

SACRED HEART HEARTBEAT

ENGLISH LANGUAGE
ROMAN CATHOLIC PARISH



CHRIST THE KING November 23/24, 2019

COMING SPECIAL EVENTS AND CELEBRATIONS

Nov 30/Dec. 1 – First Sunday of Advent

December 3 – Feast of St. Francis Xavier – reception following the morning Mass

December 6 – First Friday; adoration following the morning Mass

December 6 – Final Performance of the Jesuit Center Arts Program, 6 PM – Free Admission

December 9 – Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception

Ask Father John – 7 PM (Location to TBA)

December 14 – Mass for Children, Sweifieh

December 17 – Birthday of Fr. McChesney, SJ and Pope Francis

December 24 – 5 pm Christmas Eve Mass at Sweifieh

8:00 PM Ceremony of Carols and Vigil Mass at the Jesuit Center (*Tentative*)

December 25 – Mass of Christmas morning at the Jesuit Center at 10:00 AM

December 26 – 28 – Regular morning Mass at the Jesuit Center

December 28/29 – Solemnity of the Holy Family

January 1 – Mass at the Jesuit Center 10 AM



Pope Francis'

MONTHLY
PRAYER
INTENTIONS

FOR NOVEMBER

Dialogue and Reconciliation in the Near East

That a spirit of dialogue, encounter, and reconciliation emerge in the Near East, where diverse religious communities share their lives together.

THE POPE'S VIDEO MESSAGE FOR THIS MONTH:

<https://youtu.be/wi6VxvIU4mQ>

MASS SCHEDULE

DAY	TIME	LOCATION
Mon - Sat	8:30 AM	Jesuit Center
Saturday	5:00 PM	Sweifieh
Sunday	6:00 PM	Jabal Hussein, St. Jean Baptiste de la Salle (Al Razi Street)

A VIGIL MASS ON CHRISTMAS EVE?

We will continue the tradition of a Mass at 5 PM at Sweifieh on December 24th. It isn't really a Vigil Mass and it anticipates Christmas more to accommodate family celebrations than for liturgical reasons. But we will continue the practice.

At the same time, several people have asked about a Vigil Mass on Christmas eve. The Vigil Mass is an ancient tradition in the Church, and helps to prepare mind and soul for the great celebration that follows on the next day, whether Christmas or Easter or any of the solemnities in the Church calendar.

So the question becomes – is there any interest in having a Vigil Mass on Christmas Eve. It would take place at the Jesuit Center, and start perhaps at 8:00 PM with a Ceremony of Carols, and then lead into the Mass. There will be a Christmas Mass at 10 AM on Christmas morning, but this is to find out if there is interest in having a real Vigil Mass.

Silence means a negative response. Which is fine. Certainly do NOT say you are interested if you have no intention of actually going. If enough people indicate an interest, we will announce the details. Hopefully by the First Sunday of Advent, we will be able to say whether or not this idea has received enough support. Thank you for your consideration.

THANK YOU!!!

A note from Father John

To all of those who supported my concert last week – those who took an ad, those who came to the concert, those who made a donation and those who prayed for its success – THANK YOU. I won't be able to report how much money we made for the Care for the Poor program for a while, since the Gift Certificates for patrons have to be redeemed as they are used. But whatever the total, it will be well-used in our efforts to help for people in need. So thank you, thank you, thank you.

AND SPEAKING OF CONCERTS

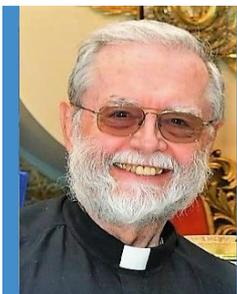
Over the next several weeks there will be many bazaars and concerts and parties and special events. Let me make a note of two, both of which take place on the same day:

DECEMBER 6

The Al-Hussein Society will host its annual one-day bazaar at the Dunes, starting at around 10 in the morning and going until sometime late in the afternoon. MANY different stalls, with wares from many different countries, great food and entertainment throughout the day. (I will be singing around 1 or so.) It is possible to do virtually ALL your Christmas shopping here. Highly recommended.

And

That evening, at 6 PM at the auditorium at the Freres School in Jabal Hussein (underneath the Church) the Jesuit Center Theatre Arts Program will be presenting its final show for the year. FREEE ADMISSION – dancing, some theatre pieces, music and again, I will be singing one or two songs. (Did I mention it was free?) A lovely way to round out the day.



RAMBLINGS

OF THE REVEREND REDACTOR

HAPPY NEW YEAR!!!

OK I'm one week early – but this weekend we celebrate the last Sunday of the Church year. Next Sunday is the First Sunday of Advent. For those who have Advent candles or an Advent wreath, the first candle is lit. If you have an Advent Basket, you can start putting something into the can each day. There is a tradition that suggests you begin on December 1st and read one chapter of the Gospel according to Saint Luke each day during December. There are 24 chapters, and so by Christmas Eve, you will have once again gone through the whole life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, just in time to celebrate His birth at Christmas.

There is a link to the website, where the pamphlet “Preparing for Advent” is available, and later in the month we will also have copies of the Advent Novena. For those who have requested them, a short daily reflection will be delivered to their e-mail boxes, and will also be available on the Parish Facebook page.

This can be a special time of the year, if you are able to take a spiritual step away from shopping and decorating and parties and bazaars. This is NOT Christmas, but rather the season of the year when we are supposed to PREPARE for Christmas. One of the saddest sights in my experience is in Manhattan on the day after Christmas, when on the streets you will see MANY Christmas trees on the curb waiting for the trash to pick them up. For those people, Christmas is over on the 26th and they are already preparing for the extravagant celebrations of New Year's Eve.

The Church celebrates differently, and for us, Christmas BEGINS with the Vigil Mass on the 24th of December and continues until January 6th, when we celebrate Epiphany, the coming of the Three Kings. The famous “12 Days of Christmas” used to be a regular event in much of the world. Today, unfortunately, we don't take the time to prepare and seldom take the time for the full celebration of this very important day in the history of our salvation.

In one of C.S. Lewis's books, the first in his science fiction trilogy, one of the creatures on another planet says that each event has three aspects, and each is important. The first is anticipation, looking forward to what is coming, planning and anticipating and imagining. The second is the event itself, and it deserves our full attention. Too often when the event happens, people are still caught up in the planning, or have already started worrying about cleaning up and putting away. The third and final element, equally as important, is reflection. It is important to re-live and reflect on the event, taking a more considered joy out of it, and perhaps learning from it. It is never just “the event” but the before and the after as well – and those elements make the actual event richer and much more meaningful.

So let me invite you to make this Advent a time of planning and imagining and anticipating. Make Christ a part of your Christ-mas preparation, as well as your celebration. Advent calendars, Advent wreaths, reading the Christmas story – however you and your family approach Christmas, make sure that Advent is given its proper place and attention.

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

DAILY REFLECTIONS DURING ADVENT

Reminder: If you did not receive the Lenten reflections, you are not on the list to receive the Advent reflections. Please advise Father John if you wish to be added to the list. Reflections will also be available on the Facebook page for the Parish, "Parish Group."



THE RETURN OF THE ADVENT BASKETS

Time to plan ahead. Advent baskets will be ready to be distributed after Mass on Christ the King weekend. It is a great family practice, and just as valuable for individuals. If you will not be at the Mass, contact Fr. John to arrange for a time to get your own "basket."

This year we hope to have the Advent Basket cans collected by Christmas. If people are traveling or away, we will accept the cans whenever they are ready. All the money collected will go to projects of the Care for the Poor group. The account for the Care for the Poor project is low, and the needs are many.

Thank you in advance for your generosity.

ADVENT PREPARATION

Although Advent may seem a long way away, it actually isn't. We will celebrate the First Sunday of Advent on November 30 at Sweifieh and December 1 at Freres. The booklet "Preparing for Advent" will be available next week, and at the web page at

<http://shp.jordanjesuits.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/11/Preparing-for-Advent-edit-2019-version.pdf> and there may be some changes in how we celebrate Mass to help us more deeply appreciate this special season. The daily reflections will be sent out in emails for those who have requested them, and they will also be available on the Facebook Page – Parish Group is the title of the page. Of course there will be the Advent Baskets, which can serve as a daily reminder of the need to help take care of one another, and some families continue the tradition of Advent candles, and Advent calendars. There may be other aids along the way.

I came across the suggestion below, and it is easy and powerful, and particularly something that a family can do together each day during December. If you have an Advent tradition you would like to share, please let us know so we can add them to forthcoming pages of the HEARTBEAT.

