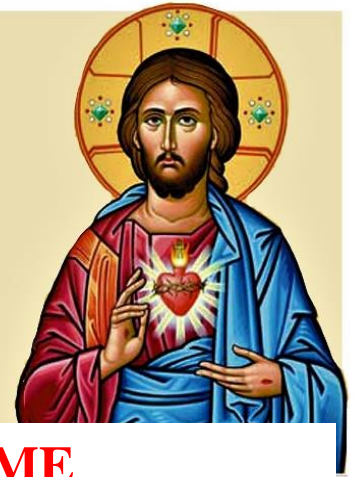


SACRED HEART HEARTBEAT

ENGLISH LANGUAGE
ROMAN CATHOLIC PARISH



21st SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME

August 25/26, 2018



Pope Francis'

MONTHLY
PRAYER
INTENTIONS

THE TREASURE OF FAMILIES –

That any far-reaching decisions of economists and politicians may protect the family as one of the treasures of humanity.

COMING SPECIAL EVENTS AND CELEBRATIONS

August 28 – St. Augustine

August 29 – Passion of St. John the Baptist (*Patron of the Amman Vicariate*)

7PM – Meeting for parents of 1st Communion candidates, Jesuit Center

August 31 – 10 AM - Meeting for parents of 1st Communion candidates, Jesuit Center

Sept. 3 - 7PM – Meeting for parents of 1st Communion candidates, Jesuit Center

Sept. 4 – Fr. Michael Linden, SJ celebrates 50 years of religious life

Sept. 7 - First Friday; Adoration following Mass in the Francis Xavier Chapel

3 pm – Meeting of the Care for the Poor Group at the Jesuit Center. All are welcome.

Sept. 8 – Feast of the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Sept. 8/9 – SECOND SUNDAY COLLECTION

Sept. 14 – Feast of the Exaltation of the Cross

Sept. 15 - Our Lady of Sorrows

Sept. 15 – Welcome/Welcome Back Reception after Mass in the Church hall

Sept. 21 – Feast of St. Matthew, Apostle

Sept. 22 - First Day of Class for First Communion candidates – 3:30 PM

Sept. 23 – First Day of Autumn

Sept. 24 – Ask Father John (*? To be confirmed*)

Sept. 29 – Feast of Ss. Michael, Gabriel and Raphael, Archangels

Oct. 5 - First Friday; Adoration following Mass in the Francis Xavier Chapel

Oct. 8 – FATHER JOHN IN CONCERT – 7PM – Details to follow

Oct. 13/14 – SECOND SUNDAY COLLECTION

Oct. 13 – Children's Mass

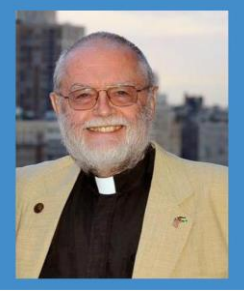
Oct. 20 – Jesuit Friends and Alumni Celebration – Special Mass and Reception

Oct. 20/21 – World Mission Sunday

Oct. 26 – End of Daylight Savings Time

November 1 – All Saints Day – Masses at the Jesuit Center at 8:30 AM and 6 PM

Nov. 1 – 10 – Fr. John away on retreat



RAMBLINGS

OF THE REVEREND REDACTOR

This past week was a time of great celebration. How did you celebrate? Many businesses were closed for at least part of the week – and some decided to fully engage in the feast days.

It is good to celebrate, to rejoice in the moments of our lives, remember historical events that we still treasure today, invoke religious dimensions in the calendar to remind us of our ongoing call to follow God. It is not by accident that the Mass in the Catholic Church is called a celebration, for each time we gather for the miracle of the Transubstantiation, we are celebrating the great love that God has for us, sending His Son to be our Savior and our guide.

When I was a young boy I had a wonderful book called *Uncle Toby's Christmas Book* and it was filled with stories about Christmas, recipes, Christmas carols, and even two plays about Christmas. (I still have that book, by the way, tattered and held together by tape in several places but it continues to be a treasure for me.) One of the stories was called "Christmas Every Day," and it was about a girl who loved Christmas so much she wished it could be Christmas every day.

As these things happen in stories – not in my life, certainly – her fairy godmother heard her, and granted her this wish. And suddenly it was Christmas every day. Well, you can imagine what happened. Eventually everyone got so tired of Christmas it turned into a regular hate fest, and she saw the error of her wish. Christmas is so wonderful precisely because it is only once a year. The same is true for our birthdays, or Easter and even when celebrations like Eid go on for more than one day, it is a once a year event.

Some things are special because they are occasional, only every now and then. People say how much they would love to live at a vacation spot they enjoy, but the wiser realize that they would soon tire of it. It is special because it is out of the ordinary. Other things, of course, are special because they are special. A new parent will never get tired of looking at the newborn child. An artist never gets tired of creating, of finding new ways to express their view of the world. And hopefully, a Catholic never gets tired of the Mass, and the miracle of the Body and Blood of Christ that takes place on the altar every time we celebrate.

Of course the other side is that we get out of something what we put in. One of the reasons Christmas is wonderful is the time and energy we put into decorating and shopping and taking part in the Advent preparations. Mass, too, becomes more special when we participate fully, both interior and exterior participation. If we sing – even if we sing badly – we join in the community coming together. When we actively listen to the prayers and the readings and open ourselves to hearing perhaps a message from God, we experience the richness more than if we simply sit and watch our neighbors, or wonder if we will be able to get out of the parking lot easily. We will get out of any experience what we put in, and that is as true of coming to Mass as it is going to a picnic, listening to music, or cooking a meal. I encourage you – in all things – to participate and celebrate and, of course – find God.

Let us continue to pray for one another.

Fr. John's Email: pastorsh@jordanjesuits.org

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

Website: Jordanjesuits.org **Facebook:** Go to Parish Group and ask to be admitted to the group. You will be.

SAINT OF THE WEEK – St. Augustine, August 28

If there is any adult Catholic who does not know at least a little something about this saint, you have a hole in your education that you need to address. He is one of the great minds of our Church, and because he was also one of the great sinners, he has an understanding of God's grace that should echo in each of our lives. He was a great writer, and his books are still widely read today. His *Confessions* remains a masterpiece and relevant to our world and our lives, and *City of God* is inspirational in the best sense of the word. He is also a consolation for parents whose children have left the Church or who seem uninterested in the faith, precisely because he went that route, and ended up a great saint. (He is also the patron saint of brewers, printers, theologians, sore eyes, and a number of cities and dioceses.)

Aurelius Augustine was born in 354 at Tagaste, Algeria, in North Africa, the son of Patricius, a non-believer, and his devout Catholic wife, Monica. He was enrolled as a catechumen by his mother when he was a boy, but baptism was deferred to a later time, the custom of the day. From his earliest years, Augustine possessed an inquisitive mind and an attractive personality and set his sights on a career that would bring him both wealth and fame.

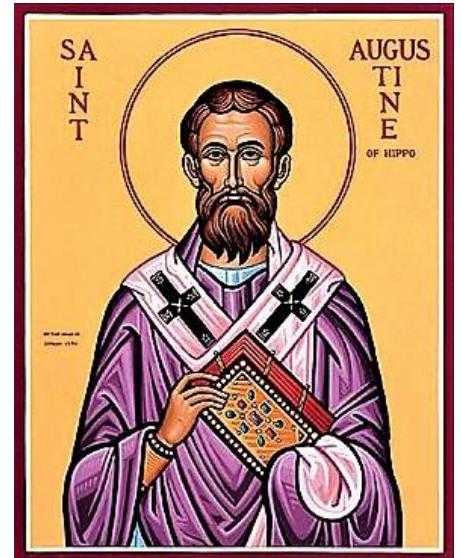
He became a teacher of rhetoric, first in his native town, then in Rome and finally in Milan. His journey from city to city reflected the more important spiritual journey that he made in search of inner peace and lasting happiness. The example, prayers, and influence of Monica played a great part in her son's conversion to the Catholic faith. He was baptized at the age of 33 by Bishop Ambrose of Milan.

His decision to embrace the faith was at the same time a commitment to spend the remainder of his life as a "servant of God," that is, in celibacy, even though he had been living for years with a woman whom he deeply loved, and with whom he had fathered a son, to whom he gave the name Adeodatus.

Following baptism, he set out for his native town where he wished to pursue a monastic style of life. At Tagaste, Augustine and several companions lived an intense life of prayer, work and fellowship, sharing their insights about Scripture and the Christian vocation. After three years, however, while on a visit to the city of Hippo, he was called to become a priest, contrary to his wishes, but he nevertheless accepted what he believed was God's will. In Hippo, too, he established a monastic community, which he directed while assisting the bishop, Valerius. Several years later Augustine succeeded Valerius as head of the diocese, and feeling constrained to move to the bishop's house so as not to disturb the peace of the monastic community, he wrote his Rule for its continued direction, and then established yet a third community for clerics in his new episcopal residence.

As bishop, Augustine found his desired life of contemplation and separation from worldly concerns necessarily influenced and refashioned by his many obligations as leader of the local Church and as a civil official, which the office of bishop at the time included. In addition to his pastoral duties within Hippo, he traveled to church councils in the region of North Africa – forty to fifty times over the course of the 35 years he served as bishop. He made the nine-day journey to Carthage, the metropolitan see, for meetings with other bishops some thirty times. But even these extensive travels, which Augustine always found to be a hardship physically, were modest in comparison with the great output of writings and sermons which he produced: over two hundred books and nearly a thousand sermons, letters and other works.

In the year 430 Augustine fell ill and took to his bed. He died on August 28th, as the city of Hippo was being sacked by the Vandals. His body in Pavia in Northern Italy, in the Basilica of San Pietro in Ciel d'Oro.



MASS SCHEDULE

DAY	TIME	LOCATION
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)

FIRST COMMUNION CLASSES

Classes to prepare children to receive their First Holy Communion will begin on Saturday, September 22nd. Children who are at least 7 years of age, registered in Sacred Heart Parish and judged by Fr. John to be ready for the classes are eligible. There will be a meeting of parents with Fr. John, at which he will review the schedule for the year, and the obligations of the parents and the family, and what will be expected of the children. At that meeting he will also schedule a time to interview each child in his or her home. At least one parent is required to attend the meeting. There will be meetings at the Jesuit Center on Wednesday, August 29 at 7 PM; Friday August 31 at 10 AM; and on Monday September 3 at 7 PM. Attendance is required at only one meeting. Please call or email in advance to indicate your attendance, so we can be sure of having enough copies of the material available.

If the family is not registered at Sacred Heart Parish and is regularly attending another Church, the parents will have to obtain the approval of their parish priest for the child to attend these classes and make First Holy Communion at Sacred Heart. It is assumed the children taking the class will make their First Communion with the class in May. Any other arrangements need to be approved by Fr. John before the classes start.

There is no charge for the First Communion program, but there will be a fee for registrations after October 13 if approved.

LOOKING AHEAD – WELCOME/WELCOME BACK/THANK YOU!

On Saturday, September 15, we will have our first Parish reception after the 5 PM Mass. If you are new to the parish, this is to welcome you and help you get to know some of your fellow parishioners. If you've been away for the summer or a couple of months, this is to welcome you back. And if you have been here pretty much all along this summer, this party is to say THANK YOU for helping to keep things going during the "slow" months. As the day gets closer we will be reminding you – and inviting you to bring something to share – cookies, sandwiches, your grandmother's favorite recipe – it is always a delight to see how creative some of our members are. (We have been assured that, theologically speaking, since this is a formal Parish event, there are NO calories in any of the food. Special dispensation.) So clear your calendars and be ready.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

**FATHER JOHN
IN CONCERT!**
Monday, October 8 – 7 PM

VENUE:
HALIM SALFITI THEATER,
BANK AL ETIHAD

**INFORMATION ON PROGRAM ADVERTISING
AND TICKET SALES IN THE NEXT HEARTBEAT**