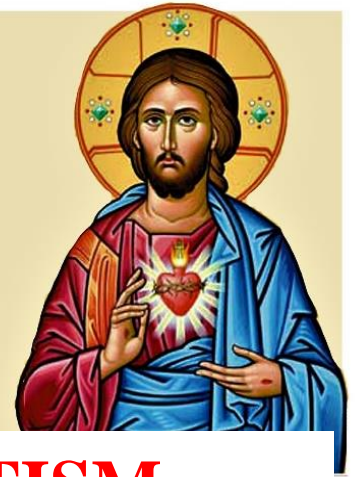


# SACRED HEART HEARTBEAT

ENGLISH LANGUAGE  
ROMAN CATHOLIC PARISH



## THE FEAST OF THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD

January 11/12, 2020

**SECOND COLLECTION FOR SACRED HEART PARISH**

### COMING SPECIAL EVENTS AND CELEBRATIONS

January 11 – First Communion Class resumes

January 11/12 – The Baptism of the Lord

January 13 – Meeting of the Parish Advisory Council

January 18 – Octave of Prayer for Christian Unity begins

January 22 – Day of Prayer for the Legal Protection of Unborn Children

January 24 – Meeting of the Care for the Poor group

January 25 – Feast of the Conversion of St. Paul

January 30 – Birthday of His Majesty King Abdullah II

February 2 – Solemnity of the Presentation of Jesus in the Temple

Candles will be blessed during 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 11 – Our Lady of Lourdes

February 15 – St. Claude LaColumbière, SJ

February 22 – Feast of the Chair of St. Peter

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



*Pope Francis'*

MONTHLY  
PRAYER  
INTENTIONS

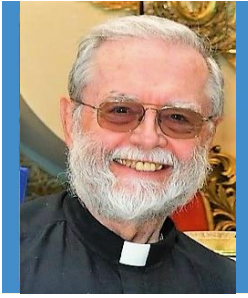
The video for the Pope's Intention:  
[https://youtu.be/Q\\_wlGnv0xNE](https://youtu.be/Q_wlGnv0xNE)

### FOR JANUARY

**Prayer intention for Evangelisation**

Promotion of World Peace

We pray that Christians, followers of other religions, and all people of goodwill may promote peace and justice in the world.



# RAMBLINGS

## OF THE REVEREND REDACTOR

Well, we made it through another Advent, another Christmas, another New Year's and all the assorted Feasts and Solemnities that the Church schedules at this time of the year and there is a sense of pause. There is the Presentation and the Blessing of Throats – and of course St. Patrick's Day – but the next really big moment is Ash Wednesday. (Reminder – for us in Jordan that means March 4 - one week after the rest of the universal Church. If you bought a parish calendar, you know this. If not...well, you know what to do.)

Lest you get too comfortable – from Sunday the 12<sup>th</sup> of January to Ash Wednesday is only 52 days. Then First Confessions – Holy Week and Easter – First Communion and SUMMER!!!! Where did the time go?

In a recent homily at the weekday Mass I said I did NOT want to hear about resolutions, things people were going to do in 2020. The reason, I explained, is because if we are serious about doing something – we do it. We make it a part of our lives, our schedules, we put it high on the list of priorities and we practice. There is nothing magic about a date or a celebration that is suddenly going to galvanize us to do what we say we are going to do but don't do. It's a lovely thought but it borders on magic – if I take this pill, I will get thin. If I say these words my life will change. In the U.S. in about four weeks, there will be a rash of gym memberships for sale on Facebook going at highly discounted rates, because people who started out with high hopes have dropped out.

You're smiling, aren't you? Of course, because we recognize this in ourselves. Unfortunately, all too often God is one of the casualties of this kind of thinking. I meant to go to Mass last week; I can't seem to find the time to get to confession; I know we were late for Mass today but.... If it's really important, you make it happen. You leave early – you cancel something else -you make it happen. The attendance at the Christmas Eve Mass was 282 people. Mass on Christmas morning - 64. Mass on the morning of January 1<sup>st</sup> – a Solemnity in the calendar of the Church and a legal holiday was 41, which fit in the small chapel at the Jesuit Center. Says something about priorities.

I don't say this to scold, but to encourage an honest look at what your priorities really are. There was a really interesting – and sometimes heated – exchange on Facebook recently when someone asked, "What does it mean to be a 'practicing Catholic'?" The variety of points of view were fascinating, including people who didn't think that attending Mass on a regular basis was important, that confession wasn't required to receive Holy Communion, that there was nothing different about receiving "communion" at a Protestant Church than at a Catholic Church – and this from people who maintained they were "practicing Catholics."

How well do YOU know your faith? If you are still looking for a "New Year's resolution" that doesn't involve a gym membership, learning more about your Catholic faith might be a valuable way to go. Last May at the First Communion Mass I read a list of questions, and many adults confessed they had not known the answers. The First Communion children did. So maybe bringing your level of real knowledge of the faith up to that of a First Communion candidate might be a strong first step. Right now there are two adult groups that meet on Tuesday and another that meets on Saturday afternoon, and with enough interest, another group could be created. Depends on – well, depends on you.

And 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.

## **ANNOUNCEMENT**

There is a group that has been wondering what they as Christians here in Amman can do together for 'Creation Care' and safeguarding our planet. They are proposing an initial, ecumenical gathering to pray and ponder, and see what ideas may arise.

Towards the end of January, there will be an initial gathering for English-speaking Christians in Amman who are concerned about our role in protecting and caring for God's creation. If interested in coming, please contact Debra on WhatsApp +962 7 969 84238.

*At the time this edition was going to the printer, that is all the information we have. For more details, use the WhatsApp number. Please don't call Fr. John.*

## **ADVENT BASKET CANS**

If you still have yours, it's probably time to turn it in. Go ahead, cram it with money if you forgot or feel guilty. If you didn't sign out a basket and would like to contribute, just see Fr. John – an envelope works just as well as a can (and it's a lot easier to open).

## **CARE FOR THE POOR GROUP**

This is one of the most active of our parish ministries, and new members are always welcome. We will be meeting on Friday, January 24<sup>th</sup>, to review last year's projects and activities, and to plan for the coming year. We will also open the Advent baskets and count the money. If you would like to join this group, drop Father John an email and he will send you the information about the meeting. If you can't make it on the 24<sup>th</sup> but would like to be added to the mailing list for ongoing information, same drill – send Fr. John an email and he will add you to the list.



## IT'S THAT TIME OF YEAR

When everybody is making resolutions, determined to do better in 2020.

If one of your resolutions is to be more active in the Parish – which is a WONDERFUL resolution – these are some of the areas where you can participate and make a difference.

**LECTORS** –The men and women who proclaim the Word of God at Mass. You need to take one workshop to be formally installed, about 90 minutes.

**ALTAR SERVERS** – Open to boys and girls, men and women. One training session about 60 minutes depending on the number of people involved. It is a special privilege to assist the priest at the altar and not just for young people but all ages.

**EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS OF HOLY COMMUNION** – Only open to men, to help distribute the Body of Christ at Mass, and when necessary, to take Holy Communion to those who are sick and housebound or in the hospital. Two training sessions, about 90 minutes each.

If you are interested in any of these opportunities, please let Fr. John know so he can get you on the mailing list for information. If you indicated an interest when you registered in the parish, you will be receiving an email shortly with the dates and times of workshops.

## AND SPEAKING OF REGISTERING IN THE PARISH...

**HAVE YOU REGISTERED IN THE PARISH?**

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

