

SACRED HEART HEARTBEAT

ENGLISH LANGUAGE
ROMAN CATHOLIC PARISH



FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT November 30/December 1, 2019

COMING SPECIAL EVENTS AND CELEBRATIONS

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 16 – Beginning of the Advent Novena

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

December 24 – 5 pm Christmas Eve Mass at Sweifieh

8:30 PM Ceremony of Carols and Vigil Mass at the Jesuit Center (*Tentative*)

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 28/29 – Solemnity of the Holy Family

January 1 – Mass at the Jesuit Center 10 AM



Pope Francis'

MONTHLY
PRAYER
INTENTIONS

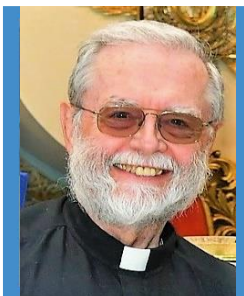
FOR DECEMBER

The Future of the Very Young

That every country take the measures necessary to prioritize the future of the very young, especially those who are suffering.

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)



RAMBLINGS

OF THE REVEREND REDACTOR

Welcome to Advent!

Advent is not Lent. The focus is different, even though the priest does wear purple for most of the Masses, and we do have an Advent Wreath and we light candles to mark the passage of the weeks, and we do make a daily sacrifice by putting something into the Advent Basket Cans. (ABC!)

But we are preparing for a different celebration. There is no Passion and suffering, simply the birth of a small child who will change the world and make possible the salvation of all of humanity. The birth of any baby is always special; this one is extraordinary.

The problem, of course, is that “Christmas” in many places and for many people has lost the original meaning of “Christ’s Mass;” it has become a celebration of gift-giving and purchasing and parties and I once heard someone complaining that “Christians think they somehow own this holiday. This is for ALL of us!”

In one sense, that person was correct, because Jesus did come for all of us. But it is all too easy to lose sight of that in the endless caroling and selling and being busy. Which is why I announced at the Masses last week – in case you missed it – that the Advent Masses would be largely silent, to give us, as a community, a time of quiet and reflection, so that we can more deeply contemplate the miracle taking place on the altar, and how this extraordinary event can move us closer to the Jesus we will properly celebrate on December 25 and for the 12 days that follow.

So we will abandon the hymns – there will be no Opening hymn or procession, no Offertory Hymn or Communion Hymn or Recessional. We will chant the Mass parts in Latin. The call is to enter more deeply into the silence where we can find God, and where God can more easily reach us. Not just to BE silent, for that is a courtesy we extend to one another, but to let the silence enter into us. Silence can be tangible, almost a physical sensation, and as we listen to the silence, we move to a place where we can – sometimes – more easily hear God.

You know I love music, and there are wonderful Advent hymns and I am sorry we will be missing many of them. But I feel that the call to silence is more important this year. We are called to find God in our lives, and for many, our lives are simply too busy, too scheduled, too “active” – and so for this Advent, our weekly time in Church, limited as it is, can be an oasis of quiet, even more a time of silence. We will enter the Church in silence, as we do on Good Friday. We will use the time before Mass to pray and put ourselves in God’s presence rather than visiting with neighbors. (Last week the Holy Father noted that the time before Mass was not a time for “chit-chat.” His word.) Silence is not just being quiet but rather listening for God, and that can be very difficult in the extra-busy pre-Christmas world.

I know some may find this difficult. We get used to being busy, used to “participating.” Some people get nervous if there is not “noise” in their life, whether music or talking or – whatever. I ask all to give silence a try for Advent and see what happens.

And let us continue to pray for one another.

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.

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."



AS EASY AS ABC (Advent Basket Cans)

Last weekend we distributed 35 baskets at our two churches, and we have the baskets available at Mass each morning at the Jesuit Center, and Father John usually has some in the back of his car, if you see him toodling around town.

The idea of the "basket" is to put something in every day during Advent, with the idea that you are helping people who truly need help. Each time you put something in, it should remind you that we are in this special season of preparation – it sort of helps balance out all the publicity on Christmas presents and Christmas parties. In the past, the proceeds from the baskets have provided food, blankets, heating and toys for needy families. We make our gifts in January, since there are many groups and programs who help during the Christmas season. As the weather gets colder, those efforts slow down and cease, and so we think we can help a little bit at a time when not many others are.

Thank you in advance for your generosity.

PARISH BIRTHDAYS – DECEMBER

- 3 Carrie O'Rourke
- 4 Anna Senga
- 9 Kelly Harrington
- 10 Albert Dadson
Ralf Roskopf
- 11 Tristan Jesaja Zimprich
- 16 Mary Lyons
- 17 Fr. Robert McChesney, SJ
Pope Francis – 1936
- 18 Benjamin Horner
Sami Gammoh
- 19 Marie Desjonqueres
Virginia Guadarrama
- 20 Aiden Gates
- 21 Kyle Tescher
- 23 Elias Gates
- 24 Janet Franchy
- 26 Maria Lily Jumean
- 27 Sophia Roskopf
- 29 Josef Humpert



If your birthday is in December and your name is not listed –

- a) You didn't register in the parish*
- b) You DID register but did not put down your birthday*
- c) C) You DID register and you DID put down your birthday – which means WE made a mistake.*

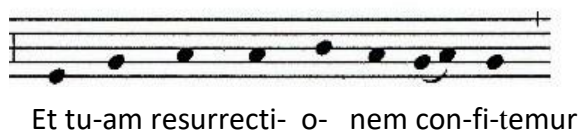
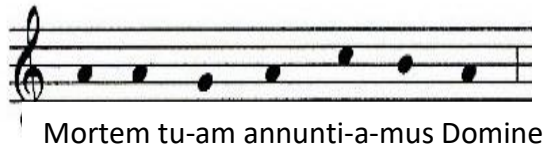
If a) or b) – You can easily fix that.

If c) Let Fr John know so he can correct the record

CHRISTMAS VIGIL – Fr. John will announce at the weekend Masses if there was enough support for the idea of a Christmas Vigil Mass on Christmas Eve.

MASSES DURING ADVENT

At the Advent Masses, the Eucharistic Acclamation will be in Latin, but using the same melody that we use for the English version. We'll go over it before Mass, but here is how the new words fit. Sing the English a couple of times to get the melody in your head – and then see how they fit.



We procl-aim your death O Lord
Mortem tu-am annunti-am -us Domine

And prof-ess Your re-surr-e-ction
Et tu am resurrecti- on em confitemur

Until You co-me a-gain
Do - nec ve - ni-as

Don't panic – it looks more complicated than it really is. You will be able to pick it up very quickly.



REMINDER

Many received the booklet in past years *Preparing for Advent*. It is available on the website, and print copies are available if you let Fr. John know so he can bring them to Mass. They are also available at the Jesuit Center.