

# SACRED HEART HEARTBEAT

ENGLISH LANGUAGE  
ROMAN CATHOLIC PARISH



## 23<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Ordinary Time September 7/8, 2019

### COMING SPECIAL EVENTS AND CELEBRATIONS

September 7/8 – Narrated Mass, Part 1

September 10 – Tuesday Night Bible Study begins – 7 PM

September 14 – Welcome Mass for new and returning Parishioners – Reception after the Mass  
First Class for First Communion candidates – 3:30 PM

September 14/15 - **Second Sunday Collection for Sacred Heart Parish**

September 19-23 – Visit of the Jesuit Provincial

September 21/22 – Narrated Mass, Part 2

September 23 – Deadline for ads for the program for Fr. John's Concert

September 24 – Lector Workshop, 7 PM, Jesuit Center – Please register in advance

September 26 - Lector Workshop, 7 PM, Jesuit Center – Please register in advance

September 27 – Lector Workshop, 10 AM, Jesuit Center – Please register in advance

September 28 – Mass for children at Sweifieh

September 29 – Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion – Session 1 of 2, 3 PM Jesuit Center

October 1 - Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion – Session 1 of 2, 7 PM Jesuit Center

October 5/6 – Mass in Latin

**October 7 – FATHER JOHN SINGS AGAIN!! A Concert at Bank Al-Etihad**

October 10 - Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion – Session 2 of 2, 7 PM Jesuit Center

October 11 – MISSION SERVICE PROJECT

October 12/13 – Installation of Liturgical Ministers

**Second Sunday Collection for Sacred Heart Parish**

October 19 – Mass for Jesuit Alumni and Friends

October 26/27 – Renewal of Marriage Vows

October 30 – November 9 – Father John away on retreat

November 1 – Solemnity of All Saints; First Friday

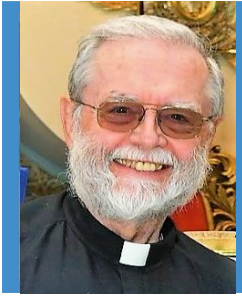
November 2 – Feast of All Souls



*Pope Francis'*  
MONTHLY  
PRAYER  
INTENTIONS

### FOR SEPTEMBER

The Protection of the Oceans  
That politicians, scientists and economists  
work together to protect the world's seas  
and oceans.



# RAMBLINGS OF THE REVEREND REDACTOR

Bishop Robert Barron in the United States is Auxiliary Bishop in Los Angeles and a well-known writer and commentator. I just finished reading a short booklet he has written called "Letter to A Suffering Church."

In it he is particularly addressing the sex and abuse scandals - and he makes it very clear that he is not speaking as a spokesman for the Church or the Conference of Bishops or any other Church authority but just as a concerned priest - but what he has to say is important and applies to much more than just the immediate scandals and the fallout from them.

Part of his message is that we stick with the faith, even when the leaders of the Church may seem to abandon it or weaken it or even contradict it. The Church has been through a great number of crises over the centuries, with corrupt Popes and heresies and political interferences - and we still persist. Jesus has promised us that the gates of hell will not prevail, no matter what things may look like right now. He encourages us and reminds us that we should put our faith in Him - not in the Councils of Bishops or in fact in any human being. They can be – should be – models for us, but the ultimate model is Jesus Christ.

He also points out that just as the Church has had its share of scandals and corrupt leaders, it also has had extraordinary men and women who have responded to crises and helped create the new paths. Francis of Assisi, Ignatius Loyola, St. Theresa (both the Great and the Little Flower) and many others have been inspired by the Holy Spirit to both encourage and inspire at moments of great need. In our own time, Maximilian Kolbe, Mother Theresa, Popes John 23<sup>rd</sup> and John Paul II are among those who have left their mark on the faith.

One of the reasons he has written this book, he says, is because so many people have “left the Church,” often as a result of the scandals, with feelings of betrayal and confusion. He reminds us that our anger and our distress is justified, but our faith has to remain in Jesus and in the Church He founded. You don’t join a Church because of the priest, except insofar as he is a channel to God. You don’t leave the Church because of a priest, although you may try and find another parish. We know that no human being is perfect, yet when someone disappoints us, or betrays us, our response is often based at least in part in the disappointment that they were NOT perfect. We are not Catholics because of a good or bad priest but rather because we have found a relationship with God, with Jesus Christ, and we know – we KNOW – that being a part of the Church He founded is how we will grow in the love and faith we need.

Of course Bishop Barron says it better than I did, and he had more pages to work with. It is a small book, and if you can get ahold of a copy – mine is on my Kindle so I can’t lend it to you – it is worth the little time it will take to read it. But it can, like many good books, provide rich material for reflection about our Church and your relationship with it.

As Catholics, we are not only responsible for ourselves, but those in other faiths will look to us for responses if not answers to questions about abuse and the laws of the Church and what are obviously failures in the oversight and discretion of our leaders. This book helps us both find our own place and answers for others.

Let us continue to pray for one another.

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.

## FIRST HOLY COMMUNION CLASSES

The registration period for the First Holy Communion class for 2020 is closed. The first class will be held on Saturday, September 14, at 3:30 PM in the basement of the hall next to St. Mary of Nazareth Church, Sweifieh.

**HAVE YOU REGISTERED IN THE PARISH?**

WWW. <http://shp.jordanjesuits.org/>

## 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)

## SEPTEMBER 14 – WELCOME/WELCOME BACK

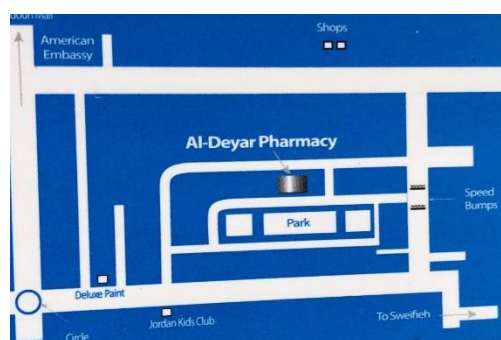
After Mass on September 14<sup>th</sup> at Sweifieh, we will have a reception in the Church hall to both welcome those who are new to the Parish, and to welcome back those who were away for all or part of the summer. There will be tables where you can sign up to participate in various ministries and projects in the Church, and lots of food and drink. Please plan on coming, and on bringing something to share – your favorite recipe, a dish no one else can make quite like you can – or just something fun. You are welcome even if you don't bring anything but yourself but the culinary surprises in the past have always been exciting.

## THE “NARRATED” MASS

One of the responsibilities of a Pastor is to teach, and one of the foundations of our faith is the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass. This week, and on the weekend of September 21/22, I will be conducting what I have come to call a “Narrated” Mass. We will eliminate the opening hymn, and instead of a homily, I will take us through the Mass and explain why we do certain things, why objects are present, what the history and meaning and importance of the elements of the Mass are. I would encourage all to **BE ON TIME**, since much of the important part of this event takes place at the beginning. Of course, all should be on time (if not a little bit early) EVERY week, but these two are particularly important.

## TUESDAY EVENING BIBLE STUDY – 7 pm

Don't let the name scare you, it's really more like Adult Faith Conversation and Exploration. We already have one group that meets every Tuesday from 11am to 12:30 pm (anyone interested is welcome to join this group as well) and beginning on **Tuesday, September 10 at 7 PM** we are starting a second group. For information: [sana@dababneh.net](mailto:sana@dababneh.net) (18 Ahmad elaroussy st – Abdoun) All are welcome – men and women, younger and older. It is a Catholic gathering but others are most welcome, as long as they realize that. We're not trying to convert anybody but we really don't want folks coming who want to convert us to something else. We come to learn and to share and to deepen our faith.



## MASS ATTENDANCE – AUGUST

	Sweifieh	Jesuit Ctr	Freres	
August	739	443	201	(only 4 Sundays)
Average	147	15	50	

## WEBSITE TRAFFIC

In the month of August we had 974 visitors who made 2,975 visits to one or more pages on our website. The summer months are always down both in website visits and Mass attendance.

## PREPARING FOR SEPTEMBER 14

On September 14 at the reception after Mass, we will have tables where people can volunteer for different ministries and projects in the Church. On the following pages are listed the various ministries and projects that need YOUR help! Think about what you might like to do, to be involved in, to contribute. And if you would like to suggest something that is not on the list – YAY!!!! If you want to contact Fr. John before the 14<sup>th</sup>, or if you are unable to make Mass that day, GREAT – and if you indicated an interest in any of these when you registered for the parish (You HAVE registered for the parish, haven't you?) you will automatically receive a notice about a meeting, a training session and so on. But if you don't trust "the system" you are certainly free to sign up again. (Never hurts to be sure.)

### EXISTING MINISTRIES

**ALTAR SERVERS** – Open for all ages, serving at the altar for Mass and special celebrations. We have permission from the Bishop for both men and women to serve, in addition to younger children. Children should have made their First Holy Communion at least a year before beginning to serve. There is a training session and a couple of weeks of observation. We are having albs made for all servers; the parish will pay for the alb, the server is responsible for keeping it clean and bringing it to Church when he or she is serving.

**LECTORS** – Reading the Word of God at Mass. There is one training session of around two hours, depending on how many are in that workshop. A crucial ministry, especially in our parish where English is NOT the primary language for the majority of our members.

**EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS OF HOLY COMMUNION** - Helping to distribute Communion and sometimes bringing Holy Communion to those who are sick or unable to come to Church. There are two sessions of about 90 minutes each, both in the history and theology of the ministry and practical details.

**CARE FOR THE POOR** – Outreach on behalf of the parish to the needy in our area. This committee meets to brainstorm for ways our parish can provide some aid and support for those who need help. In the past we have provided food and blankets, flu shots, heating elements, we have hosted an Iftar dinner at the Jesuit Center, and planted fruit trees in Anjara. The committee organized the Advent Basket program for the past two years and will be involved in the October Mission Service Project (or Projects).

**CHILDREN'S LITURGY OF THE WORD** – Providing the Word of God to young children at Sweifieh during the Liturgy of the Word. We use the "silent" room upstairs so a nervous child can see a parent, and they enjoy the activities at their level. It also frees parents to be able to concentrate more on the Liturgy of the Word for themselves. Materials provided or reimbursed and you will have preparation and assistance.

**MUSIC MINISTRY** – To provide music for parts of the Mass in support of the congregation, or during Communion, for special celebrations. We have in the past had a small group that was available for some special occasions but we have never had a regular "choir." The congregation at Sweifieh sings well, and the congregation at Freres is usually small and fluid. But a group that could introduce new music, provide reflection time during Communion and add something special to major feasts and seasonal celebrations would be a real joy. Probably one rehearsal a week, details to be worked out among those interested.

**SPECIAL EVENTS** – To help coordinate and manage receptions after Mass. Since our receptions are largely "created" by the parish members, the main need is to be sure there is space for this to take place – tables and table cloths and napkins and organizing – and taking things apart and putting away afterwards – REALLY IMPORTANT!!! And can be great fun too.

## **POSSIBLE NEW MINISTRIES AND PROJECTS**

### **PROGRESSIVE DINNER – November 14**

A fund-raising idea suggested by the Parish Advisory Council. We will sell tickets, and participants will have a three course dinner at three different locations (we provide the bus to get you around). Appetizers in one place, the main course in another and dessert in the third. The bus takes you from place to place, and there are three different groups, depending on what time you start. We will be selling tickets starting in late September but we would like to get a feel now for those who might be interested in working on this project. Sana Dabaneh is the coordinator and will be available to answer questions. At least 15 to 20 volunteers.

### **MISSION SERVICE PROJECT – October 11**

A Mission Service Project will be part of our parish response to the Holy Father's designation of October as "Mission Month," and will be designed to be a "hands-on" event for parishioners. Details on the 14<sup>th</sup> – we are working out the logistics – so come to the reception and see what needs we will try to meet.

**HOSPITALITY MINISTER** – A new ministry to welcome those coming to Mass throughout the Mass, and to be available for quick response in case of a minor emergency or someone needing assistance. We need one or two people who will – on a rotating basis – stay in the back of the Church to welcome late-comers and deal with questions ("Where is the bathroom") or hopefully only minor emergencies. One training and introduction session for each of the two churches.

**TEACHING CATECHISM** – If there is a desire, (in other words if parents or children indicate an interest) we would like to provide catechism instruction for young people who have made their First Communion but are not yet ready for Confirmation. You and Father John can work out the program – we will supply materials – and if you don't know "everything" there is no better way to learn than to teach.

**YOUTH PROGRAM AND ACTIVITIES** – On the theory that "If you build it, they will come," the thought is to create a program involving young people in the parish for activities outside of Mass. Maybe an initial meeting of those interested just to "brainstorm" and come up with ideas is needed, especially with parents of young people.

**TRIPS AND PILGRIMAGES** – There are many great possibilities for day trips in Jordan, and some people have expressed an interest in a longer "pilgrimage" to nearby countries. To help plan and organize these activities we need individuals with imagination and good planning and coordinating skills.

**OUTREACH AND PUBLICATIONS** – Father John has created the parish calendar each year, and the weekly newsletter. We send our parish annual update to local churches, and it has been suggested for instance that we might create a small brochure to distribute to the Concierge desk at local hotels, so they can direct visitors to the English Mass. If anyone is interested in being involved in design, writing, producing these materials, Fr. John is always ready to welcome help. While we cannot "evangelize" we can gently make sure people know we exist and when our Masses are.

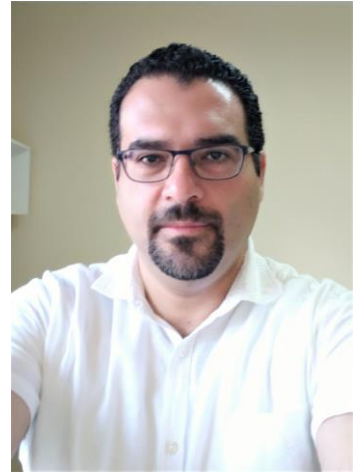
**XXXXX???** - If you – ie ANYONE – have/has ideas for activities or sees a need that is not included on this list, please speak up, speak out, and we will try and see if there is more interest.

*If you are not involved in at least one activity besides just coming to Mass, are you really a member of the Parish or just passing through?*

## WELCOME FATHER HICHAM!!

*We used to be three, and now we are four, and before more time passes, we'll be yet one more. Five happy Jesuits in Jabal Hussein – old Amman will never be the same again.*

On Monday, September 2<sup>nd</sup>, Father Hicham Chemali officially joined the Jesuit community at the Jesuit Center in Jabal Hussein. Father Chemali was born in Lebanon, and is a graduate of St. Joseph's University in Beirut in Economics. He worked for a while as an auditor in a bank before joining the Jesuits in 2000. As part of his training he worked in Egypt, studied philosophy and Islamic Studies, taught economics and catechism in Jamhour and was a chaplain for the Youth Eucharistic Movement. He studied theology in Paris and got an advanced theology degree (the STL) in Boston College. After ordination he worked as a parish priest and chaplain for three schools, and then worked in Jerusalem and University of Bethlehem, as both a teacher and a chaplain. He finished his Tertianship (the final year of formation for a Jesuit) in Ireland, and is looking forward to getting to know more about Jordan and expanding the work of the Jesuits here.



## SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

- 1 (Anniv.) Mr/Mrs Dadson
- 9 Optaciano Alvarez
- 16 Jeffrey VanDorn  
Selva Sumitha Walter
- 17 Ian Rosario-Hopkins  
Margaret Spears
- 24 Nicy Micky
- 25 Qais Elias  
Matthew Smith
- 26 Tabitha Tescher
- 27 Abigail Horner
- 29 Francisca Ga'mez Aguilera  
Samer Karadaheh
- 30 Bjorn Zimprich



## OCTOBER IS MISSION MONTH

The Holy Father is putting a special emphasis on this particular month, and as part of the many different resources, the Vatican has prepared a series of daily reflections for the month. They are longer than the daily reflections I have provided for Advent or Lent, but they do provide a rich opportunity for reflecting on our role in the world, especially as members of the Roman Catholic Church.

IF YOU WANT TO RECEIVE THESE REFLECTIONS, you have to let me know. I will NOT automatically send them to everyone on the prior mailing list, although I will send an email to that list, asking this same question – do you want to receive the daily reflections? Mission means going out in some form, so you have to “go out” and ask to be put on this list. God bless you.

**ADULT CATECHISM CLASS** – I have had several adults talk to me lately about feeling that they were lacking in their basic education about the Church. Before I arrange for a room and a teacher – I am proposing a one-hour class each week from 3:30 to 4:30 on Saturday, right before the evening Mass, either at or near St. Mary of Nazareth – please let me know if you are interested. Basic catechism for adults.