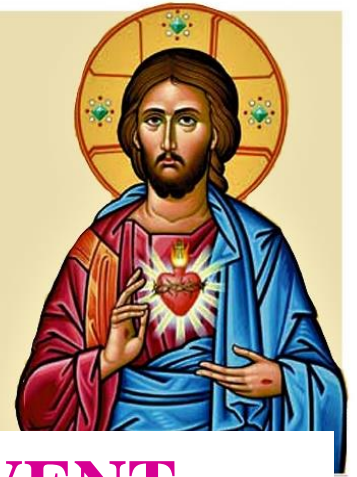


# SACRED HEART HEARTBEAT

ENGLISH LANGUAGE  
ROMAN CATHOLIC PARISH



## FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT December 21/22, 2019

### COMING SPECIAL EVENTS AND CELEBRATIONS

- December 24 – 5 pm Christmas Eve Mass at Sweifieh  
8 PM Vigil Mass at Mt. Nebo
- December 25 – Mass of Christmas morning at the Jesuit Center at 10:00 AM
- Dec. 26 – Feast of St. Stephen, the first martyr
- Dec. 27 – Feast of St. John the Evangelist
- Dec. 28 – Feast of the Holy Innocents
- Dec. 29/30 – Feast of the Holy Family – Jesus, Mary and Joseph (Regular Mass schedule)
- 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 10 – Latin Church pilgrimage to the Baptismal Site
- 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

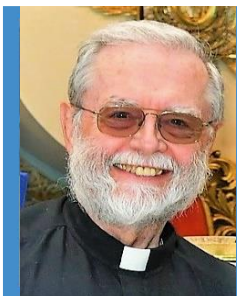
**The Future of the Very Young**

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>

**ADVENT BASKETS** – You may bring your baskets/cans to any Mass, or to the Jesuit Center. If you want to keep your baskets until after Christmas, or even after New Year's, terrific. Just get them back to us so we can use your gifts for others.



# RAMBLINGS

## OF THE REVEREND REDACTOR

When I was chaplain at the military base in the South Pacific, one year someone had the bright idea of having an exhibition of nativity scenes. Many of the personnel on the base had been stationed in different countries, and so everyone was invited to share their collections for a couple of days. The big hall in the community center was reserved and over 100 nativity scenes from many different countries were on display. Simple ones and very ornate ones, sophisticated and basic – but all telling the same story. The organizers had music playing in the background, there was hot chocolate and cookies and candy canes – it was a lovely event, and then all the sets went back to their owners to be displayed in their homes.

One of the things I took away from that event was that Francis of Assisi had a very good idea when he set up the first manger scene. (By the way – do you realize that the English word “manger” is the same as the French word “manger” which means to eat? The Lord of the Universe who would give us His Body and Blood to eat was laid in the place where the animals came to eat. Another of the many little dimensions of the coming of Jesus that tickle my imagination.) Francis did it because many of his people couldn’t read and had not really heard the story of the birth of Christ and this made it easier for them to visualize.

But in our time, our displays – and especially my memory of so many Christmas scenes – remind me that the face of Christ appears in different ways, and Jesus is present in each one. You may or may not believe that the Shroud of Turin is the burial cloth of Jesus; it may show us what the face of Christ looked like historically. But the face of Christ is present in our world in the people we see every day, and each Nativity scene has a different Jesus, a different Mary and Joseph – even the shepherd and the Magi reflect the society that displays them. They may not be “historically” accurate but they tell the story with truth and love.

As we reflect on God made man, divinity sharing in our humanity, we have to remember that Jesus came for all of humanity, and while He lived in one particular body in one particular time in one very specific place, His salvation is an invitation to all the world. As we look to see Christ in the stable – or the cave – or the hut – we see Him in many different faces. The invitation is to turn our gaze from the figures of the Holy Family to the reality of the people we see every day. Jesus is here in our world. And our call is to find Him.

Theologians talk of the three comings of Christ: the first in Bethlehem, when He was born of Mary; His coming at the end of the world, as suggested in the Book of Revelation; but in the middle there is the personal coming of Christ, as He makes Himself known to each one of us individually. While the importance of the first cannot be denied, and the inevitability of the last ignored, it is this middle coming that is so important to each one of us. WE need to find Christ not in a stable but in our lives, not in a pretty manger scene but in our hearts, not in a pageant or a video but in the real people around us. THAT is where Christ comes today and where we must be prepared to welcome Him.

I often think of the person missing from the manger scene - the one who said there was no room at the inn. It is too easy for us to echo those words in our lives – there is no room in my life, in my schedule, in my heart.

As we celebrate the birth of Christ, 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.

## 2020 CALENDARS

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

1 Calendar – 2 JOD

3 Calendars – 5 JOD (Yes, you get one half price)

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

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

*(Some shops are now buying the 15 for 20 and selling them in their own places of business.  
We recommend this.)*

As I in hoarie Winters night stode shivering in the snow  
Surpris'd I was with sudden heate, which made my heart glow;  
And lifting up a fearful eye, to view what fire was neare,  
A pretty babe all burning bright did in the air appeare:  
Who scorched with excessive heat, such floods of teares did shed.  
As though his floods should quench his flames,  
which with his teares were bred:



**THE BURNING BABE**

Alas (quoth he) but newly borne, in fiery heates I frie,  
Yet none approach to warm their harts or feele my fire, but I;  
My faultless breast the furnace is, the fuell wounding thornes:  
Love is the fire, and sigh the smoake, the ashes, shames and scornes:  
The fewell Justice layeth on, and Mercie blows the coales,  
The mettall in this furnace wrought, are mens defiled souls:  
For which as now on fire I am to work them to their good,  
So will I melt into a bath, to wash them in my blood.  
With this he vanisht out of sight, and swiftly shrunk away,  
And straight I called unto minde, that it was Christmase day.

### *The Burning Babe - St. Robert Southwell, SJ (1561-1595)*



## END OF YEAR DONATIONS – IN THE US, IN JORDAN

It is certainly the case that the parishioners of Sacred Heart Parish continue to be extraordinarily generous and this is not a solicitation for money. But some have asked about making donations at the end of year, so here is the information.

### **To make a US tax-deductible contribution**

- 1) Make out the check to: UNE Province - Society of Jesus
- 2) Send the check to Treasurer - Society of Jesus  
39 East 83rd Street  
New York, NY 10028
- 3) **IMPORTANT** – Attach a note that this donation is for Father Sheehan and his work in Jordan.

If you are able to make a tax deduction for contributions in dinars, we have to know that the contribution is from you (ie we cannot credit what you have put into the collection basket anonymously) and we are pleased to write you a receipt for your gift. Our understanding is that in some cases this is accepted and in some cases it is challenged. If you are making a gift in the name of a company or corporation, let us know the exact wording for the acknowledgement.

