

13060 Palomino Lane, Fort Myers, FL 33912 | P 239-561-2245 | F 239-561-3713 | www.johnxxiii.net

June 28, 2020

Life of Faith

by: Cindy Wooden - Catholic News Service

"The just shall live by faith."

- Galatians 3:11

A person's prayer is pleasing to God when it is accompanied by a life of service to the poor, Pope Francis said.

"Prayer to God and solidarity with the poor and suffering are inseparable," he wrote in his message for the World Day of the Poor, which will be marked this November 15.

"In order to perform an act of worship acceptable to the Lord, we have to recognize that each person, even the poorest and most contemptible, is made in the image of God," he said in the message, which was released by the Vatican this month.

For the theme of the 2020 day dedicated to making Catholics aware of the charity and solidarity demanded by faith in Jesus, Pope Francis chose a line from the Book of Sirach: "Stretch forth your hand to the poor."

The message included a reflection on how many people stretched out a helping hand, even at the risk of their personal safety, during the coronavirus pandemic. And how the pandemic has or should have made people aware of the fragility of life, the precariousness of their jobs and connections with others and about how little their normal busyness and patterns of consumption really matter.

"A hand held out is a sign; a sign that immediately speaks of closeness, solidarity and love," the pope wrote. During the pandemic, "when the whole world was prey to a virus that brought pain and death, despair and bewilderment, how many outstretched hands have we seen!"

Pope Francis lauded the "outstretched hands" of physicians, nurses, pharmacists, priests and of volunteers who visited with and gave food to people living on the streets. He praised workers who continued providing essential services, including the police.

"Those hands defied contagion and fear in order to offer support and consolation," the pope said.

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ONLINE BULLETIN ONLY - NOT PRINTED

Please Note:

There will be **CONFESSIONS** outside the church **Every Saturday** 8:30am-9:30am

LIVE streaming **MASSES** on Facebook/Website

PASTOR

Rev. Robert Tabbert

PAROCHIAL VICARS Fr. Saji Ellickal M.C.B.S.

frsaji@johnxxiii.net Fr. Simon Dao

frsimon@johnxxiii.net

DEACONS

Deacon Rich Klish

DeaconRich@johnxxiii.net

Deacon Francis Head

fdhead@gmail.com

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS:

Monday-Friday, 9:00am-Noon Only 239-561-2245 239-561-3713 (Fax)

MINISTRY TO THE SICK:

A priest is on call 7 days a week. 24hrs a day for these hospitals: Health Park - St. Columbkille Church 239-489-3973

Lee Memorial - St. Francis

Xavier Church 239-334-2161

Gulf Coast - St. John XXIII 239-561-2245

RECEIVING THE SACRAMENT:

You are encouraged to receive the Sacrament of the Sick before being admitted to a facility.

St. Columbkille - Hope Hospice 239-489-3973

9470 Health Park Circle, Ft. Myers, FL

St. Raphael - Lehigh Acres **Health & Rehab Center** 239-369-2194

1550 Lee Blvd, Lehigh Acres, FL

Hope Hospice 239-369-1831 1201 Wings Way, Lehigh Acres, FL

St. Leo - Hope Hospice

239-992-0901 27200 Imperial Pkwy, Bonita Springs, FL

St. Vincent de Paul - Select 2073 Lafayette St. Ft. Myers 239-693-0818

The Mission of St. John XXIII Catholic Church is to actively engage all those who desire to more fully accept and live out the message of Christ, welcoming and respecting all people regardless of background, history, race or color, as we strive to nurture spiritual growth and personal holiness on our journey to become more responsible stewards of God's gifts.

Mass Intentions

PLEASE NOTE: You are welcome to attend 8:00am Daily Mass in the Parish Life Center. Weekend Holy Mass with a congregation present has resumed in the Church. Please wear a mask, bring sanitizer and practice social distancing. We will continue to livestream Masses on Facebook and the Website.

MONDAY, JUNE 29

8:00 AM † Robert Myers by Susan & Frank Pappa

TUESDAY, JUNE 30

8:00 AM † Dominic J. D'Amore by Bill & Ann Berger

WEDNESDAY, JULY 1

† Theresa Tomasini by Ellen Mantenfel

THURSDAY, JULY 2

8:00 AM † David Elias by Faith D'Andrea

FRIDAY, JULY 3

8:00 AM † Bob Worthy by Schulte Family

SATURDAY, JULY 4 - INDEPENDENCE DAY

- 8:00 AM † William Carroll by Pat & Ade Humbert
- 4:00 PM † Bob O'Brien by Marian Louden
- 8:00 PM † All Souls Vietnamese Mass

SUNDAY, JULY 5

- 7:15 AM † Jeffrey Johnson by Patricia
- 9:15 AM † Arlene Brummer by Charles & Dot Buchholz
- 11:15 AM † Midge Cossentino by St. John XXIII Pastoral Team
- 1:30 PM † Terri Peterson by her husband, Phil

THE 2020 MASS BOOK IS NOW OPEN FOR THE ENTIRE YEAR

To ensure availability throughout the year, we must limit requests for the English speaking Masses to no more than (2) weekend Masses and (2) weekday Masses for the entire year. Other options will remain available: Tabernacle Candle \$15 per week, Eucharistic Host \$15 per week.



JULY 5, 2020 - READINGS

- 1ST READING
- 2ND READING
- GOSPEL
- ZEC 9:9-10
- ROM 8:9, 11-13
- MT 11:25-30

Betsy Engelbrecht

Our e-prayer group has a NEW EMAIL address:

eprayer.stjohn23@gmail.com

Pastoral Team **Business Manager Holly Atkins**

holly@johnxxiii.net 239-561-2245

Maintenance Supervisor Rob Erp

239-561-2245

Maintenance Assistant

Dave Mraz

Dir. of Faith Formation Chris Biel

chrisdre@johnxxiii.net 239-561-7499

Bookkeeper

Ana Thompson

ana@johnxxiii.net 239-561-2245

Receptionist **MaryAnn Deas**

maryann@johnxxiii.net 239-561-2245

Admin. Assistant Jennifer Baumgardner

jennb@johnxxiii.net 239-561-2245

Coordinator of Parishioner Engagement

Jennifer Engelman jennifer@johnxxiii.net

239-561-2245

Bulletin Editor

Colleen Leavy

bulletineditor@johnxxiii.net 239-561-2245

Coordinator of Youth Ministries

Kelly Evers

kelly@johnxxiii.net 239-561-3022

Thrift Store Manager Cynthia Conzatti

thrift@johnxxiii.net 239-433-4097

15200 S. Tamiami Trail #110 Ft. Myers, FL 33908

PART-TIME EMPLOYEES:

Parish Life Center Coordinator

Ivette Janoschka

ivette@johnxxiii.net 239-561-2245

Faith Formation Assistant Trisha Fields

trisha@johnxxiii.net 239-561-7499

Office Assistant

Brenda Gregory brenda@johnxxiii.net 239-561-2245

Admin. Assistant

239-561-2245

Barbara Lange blange@johnxxiii.net

Life of Faith continued:

The Book of Sirach, he said, demonstrates that closeness to God and closeness to other human beings go hand in hand.

"Time devoted to prayer can never become an alibi for neglecting our neighbor in need," Pope Francis wrote. "In fact, the very opposite is true: The Lord's blessing descends upon us and prayer attains its goal when accompanied by service to the poor."

And, while it is true that in the Book of Matthew, Jesus says, "The poor you will always have with you," the line does not end there. The full quotation is "The poor you will always have with you; but you will not always have me."

A central focus of the World Day of the Poor, said Pope Francis, who instituted the day in 2016, is to reaffirm the "basic truth in the life of the church" that "the poor are and always will be with us to help us welcome Christ's presence into our daily lives."

The image of God present in every human being does not depend "on the color of the person's skin and certainly not on how much he has in his bank account," said Archbishop Rino Fisichella, president of the Pontifical Council for Promoting New Evangelization, which coordinates the World Day of the Poor activities.

Presenting the pope's message with an online news conference, the archbishop told reporters the pope's message "is an invitation to shake off our indifference and our frequent sense of displeasure toward the poor in order to recover the solidarity and the love that lived generously give meaning to life."

The ongoing economic impact of the pandemic and the number of jobs lost, including among tourist-reliant shops and restaurants near the Vatican, mean that more and more people are going to need help feeding their families, Archbishop Fisichella said.

"It will be our task, therefore, not to withhold from the increasingly numerous poor we encounter the daily signs (of help) that accompany our pastoral action," he said.

In his message, Pope Francis also looked at how honoring Jesus present in the poor requires not just individual acts of charity, but also conversion and a change of lifestyle.

"In order to help the poor, we ourselves need to live the experience of evangelical poverty," he said. "We cannot feel 'alright' when any member of the human family is left behind and in the shadows."

"The silent cry of so many poor men, women and children should find the people of God at the forefront, always and everywhere, in efforts to give them a voice, to protect and support them in the face of hypocrisy and so many unfulfilled promises, and to invite them to share in the life of the community," Pope Francis wrote.

The pope also mentioned in this message those who "stretch out a hand" to do harm to others and to the environment. He cited, for example, those whose "hands are outstretched to accumulate money by the sale of weapons that others" or drug dealers who reach out "to deal doses of death in dark alleys."

"We cannot be happy until these hands that sow death are transformed into instruments of justice and peace for the whole world," Pope Francis said. At the same time, the pope encouraged people to focus on the hands outstretched to help.

"Bad news fills the pages of newspapers, websites and television screens to the point that evil seems to reign supreme. But that is not the case," he said. "To be sure, malice and violence, abuse and corruption abound, but life is interwoven too with acts of respect and generosity that not only compensate for evil but inspire us to take an extra step and fill our hearts with hope."

PRAYER OF WORSHIP

I will praise and worship You, Lord, with my whole heart; I will tell of all Your marvelous works, I will be glad and rejoice in You; I will sing praise to Your name, Oh most high.

- W Wait Upon the Lord
- Offer Our Lives as a Living Sacrifice
- R Rest in His Presence
- S Sing Unto Him
- Humble Ourselves Before Him
- Intimacy with God
- P Pleasing Him



Prayer List

Please remember in your prayers all of our parish family and friends who suffer physically, emotionally or spiritually, especially:

Elaine Quan Ryan Novajasky Lynne Haughey **Carol Clausen Marlene LaRose** Erika Arquilla Hlavacek Jeff Hlavacek **Bernadette Frammarino Antoinette Bosco Gary Neubauer** Tom Biedak **Curtis Atkins Deborah Hufstedler Bernice Pederson Linda Sayres Richard Butler Patty Heilman Normile Patty Ruth**

Michael Smith Mike Foy Lynn Graper Bowman **Henry Ramirez Evelyn Williams Bill Barrett Scott Geiger** Jennifer Jackson Doug Rizzi Jim & Diane Wittenauer Frank Carroll Mary Ellen Walker

Lucy Rose Dommoyer Debra Santos Meaghan Onofrey Bill Acini

Susan MacDonald

Kathleen Nelson

These names are kept in the bulletin for one month. If you would like continual prayer, please add your name to the prayer book in the Narthex.

The best way to ensure your loved ones are consistently prayed for within our greater E-Prayer Community - email Betsy Engelbrecht at eprayer.stjohn23@gmail.com

Their names will be circulated to an ever-growing list of people who will pray for them by name!



For requests to memorialize a loved one, please call the parish office at: (239) 561-2245

Prayers for Eternal Life

Life is changed, not ended. Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord!

Deceased Parishioners of St. John XXIII



Tabernacle Candle

In Memory of: **Biagio Dente Emma Jean & Alan** Requested by:



DOWNLOAD OUR PARISH APP:

myparishapp.com or search your phone's app store for myparish. You can also text the word "APP" to 88202!





WATCH ON FACEBOOK

DAILY MASS

8:00am Monday - Saturday

SATURDAY, JUNE 27

- 4:00pm with Fr. Angelo
- 8:00pm Vietnamese Mass https://www.facebook.com/fort.myers.5454

SUNDAY, JUNE 28

- 11:15am with Fr. Bob
- 1:30pm Spanish Mass https://www.facebook.co

https://www.facebook.com/ministeriohispano.sanjuan.1



WATCH AT HOME:

https://dioceseofvenice.org/offices/ offices-departments/communications/ tvmass/

WFTX-TV FOX 4 - Sundays at 10:30am



https://osvhub.com/st-john-xxiii-parish/funds

WELCOME

New Parishioners

- Carlos J. Cavenago III
- Mary Bishop
- John & Carmela Gorman
- Ronnie & Gina Haun

Those who are new to our Parish this year, and those who've been coming for years without being registered, we need your help in staying organized and planning for our future needs. Having an accurate database of our parishioners will help us know where and how we need to grow. Thank you to everyone who registered with our Parish. If you have not received a welcome letter, please call the Parish Office to confirm your registration. All new parishioners, and those interested in registering in our Parish, are invited to attend **The New Parishioner Orientation on a date to be determined.**

This is your opportunity to become informed and active members of the parish and participate in our various ministries. Registering at St. John XXIII is a declaration of your desire to be part of a Catholic community. Please let the parish office know your email address OR you can even update it on the Parish website! www.johnxxiii.net

Frequently, those seeking to celebrate Marriage, Baptisms or serve as sponsors for Confirmation or Baptism request a letter stating that they are parishioners. To receive such a letter, one must be registered in the parish, attend Mass regularly, and be committed to stewardship of time, talent and treasure. One means of verifying participation is through the use of parish offertory envelopes. If you choose not to participate in the support of the parish or are unable to contribute at this time, please at least note your prayerful support on your envelope and place it in the weekly offertory basket.

PRAYERS FOR

Our Military Personnel

PFC Bryan Bard Sean Ball Major Bart Boma Staff Sgt. Dennis Cosgrove Sgt. Phil Dellibovi Staff Sgt. Chris Dominski CPT Andrew Dugan, Spec. Forces Major Andrew Duguay Sgt. Jared Gaudet Tech Sgt Jeffrey K. Green Capt. Kellyn C. Hall Andrew Herman 1st Lt. Paige Hortman Sgt. Kathleen Hudepohl PFC Michael P Hughes SPC Michael Jednak PFC Andrew Kanopkh Michael Klem Capt. Bradley D. Laux Capt. Jacob Mundo, US Army SSGT Anthony Padula LCP James Pálenik Master SGT Peter Parison Sgt. Justin Pingicer, Army Lt. Col. Brady Sexton

2nd Lt. Kristen Thompson Christian Troutner, US Navy Alex Zizzo, US Navy Medic PFC Jordan Feil, USA Sgt. Hayden Linde, FLARNG Aaron Crump, USCG Sgt. Nathaniel Broemmel Lt. Com. Mark Buonomo Col. Scott C. Woodward Private Nicholas Loeb, ARNG Andrew Hawkinson, USN Cavalry Scout Specialist, Ryan Silva, Army 2nd Lt. Greg Fry, USMC Jared Broemmel, US Navy Army 2nd Lieutenant Edward Hudson Tillinghast IV Jethro Ignacio, US Air Force 1st Lt. Christopher Dryhurst, US Air Force Com. Craig Fowler, USN Eric Sanchez, US Air Force 1st Lt. Colin Snook, 82nd ABN Lt. Col. Mike Garry, US Army 82nd ABN

Faith Formation

Contact Chris Biel | 561-7499 | chrisdre@johnxxiii.net



Faith Formation has completed the 2019-2020 year. As plans for reopening are being made, please watch the bulletin and our website for updates for the 2020-2021 School Year.

SACRAMENT PREPARATION:

BAPTISM: Congratulations on your decision to baptize your child! At St. John XXIII, we are happy to help your family prepare for the celebration. Baptisms are offered for registered members of Saint John XXIII and are scheduled only after the preparation process is completed by the parents. Please do not make arrangements for family members until you have actually received a date. Contact the office at (239) 561-2245 for more information or to begin the process.

FIRST COMMUNION: (also called First Eucharist and First Reconciliation) Children in first grade or above, who have expressed a desire and willingness and are attending Mass, are welcome to begin the two year process of preparing for these Sacraments. The first year consists of regular attendance at Faith Formation classes or through a Diocesan Catholic school. (Either St. Francis Xavier or St. Andrew) The second year continues those classes, but also adds in direct Sacramental Preparation (Reconciliation and Communion) sessions. Please contact Chris at 561-7499 for more information or to begin the process. Parents who home school their children must contact the office during Year I.

CONFIRMATION PREPARATION: Celebrating the Sacrament of Confirmation is a two year process that begins at the start of 9th Grade and is celebrated in the Fall of 11th grade. (Older teens are certainly welcome!). Each year consists of Faith Formation through the parish Youth Group or a Diocesan Catholic school (Bishop Verot) as well as scheduled Confirmation classes and a retreat. Please note: Students from Bishop Verot must register and attend the preparation classes at the beginning of 9th grade. If you are entering the 9th grade or would like more information on our program, contact Chris at (239) 561-7499 to begin the process.

Faith is being sure of what you hope for.

ADULT FAITH

Education

ALL IN-PERSON CLASSES
ARE POSTPONED UNTIL
FURTHER NOTICE

Keep in TOUCH with your Faith ONLINE:

OPENING THE WORD



Watch a short video each week on **Formed.org** to help prepare you for the upcoming Sunday Readings. Register at https://johnxxiii.formed.org/ and follow the instructions to sign in and watch Opening the Word. View all of the Catholic content 24/7. Please join our weekly Zoom meeting. Email **Terry Penza** at: terry.penza@gmail.com for more information.



ACCESS ON THE GO!

There are two ways to get FORMED right at your fingertips:

- **1.** Apple users can download the iOS app.
- 2. Android users can use FORMED on the go with these easy instructions.

For more audios and e-books visit: www.formed.org





Coordinator of Youth Ministries 561-3022 xt 107 Contact Kelly Evers | kelly@johnxxiii.net

Rooted at St. John XXIII

Welcoming all Young Adults 18 - 39

Rooted meets on the first Thursday of each month. Check out our trifold at the welcome desk for planned events.



Join our Facebook Group: Rooted at St. John XXIII for updates and local happenings.

Confirmation Program

A two-year program that meets once a month during the school calendar year. Sessions are mandatory which include Baptismal, Eucharist, & Confirmation retreat. Bishop Verot students must register and attend the monthly sessions with youth currently not enrolled in a theology class; Youth Group Social Session, and/or Teen Mentoring Program available weekly on Sundays or Wednesday evenings. Trifolds will be available in July to plan attendance.

High School Youth Group

HSYG Social Sessions - Sundays 5pm to 6:30pm

Youth Ministry Small Group Social Sessions are held on Sunday evenings throughout the school calendar year. The goal of the group is to build connections with one another and the parish as they discuss today's tough issues and how their Catholic faith plays a part in the decisions they make.

Middle School Youth Group

MSYG Sessions - Wednesdays 6pm to 7:15pm

Trifolds will be available in July. They include: session dates, planned topics, events, and volunteer opportunities throughout the 2020-21 school year.

Volunteer Opportunites

We need ADULT small group leaders.





Thinking about joining the Catholic Church but feel a little lost?

The RCIA Inquiry is the starting place for adults who art thinking about entering the Catholic Church.

For questions, please contact:

Ginny Whelan call or text (239) 634-3239 or email vwhelan99@amail.com

Thank You!

We would like to thank all the parishioners who donated to The St. John Villas during the quarantine. Many of the residents found it difficult to go and purchase food, toilet paper and supplies. You are a true blessing to our parish community!



Information Websites

Below are suggested websites to stay current on what is happening in the Catholic church:

WHISPERS IN THE LOGGIA: whispersintheloggia.blogspot.com CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE www.catholicnews.com

CRUX: cruxnow.com

BISHOP BARRON: www.wordonfire.org

FR. RICHARD ROHR: cac.org/category/daily-meditations





General Announcements

- Have You Listened to Our Podcasts? Listen to our weekly inspirational messages from Father Bob and homilies from Mass. Visit our site weekly at johnxxiii.podbean.com
- "Like" our Facebook Page! For all the latest happenings and inspirational messages "Like" us on Facebook. Just search "St. John XXIII Catholic Church".
- Our Weekly Newsletter: Visit our website, johnxxiii.net, scroll down to "Stay Connected" and enter your email address.
- Download Our Parish App: Foster a stronger parish life at St. John XXIII and better engage the New Evangelization. Download our app today at myparishapp.com or search your phone's app store for myparish. You can also text the word "APP" to 88202!
- Follow us on Instagram: St. John XXIII is now on Instagram https://www.instagram.com/stjohnxxiiichurch/
- St. John XXIII Catholic Church Mass Times: Stay up to date and visit: http://johnxxiii.net/info/new-mass-schedule/ for our Mass schedule.
- Interested in Serving our Parish Family During Mass? Men, women and teens may serve as a Greeter, Usher, Lector, or Eucharistic Minister. Please contact the parish office at (239) 561-2245, if you feel called to serve in any of these areas, we can use your time and talent!
- Low Gluten Hosts: If you are interested in receiving low gluten hosts at Mass, then please go to the Sacristy before Mass starts to make your request with a Sacristan.
- St. Luke Adoration Chapel: The Chapel remains CLOSED. We will keep you updated with any changes. For information on The Adoration Chapel Ministry visit: https://johnxxiii.net/adoration-chapel-ministry/
- Thrift Store Open: Monday-Saturday from 10am-4pm. Please consider purchasing home furnishings and furniture at our Thrift Store. Many items are 50% off through the end of June. All questions may be emailed to thrift@johnxxiii.net
- Free Mental Health Services: Catholic Charities offers free mental health services for adults, children and families. Counselors can help resolve a wide variety of issues such as stress, anger, anxiety, relationship problems, trauma, depression, low self-esteem and grief. Call (239) 337-4193
- Yarn Needed: The Craftie Ladies appreciate all your generous donations in the past, and now we are in need of more yarn for projects. You may drop off the donations in the church Narthex. Thank you in helping us do for others.
- FREE Rosary Repair: Send broken rosaries in a padded envelope to: Betty & Dick Holden, 7930 Estero Blvd., #502, Ft. Myers Beach, FL 33931. Rosaries will be returned within a week of receipt. Old or broken rosaries may also be donated, repaired and sent to the missions. For more information email: holdenbnd@gmail.com or call Dick at (239) 463-3993
- Exclusive Use of Rights: All content on the St. John XXIII Parish website, including the Parish bulletin publication, and social media accounts are for the exclusive use of the Parish. It is unlawful for outside entities and organizations to use this content for promotion or other purposes without the express written permission of St. John XXIII and Diocese of Venice. For more information, please contact the Parish Office at (239) 561-2245 2020 Copyright St. John XXIII







NEW PROCEDURE FOR MASS CARDS IN 2021



We are no longer able to "hold the date" for Masses. Your donation must accompany your request.

The Mass Book for January through June 2021 will open on July 1, 2020. There is a limit of 4 Masses per year, 2 weekend Masses and 2 daily Masses.

This policy will also apply when requesting the Tabernacle Candle.

Adoration Testimonial:

"Adoration is our weekly date with GOD. The hour we spend with GOD is a quiet time to reflect on what is going on in our lives and try to make the small changes that will make us better individuals. Adoration is having a "positive" impact on our personal and spiritual lives and we look forward to continuing this journey."

Currently, the ST. LUKE ADORATION CHAPEL is CLOSED. We hope to reopen with guidelines at a future date. For information on The Adoration Chapel Ministry or to become an adorer, visit: https://johnxxiii.net/adoration-chapel-ministry/

Thank You!

We are so grateful for your prayerful and continued financial support during this pandemic. We appreciate your online donations to keep our parish running.



https://osvhub.com/st-john-xxiii-parish/funds



Online Giving

ST. JOHN XXIII Catholic Church

13060 Palomino Lane, Fort Myers, FL 33912 https://osvhub.com/st-john-xxiii-parish/funds

Dear Parishioners,

We are pleased to announce that Online Giving is available for you to make contributions to St. John XXIII parish. This option makes use of current technology and security standard, and allows you to easily setup recurring contributions. It also enables our parish to take advantage of new tools to become more efficient.

ONLINE GIVING PARISHIONER BENEFITS:

- Secure and confidential. No need to share payment information with the parish office.
- Efficient. Set up direct withdrawals from your checking or savings account or a credit card.
- Simple. Start, stop and change your contributions at any time.
- Convenient. No need to write a check or have cash available.

Online Giving is intended to be a convenient tool for you to use and we strongly support both Online Giving and offering envelopes for contributions to the parish. Online Giving is the electronic way to participate in weekly offertory.

START GIVING ONLINE TODAY!

- Visit our parish website at https://osvhub.com/st-john-xxiii-parish/funds and click on the online giving link.
- Create an Account
- Schedule Your Recurring Gifts

Please prayerfully consider giving online. If you have any questions, email the parish office at: info@johnxxiii.net

God Bless.

Father Bob Tabbert







Weekly Financials



	6-21-20	6-23-19	Difference
Offertory	\$25,444.00	\$21,416.40	\$4,027.60
Building Fund	\$1,627.00	\$2,752.00	\$1,125.00
Total	\$27,071.00	\$24,168.40	\$2,902.60
Mass Attendance	1016	2542	
Registered Families	3638	3623	

No money is kept on Church property. Thank you for your continued generosity!

*Please make your checks payable to "St. John XXIII"

2020 Catholic Faith Appeal

2020 Goal	\$492,000.00	
Pledge	\$319,204.25	
% of Goal	64.88%	
% of Households	18.54%	
Payments	\$267,207.35	

Planning Your Will

Remember St. John XXIII

A bequest is a wonderful way to express gratitude to God for a lifetime of blessings! The gift you give establishes a lasting legacy of love for others by helping the Church to continue our Catholic heritage through its many ministries.

PLEASE NOTE: Leaving money to the Parish in your will is not assessed and 100% goes to the parish.

The following is possible wording for including a bequest in your will:

"I bequeath the greater of \$_____ or _____% of the residue of my estate to Bishop Frank J. Dewane, (or his successor), Roman Catholic Bishop of the Diocese of Venice in Florida, a corporation sole, whose principal office is located at 1000 Pinebrook Rd., Venice, FL 34285, For the benefit of St. John XXIII Catholic Parish, in Fort Myers, Inc."

The actual wording in your will should be determined by you and your attorney.

For more information, questions, or wish to consider a gift annuity or trust for St. John XXIII Catholic Church, then please email:



Holly Atkins: holly@johnxxiii.net

MEMORIALIZE A LOVED ONE

Here at St. John XXIII, we have several ways to memorialize your loved one.

If you are interested in learning more, call our Business Manager, Holly Atkins at (239) 561-2245

Memorialization

The art of commemorating the lives of those we love.



MAKING A STOCK TRANSFER

When making a stock transfer to the Diocese of Venice on behalf of **St. John XXIII**, please email **holly@johnxxiii.net** to let us know you made the request. Sometimes a transfer comes to the Diocese with no name or no parish name. This will help us track the transaction. Thank you.

ENDOWMENT FUND



HELP ENSURE THE LONG-TERM SUSTAINABILITY OF ST. JOHN XXIII

St. John XXIII now has an endowment fund with the Catholic Community Foundation of SW Florida. The endowment fund is designed to help provide long-term support and sustainability far beyond our lifetimes, and is open to anyone wishing to contribute to the future of our Parish. Please PRAYERFULLY CONSIDER SUPPORTING the endowment fund.

For more information, contact **Michael Morse** at **(941) 441-1124** or email **Holly Atkins** in the Parish Office at **holly@johnxxiii.net**

SILENCE IS NEVER THE OPTION

by: Father Angelo S. Arrando



As Roman Catholics, our rich Sacramental experiences lead us more deeply into the teachings of Jesus Christ. Likewise, the Scriptures become our road map which directs us away from any structure system which undermines the Gospel message or hinders the Holy Spirit from enlivening and transforming us into disciples of Jesus.

In the last couple of weeks, we witnessed hatred and violence in its ugliest form: racism. As Catholics, we must lay aside politics, which seem at present to be a distraction rather than an aid, and focus on people. It doesn't matter who you voted for in the last election, it does not matter if you are a democrat or republican, racism is wrong in every form and at any time.

We are reminded that every human being is created in the very image of God...not some human beings but every human being.

I end every one of my Masses with a blessing from St. Peter: "you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation." (1 Peter 2:9)

That "chosen race" that "holy nation" is not an ethnic group or a country. It is the very Church made up in all of its diversity; our primary identity is not our nationality, our gender, our ethnic background, but Jesus, the Christ.

It is hard to believe that such blatant racism that we witness over and over could exist in 2020. But a look at the bible and of global history reminds us of the depth of human chaos and sin.

It's much easier to recognize racism in others than in ourselves. The hate-filled white supremacy rhetoric is easy to identify as evil. Harder to identify are the more subtle forms of racism that exist in ourselves. The reality is seeing such blatant forms of racism could inadvertently cause us to ignore

the racism within us. We see people in the news chanting supremacy rhetoric, and we know, that compared to them, we are not racists. We feel a righteous anger over what happened to George Floyd and we think "I must be a righteous person, I really felt something." But before we pat ourselves on the back, we need to do some ruthless self-examination. Being silent in the face of racism is racism!

As people debate the proper response to George Floyd, we must condemn all forms of racism, bigotry, and discrimination. We must call it for what it is: **SIN!**

To our shame, Christians have been part of the problem for centuries. So, as Christians, we need to be part of the solution.

When asked which was the first of all the commandments, We readily word Jesus' words "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength.' And the second is this: You shall love your neighbor as yourself" (Mk12:28-31).

Loving our God obligates us to love our neighbors as well. You Cannot Love God and Hate Your Neighbor Scripture clearly and boldly states: "If anyone says, 'I love God,' and hates his brother, he is a liar; whoever does not love a brother whom he has seen cannot love God whom he has not seen" (1 Jn 4:20). This simple, straightforward teaching constitutes the heart of Christian ethics.

Racism has continued to be a way of life all too often. When a way of life becomes so hurting to others then religious people can no longer be silent; we are called to stand up and be counted as witnesses to an alternative lifestyle more faithful to the human race and to the God Who created us in God's image.

Continued on Next Page



In the ongoing course of human history, Christians are called and challenged to make difficult religious decisions for the sake of universal humanity. We have not always risen faithfully to the occasion, too often remaining silent and at times turning our backs to acts of bigotry and hatred but present circumstances call us to stand and be counted.

Sometimes, we interpret teachings in ways which can be destructive to us. Once we realize this, are we willing to listen to God and do what is necessary to change? When we think "religion" we are apt to think Bibles, Church buildings, institutions, and prayers; let's think, rather, of individuals like Mahatma Gandhi, Nelson Mandela, Martin Luther King, Teresa of Calcutta and Jesus. Religion is about human beings like ourselves who begin movements away from systems that are destructive of our humanity.

Society changes only when fearless few risk the risk and do what has never been done before. Rosa Parks, the black woman who sat up front of the bus in Montgomery, Alabama, and refused the backseat assigned her, sparked the civil rights movement, and transformed our country. But we now find ourselves realizing how much more needs to be done.

Every significant advancement that has ever taken place in human history has begun inside a human soul. Freedom is never given.

Freedom is taken by those with God-given guts who stand up against harmful opponents on the divine dignity of their own two God-given feet. But what holds us back?

Fear is the motor force that undermines our best attempt at courage. In the days of Nazism there were many who did not agree with that system. In the days of Communism there were many who did not approve of that system. Yet their fears muted their voices and melted them down into a silent compliance.

Our fears keep us acting small; we say "yes" instead of saying "no", or worst, just keeping silent so as to fit into the system we find ourselves in. Yet our fears are no excuse for remaining locked into a mode of living that is taking us all in the wrong direction.

Victims afraid of their freedom are not the saints of our Bible. No small courage do we associate with the stories of our great ones: Peter, Paul, Stephen, Mother Teresa, Oscar Romero, Maura Clarke and Martin Luther King — all human beings of hair and skin, muscle and blood, just like ourselves. All of whom found the strength to stand up to the life situations in which they found themselves from the courage they received from their God within.

As religious persons, we too must rise above our fears and hold ourselves responsible for the climate that continues to pervade a culture of hatred and racism that renders far too many human beings insignificant. Silence is not an option...silence can never be an option of a people of faith.

Making our religion work for us, we understand this world that we take for granted; we take it apart; we move out from under its domination and overcome our enslavement to it,

The Good News is that God so loved our world that to our world God sent God's only Son as one of our very own. In the most religious moment of our human story, Jesus proposed trust in God, not fear of systems or society, as a new organizing center around which we could organize our world and recover the better side of human nature.



Stay cool this summer and prevent heat-related illnesses when participating in outdoor activities with these tips:

Hydrate Properly Throughout the Day:

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommend that individuals who weigh less than 90 pounds need five ounces of water - that's 10 big gulps every 20 minutes.

Plan Ahead:

Wear protective clothing/sunscreen and avoid the heat during the hottest part of the day, around mid-day. Let someone know where and when you are going outdoors. Bring a phone for communication emergencies.

Take Frequent Breaks:

Move to shaded or breezy areas and wear clothing to allow for increased evaporative cooling.

PREVENTING HEAT STROKE:

Heat stroke is a very serious and potentially dangerous heat injury that requires medical attention immediately. This is the most severe form of heat-related condition that stems from milder illnesses such as heat cramps and heat exhaustion. The medical definition of heat stroke is a core body temperature of 105 degrees Fahrenheit or higher combined with central nervous system complications resulting from overexposure to high temperatures.

If you've spent a lot of time in the sun and you're experiencing any of the symptoms below, it's important to seek medical attention immediately.

CALL 911 if you or others develop symptoms of heat stroke that are unable to be adequately treated.

- Incredibly Hot Skin
- Dizziness and Fainting
- Extreme Fatigue
- Nausea
- Vomiting
- Rapid Heartbeat
- **Mental Confusion**
- Seizures
 - Lack of Sweating
- Severe Headache



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Did You Know?

Many of us who grew up in the northern states survived the warm summer months with just a floor or window fan. After sunset we would place the fan in a window to exhaust the warm air out of the house.

Fans are designed to cool the person or people in a room by a direct flow of air. They really do not "cool down" the room temperature. Thus, if you are using a fan to enhance your comfort on hot days, you should turn off the fan if you leave the room for a length of time. A small energy savings, but shapes our conscience of energy consumption.



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Your church Mobile App is a powerful tool that brings great benefits to our local and seasonal parishioners.

There are so many exciting possibilities to being connected. It is important to stay informed and take advantage of the resources that are available. Below are some stimulating avenues to explore:

- Bulletin
- Calendar
- Confession
- Giving
- Homilies
- Mass Times
- Messages
- News
- Parish Info
- Prayers
- Readings

- World News
- Groups
- Reflections
- Real Life
 Catholic
- Reflect Daily
- Daily Mass
- Rosary
- Audio Bible
- The Good News
- Resources

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Catholic Community

Prayer for Safety During Hurricane Season: All are encouraged to pray for protection from the storms that often threaten Southwest Florida. The devastation of recent hurricanes reinforce the fact that we need to pray for God's protection and care.

Do You Need Help? If you need assistance from Catholic Charities for food, financial assistance or tele-mental health counseling, please call the number for your area listed below between the hours of 9am and 5pm, Monday to Friday:

- Sarasota/Manatee/DeSoto/Hardee/Highlands Counties: (844) 385-2407
- Charlotte/Lee/Hendry/Glades Counties: (844) 385-2423
- Collier County: (844) 385-240

Help Your Parish: Parishes face increased risk of financial shortfalls due to the COVID-19 Pandemic and its effects on everyday life. Please prayerfully consider an online donation to your parish by visiting https://dioceseofvenice. org/ways-to-give/parish-donations-online/

Catholic Charities Support: Financial support is needed during its response to the COVID-19 pandemic. To help, please visit www.catholiccharitiesdov.org/donate or send a check to: Catholic Charities, Diocese of Venice Inc., 5824 Bee Ridge Road, PMB 409, Sarasota, FL 34233-5065

Televised Mass for the Homebound: For those who are unable to attend Mass due to medical or physical limitations, the Diocese of Venice offers a televised Mass each Sunday. For viewers in the northern portions of the Diocese, the Mass airs at 9:30am on the CW Network; and for those in the southern portions of the Diocese, the Mass is at 10:30am on WFTX-TV (FOX-4)

Project Rachel Post-Abortion: Reconciliation and healing is available to you. For more information, please call: Sylvia at (941) 412-5860 e-mail: project.rachel@dioceseofvenice.org or visit: www.hopeafterabortion.com

Spiritual Adoption Program: You are invited to register to spiritually adopt an unborn child in danger of abortion. Visit www.dioceseofvenice.org/offices/respect-life/spiritualadoption-program and receive monthly updates on the development of the child in the womb. Call (941) 441-1101 or email Berdeaux@dioceseofvenice.org

Novena of Masses for Life: Participate in a Mass near you and pray for life! Visit www.dioceseofvenice.org/respectlife for the monthly schedule of Novena of Masses for Life.

Free Mental Health Counseling: Catholic Charities, Diocese of Venice, Inc. is offering free mental health counseling services for adults, children and families who lived in Florida during Hurricane Irma. Counselors can help resolve a variety of issues. Visit the website at www.catholiccharitiesdov.org or call Joan at (941)-355-4680 ext. 311

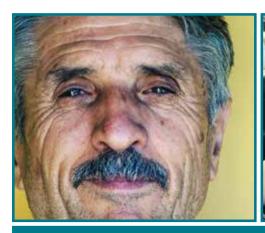
Treatment Center for Teens: Newly opened treatment center for teen substance abuse at the Vince Smith Center. Located at 2450 Prince St. in Ft. Myers. They offer a therapeutic environment for teens ages 13-17. Education is provided by the Lee County School District. For more information call (239) 338-2306



- Excessive sadness or moodiness: Long-lasting sadness, mood swings, and unexpected rage.
- Hopelessness: Feeling a deep sense of hopelessness about the future, with little expectation that circumstances can improve.
- Sleep problems.
- Sudden calmness: Suddenly becoming calm after a period of depression or moodiness can be a sign that the person has made a decision to end his or her life.
- Withdrawal: Choosing to be alone and avoiding friends or social activities also are possible symptoms of depression, a leading cause of suicide. This includes the loss of interest or pleasure in activities the person previously enjoyed.
- Changes in personality and/or appearance: A person who is considering suicide might exhibit a change in attitude or behavior, such as speaking or moving with unusual speed or slowness. In addition, the person might suddenly become less concerned about his or her personal appearance.
- Dangerous or self-harmful behavior: Potentially dangerous behavior, such as reckless driving, engaging in unsafe sex, and increased use of drugs and/or alcohol might indicate that the person no longer values his or her life.
- Recent trauma or life crisis: A major life crises might trigger a suicide attempt. Crises include the death of a loved one or pet, divorce or break-up of a relationship, diagnosis of a major illness, loss of a job, or serious financial problems.
- Making preparations: Often, a person considering suicide will begin to put his or her personal business in order. This might include visiting friends and family members, giving away personal possessions, making a will, and cleaning up his or her room or home. Some people will write a note before committing suicide. Some will buy a firearm or other means like poison.
- Threatening suicide: From 50% to 75% of those considering suicide will give someone - a friend or relative – a warning sign. However, not everyone who is considering suicide will say so, and not everyone who threatens suicide will follow through with it. Every threat of suicide should be taken seriously.



suicidepreventionlifeline.org







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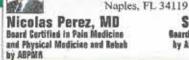
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