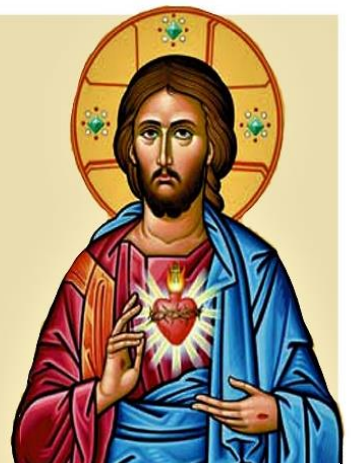


# SACRED HEART HEARTBEAT

ENGLISH LANGUAGE  
ROMAN CATHOLIC PARISH



**7<sup>th</sup> SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME February 23/24, 2019**

## **COMING SPECIAL EVENTS AND CELEBRATIONS**

- 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  
Imposition of ashes AFTER each Mass and after the weekend Masses
- 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 at 3:30 PM at St. Mary of Nazareth – All are welcome
- March 23/24 – Anointing of the Sick at Both Masses
- March 25 – Solemnity of the Annunciation of the Lord
- March 29 – Daylight Savings time begins
- April 5 - First Friday – Adoration following the 8:30 AM Mass
- April 13/14 - **SECOND SUNDAY COLLECTION**
- April 21 – Palm Sunday (In Jordan we follow the Orthodox calendar)
- April 23 – Memorial of St. George
- April 25 – HOLY THURSDAY
- April 26 – GOOD FRIDAY
- April 27 – HOLY SATURDAY – EASTER VIGIL
- April 28 – EASTER SUNDAY Morning Mass at 10 AM at the Jesuit Center



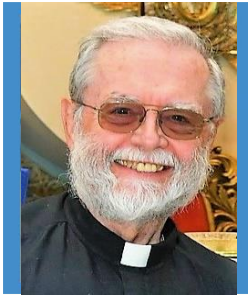
*Pope Francis'*

MONTHLY  
PRAYER  
INTENTIONS

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

**THE LINK TO THE VIDEO FOR THIS MONTH’S INTENTION:**

[https://youtu.be/rs07jQFJ7S0?fbclid=IwAR2jJV6rJoa2z0dxqcMHRzYUOjbN\\_TLumnicJbTr\\_r c6XE7x3q5BfCH79Tc](https://youtu.be/rs07jQFJ7S0?fbclid=IwAR2jJV6rJoa2z0dxqcMHRzYUOjbN_TLumnicJbTr_r c6XE7x3q5BfCH79Tc)



# RAMBLINGS

## OF THE REVEREND REDACTOR

I am willing to admit that this week is one of those where preparing a homily has its problems. The Gospel is itself a homily, and the words of Jesus raise as many questions as they theoretically answer. The behavior Jesus calls for is, unfortunately, a far cry from how many of us act in our daily lives, and we find ourselves thinking, “How in the world can I EVER do that?”

Part of the answer is that Jesus is not calling us to act, per se, but rather to live. All the actions He describes should – must – come out of love. We don’t “do” them in order to obey some commandment, but rather we do them because we love the other person. We give up something – we put up with something – we make a sacrifice – not to follow Jesus, not to “gain heaven,” but because we love the other person. Perhaps we love them because we see Christ in them; that has been the experience of many saints. Francis of Assisi saw God in fish and daffodils and even the sun. Perhaps we love them because we have been taught in our childhood to see God in other people, and that habit has persisted into our adult years. Perhaps we love them because we have actually had the experience of God in our lives, and it has changed how we see the world.

But whatever the reason, whatever the teaching, whatever our own personal experience -it presents a challenge to someone trying to prepare a homily. As I write these words, I have NO IDEA what the homily will look like this coming weekend. (Sounds like a teaser for a film or a tv show, doesn’t it – COME AND SEE what Father John ends up talking about this weekend. I can hardly wait to see that myself!)

Part of the problem with preparing a homily, of course, is that there are too many things to talk about. God is alone a pretty rich topic. Add to that Jesus Christ, the Son of God and Second Person of the Holy Trinity, not to mention Redeemer of World and Savior of All Mankind. The Holy Spirit is also an astounding inspiration for preaching and listening and prayer. There are the readings – events of the week in the news – events in the parish, both past and upcoming – feasts and events in the Church – and the ever-present obligation to teach the congregation as well as to inspire and help make relevant the readings of the day.

This obligation to reflect on the readings and the other elements of our faith is not restricted to the priest. You, too, as members of Christ’s Mystical Body, should engage in this activity on a regular basis. You won’t get the chance to share those reflections from the altar on a weekend Mass – but if you engage in creating a homily in your mind, you will be surprised at how many times during the week you will find either more material for your train of thought, or as is more often the case, the opportunity to share those thoughts with someone else.

FIGIAT – Find God In All Things. If you take the weekend readings and spend your own time reflecting on them – pretend you DO have to give a homily (and this is especially useful if the priest at Mass is boring you to tears!) – it is amazing and a testimony to how present God really is that you will be able to respond to questions and situations and the need of friends as “things” arise that just happen to be what you have been praying with and reflecting about. God is full of surprises, and He will help you to surprise others as well. And maybe even yourself.

So take the weekend readings and reflect on them and think about them, how you might apply their lesson in your life – and of course, pray with them, asking God to be part of the exercise. And as we pray - let us continue to pray for one another.

Fr. John’s Email: [pastorsh@jordanjesuits.org](mailto:pastorsh@jordanjesuits.org) Facebook: Parish Group. (Ask to be admitted)  
Fr. John’s Mobile: 079 013-8985 (If no answer, leave a message.) Website: [Jordanjesuits.org](http://Jordanjesuits.org)

**COMMENTS** – I don't usually get written notes on things that appear in Heartbeat, but I did get an email after last week's RAMBLINGS, and I thought that I would share part of it with you. The writer is in the US and among many other things, is a Eucharistic Minister.

“First and more important is what I see in my hospital ministry, regarding the prayers and rituals that we learned as children. When I give Communion to these very sick patients, I start with the Lord's Prayer and end with the Hail Mary and Glory Be. Often a patient is very emotional, sad, and almost desperate. Almost. When sometimes they cry, it is always at the beginning of the second prayer, the Hail Mary. Somehow, that opens the floodgate, not the Our Father. Without fail. How wonderful to have these prayers to grab onto for dear life. I have seen these prayers calm down belligerent patients and leave them weeping. In one case, where the nurse was about to call security guards, I decided, after wondering about wondering about my safety, to go in. After cursing at me in the foulest language, we prayed, he started to calm down, he wept, and received Communion. His name, translated into English, means beloved one. I will never forget that. How powerful, these traditions that we learned! How lucky we are that they are there when we need them!

Second, and shorter. I have ruled out trying to dance with women who don't know how and perhaps count their steps. It is a miserable experience. After one experience, I never try it again. I simply say that I don't like the music!!!!”

## **LAST CALL**

In one week we will open the remaining Advent Basket cans that we have. If you have not returned yours, I would hope that at some point you would deliver whatever money might be inside. But I feel guilty not being able to take action with the money donated as we wait to close the books, so we will move ahead with or without the remaining cans. For those who have donated and turned in your cans, MANY THANKS and I will shortly be able to report how much we raised.

In the meantime, we have delivered heating units – our pot and candle arrangement – to families in the Ajloun area, refugee camps and families here in Amman. We have also helped to provide food boxes and 100 blankets for 50 families, and a donation of toys is being distributed by JRS as they make home visits. Although these are small efforts in the face of large problems, they are not small to the families who have received heat, or food or warm blankets. None of this would be possible without the generosity of this community – so Thank You, Thank You, Thank You.

## **SIX SMALL POINTS FOR REFLECTION**

- 1 - Once all the villagers decided to pray for rain. On the day of prayer all the people gathered, but only one boy came with an umbrella. That's FAITH.
- 2 - When you throw babies in the air, they laugh because they know you will catch them. That's TRUST.
- 3 - Every night we go to bed without any assurance of being alive the next morning, but still we set the alarms to wake up. That's HOPE.
- 4 - We plan big things for tomorrow in spite of zero knowledge of the future. That's CONFIDENCE
- 5 - We see the world suffering, but still we get married and have children. That's LOVE.
- 6 - On an old man's shirt was written a sentence 'I am not 80 years old; I am sweet 16 with 64 years of experience.' That's ATTITUDE.

*When I was a child, I thought nap time was punishment. Now it's like a mini-vacation.*



Ticket Price – 50 JOD inclusive  
Two bottles of wine on the table  
Welcome drink courtesy of Haddad.

Irish Band from Dublin, plus DJ

For reservations or more information  
Call Maha at 06 553-3616

Welcome reception – 8 PM  
Dinner served 9 PM  
Dress – Smart casual (no jeans!)

## Ask Father John

Thank you to all those who took part in the “Ask Father John” evening last week at Paul and Vivian David’s house. The food – as it always is – was superb, the welcome warm, and the questions ranged from history to theology to spirituality to current trends in the Church. Certainly a stimulating time, so thanks to everyone who came for making it possible.

## Blessing of the Animals

*by Faith Shearin*

At my daughter’s Catholic school there is  
a blessing of the animals at which  
the children line up with their fat hamsters  
and gauzy goldfish, their dogs so old  
they can barely climb the hill. They bring  
their cats with bald patches  
and their lizards sleeping in cages  
under a fake sun. In the line  
to the priest there are snakes  
with white eyes and birds without songs.  
There are ant farms and worms and rats  
with long, exposed tails. The children  
wait hours for their animals  
to be blessed: for the priest’s hand  
to hover over the weight they carry.  
They bring shoe boxes full of turtles,  
hairy spiders, frogs with dry skin.

I like watching my daughter  
among the other children: her dog  
small in her arms, her gaze protective.

Children believe in the power  
of animals, tucked into their feathers  
and shells; they believe  
in blessings: the sprinkle  
of holy water, each tiny  
unexplained life.