

SACRED HEART HEARTBEAT

ENGLISH LANGUAGE
ROMAN CATHOLIC PARISH



First Sunday of Advent December 1/2, 2018

COMING SPECIAL EVENTS AND CELEBRATIONS

- Dec. 1 - 9:30 AM – Advent Reflection group at the Jesuit Center (Registration not needed)
- Dec. 1/2 - First Sunday of Advent – Advent “baskets” available at all Masses
- Dec. 2 – Mass at the Jesuit Center, 10 AM
- Dec. 3 – Dec. 3 – Feast of St. Francis Xavier
World Disabled Day – celebrations at Our Lady of Peace Center, 10 AM
- Dec. 6 – St. Nicholas Day
- Dec 7 - First Friday – Adoration following Mass at the Xavier Chapel
- Dec. 7-9 – Christmas Bazaar at St. Mary of Nazareth
- Dec. 8 – Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception – Morning Mass at the Jesuit Center
9:30 AM – Advent Reflection group at the Jesuit Center
- Dec. 8/9 - **SECOND SUNDAY COLLECTION**
- Dec. 8 – Children’s Mass (Mass of the 2nd Sunday of Advent) – No children’s Liturgy of the Word
- Dec. 9 - Sunday Mass at 10 AM during Advent at the Jesuit Center
- Dec. 10 - Deadline for registering for the Day of Recollection on the 14th
- Dec. 14 - *Advent Day of Recollection – 1st session at 9:15 AM, following the 8:30 AM Mass*
Deadline for registration December 11. RSVP required. Appropriate for older children as well as adults. Lunch is provided – the day ends around 3:30 PM. No charge.
- Dec. 15 - 9:30 AM – Advent Reflection group at the Jesuit Center
- Dec. 15/16 – 3rd Sunday of Advent
Christmas Reception following Mass at Sweifieh
Last First Communion class until January 12
- Dec. 22 – First day of winter
9:30 AM – Advent Reflection group at the Jesuit Center (Final session)
- Dec. 22/23 – 4th Sunday of Advent, regular Mass schedule
- Dec. 24 – Vigil Mass at Sweifieh, 5 PM – Fr. Michael Linden, celebrant
- Dec. 25 – Mass of Christmas morning, 10 AM, Jesuit Center, Jabal Hussein.



Pope Francis'
MONTHLY
PRAYER
INTENTIONS

In the Service of the Transmission of Faith
That people, who are involved in the service and the transmission of faith, may find, in their dialogue with culture, a language that suited to the conditions of the present times.

THE CASUAL CHRISTMAS CHOIR – Last Call

I find myself wondering if there are some people who know that they will be here for Christmas who might like to get together and form a “Christmas Choir.” No commitment beyond preparing some harmonies for Christmas carols that we might sing at the Vigil Mass on Christmas Eve and at the Mass on Christmas morning. We would have 4 rehearsals – it’s amazing what you can accomplish with 4 rehearsals – and no commitment for anything beyond that. Well, maybe for the January 1 Mass but we’ll see how that works out. If anyone would be interested – let Fr. John know this week, since we will have to decide if there are enough voices who will be here to make it work.

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)

ADVENT REFLECTIONS

As we have done in the past, daily reflections for this special season will be available each day on the Facebook page, and will be e-mailed directly to you. If you would like to receive the daily reflections, please send Father John a note (PastorSH@jordanjesuits.org) and he will add your name. There will be an introductory email on December 1, and the First Sunday of Advent will see the official beginning of these reflections.

ADVENT BASKET PROGRAM

For those who have already “adopted” one or more of our Advent Baskets, thank you. The “Baskets” (which look a lot like cans) will be available after both Masses this weekend, and at the Jesuit Center. We will collect them just before Christmas, but if you are leaving and want to turn your basket in early, or give it to us after Christmas, either is fine. Some people have taken two – one for their use at home, and one for their office, where they have said they want to give their colleagues a chance to support this work as well. Again – many thanks.

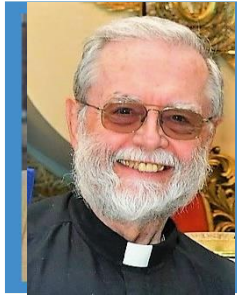
UPCOMING EVENTS – A REMINDER

There is a special link on the website for Advent activities, in addition to the calendar posting. Next week, December 8, there will be a Children’s Mass at Sweifieh, so there will not be a Children’s Liturgy of the Word that week. There will also be the monthly Second Collection for Sacred Heart Parish.

After Mass on the 15th there will be a Christmas reception, where we get the chance to actually meet and talk with one another. Please plan on coming, and if you have special cookies or recipes or something you wish to contribute in the line of food or drink, that would be WONDERFUL.

On December 7th, the Al Hussein Society is having their Christmas Bazaar at the Dunes, from mid-morning until whenever. Fr. John will be singing for a short while around 2 or 2:30, but there are many wonderful reasons to come out and celebrate.

There WILL be First Communion class on December 15th, and class will resume on January 12th.



RAMBLINGS

OF THE REVEREND REDACTOR

HAPPY NEW YEAR!!!

Well, it is. A new year in the Church. It is year C for the Sunday Mass readings, and Year I for the readings at daily Mass. As we have done in the past, Jordan will follow the Orthodox calendar for Lent and Easter, and the Bishop's office informed us that we will continue on that schedule until Pentecost. That means the feast days that are counted from Pentecost will also continue to be one week behind the Western Church, so Ash Wednesday will be March 13, Palm Sunday April 21, Easter Sunday April 28, Pentecost June 16, Trinity Sunday June 23 and Corpus Christi June 30. The patronal feast of our parish, the Sacred Heart of Jesus, will be celebrated on July 5th. The parish calendar will reflect this schedule.

Yes, we are planning ahead. We tend to do that. The schedule of activities and events goes pretty much through January, we know when our First Communion candidates will make their first confession and receive First Holy Communion. I'm thinking about another concert in February, and idly sketching out details of my visit to the US this summer. We all do that – we like to plan ahead, it somehow makes us feel we are in control of our lives.

If we stop, of course, we realize that we're really not. We can try to be prepared, but "life" always has something unexpected that is NOT on our list. Sometimes it is something good, sometimes things happen that we wish had not happened. But the only thing we can control is how prepared we are, not what will actually take place.

And that is the lesson of Advent. We are supposed to use this time to prepare for the celebration of the coming of Christ into the world. Hint: the purpose of Advent is NOT to prepare for "Christmas," because that word has now taken on a much bigger meaning than simply the coming of Christ. It includes trees and parties and presents and travel and bazaars and and and... and often enough, the Baby Jesus gets lost in all the wrapping paper and decorations and celebrations. The Christmas "season" starts on December 25.

Christmas is, for me, an even greater miracle than the Resurrection. God becomes man, without losing any of the divinity that is His and at the same time becoming fully human. That is right up there with the existence of the Trinity that our poor mortal and finite brains are never going to fully understand. God became man. God becomes bread and wine on the altar. Compared to these amazing events, the Resurrection is something I can partially get a grasp on. I continue to stand in awe of Christmas – the sign of God's love for us that – to use a modern expression – blows my mind. And as I have gotten older I find myself spending more time with the stable than with parties and 8 tiny reindeer.

Now remember – I wanted to BE Santa Claus when I was little, so I would never suggest doing away with the presents or the parties or all the excitement of Christmas. I LOVE Christmas trees. But I love the creche too, with the reminders of the Baby Jesus and the shepherds and the Wise Man. And the miracle. As you plan for the coming weeks, make sure both are represented in your schedule and your family.

And let us continue to pray for one another, and all the people we serve.

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

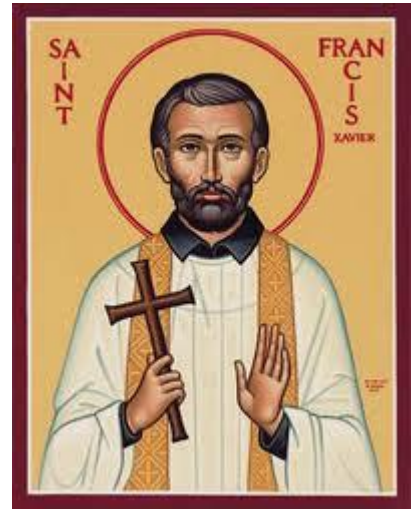
Fr. John's Mobile: 079 013-8985 (If no answer, leave a message.)

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

SAINT OF THE WEEK – St. Francis Xavier – 3 December

You sort of knew this was going to be the saint for this week, right? Jesuit saint, one of the first fathers who were with Ignatius at the founding of the Society of Jesus, patron of missionaries, patron of the chapel at the Jesuit Center, one of the few saints who has TWO feast days during the year – betting on Xavier would have been pretty much a sure thing.

For many saints, it is sometimes hard to distinguish between the fact and the legend. For Francis Xavier, the facts are well-supported, and they are so extraordinary, they can sound like legend. For instance there is a 3-volume biography of the life of Xavier that practically gives you what he ate every day. Like St. Ignatius, Xavier was a Basque. He was not supposed to go to the missions; some say that Ignatius had hoped Xavier would become the next General, the head of the Society of Jesus. But on the day when another Jesuit was supposed to go to “the Indies,” with a delegation to the King of Portugal, that Jesuit fell sick, and so at the last minute, Ignatius sent Xavier. When his friend came down to depart, Ignatius told him to go back to his room and pack more clothes; he had arrived with one set of clothes, his breviary and a Mass kit, and he was ready to go.



He had great success in India, baptizing thousands, and his letters back to Europe inspired many to join in this work. He went to Japan, and had difficulty with the language and wanted to go on to China, but died before he could accomplish that. The story is that as he was dying, the letter from Ignatius ordering him to come back to Rome was already on its way.

Although the legends are many about Francis, the facts are more than enough to mark him as a great apostle. He was one of the first to advocate that the missionary must adapt to the customs and language of the people he evangelizes, and he strongly argued for an educated native clergy. He was careful about providing care and pastoral support for people he had baptized and communities he had founded before he left to move to other places, and much of his work was teaching people who had been baptized by others and then abandoned.

ADVENT/CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE

There is an old saying – If you want to make God smile, tell Him your plans. But as far as we can tell right now, here is the schedule of events for Advent

December 1-22 – Each Saturday morning, following the 8:30 AM Mass, there will be a group reflection on Advent and the preparation for Christmas. No reservation necessary, all are welcome.

December 2 – 23 – Every Sunday morning at the Jesuit Center, there will be a “quiet” Mass at 10AM. No singing. All are welcome.

December 15 – Following the 5 PM Mass at Sweifieh, a Christmas reception in the Church Hall.

December 24 – 5 PM, a Vigil Mass for Christmas, focus on the young people, although not a “children’s” Mass.

December 25 – Mass of Christmas Day at the Jesuit Center at 10 AM. (Remember – Christmas is a Holy Day of Obligation. The Vigil Mass satisfies the obligation.)

IT’S NOT A SCAM!

If you get an email advising you of a password and screen name with which to update your information, that means you can now access your parish registration and keep it up to date. Check to be sure what we have is correct. It’s not a scam or a virus – it’s PROGRESS!