

SACRED HEART HEARTBEAT

ENGLISH LANGUAGE
ROMAN CATHOLIC PARISH



THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT December 14/15, 2019

COMING SPECIAL EVENTS AND CELEBRATIONS

December 14 – Mass for Children, Sweifieh

Apparently the Church hall is again not available for a post-Mass reception
Last First Communion class for 2019

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

Calendars on sale and free ornaments after Mass

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

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

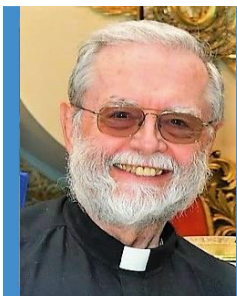
That every country take the measures necessary to prioritize the future of the very young, especially those who are suffering.

The vide for the Pope's intention at this link:

<https://youtu.be/6umbsLWYc00>

THE CHRISTMAS NOVENA - available on the parish website at:

<http://shp.jordanjesuits.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/12/Christmas-Novena-PDF.pdf>



RAMBLINGS

OF THE REVEREND REDACTOR

This year, because December 8 fell on a Sunday, we celebrated the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception on December 9th. The date is really not important, since we have no way of knowing on what date this miraculous intervention took place. Just like Christmas, we celebrate the event, and the Church has simply selected a day on which this celebration should take place. I have a friend who was adopted, and the birth records, for whatever reason, were not available and so his new parents let him pick what day he wanted for his birthday. The Church has done that for us over the centuries where some of our feasts are concerned. Because the important thing is the event, and this one is perhaps the most misunderstood. There are three different events involved, and if you ask many Catholics, they will tell you that the Immaculate Conception is when Jesus was conceived in the womb of Mary.

Wrong. There is a Feast day when we celebrate that, and again, if you ask many Catholics what that is, they will answer Christmas.

Wrong again.

Christmas is when Jesus Christ was born. He was conceived when Mary said "Yes" to the angel, and that is celebrated at the Feast of the Annunciation on March 25, nine months before Christmas. The Immaculate Conception celebrates God's intervention in preparing Mary to be the Mother of God. While all human beings are born with original sin, it is inconceivable that the Mother of God would share in any sin, and so when Mary was conceived in the womb - by purely natural means - she was spared inheriting the original sin of our ancestors. She was conceived immaculate - without sin - so she could be the Mother of Jesus Christ. And since her birthday is celebrated on September 8, this celebration is exactly nine months before that.

As are so many things in our faith, there is logic and reason as well as tradition and Scripture in what we believe and what we celebrate. Contrary to the accusations of some, we are not a religion of "superstition and statue worship," and the more you know about our faith, the more you will discover and uncover these connections, these reasons, these wonderful intersection of events.

I know some have taken up the suggestion of reading one chapter of Luke each day during Advent. They are short chapters, and even if you haven't started - it's not too late to catch up. There are 24 chapters in this Gospel, so if you read one a day, by Christmas Eve you will have reminded yourself - or perhaps learned something - of the life and teaching of Jesus Christ. I discovered at least two things that I had "misremembered," that I had gotten wrong in the telling of the Christmas story. Always good to review.

May these remaining days of Advent be days of special blessing and grace for you and all those you love, and may Christmas bring to you the special joy and love that Jesus came to make possible.

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.

2020 CALENDARS HAVE ARRIVED!!!


The 2020 edition of the Sacred Heart Parish Calendar **are here** 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. Available at all the Masses and at the Jesuit Center.

1 Calendar – 2 JOD

3 Calendars – 5 JOD

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

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



Advent Wreath

1st CANDLE – (purple) **THE PROPHECY CANDLE or CANDLE OF HOPE** – We can have hope because God is faithful and will keep the promises made to us. Our hope comes from God. (Romans 15:12-13)

2nd CANDLE – (purple) **THE BETHLEHEM CANDLE or THE CANDLE OF PREPARATION** – God kept his promise of a Savior who would be born in Bethlehem. Preparation means to "get ready". Help us to be ready to welcome YOU, O GOD! (Luke 3:4-6)

3rd CANDLE – (pink) **THE SHEPHERD CANDLE or THE CANDLE OF JOY** – The angels sang a message of JOY! (Luke 2:7-15)

4th CANDLE – (purple) **THE ANGEL CANDLE or THE CANDLE OF LOVE** – The angels announced the good news of a Savior. God sent his only Son to earth to save us, because he loves us! (John 3:16-17)

5th CANDLE – (white) **"CHRIST CANDLE"** – The white candle reminds us that Jesus is the spotless lamb of God, sent to wash away our sins! His birth was for his death, his death was for our birth! (John 1:29)

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.



THE NINE DAYS OF CHRISTMAS

Christ: The **C**onquering One, 1 Corinthians 15:51-58

Christ: The **H**elping One, John 8:1-11

Christ: The **R**oyal One, John 18:28-37

Christ: The **I**nnocent One, Matthew 27:1-5

Christ: The **S**erving One, John 13:1-17

Christ: The **T**eaching One, Matthew 7:28-29

Christ: The **M**erciful One, Matthew 9:9-13

Christ: The **A**nticipated One, John 1:19-23

Christ: The **S**ent One, Luke 2:8-20

The lady rode a donkey,
the man walked,
and the baby was inside the lady.
They had to stay in a stable with an ox
and an ass (hee-hee)
but the Three Rich Men found them
because a star lited the roof.
Shepherds came
and you could pet the sheep but not feed them.



She was five, sure of the facts,
and recited them with slow solemnity
convinced every word was revelation.

She said

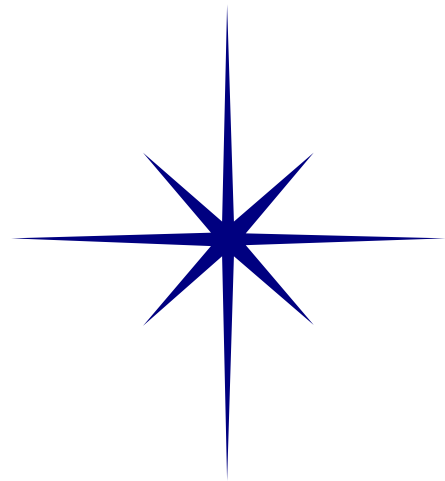
they were so poor
they had only peanut butter and jelly sandwiches to eat.
And they went a long way from home without getting lost

Then the baby was borned.

And do you know who he was?

Her quarter eyes inflated to silver dollars.

The baby was God.



And she jumped in the air, whirled round, dove into the sofa
and buried her head under the cushion
which is the only proper response
to the Good News of the Incarnation.