

SACRED HEART HEARTBEAT

ENGLISH LANGUAGE
ROMAN CATHOLIC PARISH



4th Sunday of EASTER
May 17/18, 2019

CONGRATULATIONS
TO THE FIRST COMMUNION CLASS OF 2019

Suhail Elias
Rakan Elias
Kinan Fakes
Kenzi Fakes
Alexander Masannat
Angelina Mubarak
Siobhan Predmore
Claire Mathews

Helena Babel
Alice Doherty
Isabelle Doherty
Victor Alvarez-Crespo
Sara Alvarez-Crespo
Seungyeon Bae
Cyrus VanDorn
Zachary Smith

(Will make his First Communion in Poland)

*First Holy
Communion*



COMING SPECIAL EVENTS AND CELEBRATIONS

May 18 - FIRST HOLY COMMUNION AT SWEIFIEH – RECEPTION TO FOLLOW

May 24 – Our Lady of the Way

Ramadan Project – trip to Anjara

May 25 – Independence Day in Jordan

May 26 – Father John leaves for the US until July 4

May 30 – THE ASCENSION OF OUR LORD - A Holy Day of Obligation

May 31 – Feast of the Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary

June 6 – Birthday of Fr. Anton, Pastor of St. Mary of Nazareth

June 7 - First Friday – Adoration following the 8:30 AM Mass

June 8 – Birthday of Fr. Michael Linden, SJ, Jesuit Superior in Jordan

June 10 – Mary, Mother of the Church

June 11 – Feast of St. Barnabas, Apostle

June 13 – St. Anthony of Padua

June 15/16 – **SOLEMNITY OF PENTECOST**

SECOND SUNDAY COLLECTION

June 21 – St. Aloysius Gonzaga, SJ

First Day of Summer - Father's Day (Take a priest to lunch!)

June 23 – Solemnity of the Holy Trinity

June 24 – Solemnity of the Birth of John the Baptist

June 29 – Solemnity of Ss. Peter and Paul, Apostles

July 3 – Feast of St. Thomas, Apostle

July 5 – Solemnity of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus

Patronal Feast of our parish

July 6 – Reception after Mass for the parish feast

July 13/14 - **SECOND SUNDAY COLLECTION**

July 15 – Feast of the Dedication of the Basilica of the Holy Sepulchre

July 22 – Feast of St. Mary Magdalen

July 25- Feast of St. James, Apostle

July 31 – Solemnity of St. Ignatius Loyola, founder of the Jesuits



Pope Francis' FOR MAY

MONTHLY
PRAYER
INTENTIONS

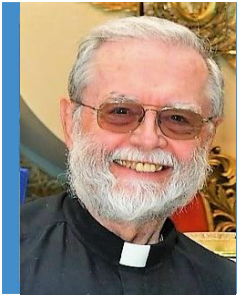
That the Church in Africa, through the commitment of its members, may be the seed of unity among her peoples and a sign of hope for this continent.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Z7hFaaXozPQ>

FILM SERIES AT THE JESUIT CENTER

The regular Wednesday film series has been suspended for Ramadan and will resume on Wednesday, June 12 at 6 PM.

THANK YOU to all those who came out to help with and host the Iftar Dinner last Tuesday night. It was a great evening and the performance afterwards made it an even more special evening. It was a great contribution by our parish to Ramadan and to the community.



RAMBLINGS

OF THE REVEREND REDACTOR

I suppose this is the closest I get to being a parent. (Except maybe for having a dog.) We celebrate First Holy Communion, and the children with whom I have been spending time almost every week since September have completed the program, reached their goal and they're off and away to new adventures. Some I may see in passing in Church, and others will be leaving the country and I will probably never see them again. This is the life of a teacher, and on different levels, the life of a parent. I find myself thinking about the things I didn't get to teach, the things I could have taught better and the things I'm fairly sure I tried to teach but that never really took hold in the minds and lives of 7 and 8 year-old kids.

On the other hand, I now have Saturday afternoons with a lot more free time. Of course, before I know it, I will be sending out announcements for the 2020 First Communion class, and the cycle will start again. Teaching the word of God, preparing members of the community for the reception of the sacraments – that is the call of the priest. It is also the call of every Catholic, so do NOT be among those who sit back and think (if they don't actually say it out loud) “Oh that's Father's job, let him take care of that.” I have to say, my experience with the parents of the First Communion candidates in Amman has been very positive; they have been involved and caring and supportive and working with their children was (almost always) a joy.

The corollary is that while teaching never stops, so too learning should never stop. To the adults who are reading this – and I rather suspect that few children read these weekly Ramblings – how are you doing in your ongoing education in the Catholic faith? When was the last time you read a book about Scripture, or contemporary theology, or Church history or prayer or the life of a saint or.... Hmm. I hear a silence echoing back to me. When was the last time you went to a talk or a lecture, took part in even an informal “class” or discussion group about the faith? Have you ever been to an “Ask Father John” session?

We can announce classes and events for ongoing education, but that doesn't really accomplish anything if NOBODY COMES. Or responds. We've had a couple of scheduled events that we cancelled because there was NO response. I don't mean one or two, I mean NO response. If what is offered doesn't tickle your fancy, fair enough – what would? We ask for suggestions frequently, and again – as they say on the social media pages – crickets.

First Communion class is required, if a child is going to receive the sacrament. Ditto Confirmation, and you cannot get married in the Catholic Church without a program of preparation. But for living your daily life as a Catholic – that is up to you. It is a responsibility, and a serious one, but we don't send out tests to see how you're doing, you don't have to sign a form saying how long it has been since your last confession before you receive Communion or if you have been attending Mass faithfully. That is between you and God. (Note I don't say between “you and your conscience” because many people have not been well-educated in what that means. Your conscience is not simply how you feel. What does it mean? AHA – another topic you can look up and study.)

But you DO have an obligation not just to educate your children, but to educate yourself. I can help – but the work is YOUR responsibility.

Let us continue to pray for one another and for a world that needs changing.

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

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

Facebook: If you are on Facebook, go to Parish Group and ask to be admitted to the group. You will be.

A RAMADAN MISSION TRIP

On Friday, May 24th, we will head up to Anjara to bring lemon trees to poor families in the area. The local priest is helping to coordinate and identify recipients. They can grow and use the fruit or sell it. How many trees we are able to provide will probably depend on how many people sign up. We'll provide a bus and lunch, we're hoping that some of the orphans will also participate, and we will bring the trees with us in a separate truck (or trucks). Schedule and details in the next HEARTBEAT but if you're interested, please let Father John or Alejandra (alejandra.susarrey@gmail.com) know ASAP.



On this day when we celebrate the Eucharist, perhaps it is good to look at how the Mass and the Holy Eucharist was described around the year 153 AD, in the early days of the Church.

From the first apology in defence of the Christians by Saint Justin, martyr

The celebration of the Eucharist

No one may share the Eucharist with us unless he believes that what we teach is true, unless he is washed in the regenerating waters of baptism for the remission of his sins, and unless he lives in accordance with the principles given us by Christ.

We do not consume the eucharistic bread and wine as if it were ordinary food and drink, for we have been taught that as Jesus Christ our Savior became a man of flesh and blood by the power of the Word of God, so also the food that our flesh and blood assimilates for its nourishment becomes the flesh and blood of the incarnate Jesus by the power of his own words contained in the prayer of thanksgiving.

The apostles, in their recollections, which are called gospels, handed down to us what Jesus commanded them to do. They tell us that he took bread, gave thanks and said: *Do this in memory of me. This is my body.* In the same way he took the cup, he gave thanks and said: *This is my blood.* The Lord gave this command to them alone. Ever since then we have constantly reminded one another of these things. The rich among us help the poor and we are always united. For all that we receive we praise the Creator of the universe through his Son Jesus Christ and through the Holy Spirit.

On Sunday we have a common assembly of all our members, whether they live in the city or the outlying districts. The recollections of the apostles or the writings of the prophets are read, as long as there is time. When the reader has finished, the president of the assembly speaks to us; he urges everyone to imitate the examples of virtue we have heard in the readings. Then we all stand up together and pray.

On the conclusion of our prayer, bread and wine and water are brought forward. The president offers prayers and gives thanks to the best of his ability, and the people give assent by saying, "Amen." The eucharist is distributed, everyone present communicates, and the deacons take it to those who are absent. The wealthy, if they wish, may make a contribution, and they themselves decide the amount. The collection is placed in the custody of the president, who uses it to help the orphans and widows and all who for any reason are in distress, whether because they are sick, in prison, or away from home. In a word, he takes care of all who are in need.

We hold our common assembly on Sunday because it is the first day of the week, the day on which God put darkness and chaos to flight and created the world, and because on that same day our savior Jesus Christ rose from the dead. For he was crucified on Friday and on Sunday he appeared to his apostles and disciples and taught them the things that we have passed on for your consideration.