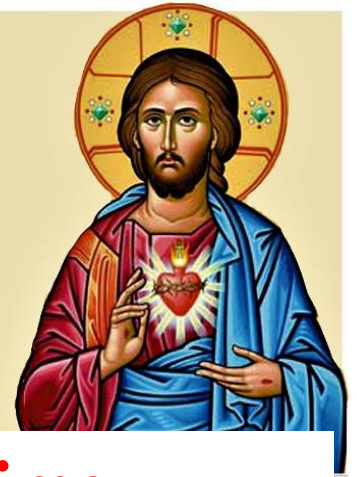


# SACRED HEART HEARTBEAT

ENGLISH LANGUAGE  
ROMAN CATHOLIC PARISH



## 33<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Ordinary Time November 16/17, 2019

### COMING SPECIAL EVENTS AND CELEBRATIONS

**November 18 – FATHER JOHN MEETS FATHER CHRISTMAS – 7 PM, Bank Al-Etihad**

November 23/24 – SOLEMNITY OF CHRIST THE KING

Nov 30/Dec. 1 – First Sunday of Advent

December 3 – Feast of St. Francis Xavier – reception following the morning Mass

December 6 – First Friday; adoration following the morning Mass

December 6 – Final Performance of the Jesuit Center Arts Program, 6 PM – Free Admission

December 9 – Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception

Ask Father John (Location to TBA)

December 14 – Mass for Children, Sweifieh

December 17 – Birthday of Fr. McChesney, SJ and Pope Francis

December 24 – Christmas Eve and Vigil Mass to be scheduled

December 25 – Mass of Christmas morning at the Jesuit Center at 10:00 AM

December 26 – 28 – Regular morning Mass at the Jesuit Center

December 28/28 – Solemnity of the Holy Family

January 1 – Mass at the Jesuit Center 10 AM



*Pope Francis'*

MONTHLY  
PRAYER  
INTENTIONS

### FOR NOVEMBER

**Dialogue and Reconciliation**

**in the Near East**

That a spirit of dialogue, encounter, and reconciliation emerge in the Near East, where diverse religious communities share their lives together.

THE POPE'S VIDEO MESSAGE FOR THIS MONTH:

<https://youtu.be/wi6VxvIU4mQ>

## MASS SCHEDULE

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

**LAST CHANCE - IF YOU DON'T HAVE YOUR TICKETS YET – TOO LATE??**

# FATHER JOHN MEETS FATHER CHRISTMAS

Monday, November 18 – 7 PM SHARP!  
Halim Salfiti Theater Bank Al Etihad HQ

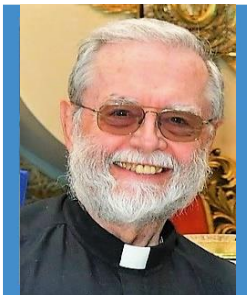


*TICKETS FOR THE OCTOBER 7<sup>TH</sup> CONCERT VALID FOR THIS EVENT.*

**TICKETS ARE AVAILABLE AT:**

KARASI – [www.karasi.com](http://www.karasi.com)

Orders at – [www.jordanjesuits.org](http://www.jordanjesuits.org) click Sacred Heart Parish



## RAMBLINGS OF THE REVEREND REDACTOR

Last week I was in the enviable position of having two homilies for the same Mass. I used one, and since I am still processing my retreat time, and preparing for my concert, I thought I would use this space to share the other. It is longer than my usual “Ramblings” so it runs into an extra page.

### **A HOMILY FOR THE 32<sup>ND</sup> WEEK OF ORDINARY TIME**

I have been to a lot of countries and to a lot of places, and it is pretty much universally true that one of the first things a new arrival hears – and you hear it over and over and over – is Welcome. It is a greeting, a space filler – welcome is the standard hello and to someone not used to it, it is something that rings on your ears and your consciousness.

One of the things that was been interesting when I got to Amman was how many people ask How do you like Jordan? And when people talk about Amman, one of the things they are sure to say is that it is a very small city, a small community. This may be said in the case of talking about how supportive and close everyone is. But it is as often used when talking about how people gossip, how they talk behind the backs of others, how this place can be like a soap opera. The grapevine – the gossip mill. That is how you learn things, how information is transmitted. The thing that fascinates me – people talk about this like it is something good!

In a place where actions are so tightly controlled, conversation becomes one of the few ways people can be aggressive. They talk about people behind their back, they create dramatic scenarios, they create tension and dissension – and some people see this aspect of life in Amman as something good. Or at the very least, something unavoidable, and therefore, acceptable.

Let me remind you of a sentence from today's Second Reading – May our Lord Jesus Christ console your hearts and strengthen them in every good deed AND WORD.

Let me be perfectly clear – it's not good. It's not healthy, it's not honest and it most certainly is not Christian. If you have a real problem with someone – either see them and talk about it directly, or give it up. Giving it up is an option, and one that is particularly Christian. Not every problem needs a confrontation, not every slight or injury, real or imagined, needs to be healed or solved or even talked out. We are Christians – and part of our teaching is that we are supposed to pray for humility – we are supposed to ask for the chance to be insulted and misunderstood and even persecuted. We are supposed to forgive those who injure us. But he was wrong, Father – SHE was the one who started – but did you hear what they said? Yes – and in the great scope of the vast world, just how important is it? Are we talking about a concrete injury, or are we really talking about your vanity, your hurt feelings, your bruised sense of pride or self-importance?

In his directions for spiritual directors, St. Ignatius has one note that says if someone says something and you are not sure how it should be taken, you are under the obligation to assume the best possible interpretation of it. You assume that what you do not understand was meant in the best possible way. That's not a bad trait for us to carry into our lives – if someone does something and we are not sure – SURE – of his or her motives, then as Christians, we should always put the best possible interpretation on that action. Many people never even get as far as thinking about interpretation – they get caught in the injured victim moment, and never manage to get beyond it.

Back to the Second Reading – pray that we may be delivered from confused and evil men, for faith is not given to everyone. (We know that he means women too.) It was true in Paul's day and true today in Amman – not everyone who comes into our Church or into our lives is a saint. And not everyone is a devil. Most of us fall somewhere in between. But our call as Christians is to try and act like a saint, to live like a saint. And that means dealing with the people who are less than perfect. And dealing with them as Christians.

The First Reading is very dramatic – eat the flesh of pig or die. And they chose to die. The excerpt for today doesn't go to the very end but all seven sons chose to die and their mother followed them. Because for them it wasn't a question of eating pork, it was a question of being faithful. They knew what the demands of their faith were – and they refused to make a compromise.

Compromise is so easy. Compromise means you abandon your faith, your principles, in the cause of keeping peace, not getting people disturbed. The early Christians in Rome were told by the authorities they had to put a pinch of incense on the altar to the Roman gods. Everybody did it – most people didn't believe it- and once you did, you were free to worship as you chose. The Romans were very tolerant of other religions, and as long as you fit into society, as long as you went along with other people, as long as you didn't make waves – the authorities let you alone. There were many different religions openly being practiced in Rome. Jews had no trouble – various religions from other countries had no problems. Only the Christians were persecuted, only the Christians were sent into the arenas and fed to lions and burned at the stake.

Because the Christians wouldn't compromise. It was only a pinch of incense – except that for them it was much more – it was the integrity of their faith.

What's the pinch of incense in your life? What are the compromises you are faced with? What areas of your Catholic faith do you hide or minimize or ignore in the cause of going along, not getting people upset, of being one of the crowd? What activities do you engage in that aren't really Christian?

It is very seldom that we are faced with challenges to our faith that are as dramatic as the woman with seven sons we heard about in the First Reading today. Those kinds of moments are highly visible and very clear

and distinct. Our challenges are more subtle. The challenge we face isn't made in front of the king, but rather in our offices or our living rooms or our school. Often enough, it doesn't involve great public moments but small personal ones. Now some like to turn those into great public moments. They magnify their injury and blow up their grievance until often it is unrecognizable – and the bigger it grows, the harder it will be for it to end up in peace. Because to tell the truth, many people love their injuries. They don't want them resolved. They want re-hash them and chew on them and worry them like a dog does a bone. That, too, is not the Christian response.

Today we find ourselves two weeks away from the Feast of Christ the King. Two weeks from the end of the year and then the beginning of the season of preparation for celebrating the birth of Christ. As we prepare to end the year, let us remind ourselves that we shape the environment and the community, we create the world we live in, life in Amman is what we will make it. And for all those things in our world we don't create and we can't control – we can always control how we react. As we think of all those times and all those instances when we don't react as Christians – it is time to change.

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

## DAILY REFLECTIONS DURING ADVENT

Reminder: If you did not receive the Lenten reflections, you are not on the list to receive the Advent reflections. Please advise Father John if you wish to be added to the list. Reflections will also be available on the Facebook page for the Parish, "Parish Group."

## THANK YOU

Last week the Second Collection, dedicated to the Care for the Poor program, raised a total of 652.40 JOD from the two collections at Sweifieh and Freres, plus some assorted foreign currency. Thank you for your help.



## THE RETURN OF THE ADVENT BASKETS

Time to plan ahead. Advent baskets will be ready to be distributed after Mass on Christ the King weekend. It is a great family practice, and just as valuable for individuals. If you will not be at the Mass, contact Fr. John to arrange for a time to get your own "basket."

This year we hope to have the Advent Basket cans collected by Christmas. If people are traveling or away, we will accept the cans whenever they are ready. All the money collected will go to projects of the Care for the Poor group. The account for the Care for the Poor project is low, and the needs are many.

Thank you in advance for your generosity.

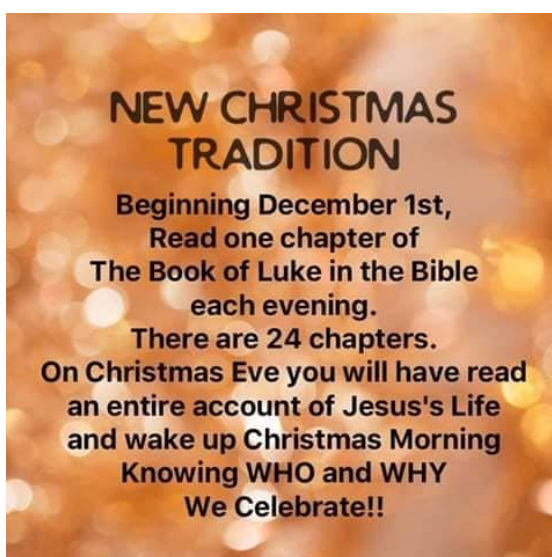
## ALL SOULS REMEMBRANCE DURING NOVEMBER

At all of the Masses during the month of November, the names of family members and friends who have died will be placed on the altar and remembered during Mass. Before Mass slips with names on them may be added to the names already in the box. There is a form available on the back page, but you may also simply write names on your own paper and add them. Fr. John apologizes that the slips and the box were not in place from the beginning of the month, but he was away on retreat and in planning, he simply forgot. Fortunately God already knows – but it is an ancient and rich tradition to add the names of our loved ones anyway. As we pray for them, let us also remember to pray for each other.

## ADVENT PREPARATION

Although Advent may seem a long way away, it actually isn't. We will celebrate the First Sunday of Advent on November 30 at Sweifieh and December 1 at Freres. The booklet "Preparing for Advent" will be available next week, and there will be some changes in the Mass to help us more deeply appreciate this special season. The daily reflections will be sent out in emails for those who have requested them, and they will also be available on the Facebook Page – Parish Group is the title of the page. Of course there will be the Advent Baskets, which can serve as a daily reminder of the need to help take care of one another, and some families continue the tradition of Advent candles, and Advent calendars. There may be other aids along the way.

I came across the suggestion below, and it is easy and powerful, and particularly something that a family can do together each day during December. If you have an Advent tradition you would like to share, please let us know so we can add them to forthcoming pages of the HEARTBEAT.



**ACTING**



**JESUIT CENTER**

The Arts of Theatre Program at the Jesuit Center

Invites you to an Evening of Entertainment

Featuring:

The Jesuit Center Community Choir (JCCC)-Arts Program

**DANCING**

**SINGING**

**Friday December 6**  
**@ 6:00pm Sharp**

**College De La Salle (Frere)**  
**58 Al-Razi Street Jabal AL**  
**Hussein**

Admission: Free    Doors will be opened at 5:00pm

For More information call: (079-144-2301) (078-118-2503)



***November is the Month of the Holy Souls ...***

***Father, please remember my beloved dead at our altars:***

*(Names below and on reverse)*

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