

# SACRED HEART HEARTBEAT

ENGLISH LANGUAGE  
ROMAN CATHOLIC PARISH



**13<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME**

**June 30/July 1, 2018**

## FOR JULY



*Pope Francis'*

MONTHLY  
PRAYER  
INTENTIONS

## **Priests and their Pastoral Ministry**

That priests, who experience fatigue and loneliness in their pastoral work, may find help and comfort in their intimacy with the Lord and in their friendship with their brother priests.

## **COMING SPECIAL EVENTS AND CELEBRATIONS**

July 3 – Feast of St. Thomas, Apostle

July 4 – US Independence Day

July 6 - First Friday; Adoration following Mass in the Francis Xavier Chapel

**July 7/8 – 2nd Sunday Collection for Sacred Heart Parish**

July 23 – Ask Fr. John – 7 PM (*Tentative – location TBA*)

July 24 – St. Charbel Makhlef

July 25 – St. James, Apostle

July 26 – Ss. Joachim and Anne, Parents of the Blessed Mother

July 31 – ST. IGNATIUS LOYOLA, FOUNDER OF THE SOCIETY OF JESUS

*(Observed as a Solemnity at the Jesuit Chapel)*

August 3 - First Friday; Adoration following Mass in the Francis Xavier Chapel

August 6 – Feast of the Transfiguration of the Lord

August 10 – Feast of St. Lawrence

August 15 – Solemnity of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary (*Holy Day of Obligation*)

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

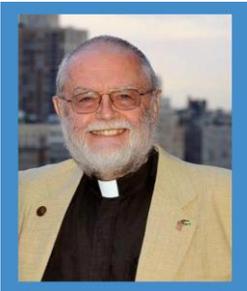
August 22 – Queenship of the Blessed Virgin Mary

August 24 – Feast of St. Bartholomew

August 29 – Passion of St. John the Baptist

## **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)



# RAMBLINGS

## OF THE REVEREND REDACTOR

I'm back!! (Although I am writing this while still in the United States, by the time this issue comes out, I will be back.)

And while I certainly enjoyed my time in the United States, meeting friends, doing some shopping for things I cannot buy in Jordan, sleeping later on some mornings than I am usually able to do at the Jesuit Center – with all that, I find I am truly looking forward to being “home,” which at this point in my life is 43 Al Razi, Jabal Hussein, Amman, Jordan.

“Home” is an interesting concept. In my later years, I have said that “Home is where the suitcase is.” My parents are dead, my sister lives in a state where I have only visited, I have no other siblings. The houses where I grew up are now occupied by strangers, schools I went to have literally disappeared, and of the five or six really close friends I have had – three are dead. The days when one family lived in the same house for three or four generations has largely passed, and we have become a scattered society. In Amman, the population of the Sacred Heart Parish is also largely transient, and we quickly get used to people coming and going – including the priests and pastors.

But that's the bottom line about life as well, isn't it? We don't think about it much – be honest, we don't LIKE thinking about it much – but life is transient. We are passing through, and while the length of the passage is at least the traditional threescore and ten – and today that number or even higher numbers is becoming more common – life is still a transient event. We are all passing through.

So where now, in the reality of our lives, is “home?” Of course, the answer is heaven, being with God. Whatever that means, in ways I am sure we are unable to understand as human beings, our ultimate goal is to be with God.

When I planned my trip to the US, I made reservations, scheduled dates, contacted friends, made a budget to be sure I had enough money, arranged for my obligations in Amman to be covered or arranged so I could deal with them while away. Should we do any less as we prepare to “travel” to God? Should we not be as careful in making the arrangements, in getting ready for the trip? Of course, I knew when I was traveling to the States. We usually do not know exactly when we will be traveling to God. In grammar school, the nuns used to remind us to always be ready in case we died unexpectedly. When you're in 5<sup>th</sup> grade, that doesn't carry a lot of weight.

As an adult, however, there is a reality to that old saying that does carry weight. And it is something to which we, as adults, should pay attention. Take the same check list you would use for travel, and apply it to your readiness for heaven. Passport in order, suitcase items on a list, plans for the trip – obviously the list isn't the same, but there is a list, and we each need to check it on a regular basis. Are we ready to meet God? That may be the only relevant question – we're going home.

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:** Go to Parish Group and ask to be admitted to the group. You will be.

## SAINT OF THE WEEK – St. Thomas, the Apostle

Thomas first speaks in the Gospel of John. In John 11:16, when Lazarus had recently died, the apostles do not wish to go back to Judea, where some Jews had attempted to stone Jesus. Thomas says: Let us also go, that we may die with him.

He speaks again in John 14:5. There, Jesus had just explained that he was going away to prepare a heavenly home for his followers, and that one day they would join him there. Thomas reacted by saying, Lord, we don't know where you are going, so how can we know the way?

John 20:24-29 tells how doubting Thomas was skeptical at first when he heard that Jesus had risen from the dead and appeared to the other apostles, saying, Except I shall see in his hands the print of the nails, and put my finger into the print of the nails, and thrust my hand into his side, I will not believe. But when Jesus appeared later and invited Thomas to touch his wounds and behold him, Thomas showed his belief by saying, My Lord and my God. Jesus then said, Thomas, because thou hast seen me, thou hast believed: blessed are they that have not seen, and yet have believed.



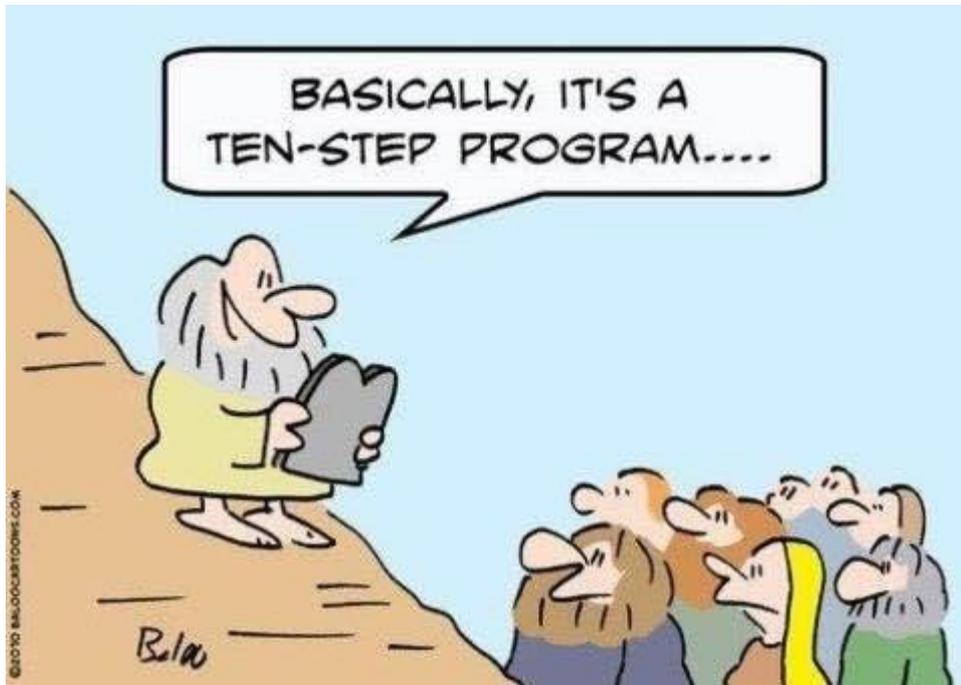
He is informally referred to as "Doubting Thomas" because he doubted Jesus' resurrection when first told (in the Gospel of John account only), followed later by his confession of faith, "My Lord and my God," on seeing Jesus' wounded body. He was also called Didimos, which mean 'twin' because of the paired fingers of his hand. The tradition says that when St Thomas put his paired fingers in Jesus' wounds they got separated and became normal and other apostles kissed his hands, which touched the resurrected Jesus Christ. The Christian practice of kissing the hands of bishops and priests originated from this.

Traditionally, he is said to have travelled outside the Roman Empire to preach the Gospel, travelling as far as Tamilakam which are the states of Tamil Nadu and Kerala in present-day India. According to tradition, Thomas reached Muziris, (modern-day North Paravur and Kodungalloor in the state of Kerala, India) in AD 50 and baptized several people, founding what today are known as Saint Thomas Christians or Mar Thoma Nazranis. After his death, the reputed relics of Saint Thomas the Apostle were enshrined as far as Mesopotamia in the 3rd century, and later moved to various places. In 1258, some of the relics were brought to Abruzzo in Ortona, Italy, where they have been held in the Church of Saint Thomas the Apostle. He is often regarded as the Patron Saint of India, and the name Thoma remains quite popular among Saint Thomas Christians of India.



12 Nadia Nimri  
15 Kimberly Kiechlin

Do not Ask God to guide your footsteps  
if you're not willing to move your feet



**IF YOUR GOD LETS YOU DO  
WHATEVER YOU WANT  
THEN YOUR GOD IS YOU.**