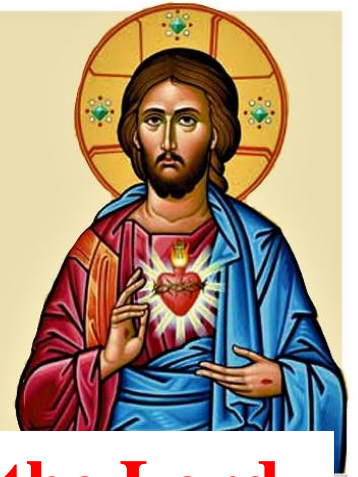


SACRED HEART HEARTBEAT

ENGLISH LANGUAGE
ROMAN CATHOLIC PARISH



The Feast of the Presentation of the Lord February 1/2, 2020

COMING SPECIAL EVENTS AND CELEBRATIONS

- February 1/2 – Solemnity of the Presentation of Jesus in the Temple
Candles will be blessed at the beginning of Mass, and throats will be blessed after Mass
- February 3 – St. Blaise, throats will be blessed after the morning Mass
- February 4 – The Jesuit Martyrs of India
- February 6 – St. Paul Mikki SJ and Companions
- February 8 – St. Josephine Bakhita
- February 8/9 – SECOND SUNDAY COLLECTION FOR SACRED HEART PARISH**
- February 10 – “Ask Father John – The Final Edition” – 7 PM
- February 11 – Our Lady of Lourdes
- February 15 – St. Claude LaColumbière, SJ
Mass for Children at Sweifieh
- February 21 – Farewell for Fr. John at the Jesuit Center, Jabal Hussein, 4 – 8 PM
- February 22 – Feast of the Chair of St. Peter
- February 24 – FATHER JOHN’S FAREWELL CONCERT – 7 PM, Bank Al-Etihad**
- February 26 – *Ash Wednesday in the Universal Church*
- March 4 – **ASH WEDNESDAY** – Mass at the Jesuit Center at 8:30 AM and 6 PM
Ashes will be distributed **AFTER** each Mass
- March 14 – First Confessions – before Mass
- March 14/15 - Anointing of the Sick during Mass
- March 17 – Feast of St. Patrick
- March 19 – Solemnity of St. Joseph, Husband of Mary
- March 20 – First day of Spring
- March 21 – Mother’s Day



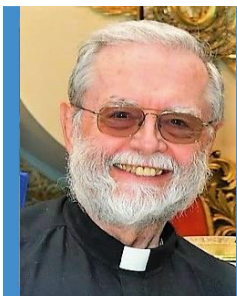
Pope Francis’

MONTHLY
PRAYER
INTENTIONS

FOR FEBRUARY

Listen to the Migrants’ Cries

We pray that the cries of our migrant brothers and sisters, victims of criminal trafficking, may be heard and considered.



RAMBLINGS

OF THE REVEREND REDACTOR

I am writing this before my surgery so I have nothing to report about how it went. Someone said, “Oh Father, we will pray for you.” I said that was very nice but better they should pray for the doctor. When I travel, I don’t pray for myself but the pilot always gets a special mention when I chat with God.

Do you ever do that? Not “pray” in the formal sense but simply chat with God? When I was young, I discovered a wonderful series of books that featured a little Italian priest, Don Camillo. He wasn’t really little, he was big and burly and he was often in conflict with the Communist mayor of their little town (who was really a closet Catholic and his close friend). Often, Don Camillo would pop into the empty Church and chat with God, sometimes arguing with Him (although very respectfully). But it was a personal friendship, and just as today we will call (or God help me, text!) a friend just to stay in touch, so he would pop into the Church. (That is also not a bad idea, physically spending time in front of the Blessed Sacrament – if you can find a Church that is open.) It is always good to keep in touch with God.

Keeping in touch is important. Now God keeps in touch with us; we, however, need to work on our side. We need to remind ourselves to more often make God an active part of our lives. It’s not enough to wear a button “Find God In All Things” but we need to stop before we begin an activity and dedicate it to God. We need to think about God as we wrestle with a personal problem, or a financial problem or – says he trying not to think about the upcoming surgery – a physical problem. God is already here, we just need to become more and more aware of His presence.

In earlier days, priests and nuns were cautioned about “modesty of the eyes.” The idea was to keep your eyes downcast, so you would not be distracted by events of the world, or (Gasp) even tempted by some of them. There is merit in that, of course; but I also believe that the more we look at God’s creation – with part of our mind always looking for God – we will see our world differently, and as we learn to do that more and better, we will live in that world differently. Which, after all, is what we are called to as Catholics.

Let’s be clear. To be a Roman Catholic is to be different. Our call is not to be just like everyone else. We used to stress the differences more – not eating meat on Friday, being much more faithful both in attending Mass and dressing up for the sacred mysteries. We observed holy days, and our friends, when I was growing up, knew who the Catholics were in school or in the neighborhood. We were proud of the differences and although there were exceptions, for the most part, being a Catholic earned you a slight measure of respect. Others might not agree with the Church, or even understand it, but you belonged to an ancient and noble religion and others did – usually – respect that.

We can’t go back in time, and today’s attitudes about God and religion and even respect are different. But God’s call to us isn’t. In His day, when Jesus called a follower, that person became “different.” In our day, as people who have answered the call to follow Christ, part of our call is precisely to be “different.” Find God In All Things – and you won’t have to worry about “how” to be different, because you will see the world differently, and that will be reflected in how you behave and what you do.

In the meantime – Let us continue to pray for one another. And a quick prayer for my doctors.

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.

HAVE YOU REGISTERED IN THE PARISH?

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



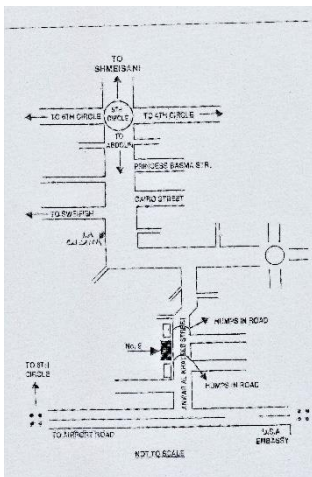
COME AND BID FATHER JOHN

FAREWELL

WHEN: Friday, February 21 – 4 to 8 PM

WHERE: The Jesuit Center, 43 Al Razi St,
Jabal Hussein

DETAILS: Come when you can – leave when you must. Bring what you'd like to share with others. Casual – follow the signs.



ASK FATHER JOHN – THE FINAL EDITION MONDAY – FEBRUARY 10 – 7 PM

Responding to popular demand – well, 4 enthusiastic people – Vivian and Paul have again offered to host the final version of “Ask Father John,” a casual evening where any question is allowed. The evening will start at 7 PM – the address is 9 Anwar al-Khateeb Street, 3rd floor there is an elevator – here is a map – if you are planning to come, please call to let them know how many to expect but if you make a last-minute decision, you are most welcome even without the RSVP. To RSVP or ask for help if you get lost: 079 588-9330.

“Ask Father John” is an open forum where all questions are permitted – theological, philosophical, historic, personal or some nagging notion you’ve been worried about. Answers are not necessarily guaranteed but often if Father John gets stumped (and it doesn’t happen often) someone else in the group may well come up with the answer, or at least, “an” answer. The sessions can be great fun, and always interesting. Tickets for the concert will also be available.

CANDLES AT THE FEAST OF THE PRESENTATION

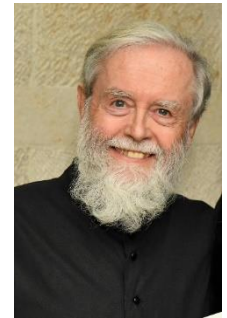
Candles will be blessed at Mass this weekend, so bring your candles. Know that the candles will be blessed AT THE BEGINNING OF MASS, and after Mass we have the blessing of throats, in honor of St. Blaise, so the priests will be very busy and unable to bless candles after Mass if you come late.

In addition to using candles at Mass and other celebrations in Church, blessed candles are often used in private homes. They are used to help focus in prayer, traditionally they have been lit during storms and times of danger, and they were always ready when the priest brought Holy Communion to someone who could not go to Church to receive the Sacrament. The lit candles remind us of the Light of Christ, and the ceremony of blessing candles is part of the Feast of the Presentation, Candlemas Day, the last of the great feasts that are part of the celebration of the Birth of Christ in Bethlehem. A blessed candle was often put in the hands of someone who was dying. In some places, used blessed candles are brought together and melted to create the Paschal Candles for Easter services. Candles have long been and continue to be an important part of our celebrations and our worship, both public and private.

FATHER JOHN'S FAREWELL CONCERT!

Monday, February 24-7 PM Sharp!

VENUE: Halim Salfiti Theater at Bank Al Etihad HQ



TICKETS ARE AVAILABLE THROUGH FATHER JOHN:

Online ticket sale options to be announced soon

PRICES: Patron – 20 JOD – Reserved seats of your choice

General Admission – 10 JOD (*Children are welcome but at the same price*)

NOTE: The program will begin promptly at 7 PM. Latecomers will be admitted **ONLY** when there is a suitable pause in the singing.

But come early because there will again be pre-show snacks provided by Simply Quiche in the lobby. (No food in the theatre!)

ADVENT BASKET TO DATE

The first round of opening and counting for the 2019/2020 Advent Baskets has been concluded and to date, we have received 1,840.24 JOD, plus \$86 US, 4 Euro and assorted currency from other countries, mostly in coins. THANK YOU for your generous support. There are still – by our count – 12 cans still out. Please feel free to return them at Mass or at the Jesuit Center. Money collected is designated to be used for the Care for the Poor Program and as new projects are approved, the parish will be informed and invited to participate personally. The average can/gift was 42.18 JOD and the single highest can total was 269.40 JOD. A special thanks to those who came out to open and count cans. (Remember too that in 2019 we received 210 JOD for this Advent Basket drive so we are actually at 2,050.40 JOD.)

CALENDAR SALES

Again, thanks to the generous support of our parishioners, the 2020 Calendar is only 108 JOD away from breaking even, ie paying for itself. The advertisers make a lot of that possible, but the support from individual members is also crucial. From now on we will have only a limited number of calendars available at Mass, unless you contact us and ask in advance. (These things are heavy!!!) But we do have calendars left so please don't hesitate to give us exercise by carrying a lot of them.

