

# SACRED HEART HEARTBEAT

ENGLISH LANGUAGE  
ROMAN CATHOLIC PARISH



## 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of EASTER May 4/5, 2019

### COMING SPECIAL EVENTS AND CELEBRATIONS

#### **May 11/12 – SECOND SUNDAY COLLECTION**

May 14 – Feast of St. Matthias, Apostle

Iftar Dinner at the Jesuit Center, hosted by Sacred Heart Parish - details to follow  
Parishioners welcome, to act as hosts. Short musical show follows the dinner.

#### **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**

June 21 – St. Aloysius Gonzaga, SJ

First Day of Summer - Father's Day (Take a priest to lunch!)

June 23 – Solemnity of the Holy Trinity

June 24 – Solemnity of the Birth of John the Baptist

June 29 – Solemnity of Ss. Peter and Paul, Apostles

July 3 – Feast of St. Thomas, Apostle

July 5 – Solemnity of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus

*Patronal Feast of our parish*

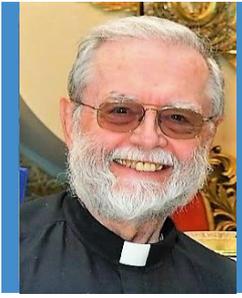


*Pope Francis'*

MONTHLY  
PRAYER  
INTENTIONS

#### FOR MAY

That the Church in Africa, through the commitment of its members, may be the seed of unity among her peoples and a sign of hope for this continent.



# RAMBLINGS

## OF THE REVEREND REDACTOR

I had a minor revelation last week. Someone said to me that I seemed to enjoy hearing confessions. I thought about it, and I realized that I do – and on further reflection I realized why. The penitent comes to confession hopefully with sorrow for the sins committed, and with the desire to avoid sin in the future. MY reaction, however, is pure joy. Here is someone returning to God, being honest with himself, and what a joy that is! Like the father in the parable about the wayward son, I am so delighted at someone coming back to God that this becomes my dominant emotion. Just happiness, and so I relish the conversation, I rejoice in the basic goodness of so many people.

When I was a young priest, I realized – partly from experience and partly in conversation with my brother priests – that my “job” in the confessional is not to judge, but to share God’s love and forgiveness. If I make a mistake, I know God will straighten it out. When in doubt, someone said, always go with love. That, of course applies not just to confession but to pretty much everything in life.

There are many benefits to confession: obviously the forgiveness of sin and the relief that comes with absolution; but also the value of having to look honestly at our lives, and to make clear to the priest not just the “what” but also the “why” of our sins; often the advice of another person in how to avoid or deal with the temptations that do arise; and while going to confession is not always easy, and we seem to be able to find a number of excuses to avoid it, yet it is an act of humility as well as an act of faith, and as a Catholic, these are both virtues we need to practice and develop.

In our day and age, unfortunately, there is prevalent notion that “Sin is not serious”, or “I can confess to God directly, I don’t need a priest” and “I am basically a good person and God knows me, so I don’t need confession.” These are, of course, the arguments that Protestants have been using since the beginning of their various branches as they left the Roman Catholic Church, or pulled away from one Protestant group to form another. They are – in case there is ANY doubt – NOT the teachings of the Catholic Church and NOT the practice of our faith. You are absolved of sin ONLY when absolution is offered by the priest in confession, and receiving Holy Communion when you have serious sin on your soul for which you have not received absolution is a more serious sin than probably any other you have committed.

I mention this during this season of Easter because two of the commandments of the Church (and just as violating one of the Ten Commandments is a serious sin, so is violating one of the commandments of the Church) are: To confess our sins at least once a year and to receive Holy Communion during the Easter time. Easter time goes until Pentecost – but if you have a mortal sin that has not been absolved, you cannot receive Holy Communion. If you need to bring yourself back into good standing with God and the Church, now is the time to do it.

I or any of the priests are available to hear your confession whenever possible. Before Mass is usually difficult because there are always details and preparations that distract and sometimes a good confession needs more time than is possible. It is best to make an appointment, and again, with any of the Jesuits. Saying Mass and hearing confessions are the two richest services we can offer and we rejoice when do.

Let us continue to pray for one another and for a world that needs changing.

Fr. John’s Email: [pastorsh@jordanjesuits.org](mailto:pastorsh@jordanjesuits.org) Website: [Jordanjesuits.org](http://Jordanjesuits.org)

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

**Facebook:** If you are on Facebook, go to Parish Group and ask to be admitted to the group. You will be.

**OVERNIGHT RETREAT** – On May 7 and 8, the parish is sponsoring an overnight retreat. Leave Abdoun by 10 on Tuesday morning, with a picnic lunch en route to the Baptismal Site. Double rooms, each with its own bath, 3 meals included, approximately 70 JOD. We will be carpooling to help save expenses. Fr. John will celebrate Mass each day and give points for meditation. Return Wednesday afternoon. Reservations accepted on payment of fee. For more details or to reserve a space, email Sana Dababneh at [Sana@dababneh.net](mailto:Sana@dababneh.net), or call 0795656844. The space is quiet and restful, but space is limited so when the list is full, we cannot accept additional requests. At this writing we have 14 definitely going. Men and women.



### **CLOW VOLUNTEERS**



The Children's Liturgy of the Word is proving to be very popular, both with the children and with adults. Several of our initial volunteers have left or are leaving shortly, and we need to maintain a number who are willing to teach and be with the children, so that all the adults have a chance to take part in the regular Liturgy of the Word. Please contact Ian or Karen if you would like to volunteer or simply get more information. Potential volunteers are always welcome to sit in on a session to see what it is like. Email: [karenandian2407@gmail.com](mailto:karenandian2407@gmail.com) or Phone: 078 088-8805.

### **IFTAR DINNER HOSTED BY SACRED HEART PARISH**

As we did last year, the Parish will again be hosting an Iftar dinner, on Tuesday May 14. The meal will begin at around 7:30 following the call to prayer. The guests will be predominantly refugee families, and members of the parish are invited to come as hosts. Most of the guests have some Arabic, and are always eager to practice but Arabic speakers are always helpful as well. A donation of 5 JOD is appreciated but not required but you must notify Fr. John in advance, so we don't get so many parishioners that we swamp the guests. Parishioners should plan an arriving by 7 PM. After dinner, there will be a free show of dance and music in the garden theatre for about 40 minutes.



### **ADULT RELIGIOUS EDUCATION/CONVERSATION**

We have had several people indicate their interest in forming a group like this – the big question now is ON WHAT NIGHT SHALL WE MEET? We know that we will not be able to accommodate everyone – but if you are interested and have a favorite night, or a night on which you cannot meet, please let us know ASAP so we can make the best decision. No one will be able to make every session – that's the real world. But let's start and see what happens. Contact Father John or Sana Dababneh ([Sana@dababneh.net](mailto:Sana@dababneh.net), or call 0795656844).

The idea is that people come when they can – the group determines where the discussion and presentations go – Father John is available as a resource, sometimes as a teacher but members also can lead and discussion becomes a key part of the gathering. Please share your ideas. Because silence does not help create anything.

## MAY BIRTHDAYS

- 6 Janice Crowley
- 11 Michelle Costa
- 14 Gaby Mooney
- 15 Bishop William Shomali
- 16 Eva Maria Crespo
- 17 Elias Zimprich
- 24 Matthew Corbin
- 26 Peter Cummings
- 29 Marta Pereira
- 30 Dina Elias



*As always, if your name is not listed, it either means you did not include your birthday when you registered (or you have not registered) or we made a mistake. If the former, you can fix that by going online. If the latter, please let us know so WE can fix that.*

## MASS ATTENDANCE FOR APRIL

Sweifieh – Total for the month – 833, Average 208

Freres – Total (includes Holy Thursday and Good Friday) – 378, Average 75

Jesuit Center – Includes Zeina Memorial Mass, Easter Vigil and Easter Morning – 444, avg 17

## WEBSITE STATS FOR APRIL

1,845 visitors, made 96,393 visits; most from the US, followed closely by Jordan and then Germany  
Google continues to be the top referring site and search engine for most users.

## A RAMADAN MISSION TRIP

Tentatively scheduled for Friday, May 24<sup>th</sup>, the plan is to go to Anjara with anyone interested. It's a project that can involve the whole family, children most welcome, to bring lemon trees to poor families in the area. The local priest is helping to coordinate and identify recipients. They can grow and use the fruit or sell it. How many trees will probably depend on how many people sign up. We'll provide a bus and lunch, we're hoping that some of the orphans will also participate, and we will bring the trees with us in a separate truck (or trucks). At least one gardener will also travel with us. More information in the next HEARTBEAT but if you're interested, please let Father John or Alejandra ([alejandra.susarrey@gmail.com](mailto:alejandra.susarrey@gmail.com)) know so we can begin to coordinate the preliminary details.

### ACT OF CONTRITION

O my God, I am heartily sorry for having offended You, and I detest all my sins because of Your just punishments, but most of all because they offend You, my God, Who are all good and deserving of all my love.  
I firmly resolve, with the help of Your grace, to sin no more and to avoid the near occasions of sin. Amen.

### **THE LORD NEVER TIRES OF FORGIVENESS.**

**It is we who tire of asking his forgiveness. Let us ask for the grace not to tire of asking forgiveness, because he never tires of forgiving.**

**—POPE FRANCIS**

