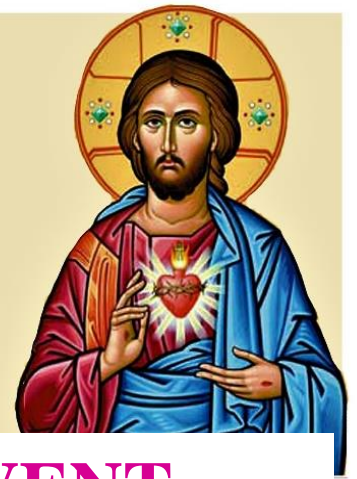


SACRED HEART HEARTBEAT

ENGLISH LANGUAGE
ROMAN CATHOLIC PARISH



SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT December 7/8, 2019

COMING SPECIAL EVENTS AND CELEBRATIONS

December 9 – Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception

December 14 – Mass for Children, Sweifieh

Apparently the Church hall is again not available for a post-Mass reception

December 14/15 – **SECOND SUNDAY COLLECTION FOR SACRED HEART PARISH**

December 16 – Beginning of the Advent Novena

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

December 21 – Last Class for First Communion candidates

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

January 3 - First Friday; adoration following the morning Mass (Solemnity of the Holy Name of Jesus)

January 4/5 – Solemnity of the Epiphany

January 11 – First Communion Class resumes

January 11/12 – The Baptism of the Lord

January 18 – Octave of Prayer for Christian Unity begins

January 22 – Day of Prayer for the Legal Protection of Unborn Children



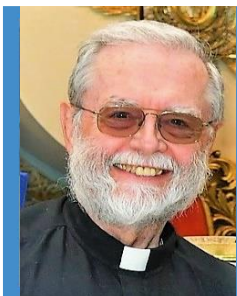
Pope Francis'

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.



RAMBLINGS

OF THE REVEREND REDACTOR

When I was living in Nigeria, one December I found myself thinking, “It’s starting to feel like Christmas.” Then I caught myself – what in the world was I thinking? The temperature was about 32 degrees Celsius, it was humid (Lagos is right on the ocean) and the air was filled with the Harmattan dust, the very fine dust that blows down from the Sahara each year. People were poor, there was a dictatorship in place and things were NOT getting better.

When I was growing up, Christmas meant snow and cold weather and layers of clothing and presents and shopping – and none of this was going on. I realized, after a little thought, that it was the dust. Each year I had been in Africa, the Christmas preparations and the dust came together. And as I reflected, I realized that there was still a sense of Christmas. People didn’t have money but they still bought small gifts, especially for the children. Because they couldn’t spend money, they spent time making decorations, or visiting one another, going to Church and singing carols at every opportunity.

Christmas – the real Christmas – the deep meaning of Christmas – should not depend on weather or finances or clothing. It is perhaps the ultimate celebration of love – the love that God the Father has for His Creation that is so great that His only Son was sent to save us.

He came, and He did what He was sent for. THAT act of salvation is history, and we rejoice in it. Of course, our own salvation is not yet assured, not guaranteed – because OUR act of salvation is still in process. Jesus Christ saved us – now we have to accept His invitation and save ourselves. Every day that He was alive, Jesus was working for our salvation. Our call is the same as His; every day of our lives we must be working for our salvation as well.

Our call is the same as His. We are not working just for our own salvation, but we are also called to save one another. To pray and work and share and support and teach and welcome and love one another, as we bring the Kingdom of God closer to reality. Just as He did. Most of us don’t work miracles – or at least, not the big miracles that everyone notices and that draw crowds. We work with the gifts we have. It can be cooking, or teaching, sewing or being a help to people who need help. It can be as simple as listening when someone needs someone to hear them, and I am quite sure that those who pray are perhaps the greatest force for God’s work in the world today that there is.

This is a special time of the year, as we focus on preparing for one of the most extraordinary events in the history of the world. God became man when Mary said “Yes” to the angel. God was born into the world in the stable in Bethlehem. John the Baptist was also sent to prepare the way, Simeon recognized Him in the Temple, Herod tried to kill Him before he could grow – the stories are wonderful. Angels singing, Kings coming to worship – it was an extraordinary entrance into the world. The world has not been the same since then, although in some ways better and some ways perhaps discouraging. But the act of salvation isn’t over, and our call is the same as His. We are called to change the world. And this is the season when we get the chance to step back, and prepare – and celebrate what God has already done.

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.

AS EASY AS ABC (Advent Basket Cans)



Advent 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.

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.

CHRISTMAS VIGIL — There was practically no response to the idea of a Vigil Mass on Christmas Eve. Thus, there will NOT be a Vigil Mass on December 24. There will be the 5 PM Mass at Sweifieh. There will be Mass on Christmas morning at 10 AM at the Jesuit Center in Jabal Hussein. And morning Mass at 8:30 AM at the Jesuit Center continues every day but Sunday, Christmas and New Year's morning.

MASS ATTENDANCE IN NOVEMBER

	Sweifieh	Jesuit Ctr	Freres
Total	770	322	170
Average	193	13	43

WEBSITE TRAFFIC - NOVEMBER

In the month of November we had 1,794 visitors who made 4,421 visits to one or more pages on our website. Interestingly, the visitor numbers are significantly up from last month, but the pages visited are down to around about one-half. Most visits come from computers registered in the US, 2/3 of that number from people in Jordan and slightly more than one-third of the Jordanian visitors from Germany. Google is far and away the major sources of referrals, with coming through that servers than all others combined.

2020 CALENDARS

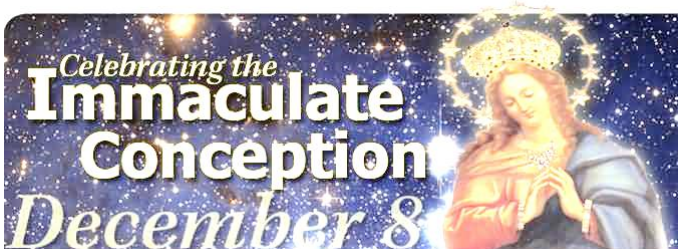
The 2020 edition of the Sacred Heart Parish Calendar will shortly be available and we are proud to note that the price remains the same as last year. And the year before that. They make great stocking stuffers, and a gentle way to let people in other places know something of what your parish here is all about. Support our advertisers and the work of the parish. Announcements will be made when they ACTUALLY arrive.

1 Calendar – 2 JOD

3 Calendars – 5 JOD (Yes, you get one free!)

7 Calendars – 10 JOD (You get 2 calendars free!)

15 Calendars – 20 JOD (5 Free Calendars!!! Such a deal!!!)



REMEMBER - because December 8 is a Sunday, we celebrate the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception on Monday, December 9th. It is not a Holy Day of Obligation in this Vicariate but it is still a very important celebration



GIVE YOURSELF AS A PRESENT

CHILDREN'S LITURGY OF THE WORD

This has proved to be a popular addition to the Saturday Mass at Sweifieh, as the smaller children get to have God's Word presented to them in ways they can better understand – and parents get a quieter time so they too can better hear and absorb God's teaching.

It depends on having volunteers who are willing to work with the children. No more than once a month, and often, less frequently than that.

But we are a community that is in constant transition, and people get sick, and things happen, and right now, we need to supplement the wonderful group of volunteers we have.

Contact Karen at karenandian2407@gmail.com to volunteer or to get more information about what is involved. THANK YOU.

A Christmas Tree Blessing



Holy Creator of Trees, as we come to celebrate the birth of your son, bless with your abundant grace this our Christmas tree as a symbol of joy.

May its evergreen branches be a sign of your never-fading promises.

May its colorful lights and ornaments call us to decorate with love our homes and our world.

May the gifts that surround this tree be symbols of the gifts we have received from you.

May the spirit of this Christmas tree reside within our homes, and may Joy and Peace come and nest in your branches and in our hearts.

Amen.