

SACRED HEART HEARTBEAT

ENGLISH LANGUAGE
ROMAN CATHOLIC PARISH



FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT April 6/7, 2019
LAETARE SUNDAY

COMING SPECIAL EVENTS AND CELEBRATIONS

April 5 - First Friday – Adoration following the 8:30 AM Mass

April 13/14 - **SECOND SUNDAY COLLECTION**

April 13 – Light reception after Mass -come and meet your fellow parishioners

April 16 – Parish Advisory Committee Meeting, 7 PM

April 23 – Memorial of St. George

Palm Sunday and Triduum celebrations according to the posted schedule on Page 3

May 1 – Feast of St. Joseph, the Worker

Labor Day holiday

May 3 – Feast of Ss. Philip & James, Apostles – First Friday, Adoration following the 8:30 AM Mass

May 11/12 – SECOND SUNDAY COLLECTION

May 14 – Feast of St. Matthias, Apostle

May 18 - FIRST HOLY COMMUNION AT SWEIFIEH – RECEPTION TO FOLLOW

May 24 – Our Lady of the Way

May 25 – Independence Day in Jordan

May 26 – Father John leaves for the US until July 4

May 30 – THE ASCENSION OF OUR LORD - A Holy Day of Obligation

May 31 – Feast of the Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary

June 7 - First Friday – Adoration following the 8:30 AM Mass

June 10 – Mary, Mother of the Church

June 11 – Feast of St. Barnabas, Apostle

June 13 – St. Anthony of Padua

June 15/16 – **SOLEMNITY OF PENTECOST**

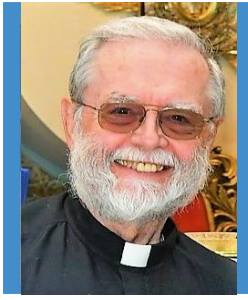
SECOND SUNDAY COLLECTION



Pope Francis'

MONTHLY
PRAYER
INTENTIONS

**For doctors and humanitarian
collaborators in war zones,
who risk their lives
to save the lives of others.**



RAMBLINGS

OF THE REVEREND REDACTOR

I was reading a commentary on a homily of Basil the Great the other day, and the author was saying that Lent is “a time of preparation for the central event of Christianity: Easter!” Sometimes we tend to get caught up in Lent – in fasting, and daily Mass (well, for some) and giving something up, perhaps a special devotion like the Stations of the Cross, no meat on Fridays – and can too easily forget WHY we are doing all this, which is to prepare ourselves for a deeper and more meaningful celebration of Easter. If we lose sight of Holy Week and Easter, what’s the point of having Lent?

It occurred to me then that we have the same problem with life. Our life – our daily existence – our being here on planet earth at this time in the history of the world – is precisely to help us prepare for the central event of our existence – that moment when we die and face God and begin the existence in His presence that will be ours for all eternity. Everything else – wonderful and joyful as it may be – getting married, raising children, buying a house, going to Petra (the Tourism Board wanted me to slip that in), having a deep spiritual experience, camping in the Maine woods or crying at a movie or burying a friend or discovering a whole new way to cook duck – all of these moments, great and small, are part of the experience of life, whose whole purpose is to help prepare us for heaven.

Lent DOES have its own beauty and experiences and while “enjoy” may not always be the right word, it is for many a time of great richness. In the same way, our life on earth is filled with wonder and beauty and hopefully more joy than sorrow – and it should be a time of great richness. But both Lent and Life have a reason, a purpose, and the purpose is celebration. In one case, the celebration of the Resurrection of Jesus Christ as the crowning moment of our salvation, and the other is the end of our lives, and what we hope will be its crowning moment, when the Heavenly Father says something like, “Well done, thou good and faithful servant, enter into the joy of my kingdom.” Or however that takes place.

This Sunday is Laetare Sunday in Lent, from the first word of the Entrance Antiphon “Rejoice!” It is here to remind us precisely of the reason for Lent, and the Rose vestments indicate a Sunday with a different tone than the rest of the Lenten celebrations. The music at Mass is more joyful and we have gone back to the “ordinary” music rather than the Gregorian chant for this one week only. It is a pause for us to catch our breath and to do a check to see how we have been doing this Lent. Have we kept to the sacrifices we said we would make on Ash Wednesday? Have we been conscious of it being Lent or has that gotten lost in the work and school and errands and parties of “normal” life? If we were to give ourselves an honest “grade” for our Lent so far – what would we grade ourselves?

The good news is that there is still time. We have four weeks to go. Four weeks to catch up or make up or improve or try again. Four weeks until Easter. And of course, looking down the road to all eternity.

Don’t be discouraged – just keep remembering the destination. Right now it’s Easter. Eventually it’s heaven. And in between is the rest of your life. Today is the reminder to enjoy it. As I have been known to say, “If you can’t have fun with God, there is no hope for any of us.”

During these days of Lent, let us continue to pray for one another as we move through these holy days.

Fr. John’s Email: pastorsh@jordanjesuits.org Facebook: Parish Group. (Ask to be admitted)
Fr. John’s Mobile: 079 013-8985 (If no answer, leave a message.) **Website:** Jordanjesuits.org

LENTEN ACTIVITIES – MARK YOUR CALENDAR

The chapel at the Jesuit Center will be open on the following days and times for private prayer. Whenever the chapel is open, Fr. John will be available for confession. You may also schedule private confession with Fr. John or any of the other Jesuits by contacting them directly.

APRIL

6 – 9 – 10:30 AM

8 – 2 – 4 PM

10 – 3 – 5 PM

14 – 2 – 4 PM

19 – 9 – 10:30 AM

22 – 3 – 5 PM

24 – 10 – 11:30 AM

25 – Holy Thursday – after the evening service until 11 PM. The Blessed Sacrament will be carried in Procession from the de LaSalle Church to the Jesuit Chapel.

26 – Good Friday - After the noon service until 6 PM

CONFIRMED SCHEDULE FOR HOLY WEEK

APRIL 21 - PALM SUNDAY

Usual schedule for weekend Masses

APRIL 25 – HOLY THURSDAY

Mass at de LaSalle Church at 5 PM

Procession with the Blessed Sacrament to the Jesuit Chapel

APRIL 26 – GOOD FRIDAY

Solemn Service at 12 Noon at de LaSalle Church

(Note the change from earlier schedule listing)

APRIL 27 – HOLY SATURDAY

5 PM – Abbreviated Vigil Service at Sweifieh

8 PM – Full Vigil Service at the Jesuit Center

APRIL 28 – EASTER SUNDAY

10 AM – Mass of Easter Morning at the Jesuit Center

WEEKLY BIBLE GROUP FOR ADULTS

There is currently a group of adults that meets each week on Tuesday. We gather around 10:30 AM so we can begin promptly at 11 AM, and we finish at 12:30. The group does some Bible study, some shared reflection and we explore issues of liturgy, catechism, faith and all are encouraged to share their own experiences and points of view. Fr. John is the resource person, and sometimes does more formal teaching, but group sharing and discussion is the usual format.

If there is any interest in creating a second group in the evening, for those who cannot make the morning session, and for more information and location of the morning group, please contact Fr. John or Sana Dababne at sana@dababneh.net or by calling 079 565-6844.

EXPLORING THE CHURCH – FOR YOUNG ADULTS

In response to several requests, we have started an informal group of young adults – which I guess is the current term for teenagers – on Saturday morning at 9:30 AM at the Jesuit Center. I realize some have school on Saturday; if there is an interest from others who cannot make Saturday let me know. If you fit into this older teen-age/young adult age group and would like to join us, give me (Father John) a call or an email. The key word is “informal” – conversation and exploration more than “school.”

APRIL 13 – COME FOR A SMALL PARTY

It's Lent, and it's been a tough winter. And that alone is enough reason to gather as a community and share a snack and a drink and catch up. We wave at each other in Church, we perhaps exchange a quick hello and a “How are you?” but it has usually been the case that when we get together we discover that we like each other! So on April 13, after the 5 PM Mass at Sweifieh, we will have a small reception. Nothing fancy or elegant, the emphasis more on people than pastries. If you would like to bring something to share, wonderful. If we have more people than food, we'll still have fun. So plan on staying a little after Mass on that day and join the fun.

APRIL BIRTHDAYS

- 1 Nickolas Neibauer
- 15 Melissa Matthews
- 18 Alejandra Susarrey
- 19 Marites Tiamzon
Katarzyna Smith
- 20 Dr. Jackie
Ewemade Atake
- 21 Archbishop Pierbattista Pizzaballa, OFM 1965



WEB PAGE REPORT

In the month of March our web page had 1,447 visitors who made 6,051 visits. The most visits came from computers registered in the United States, followed closely by Jordan and then a sprinkling of European and Asian countries. The most popular search engine used to access to our site is far and away Google.com, with Google.jo and Google.co.uk coming in 2nd and 3rd. Actually the combination of jordanjesuits.org and shp.jordanjesuits.org together would be in 3rd place, beating out the UK.

MASS ATTENDANCE REPORT

In March, attendance at Mass was:

- Sweifieh (St. Mary of Nazareth) 986 (Average 197)
- Freres (Jean Baptiste de LaSalle) 193 (Average 40)
- Jesuit Center (Francis Xavier Chapel) 509 (Average 18)

BLESSING OF EASTER BASKETS AT THE EASTER VIGIL

We will once again have the blessing of Easter baskets as part of the ritual for the Easter Vigil on Saturday night. We have had the blessing of baskets for the past two years, and we will continue the tradition this year. Baskets often feature eggs (both plain and decorated), salt, different kinds of meat, and bread. They can be simple or quite elaborate. At the end of the ceremony, each family or individual collects the basket they brought, and takes it home for their own celebration of Easter.

In case you wonder why some of the items are in the basket, here is the background on the assembling of the Easter Basket:

EGGS: A sign of hope and resurrection. Jesus comes forth from the tomb as the chick breaks the shell of an egg at birth. Because of the special meaning, it is fitting that the eggs to be blessed are decorated with symbols of Easter, Alleluia. The use of hard-boiled eggs goes back to the ancient Passover when the Jews used them in their Passover meal.

BUTTER: Butter in the form of a Lamb or just butter on a dish. The butter represents the innocent victim (Lamb – Jesus). The Lamb is the ancient Passover food by whose blood the Israelites were saved. Jesus is our Paschal (Passover) Lamb by whose blood we are saved.

BREAD: A small loaf of round bread (Pascha) usually with a braided top. The bread represents the staff of life and the braid represents the cross of Christ. The bread as a whole reminds us that Jesus, the Risen Lord, who in the Eucharist is the food of our earthly journey and the true bread of everlasting life.

SALT: Represents the Truth of His message.

HORSERADISH, VINEGAR OR SOUR CREAM: Recall the Gall, given our Lord, crying out, “I thirst”. It also represents the bitter herbs prescribed in the original Passover meal as a reminder of the bitterness and harshness of life in Egypt. It reminds us of the Bitterness of Jesus’ Passion by which he entered into glory.

MEAT: Ham celebrated the freedom of the new law, which came into effect through Jesus' Resurrection, in distinction to the old law which forbade certain meats. Kielbasa, an ethnic addition, its links remind us of the chains of death, which were broken when Jesus arose. Lamb, may also represent Jesus as the Innocent lamb and remind us of the lamb's blood, which saved the ancient Israelites during the Passover. Other meats may be added as meat in general represents the means of survival.

CHEESE: Represents the abstinence from dairy products on certain days of the "Great Fast".

WINE: Is the drink of the Passover meal and of the last supper. Its sparkle reminds us of the glory of Easter. Wine gladdens our hearts and helps us enter the joy of the Resurrection.

A cloth glorifying Christ's resurrection is usually placed over the items in your basket until the time of Blessing. It is also customary to have a candle lighted in your basket during the Blessing. Other foods such as nut rolls, chocolates, etc. can also be placed in your basket for Blessing.

As circumstances dictate, substitutions are of course permitted, and if it is not possible to obtain some items, the basket remains a symbol of your faith and your celebration of this great feast.



Actually, ROSE is a mixture of the Lenten purple and the red of sacrifice. The resulting color is rose.

HAVE YOU REGISTERED IN THE PARISH?

Go to 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.



FORGIVE
Because it's easier than math. Math is hard.



SOME EASTER BASKETS TO INSPIRE YOU

Apologies to the readers of the print edition,
they are lovely in color!

ANOTHER LOOK AT THIS WEEKEND'S GOSPEL

Feeling frisky, footloose and fancy-free, a feather-footed fellow forced his fond father to fork over the farthings. He flew far to foreign fields and frittered his fortune with faithless friends and flasks of fermented fluids.

Fleeced from his fortune and facing famine he found himself on a filthy farm, filling his famished frame with fodder fragments flung to the foul-fumed fatlings.

"My fathers flunkies fare far finer," the fugitive forlornly fumbled, as he frankly faced the facts of his feckless fate.

So, he flew forthwith to his family, fell at his father's feet and said: "Father, I have fallen far...forever forfeiting family fellowship." But the faithful father flagged his flunkies to set forth finest feast.

The fugitive's fault-finding brother frowned a furrowed face and fretted: "I have faithfully farmed my father's fields."

"Yes," said the father, "filial fidelity is fabulous. But what forbids frolic and festivity? The fugitive is found; unfurl the flags of forgiveness. Let fun and frivolity flow freely! Fetch the fatted calf for a feast and let there be filial festivity!"

(source unknown)