

# SACRED HEART HEARTBEAT

ENGLISH LANGUAGE  
ROMAN CATHOLIC PARISH



**4<sup>th</sup> SUNDAY AFTER EASTER  
APRIL 21/22, 2018**

**THE SACRED HEART PARISH MUSIC MINISTRY GROUP** – We sang at the Good Friday Service and last week at the Sweifieh Mass. If you'd like to be part of a group to sing at Mass and explore some of the great music of our Catholic tradition, let Fr. John know. We're working on setting the time and place for a weekly gathering, so NOW is the moment to let your voice be heard. As it were. Take a chance – sing. Fr. John absolutely promises he will never let you embarrass yourselves – but the first two “outings” have been lovely indeed, so that is not a problem.



*Pope Francis'*

MONTHLY  
PRAYER  
INTENTIONS

## FOR APRIL

**Universal – For those who have Responsibility  
in Economic Matters**

That economists may have the courage to reject any economy of exclusion and know how to open new paths.

The link to the video on this intention - <https://youtu.be/fiBhmV6yev0>

## HAVE YOU REGISTERED IN THE PARISH?

Go to [www.jordanjesuits.org](http://www.jordanjesuits.org), go to the link for SACRED HEART PARISH and on the right side is a direct link so you can register on line.

Couldn't be easier. Thank you.

## MASS SCHEDULE

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

This past week Bishop Shomali announced that this weekend would become the 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter, bringing us back into agreement with the western calendar. This is earlier than expected and means that the published calendar dates for Ascension, Pentecost, Trinity Sunday and the Feast of the Sacred Heart will all change.

## **COMING SPECIAL EVENTS AND CELEBRATIONS (Updated)**

April 21/22 – Installation of Ministers – Lectors and Ministers of the Eucharist

April 25 – Feast of St. Mark, Evangelist

April 28 – 4 PM at Sweifieh – First Confessions for First Communion candidates who missed the earlier Celebration

May 1 – Feast of St. Joseph the Worker

May 3 – Feast of Ss. Philip and James, Apostles

May 4 – First Friday; Adoration following Mass in the Francis Xavier Chapel

10 – Solemnity of the Ascension of Christ, Holy Day of Obligation

Mass at the Jesuit Center at 8:30 AM and at 6 PM

May 12 – FIRST HOLY COMMUNION with a parish reception following the Mass

**May 12/13 – SECOND COLLECTION FOR SACRED HEART PARISH IN BOTH CHURCHES**

14 – Feast of St. Matthias, Apostle

May 22/21 – Pentecost Sunday celebrated

May 26/27 – Trinity Sunday

May 27 – June 26 – Fr. John in the U.S.

May 31 – Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary

June 1 – First Friday; Adoration following Mass in the Francis Xavier Chapel



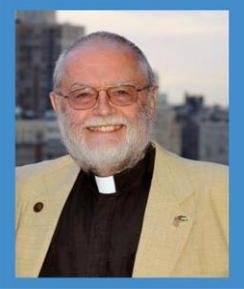
### **Nina Brekelmans Camp and Race for Girls: Call for Volunteers**

The Nina Brekelmans Memorial Foundation was established to foster athletic opportunities for young women in the Middle East by supporting running programs in Jordan to encourage healthy living, expand participation in the sport, and promote women's empowerment. Our programs welcome girls ages eight to fourteen from a cross-section of Jordanian society to participate in an annual spring running camp and capstone race at Sport City in Amman. We are excited to announce the dates for the third annual Nina Brekelmans Running Camp for Girls and Nina Brekelmans Race for Girls in Amman, Jordan!

The camp will be held on four consecutive Saturdays - April 7, April 14, April 21 and April 28, from 10AM-1PM - at Sports City, Amman. The culminating event - a 3k race - will be held the following weekend, May 5, at Sports City.

We are looking for volunteers for both the camp and race day. Persons interested in volunteering for the camp or race can email Nicole Khamis at [nlkhamis@umich.edu](mailto:nlkhamis@umich.edu) and Kelly Connors [kec3r@virginia.edu](mailto:kec3r@virginia.edu).





# RAMBLINGS

## OF THE REVEREND REDACTOR

In a couple of weeks – in fact, the Sunday of the weekend our First Communion candidates will receive the sacrament for the first time – I will celebrate the one-year anniversary of my formal installation as Pastor of Sacred Heart Parish by Bishop Shomali. My term of office actually started on March 1<sup>st</sup>, but the installation was in May.

As part of that ceremony I took a solemn oath before the Bishop and the assembled congregation, and part of that long series of promises was “to exercise the ministry of the word worthily and wisely, preaching the Gospel and teaching the Catholic faith” and later...”to celebrate faithfully and reverently, in accord with the Church’s tradition, the mysteries of Christ, especially the Sacrifice of the Eucharist and the Sacrament of Reconciliation, for the glory of God and the sanctification of the Christian people.”

As I have been preparing the candidates in the RCIA program for their reception of the Sacraments of Initiation, and working with the First Communion and Confirmation students, and engaging in conversation with parishioners both formally and informally, I have become increasingly aware that there are good people in our parish who have bad ideas about the formal teachings of the Catholic Church. Perhaps they grew up in an age when catechetical instruction was missing, or watered down. Perhaps they have been badly taught. Some have had bad experiences with priests in other places, and that has influenced their view of the Church and of some sacraments. Some, I know, have been influenced by the secular world and the preaching of different Protestant groups and speakers, and they have come to accept the notion that “One religion is as good as another; after all, we are all Christians.” That sounds great but the substance is wrong.

So, between now and the end of May, when I head to the States for my college reunion and to visit my sister, I will be focusing both in homilies and in HEARTBEAT on fundamental aspects of our Catholic faith. I don’t want it to sound like nagging, and I don’t want you to take it that way. But at the same time, I encourage you to remain open to the Word of God, realizing that we are a Church of Scripture, Sacrament and Tradition, and each has a voice in how God reaches out to us.

Last week at Mass I spoke briefly about the reality that the only way a serious sin can be absolved is through the Sacrament of Reconciliation – Confession. And that to receive Holy Communion while there are still sins on your soul that have not been forgiven by the priest is itself a serious sin. There are three priests at the Jesuit Center, all ready to hear your confession. Many priests in the Arabic-language churches have English enough to hear a confession as well. It is God who ultimately forgives the sins, but through the action of the priest. Please take advantage of this extraordinary gift of God.

In the coming weeks please keep the First Communion candidates in your prayers, as they prepare for their next big step in the faith, and for the Confirmation candidates who continue in their study and exploration of a deeper understanding of the faith.

And let us continue to pray for one another.

Fr. John’s Email: [pastorsh@jordanjesuits.org](mailto:pastorsh@jordanjesuits.org)

Fr. John’s Mobile: 079 013-8985 (If no answer, leave a message.)

**Website:** [Jordanjesuits.org](http://Jordanjesuits.org)

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

"It is an excellent thing to go to confession often, because the sacrament of Penance, besides taking away sin, gives the graces necessary to avoid sin in the future."

(Catechism of St. Pius X)

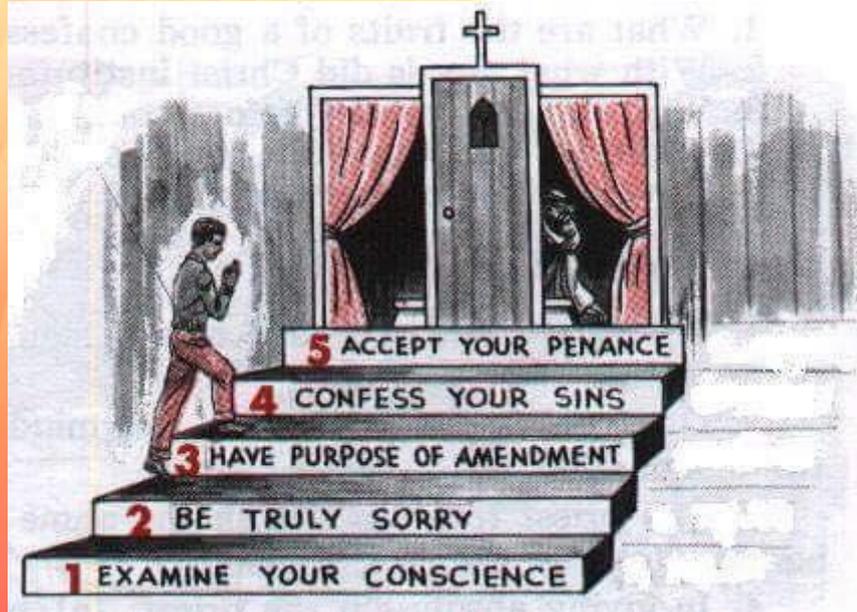
Most people today want a *religion* which suits the way *they live*, rather than the one which makes *demands* upon them. Religion thus becomes a *luxury* like an opera, not a *responsibility* like life.

- Archbishop Fulton Sheen -

## KNOW YOUR CHURCH:

### ✠ The 9 Ways We Participate in Others' Sins ✠

- ✠ By counsel
- ✠ By command
- ✠ By consent
- ✠ By provocation
- ✠ By praise or flattery
- ✠ By concealment
- ✠ By partaking
- ✠ By silence
- ✠ By defense of the ill done



### WHEN WAS THE LAST TIME YOU WENT TO CONFESSION?

The first 3 Commandments of the Church, that bind under pain of mortal sin, are:  
1. You shall attend Mass on Sundays and on holy days of obligation. 2. You shall confess your sins at least once a year. 3. You shall receive the sacrament of the Eucharist at least once during the Easter season.

To receive Holy Communion with an unabsolved mortal sin on your soul is itself a serious sin.

Dear Brothers and Sisters.

Next October, the Fifteenth Ordinary General Assembly of the Synod of Bishops will meet to discuss the theme of young people and in particular the relationship between young people, faith and vocation. There we will have a chance to consider more deeply how, at the centre of our life, is the call to joy that God addresses to us and how this is “God’s plan for men and women in every age” (SYNOD OF BISHOPS, XV ORDINARY GENERAL ASSEMBLY, *Young People, The Faith and Vocational Discernment*, Introduction).

The Fifty-fifth World Day of Prayer for Vocations once again proclaims this good news to us, and in a decisive manner. We are not victims of chance or swept up in a series of unconnected events; on the contrary, our life and our presence in this world are the fruit of a divine vocation!

Even amid these troubled times, the mystery of the Incarnation reminds us that God continually comes to encounter us. He is God-with-us, who walks along the often dusty paths of our lives. He knows our anxious longing for love and he calls us to joy. In the diversity and the uniqueness of each and every vocation, personal and ecclesial, there is a need to *listen, discern and live* this word that calls to us from on high and, while enabling us to develop our talents, makes us instruments of salvation in the world and guides us to full happiness.

These three aspects – *listening, discerning and living* – were also present at beginning of Jesus’ own mission, when, after his time of prayer and struggle in the desert, he visited his synagogue of Nazareth. There, he listened to the word, discerned the content of the mission entrusted to him by the Father, and proclaimed that he came to accomplish it “today” (*Lk 4:16-21*).

## **Listening**

The Lord’s call – let it be said at the outset – is not as clear-cut as any of those things we can hear, see or touch in our daily experience. God comes silently and discreetly, without imposing on our freedom. Thus it can happen that his voice is drowned out by the many worries and concerns that fill our minds and hearts.

We need, then, to learn how to listen carefully to his word and the story of his life, but also to be attentive to the details of our own daily lives, in order to learn how to view things with the eyes of faith, and to keep ourselves open to the surprises of the Spirit.

We will never discover the special, personal calling that God has in mind for us if we remain enclosed in ourselves, in our usual way of doing things, in the apathy of those who fritter away their lives in their own little world. We would lose the chance to dream big and to play our part in the unique and original story that God wants to write with us.

Jesus too, was called and sent. That is why he needed to recollect himself in silence. He listened to and read the word in the synagogue, and with the light and strength of the Holy Spirit he revealed its full meaning, with reference to his own person and the history of the people of Israel.

Nowadays listening is becoming more and more difficult, immersed as we are in a society full of noise, overstimulated and bombarded by information. The outer noise that sometimes prevails in our cities and our neighbourhoods is often accompanied by our interior dispersion and confusion. This prevents us from pausing and enjoying the taste of contemplation, reflecting serenely on the events of our lives, going about our work with confidence in God’s loving plan, and making a fruitful discernment.

Yet, as we know, the kingdom of God comes quietly and unobtrusively (cf. *Lk 17:21*), and we can only gather its seeds when, like the prophet Elijah, we enter into the depths of our soul and are open to the imperceptible whisper of the divine breeze (cf. *1 Kg 19:11-13*).

## **Discerning**

When Jesus, in the synagogue of Nazareth, reads the passage of the prophet Isaiah, he discerns the content of the mission for which he was sent, and presents it to those who awaited the Messiah: “The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free, to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favour (*Lk 4:18-19*).

In the same way, each of us can discover his or her own vocation only through spiritual discernment. This is “a process by which a person makes fundamental choices, in dialogue with the Lord and listening to the voice of the Spirit, starting with the choice of one’s state in life” (SYNOD OF BISHOPS, XV ORDINARY GENERAL ASSEMBLY, *Youth, Faith and Vocational Discernment*, II, 2).

Thus we come to discover that Christian vocation always has a prophetic dimension. The Scriptures tell us that the prophets were sent to the people in situations of great material insecurity and of spiritual and moral crisis, in order to address in God’s name a message of conversion, hope and consolation. Like a whirlwind, the prophet unsettles the false tranquility of consciences that have forgotten the word of the Lord. He discerns events in the light of God’s promise and enables people to glimpse the signs of dawn amid the dark shadows of history.

Today too, we have great need of discernment and of prophecy. We have to resist the temptations of ideology and negativity, and to discover, in our relationship with the Lord, the places, the means and situations through which he calls us. Every Christian ought to grow in the ability to “read within” his or her life, and to understand *where* and *to what* he or she is being called by the Lord, in order to carry on his mission.

## **Living**

Lastly, Jesus announces the newness of the present hour, which will enthuse many and harden the heart of others. The fullness of time has come, and he is the Messiah proclaimed by Isaiah and anointed to liberate prisoners, to restore sight to the blind and to proclaim the merciful love of God to every creature. Indeed, Jesus says that “today this Scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing” (*Lk 4:21*).

The joy of the Gospel, which makes us open to encountering God and our brothers and sisters, does not abide our slowness and our sloth. It will not fill our hearts if we keep standing by the window with the excuse of waiting for the right time, without accepting this very day the risk of making a decision. Vocation is today! The Christian mission is now! Each one of us is called – whether to the lay life in marriage, to the priestly life in the ordained ministry, or to a life of special consecration – in order to become a witness of the Lord, here and now.

This “today” that Jesus proclaimed assures us that God continues to “come down” to save our human family and to make us sharers in his mission. The Lord continues to call others to live with him and to follow him in a relationship of particular closeness. He continues to call others to serve him directly. If he lets us realize that he is calling us to consecrate ourselves totally to his kingdom, then we should have no fear! It is beautiful – and a great grace – to be completely and forever consecrated to God and the service of our brothers and sisters.

Today the Lord continues to call others to follow him. We should not wait to be perfect in order to respond with our generous “yes”, nor be fearful of our limitations and sins, but instead open our hearts to the voice of the Lord. To listen to that voice, to discern our personal mission in the Church and the world, and at last to live it in the today that God gives us.

May Mary Most Holy, who as a young woman living in obscurity heard, accepted and experienced the Word of God made flesh, protect us and accompany us always on our journey.

*From the Vatican, 3 December 2017*

<https://laciviltacattolica.com/gaudete-et-exsultate-rejoice-and-be-glad/>

The link above takes you to an authoritative guide to the Holy Father's Apostolic Exhortation on Holiness. If you have read it, or mean to read it - this is a help. If you are not planning on reading it, this will at least give you a better sense of what Pope Francis is saying.