

SACRED HEART HEARTBEAT

ENGLISH LANGUAGE
ROMAN CATHOLIC PARISH



14TH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME

July 7/8, 2018

SECOND SUNDAY COLLECTION FOR THE PARISH

FOR JULY



Pope Francis'
MONTHLY
PRAYER
INTENTIONS

Priests and their Pastoral Ministry

That priests, who experience fatigue and loneliness in their pastoral work, may find help and comfort in their intimacy with the Lord and in their friendship with their brother priests.

COMING SPECIAL EVENTS AND CELEBRATIONS

July 6-16 – Fr. Robert McChesney will be in Beirut

July 7/8 – 2nd Sunday Collection for Sacred Heart Parish

July 22 – Sr. Joana Carneiro will renew her vows at the Mass at Freres at 6 PM

A farewell reception will take place following Mass at the Jesuit Center. All are invited.

July 23 – Ask Fr. John – 7 PM (*Tentative – location TBA*)

July 24 – St. Charbel Makhluף

July 25 – St. James, Apostle

July 26 – Ss. Joachim and Anne, Parents of the Blessed Mother

July 31 – ST. IGNATIUS LOYOLA, FOUNDER OF THE SOCIETY OF JESUS

(Observed as a Solemnity at the Jesuit Chapel- Reception following the 8:30 Mass)

August 3 - First Friday; Adoration following Mass in the Francis Xavier Chapel

August 6 – Feast of the Transfiguration of the Lord

August 10 – Feast of St. Lawrence

August 15 – Solemnity of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary (*Holy Day of Obligation*)

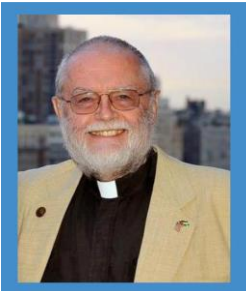
(Mass at the Jesuit Center at 8:30 AM and 6 PM)

August 22 – Queenship of the Blessed Virgin Mary

August 24 – Feast of St. Bartholomew

MASS SCHEDULE

<u>DAY</u>	<u>TIME</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>
Mon - Sat	8:30 AM	Jesuit Center
Saturday	5:00 PM	Sweifieh, St. Mary of Nazareth
Sunday	6:00 PM	Jabal Hussein, St. Jean Baptiste de la Salle (Al Razi Street)



RAMBLINGS

OF THE REVEREND REDACTOR

One of the recurring conversations during my recent visit to the US was a barrage of questions about Jordan and living in Jordan, and what was Jordan like. I respect my friends too much to give in to the temptation to quiz them to see if they actually knew where Jordan is – but I suspect many would not have been able to answer with any degree of precision. Now I'm not judging – when the Provincial first suggested he might need me to go to Amman, I confess I went to my room and looked it up.

But in general, Americans are relatively unaware of what goes on in much of the rest of the world. And for the most part, when there is news from a foreign country, it falls into the category of “bad news” – riots, starvation, corruption – the things that make headlines, without actually shedding much light on that country and what it may really be like. Certainly my friends were interested in knowing more about Jordan, and I was delighted to educate them. They knew I live here, and so they knew they could ask someone with at least a little information.

Reflecting on that, however, I found myself a little saddened that the focus was always on the foreign country, and very few questions about my work, or the Catholic Church, or the faith. It occurs to me that perhaps people don't know as much as they might about our Church because they don't know anyone to ask – or with whom they feel comfortable talking. That is one reason I started the “Ask Father John” sessions, because I found people who had many questions about the Church and the Catholic faith and they had never had the chance to ask anyone. (If there is interest and a venue available, the next of these will be on July 23rd, and all are welcome. You don't have to be a Catholic, or even a Christian, in order to attend. See the article on the last page.)

It might also be, however, that people don't realize who their Catholic friends are. They might have questions, but they're not really conscious of the fact that you are a Catholic. Because my friends know that I live in Jordan, they felt free to ask about the country and what's happening here. Certainly my friends know that I am a Catholic. (The “Father” in front of my name tends to give it away.) Do your friends know that you are a Roman Catholic? And if they do ask about the Catholic faith, are you confident that you can provide the correct answers?

Being a Catholic is a life-long commitment. Not simply a commitment to go to Mass on Sunday and make your Easter duty and raise children in the faith, but a commitment to keep deepening and exploring your own faith. Part of that is knowing your Church, and if you have not read or studied anything about the Church since your Confirmation, you are sadly out of touch with what is happening in our Church. Many people have misconceptions – “We no longer have to refrain from eating meat on Fridays.” Actually not true – the obligation still exists, but now we may substitute some other penitential practice, but you have to observe one or the other. “I can't receive Communion because I am divorced.” Also not true. You may not receive if you are divorced and have re-married without getting an annulment, but nothing in the act of being divorced is in itself sinful. Those are two of many examples. What are you doing to actively sustain and deepen your faith and your knowledge of the faith?

Let us continue to pray for one another.

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

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

Website: Jordanjesuits.org **Facebook:** Go to Parish Group and ask to be admitted to the group. You will be.

SAINT OF THE WEEK – St. Benedict

St. Benedict is believed to have been born around 480, as the son to a Roman noble of Norcia and the twin to his sister, Scholastica. He was sent to Rome to finish his education, but he saw that his fellow students spent their time in the pursuit of pleasure, not truth. Benedict watched in horror as vice unraveled the lives and ethics of his companions. Afraid for his soul, he fled Rome, gave up his inheritance and lived in a small village as a hermit under the direction of another hermit, Romanus.

After years of prayer, word of his holiness brought nearby monks to ask for his leadership. He warned them he would be too strict for them, but they insisted, and then tried to poison him when his warning proved true. When he prayed a blessing over the poisoned cup - it shattered. So Benedict was on his own again, but not for long. The next set of followers were more sincere and he set up twelve monasteries in Subiaco where monks lived in separate communities of twelve. He left these monasteries when the envious attacks of another hermit made it impossible to continue the spiritual leadership he had taken.

But it was in Monte Cassino he founded the monastery that became the roots of the Church's monastic system. Instead of founding small separate communities he gathered his disciples into one whole community. His own sister, Saint Scholastica, settled nearby to live a religious life. His beliefs and instructions on religious life were collected in what is now known as the Rule of Saint Benedict, still directing religious life after 15 centuries.



In this tiny but powerful Rule, Benedict put what he had learned about the power of speaking and oratorical rhythms at the service of the Gospel. "Let us consider our place in sight of God and of his angels. Let us rise in chanting that our hearts and voices harmonize." There was always a voice reading aloud in his communities at meals, to receive guests, to educate novices. Hearing words one time was not enough -- "We wish this Rule to be read frequently to the community."

Benedict realized the strongest and truest foundation for the power of words was the Word of God itself: "For what page or word of the Bible is not a perfect rule for temporal life?" He had experienced the power of God's word as expressed in Scripture.

For prayer, Benedict turned to the psalms, the very songs and poems from the Jewish liturgy that Jesus himself had prayed. To join our voices with Jesus in praise of God during the day was so important that Benedict called it the "Work of God." And nothing was to be put before the work of God. "Immediately upon hearing the signal for the Divine Office all work will cease."

But it wasn't enough to just speak the words. Benedict instructed his followers to practice sacred reading -- the study of the very Scriptures they would be praying in the Work of God. In this *lectio divina*, he and his monks memorized the Scripture, studied it, and contemplated it until it became part of their being. Four to six hours were set aside each day for this sacred reading. In Benedictine prayer, our hearts are the vessel empty of thoughts and intellectual striving. All that remains is the trust in God's providence to fill us. Emptying ourselves this way brings God's abundant goodness bubbling up in our hearts, first with an inspiration or two, and finally overflowing our heart with contemplative love.

Benedict died on 21 March 543, not long after his sister. It is said he died with high fever on the very day God told him he would. He is the patron saint of Europe and students. St. Benedict is often pictured with a bell, a broken tray, a raven, or a crosier. His feast day is celebrated on July 11.

JULY 22 – VOW MASS AND FAREWELL RECEPTION

Sr. Joana Carneiro will be leaving Amman before the end of July and moving on to her new assignment in South Sudan. On Sunday, July 22, she will renew her vows as a Comboni Sister at the 6 PM Mass at Jean Baptiste de LaSalle Church. There will be a farewell reception immediately after the Mass at the Jesuit Center, to which all are invited. Although we celebrate in different places, we are all one parish, and all are invited to share in this special Mass, and the reception. If you are interested in helping with the reception – organizing, setting up, contributing your favorite recipe – please contact Fr. John, Marian Karmandarian or Dr. Barbara Burgan to volunteer. And THANK YOU!

JULY 31 – SOLEMNITY OF ST. IGNATIUS LOYOLA

As you know, St. Ignatius Loyola founded the Society of Jesus, the Jesuits. In our chapel, this day is celebrated as a Solemnity. Mass will be at the usual time of 8:30 AM, and following the Mass there will be a small reception in honor of our founding. Coffee and juice and some pastries – nothing elaborate but for those who are able to attend, we invite you and look forward to sharing with you something of our own celebration.

“ASK FATHER JOHN” – Checking for Interest and A Venue

Summer may not be a good time, but perhaps with gentler schedules, more people may be free to attend another session where any question is permitted and nothing is off the table. If you would be interested in attending a session on July 23rd – a Monday night, starting about 7 PM – please let Father John know. If there is not a “critical mass,” we will wait and try again when more people have returned. So if you would like to come, please RSVP no later than Thursday, July 19th. And if you would be willing to host the session on July 23rd, having a place to go is always important.

COMING AND GOING

If you are new to the Parish, please go online and register at jordanjesuits.org. You will see a link to Sacred Heart Parish and on the right side of that page is a link to the registration. We apologize in advance – in a little while we will be asking everyone to update their registrations, but when you register you will have the opportunity to get the newsletter and other announcements by email, and to volunteer for different parish activities.

And if you are in the Parish and are leaving – please let us know. A note to Fr. John will do the job. If you receive the weekly newsletter we will keep you on the list until you ask us to remove you, but we would also like to say goodbye and give you a farewell prayer or a blessing or a Bon Voyage! Thank you for what you have done for and with us during your time here, and all the best wherever you are headed next.

