

# SACRED HEART HEARTBEAT

ENGLISH LANGUAGE  
ROMAN CATHOLIC PARISH



**4<sup>th</sup> SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME February 2/3, 2019**

## COMING SPECIAL EVENTS AND CELEBRATIONS

- Feb. 2 – Feast of the Presentation of the Lord. Blessing of Candles and throats at the 8:30 AM Mass
- Feb. 2/3 – Blessing of candles and blessing of throats at both weekend Masses
- Feb. 2 – The Sacrament of Confirmation will be administered to Piotr Swiezaczynski at the 5 PM Mass
- Feb. 3-5 – Papal Visit to Abu Dhabi
- Feb. 9/10 – **SECOND SUNDAY COLLECTION**
- Feb. 11 – Our Lady of Lourdes
- February 16/17 – Renewal of Marriage Vows at both Masses
- Feb. 18 – Ask Father John – 7 PM (*See note on Page 3*)
- Feb/ 22 – Feast of the Chair of Peter
- March 1 - First Friday – Adoration following the 8:30 AM Mass
- March 4 – Novena of Grace to St. Francis Xavier begins
- March 9/10 – **SECOND SUNDAY COLLECTION**
- March 9 – Children’s Mass at Sweifieh
- March 12 – Canonization of St. Ignatius Loyola and St. Francis Xavier
- March 13 – **ASH WEDNESDAY** – Mass at the Jesuit Center at 8:30 AM and 6 PM
- March 17 – 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Lent; Feast of St. Patrick
- March 19 – Feast of St. Joseph
- March 21 – Mother’s Day in Jordan
- March 23 – First Confessions
- March 23/24 – Anointing of the Sick at Both Masses
- March 25 – Solemnity of the Annunciation of the Lord



*Pope Francis'*

MONTHLY  
PRAYER  
INTENTIONS

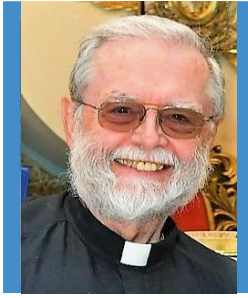
For a generous welcome of the victims of human trafficking, of enforced prostitution, and of violence.



### FEBRUARY

- 3 Vivian Rassam
- 4 Brendan Wheeler
- 10 Eunice Dadson
- 12 Georgia Grube

If we have somehow missed your birthday, please let us know. If you have given us the date when you registered, we need to find our mistake. If you didn't – we'd like to add you.



# RAMBLINGS

## OF THE REVEREND REDACTOR

On February 10, I will mark two years to the day since my arrival in Jordan. Sometimes it seems just yesterday, other times it seems much longer. Anniversaries are always a time for looking back and taking stock, and while I have done that with the production of two parish calendars, and two End of the Year Reports, there are a couple of things that I feel need to be done.

**1) A Parish Advisory Committee.** Most parishes have a Parish Council of one kind or another. The name may change but their responsibility is real. Because ours is a personal rather than a territorial parish, we are spared some of the obligations that Canon Law imposes. But a group of lay men and women to advise the Pastor is always a good idea, particularly in the area of supervising finances. Pastors come and pastors go, so a group representing the congregation also serves to provide continuity and a sense of history and tradition.

Therefore, this week I will be sending out invitations to some in the Parish to come and serve on the Parish Advisory Committee. I envision three or four meetings a year, with the knowledge that a particular event may suggest an additional meeting from time to time. But the Committee will decide that for themselves. The Pastor will sit in on meetings, but the Committee may have a meeting without him, or may ask him to excuse himself for a conversation, because although they will be advisory (without legal liability or responsibility) they will still be independent.

Should anyone in the parish wish to volunteer to participate in this, please let me know. Simply because you might not receive a letter from me does not mean you and your experience and your willingness to serve will not be welcome. In fact, just the opposite.

**2) A Hospitality group.** (The name can change.) In some Churches they are called Ushers, or Wardens, or Facilitators. We have a wonderful group of coordinators, but they cannot be everywhere or do everything. I see this group – at least two for each Mass, and in some cases, more – welcoming parishioners and guests, helping with directing traffic and helping people find seats, counting those present at each Mass, handling disturbances or problems, illness or accidents during the Mass, helping to evacuate in case of an emergency.

There would be a training session in each Church – Sweifieh and Freres – especially for evacuation procedures but also for the mechanics of how to proceed in a given situation. This group would take over none of the responsibilities or duties that are currently being done by the Coordinators, but would add to the smooth running of the Mass or special events, especially making all feel more personally welcome.

If this is an activity that you feel called to – ideally no more than once a month if enough people volunteer – please let me know. If people want to volunteer more frequently – and for many it becomes an enjoyable and enriching way of serving the community – that would be lovely. We have existed without it – but I feel that it will be a strong improvement in the weekly Masses.

Thank you for all you do – and thank you for those who will take on additional service to our community, our Church, and ultimately, to God. Let us continue to pray for one another.

Fr. John's Email: [pastorsh@jordanjesuits.org](mailto:pastorsh@jordanjesuits.org) Website: [Jordanjesuits.org](http://Jordanjesuits.org)

Fr. John's Mobile: 079 013-8985 (If no answer, leave a message.)

Facebook: Parish Group. (You have to ask to be admitted, but you will be.)

## BLESSING OF CANDLES AND THROATS

Candles will be blessed on Saturday morning, February 2<sup>nd</sup>, at the 8:30 Mass, on Saturday evening at Sweifieh and at Freres Church in Jabal Hussein on Sunday night. The blessing will take place during Mass, and YOU HAVE TO PROVIDE YOUR OWN CANDLES. Throats will also be blessed at the Mass Saturday morning, following the Mass.

Blessing of Throats will also take place at the Saturday evening and Sunday evening Masses and will take place AFTER Mass – so if you leave early, you will not be able to have your throats blessed.

Please note that at the Mass at Sweifieh on February 2<sup>nd</sup>, the Sacrament of Confirmation will also be administered. While it is not a lengthy ceremony, the combination of events may mean the Mass will take slightly longer than usual, if you need to plan accordingly.

**2019 PARISH CALENDARS** – We still have calendars available but you have to request them. Fr. John will NOT be carrying calendars to the weekend Masses unless there is a request.

## END OF YEAR REPORT

The End of Year Report for 2018 is now available. It will be (or has been) mailed electronically to all who receive HEARTBEAT in that fashion, and will be (or is) available on the Facebook page and on the website. A limited number of print copies will be available after the weekend Mass and on request. Please do not take a print copy simply for the sake of taking something – but if you want one, please don't hesitate. If we run out of print copies, we will provide more.

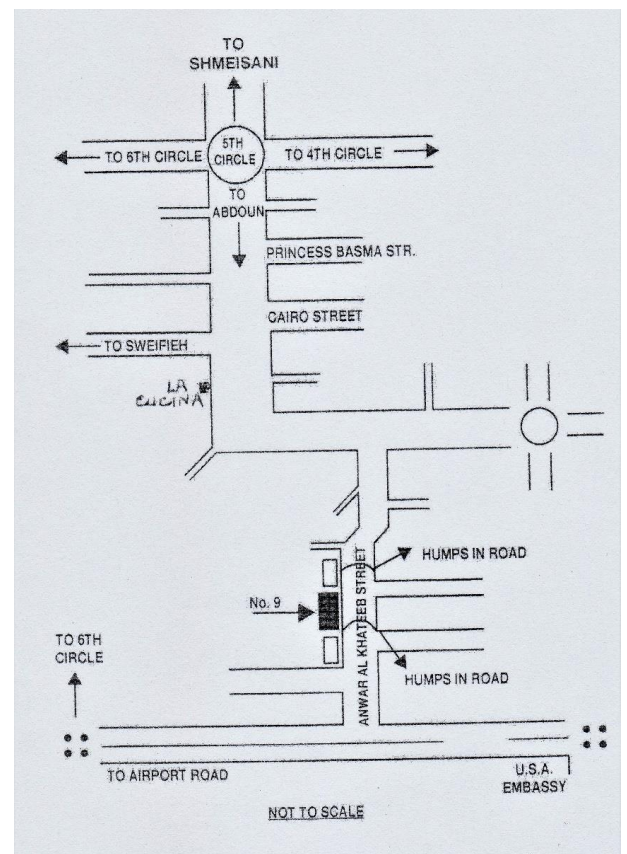
## MISCELLANEOUS

In December, attendance at Masses at Sweifieh is estimated as 1,028 (which included the Christmas Eve Vigil Mass), at Freres it was 229, and Masses at the Jesuit Center (which included the Christmas morning Mass) was 388.

## ASK FATHER JOHN

On Monday, February 18, we will have the first "Ask Father John" for 2019. As is the norm, no question is out of bounds. You may have theological questions, liturgical questions, something about the End of year Report you want clarified, something in the news – even if you don't have a question yourself, the questions of others may prove stimulating. Our hosts for the evening are Vivian and Paul David, at 9 Anwar Al Khatib Street, Sweifieh. Their apartment is on the top floor. In case you get lost -- 079 588-9330. Map on the right. Please RSVP but if you are suddenly free at the last minute, please come ahead.

If you have never attended one of these, it is an informal gathering where any question is permitted. Topics can be topical, historical, personal, theological, philosophical or just things that you have always wondered about. If Fr. John doesn't know the answer, someone else present might. If no one knows – Fr. John promises he will look it up and find the answer. Great fun, a chance to meet people you've known by sight from Mass and sometimes even educational. Please join us.



## LOOKING AHEAD IN THE CALENDAR

We will keep reminding you, but for those who plan ahead, remember that in Jordan, we follow the Orthodox calendar for Lent and Easter, up to the Feast of Pentecost. This year the celebrations are one week after the rest of the Church, so Ash Wednesday is March 13 (NOT March 6) and Easter is April 28. Especially if you are traveling, know that the rest of the Church is on the Latin schedule, so if you are in Amman for Palm Sunday, everywhere else is celebrating Easter Sunday. Jordan tourism often uses the Western calendar in publicity (because of tourists visiting) and they are confused when they look for an Easter Mass and find Palm Sunday. Last year there were people who “missed” Easter, either because they traveled out after our Palm Sunday or arrived not knowing the different schedule.

## The Life of Presence

“

Jesus came to Nazareth, the place of the hidden life, of ordinary life, of family life, of prayer, work, obscurity, silent virtues, practiced with no witnesses other than God, his friends and neighbors. Nazareth, the place where most people lead their lives.

Charles de Foucauld

”

## THE POPE IS VISITING THE UAE

There seems to have been little publicity about this visit locally, so here is the link to the Vatican release of the Official Program for the visit:

<https://www.vaticannews.va/en/pope/news/2018-12/pope-trip-to-united-arab-emirates-official-program-announced.html>

If you are reading this electronically, you can click on the link to go directly to the release. If you are reading this in print, you have to type this into your prompt line and then your computer can take you to the site.

## COUNTDOWN (As of February 3)

The number of days until...

RENEWAL OF MARRIAGE VOWS – 13/14 days

ASK FATHER JOHN - 15

CHILDREN'S MASS - 34

ASH WEDNESDAY - 38

MOTHER'S DAY - 46

FIRST CONFESSIONS - 48

SOLEMNITY OF THE ANNUNCIATION - 50