

SACRED HEART HEARTBEAT

ENGLISH LANGUAGE
ROMAN CATHOLIC PARISH



3rd SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME January 26/27, 2019

COMING SPECIAL EVENTS AND CELEBRATIONS

- Feb.1 - First Friday – Adoration following the 8:30 AM Mass
- Feb. 2 – Feast of the Presentation of the Lord. Blessing of Candles at the 8:30 AM Mass
- Feb. 2/3 – Blessing of candles and blessing of throats at both weekend Masses
- Feb. 2 – The Sacrament of Confirmation will be administered to Piotr Swiezaczynski at the 5 PM Mass
- Feb. 3-5 – Papal Visit to Abu Dhabi
- Feb. 9/10 – **SECOND SUNDAY COLLECTION**
- Feb. 11 – Our Lady of Lourdes
- February 16/17 – Renewal of Marriage Vows at both Masses
- Feb. 18 – Ask Father John
- Feb/ 22 – Feast of the Chair of Peter
- March 1 - First Friday – Adoration following the 8:30 AM Mass
- March 4 – Novena of Grace to St. Francis Xavier begins
- March 9/10 – **SECOND SUNDAY COLLECTION**
- March 9 – Children’s Mass at Sweifieh
- March 12 – Canonization of St. Ignatius Loyola and St. Francis Xavier
- March 13 – **ASH WEDNESDAY** – Mass at the Jesuit Center at 8:30 AM and 6 PM
- March 17 – 1st Sunday of Lent; Feast of St. Patrick
- March 19 – Feast of St. Joseph
- March 21 – Mother’s Day in Jordan
- March 23 – First Confessions
- March 23/24 – Anointing of the Sick at Both Masses
- March 25 – Solemnity of the Annunciation of the Lord

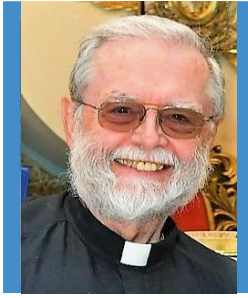


Pope Francis'

MONTHLY
PRAYER
INTENTIONS

That young people, especially in Latin America, follow the example of Mary and respond to the call of the Lord to communicate the joy of the Gospel to the world.

CAN YOU HELP US OUT? As this edition was being prepared, we still have 27 Advent Basket Cans that have not yet been returned. No one likes to admit that Christmas is over, but it is. You may always give money at any time during the year, but we would really like to be able to close this project.



RAMBLINGS

OF THE REVEREND REDACTOR

I really enjoy writing this section of the Newsletter when I can be funny or relaxed or tell a story. Sometimes as Pastor I have to call our attention to other parts of our community life, and it's not always fun. Asking for money is NEVER fun, although the work we do with what we receive is richly rewarding. Asking for volunteers is NEVER fun, because the pious hope would be that people would simply step up even without being asked. This week, I am forced to note there are things I simply don't understand.

I don't understand why it is so difficult for people to understand the notion of worshipping in common. We all come from different backgrounds and traditions – I understand that. But when we come together, we should adopt a common posture. We use a common language, even though for the majority of our community it is not their first language. We use the same readings and prayers that are being used all around the world. So why do some people insist on standing when the rest of the congregation is kneeling or sitting? I know that may be the custom in some Orthodox Churches, and even in some Latin churches. In our parish, it is not – and on a very simple level, if you are standing, the people kneeling or sitting behind you cannot see the action of the Mass. True at the Eucharistic prayer, true for the Acclamation, true at “Behold the Lamb of God.” When the Body of Christ is elevated, it seems the logical response is to kneel.

I don't understand why so many people come late for Mass – and why so many feel the burning desire to leave early. I know – Amman has traffic and congested streets and problems. You know that too. Leave earlier, until you find the time that gets you to church early enough to be able to pray and focus and relax before Mass begins. If there are other commitments that make it impossible for you to get to Mass on time – then perhaps you need to explore changing those commitments. If you feel comfortable arriving at the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass late – why can't you feel comfortable leaving some other event early?

And speaking of leaving early – you know how long the Mass lasts. We very seldom take more than one hour. Yet, each week I see a host of people dashing for the doors before I finish the walk down the aisle. And some even before that. The parking lot is not that crowded. 5 minutes one way or another won't make a difference in the kind of traffic you find. And you make it impossible for anyone to greet you, talk to you, get to know you. After taking part in the miracle of the bread and wine being transformed into the Body and Blood of Christ, I would think that perhaps a quiet moment or two of prayer and thanksgiving would be a more appropriate response than seeing if you can beat everyone else out the door.

I don't understand why more people don't sing (although the ones that do are making a wonderful sound!) I don't understand why people don't pay more attention to how they dress for Mass. I don't understand why people can't go for one hour without their cell phone or a bottle of water. I don't understand why this extraordinary event doesn't seem to be more important to more people.

Maybe I'm just getting old, but I find there are a lot of things I don't understand.

Let us continue to pray for one another.

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

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

Facebook: Parish Group. (You have to ask to be admitted, but you will be.)

CHILDREN'S LITURGY OF THE WORD

I am delighted to report that we have several new volunteers to help with this important program, and so except for Children's Masses or a special announcement, there will be a Children's Liturgy of the Word at the Sweifieh Mass each week. If you are interested in helping out, feel free to come up one Saturday and observe, and see if this is an activity you would feel comfortable leading. The same invitation is open for parents, if your child is a little nervous – feel free to come for the first visit. Usually the child gets involved and you can slip away without ever being noticed. THANK YOU to those who are making this possible.

HEATING PROJECT

Last Saturday the first deliveries of our low-cost heating pots was made to 26 families – 52 units – and as I write this, the second group of pots for another 30 families is getting ready to be shipped out. We are still looking for a source for more pots. We can easily get the bricks and the candles but the pots have proved difficult to source. We're working on it, though. We don't worry about running out of people who need heat or help during these difficult days. Thanks to all on the committee who have made this possible.

PARTY! PARTY!

Everybody loves a party and the receptions after Mass have always been a favorite activity of our parish. But these events don't happen all by themselves, and we need one or two coordinators who will volunteer to help organize these events. It involves checking with the Parish Council to be sure the hall is available, and being the contact person for those who want to bring delicious items to share. In the past we have always had more food than people – which is a wonderful indication of the generosity of our parishioners – but someone needs to be the one to help get it together –and cleaned up at the end. You will have experienced people to help you and show you what needs to be done. To volunteer or to get more information contact Fr. John or Marian Karmandarian or Donna Naber.

BLESSING OF CANDLES AND THROATS

Candles will be blessed on Saturday morning, February 2nd, at the 8:30 Mass, on Saturday evening at Sweifieh and at Freres Church in Jabal Hussein on Sunday night. The blessing will take place during Mass, and YOU HAVE TO PROVIDE YOUR OWN CANDLES. Throats will NOT be blessed at the Mass Saturday morning.

Blessing of Throats will take place at the Saturday evening and Sunday evening Masses and will take place AFTER Mass – so if you leave early, you will not be able to have your throats blessed.

Please note that at the Mass at Sweifieh on February 2nd, the Sacrament of Confirmation will also be administered. While it is not a lengthy ceremony, the combination of events may mean the Mass will take slightly longer than usual, if you need to plan accordingly.

LOOKING AHEAD IN THE CALENDAR

We will keep reminding you, but for those who plan ahead, remember that in Jordan, we follow the Orthodox calendar for Lent and Easter, up to the Feast of Pentecost. This year the celebrations are one week after the rest of the Church, so Ash Wednesday is March 13 (NOT March 6) and Easter is April 28. Especially if you are traveling, know that the rest of the Church is on the Latin schedule, so if you are in Amman for Palm Sunday, everywhere else is celebrating Easter Sunday. Jordan often uses the Western calendar (because of tourists visiting) and they are confused when they look for an Easter Mass and find Palm Sunday. Last year there were people who "missed" Easter, either because they traveled out after our Palm Sunday or arrived not knowing the different schedule.

2019 PARISH CALENDARS – We still have calendars available but you have to request them. Fr. John will NOT be carrying calendars to the weekend Masses unless there is a request.

FREE HEATING



Some shots from the packing and arrival of 60 units to help warm 30 families or groups. So far we have distributed 112 units, and have 38 more to go, hopefully this week. We plan on doing more, as soon as we can locate suitable pots. This shipment was 60 pots, 240 bricks, 6,000 candles and an instruction sheet. We started with 16,000 candles and bought every pot IKEA had in stock.

