about the celebration at the Baptismal site, and while many can tell what “we have always done,” I have heard no official information about times or events.

ADVENT BASKET COLLECTION



Advent is over and it is time to turn in your Advent baskets, so we can sort and bundle and get our contributions ready to be delivered.

- 1) You may bring your baskets – or however you have assembled things – to the Jesuit Center. Please call or email Fr. John ahead of time, so someone will be there to receive your gifts.
- 2) Bring your baskets to the Church. Please call or email Fr. John so we can coordinate cars in the parking lot. Let us not carry things more than we need to.
- 3) Call or email Fr. John (this starts to sound like a song refrain) so we can arrange to pick up items at your house. We would like to finish the collection as soon as possible, so we can sort and bundle and get things on their way.

And of course – if you have not actually put something in a basket each day during Advent, but would like to be part of this project, gifts of cash are flexible, enabling us to buy items that are missing or minimally represented, like rice, flour or other foodstuffs.

For your generosity and cooperation – THANK YOU, THANK YOU, THANK YOU.

NEW RESOLUTIONS

As the new year begins, one of the time-honored customs is making resolutions in order to improve our lives. As you ponder the various ways you would like to change your life in 2018, let me make a plug for the various ways in which you can serve the Parish community at Sacred Heart Parish. I would like to create a Parish Advisory Committee, at some point to become an official Parish Council. Another class for Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion will be starting and there will be workshops for Lectors, those who volunteer to read at the Masses. I would love to have a liturgy committee, so other voices than mine get to make suggestions about our worship. A new class for young people wishing to be altar servers will be announced, and I would dearly love to have at least three or four who are willing to be Leaders of Song at both our locations. I (it is Father John who speaks) will be holding a series of classes on basic voice production, and you can attend with no obligation of having to do anything else if you don't want to. The Youth Program should get underway and we need people to be involved – I am WAY beyond the days of even politely being thought of as a “youth.” People with experience who would like to help improve the website – or graphics – step up please. I do things when there is no one else, but I have no illusions about being a designer or an artist. I have started collecting material for next year's parish calendar – but I would love new voices to be part of that creative process as well.

And if there are things you think we should be doing and aren't, that's the perfect spot to share your talents. So as you think about 2018 – remember Sacred Heart Parish. We need you!

MESSAGE OF HIS HOLINESS POPE
FRANCIS
FOR THE CELEBRATION OF THE
51st WORLD DAY OF PEACE
1 JANUARY 2018

Migrants and refugees: men and women in search of peace

1. Heartfelt good wishes for peace

Peace to all people and to all nations on earth! Peace, which the angels proclaimed to the shepherds on Christmas night,^[1] is a profound aspiration for everyone, for each individual and all peoples, and especially for those who most keenly suffer its absence. Among these whom I constantly keep in my thoughts and prayers, I would once again mention the over 250 million migrants worldwide, of whom 22.5 million are refugees. Pope Benedict XVI, my beloved predecessor, spoke of them as “men and women, children, young and elderly people, who are searching for somewhere to live in peace.”^[2] In order to find that peace, they are willing to risk their lives on a journey that is often long and perilous, to endure hardships and suffering, and to encounter fences and walls built to keep them far from their goal.

In a spirit of compassion, let us embrace all those fleeing from war and hunger, or forced by discrimination, persecution, poverty and environmental degradation to leave their homelands.

We know that it is not enough to open our hearts to the suffering of others. Much more remains to be done before our brothers and sisters can once again live peacefully in a safe home. Welcoming others requires concrete commitment, a network of assistance and goodwill, vigilant and sympathetic attention, the responsible management of new and complex situations that at times compound numerous existing problems, to say nothing of resources, which are always limited. By practising the virtue of prudence, government leaders should take practical measures to welcome, promote, protect, integrate and, “within the limits allowed by a correct understanding of the common good, to permit [them] to become part of a new society.”^[3] Leaders have a clear responsibility towards their own communities, whose legitimate rights and harmonious development they must ensure, lest they become like the rash builder who miscalculated and failed to complete the tower he had begun to construct.^[4]

2. Why so many refugees and migrants?

As he looked to the Great Jubilee marking the passage of two thousand years since the proclamation of peace by the angels in Bethlehem, Saint John Paul II pointed to the increased numbers of displaced persons as one of the consequences of the “endless and horrifying sequence of wars, conflicts, genocides and ethnic cleansings”^[5] that had characterized the twentieth century. To this date, the new century has registered no real breakthrough: armed conflicts and other forms of organized violence continue to trigger the movement of peoples within national borders and beyond.

Yet people migrate for other reasons as well, principally because they “desire a better life, and not infrequently try to leave behind the ‘hopelessness’ of an unpromising future.”^[6] They set out to join their families or to seek professional or educational opportunities, for those who cannot enjoy these rights do not live in peace. Furthermore, as I noted in the Encyclical Laudato Si', there has been “a tragic rise in the number of migrants seeking to flee from the growing poverty caused by environmental degradation”.^[7] Most people migrate through regular channels. Some, however, take different routes, mainly out of desperation, when their own countries offer neither safety nor opportunity, and every legal pathway appears impractical, blocked or too slow.

Many destination countries have seen the spread of rhetoric decrying the risks posed to national security or the high cost of welcoming new arrivals, and thus demeaning the human dignity due to all as sons and daughters of God. Those who, for what may be political reasons, foment fear of migrants instead of building peace are sowing violence, racial discrimination and xenophobia, which are matters of great concern for all those concerned for the safety of every human being.^[8]

All indicators available to the international community suggest that global migration will continue for the future. Some consider this a threat. For my part, I ask you to view it with confidence as an opportunity to build peace.

3. With a contemplative gaze

The wisdom of faith fosters a contemplative gaze that recognizes that all of us “belong to one family, migrants and the local populations that welcome them, and all have the same right to enjoy the goods of the earth, whose destination is universal, as the social doctrine of the Church teaches. It is here that solidarity and sharing are founded.”^[9] These words evoke the biblical image of the new Jerusalem. The book of the prophet Isaiah (chapter 60) and that of Revelation (chapter 21) describe the city with its gates always open to people of every nation, who marvel at it and fill it with riches. Peace is the sovereign that guides it and justice the principle that governs coexistence within it.

We must also turn this contemplative gaze to the cities where we live, “a gaze of faith which sees God dwelling in their houses, in their streets and squares, [...] fostering solidarity, fraternity, and the desire for goodness, truth and justice”^[10] – in other words, fulfilling the promise of peace.

When we turn that gaze to migrants and refugees, we discover that they do not arrive empty-handed. They bring their courage, skills, energy and aspirations, as well as the treasures of their own cultures; and in this way, they enrich the lives of the nations that receive them. We also come to see the creativity, tenacity and spirit of sacrifice of the countless individuals, families and communities around the world who open their doors and hearts to migrants and refugees, even where resources are scarce.

A contemplative gaze should also guide the discernment of those responsible for the public good, and encourage them to pursue policies of welcome, “within the limits allowed by a correct understanding of the common good”^[11] – bearing in mind, that is, the needs of all members of the human family and the welfare of each.

Those who see things in this way will be able to recognize the seeds of peace that are already sprouting and nurture their growth. Our cities, often divided and polarized by conflicts regarding the presence of migrants and refugees, will thus turn into workshops of peace.

4. Four mileposts for action

Offering asylum seekers, refugees, migrants and victims of human trafficking an opportunity to find the peace they seek requires a strategy combining four actions: welcoming, protecting, promoting and integrating.^[12]

“Welcoming” calls for expanding legal pathways for entry and no longer pushing migrants and displaced people towards countries where they face persecution and violence. It also demands balancing our concerns about national security with concern for fundamental human rights. Scripture reminds us: “Do not forget to show hospitality to strangers, for by so doing some people have shown hospitality to angels without knowing it.”^[13]

“Protecting” has to do with our duty to recognize and defend the inviolable dignity of those who flee real dangers in search of asylum and security, and to prevent their being exploited. I think in particular of women and children who find themselves in situations that expose them to risks and abuses that can even

amount to enslavement. God does not discriminate: “The Lord watches over the foreigner and sustains the orphan and the widow.”^[14]

“Promoting” entails supporting the integral human development of migrants and refugees. Among many possible means of doing so, I would stress the importance of ensuring access to all levels of education for children and young people. This will enable them not only to cultivate and realize their potential, but also better equip them to encounter others and to foster a spirit of dialogue rather than rejection or confrontation. The Bible teaches that God “loves the foreigner residing among you, giving them food and clothing. And you are to love those who are foreigners, for you yourselves were foreigners in Egypt.”^[15] “Integrating”, lastly, means allowing refugees and migrants to participate fully in the life of the society that welcomes them, as part of a process of mutual enrichment and fruitful cooperation in service of the integral human development of the local community. Saint Paul expresses it in these words: “You are no longer foreigners and strangers, but fellow citizens with God’s people.”^[16]

5. A proposal for two international compacts

It is my heartfelt hope this spirit will guide the process that in the course of 2018 will lead the United Nations to draft and approve two Global Compacts, one for safe, orderly and regular migration and the other for refugees. As shared agreements at a global level, these compacts will provide a framework for policy proposals and practical measures. For this reason, they need to be inspired by compassion, foresight and courage, so as to take advantage of every opportunity to advance the peace-building process. Only in this way can the realism required of international politics avoid surrendering to cynicism and to the globalization of indifference.

Dialogue and coordination are a necessity and a specific duty for the international community. Beyond national borders, higher numbers of refugees may be welcomed – or better welcomed – also by less wealthy countries, if international cooperation guarantees them the necessary funding.

The Migrants and Refugees Section of the Dicastery for Promoting Integral Human Development has published a set of twenty action points that provide concrete leads for implementing these four verbs in public policy and in the attitudes and activities of Christian communities.^[17] The aim of this and other contributions is to express the interest of the Catholic Church in the process leading to the adoption of the two U.N. Global Compacts. This interest is the sign of a more general pastoral concern that goes back to the very origins of the Church and has continued in her many works up to the present time.

6. For our common home

Let us draw inspiration from the words of Saint John Paul II: “If the ‘dream’ of a peaceful world is shared by all, if the refugees’ and migrants’ contribution is properly evaluated, then humanity can become more and more a universal family and our earth a true ‘common home’.”^[18] Throughout history, many have believed in this “dream”, and their achievements are a testament to the fact that it is no mere utopia. Among these, we remember Saint Frances Xavier Cabrini in this year that marks the hundredth anniversary of her death. On this thirteenth day of November, many ecclesial communities celebrate her memory. This remarkable woman, who devoted her life to the service of migrants and became their patron saint, taught us to welcome, protect, promote and integrate our brothers and sisters. Through her intercession, may the Lord enable all of us to experience that “a harvest of righteousness is sown in peace by those who make peace.”^[19]

From the Vatican, 13 November 2017

Memorial of Saint Frances Xavier Cabrini, Patroness of Migrants

FRANCIS

FOOTNOTE REFERENCE

[1] Luke 2:14.

[2] Angelus, 15 January 2012.

[3] JOHN XXIII, Encyclical Letter *Pacem in Terris*, 106.

[4] Luke 14:28-30.

[5] Message for the 2000 World Day of Peace, 3..

[6] BENEDICT XVI, Message for the 2013 World Day of Migrants and Refugees.

[7] No. 25.

[8] Cf. Address to the National Directors of Pastoral Care for Migrants of the Catholic Bishops' Conferences of Europe, 22 September 2017.

[9] BENEDICT XVI, Message for the 2011 World Day of Migrants and Refugees.

[10] Apostolic Exhortation *Evangelii Gaudium*, 71.

[11] JOHN XXIII, Encyclical Letter *Pacem in Terris*, 106.

[12] Message for the 2018 World Day of Migrants and Refugees.

[13] Hebrews 13:2.

[14] Psalm 146:9.

[15] Deuteronomy 10:18-19.

[16] Ephesians 2:19.

[17] "20 Pastoral Action Points" and "20 Action Points for the Global Compacts", Migrants and Refugees Section, Rome, 2017. See also Document UN A/72/528.

[18] Message for the World Day of Migrants and Refugees 2004, 6.

[19] James 3:18.