



ST. JOHN XXIII

Catholic Church

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

December 6, 2020



Love

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

***"For God so loved the world that he gave His
only begotten son. Let us not love in word
or speech but in deed and in truth."***

- 1 JOHN 3:18

December 6, 2020

Please Note:

**There will be
CONFESSIONS
outside the church
Every Saturday
8:30am-9:00am
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 CRM

frsimon@johnxxiii.net

DEACON

Deacon Rich Klish

DeaconRich@johnxxiii.net

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS:

Monday-Friday,
8:00am-Noon & 1pm-4pm
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 as well as weekend Holy Masses in the Church. We ask that you please wear a mask, bring sanitizer and practice social distancing. We will continue to livestream Masses on Facebook and the Website.

MONDAY, DECEMBER 7

- 8:00 AM † Susan Person by Joan & Skip
- 6:00 PM † Nita, Rose, Zeke & Elkins by their family

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 8 - IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

- 8:00 AM † Brian Bumbacco by Jim & Barbara Lange
- 12:00 PM † DaSalvia/Giampaolo Families by Maria Giampaolo
- 8:00 PM - Vietnamese Mass

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 9

- 8:00 AM † Willaim Hahn by Carol & Nicholas Hahn

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 10

- 8:00 AM † Thomas Garchar by Mr. & Mrs. A. Ford

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 11

- 8:00 AM † Joesph Birsa by David Birsa

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 12

- 8:00 AM † Barry Lewis by Frances Brewes
- 4:00 PM † Richard McArdle by Kathleen & Alan Bouchard
- 8:00 PM † Frank Jerome Pena by Patty & Nick Maurillo

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 13

- 7:15 AM † Joan Lambert by Tim & Sue Lambert
- 9:15 AM † Nita, Rose, Zeke & Elkins by their family
- 11:15 AM † Tom Tiehel by James & Beverly Wharton
- 1:30 PM † Honorable Ed Antonietti by Barbara Antonietti

THE 2021 MASS BOOK IS NOW OPEN FOR JANUARY-JUNE

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.

DECEMBER 13, 2020 - READINGS

- 1ST READING IS 61:1-2A, 10-11
- PSALM LK 1:46-48, 49-50, 53-54
- 2ND READING 1 THES 5:16-24
- GOSPEL JN 1:6-8, 19-28

Celebrating the
**IMMACULATE
CONCEPTION**

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 8 - HOLY DAY

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

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jennifer@johnxxiii.net

239-561-2245

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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:

Faith Formation Assistant

Trisha Fields

trisha@johnxxiii.net

239-561-7499

Office Assistant

Brenda Gregory

brenda@johnxxiii.net

239-561-2245

Admin. Assistant

Barbara Lange

blange@johnxxiii.net

239-561-2245

THE TRUE MEANING OF ADVENT

God Comes for Us

by: **Stephen Beale - Catholic Exchange**

"Seek and you will find", Jesus told his disciples. This command is possible only through God, who moves us to seek and enables us to find Him. "For God is the one who, for his good purpose, works in you both to desire and to work," as Paul states in Philippians 2:13.

In the Old Testament, Abraham is called out of his home city of Ur to become a desert nomad, where he encounters God. The Israelites wander in the desert before arriving in the Promised Land where they experience the presence of God. Elijah strikes out into the desert and finds God in a mountain cave. Later, an exiled remnant of Israel will return home.

But this is only half the story. In Advent, the hinges of history turn the other way. God seeks us out. This is what happens in the Incarnation. Heaven comes to earth. The invisible meets the visible. The infinite is inscribed in the finite.

Man could always imagine the ascent to God. He could conceive becoming more than what he was. The limits of his own existence taught him to long for more, as St. Augustine realized.

But it never occurred to man that God might first come looking for him. He never dreamt that God might descend to him. That God would not only do this but also become one of us—in the fullness of our humanity all the while losing none of His divinity—was beyond the imagination of ancient man.

Heaven arrived on earth, but there no armies of angels that stormed the land, no horsemen of the apocalypse deliver God's wrath to sinners, no fire and brimstone, no earthquakes or eclipses. Instead, angels sing songs to sleepy shepherds. A couple takes shelter in a cave. A woman gives birth to a son.

What makes the Incarnation so great is that it was so small. God did not need conquering armies or avenging angels to announce His arrival on earth. No clouds of fire or quaking mountains accompanied His descent. The kingdom of heaven broke into earth not with a cry of battle but instead the cry of a newborn—because nothing could be more powerful than the fullness of God's presence in single human being and no voice could echo through eternity like the divine Word Incarnate.

In becoming fully man, God came to us in a way that stirs us to seek Him all the more. He came as a child, born at night, hidden in a cave. This is the lesson of the shepherds watching by night and the three wise men who journey from the East. We do not need to tunnel through the bowels of the earth or walk on the bottom of the sea to find God. He has already crossed the chasm of the infinite to find us. Seek and find Him because He is present to us even now.

"Advent is a journey towards Bethlehem. May we let ourselves be drawn by the light of God."

- Pope Francis

ADVENT PRAYER

2ND SUNDAY

Prepare the Way

All-powerful, most holy, most
high, supreme God: all good,
supreme good, totally good, You
Who alone are good, may we give
You all praise, all glory, all thanks,
all honor, all blessing, and all good.

So be it! So be it!

Amen

Advent RECONCILIATION

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 15

Our Advent Reconciliation Service
with Individual Confession is
at **7pm** in the church.



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
Gary Neubauer
Tom Biedak
Barbara Shay
Gregg Evans
Henry Martinez
Bill Becker
Carlos Martinez
Fr. Ed Przygocki
Kevin Natella
Marilyn Kelley

Dan Pieper
James Heaney
Steven Dakin
Neil Soeder
Gene Damm
C. Tony Navy
Anthony Navy
Lou Rescimoto
Nancy Wirick
Linda Sayres
Sue & Craig Edwards
Baby Henry Patrick Koch
Anna Acini
Pauline Reid
Katie Cassidy
Tom Lange
Margarita Muratore

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 epayer.stjohn23@gmail.com

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

Ways to Memorialize

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!

Ann Pavlan (Andrea Harley's mother)



Tabernacle Candle

In Memory of: **Biago & Elaine Dente**
Requested by: **The Dente Family**



Adoration Chapel

For all victims of the Coronavirus.
We pray for worldwide healing.





WATCH ON FACEBOOK

DAILY MASS

8:00am Monday - Saturday

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 5

- 4:00pm with Fr. Angelo
- 8:00pm Vietnamese Mass

<https://www.facebook.com/fort.myers.5454>

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 6

- 11:15am with Fr. Saji
- 1:30pm Spanish Mass

<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



PLEASE CONSIDER GIVING YOUR

Online Gift



<https://johnxxiii.net/giving/>

WELCOME

New Parishioners

- Robert & Deborah Elias
- Bruce Letmanski
- Jim & Christina Palmer
- Phillip & Claire May

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. 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 next **New Parishioner Orientation on Sunday, January 17, 2021 after the 11:15am Mass.**

This is your opportunity to become informed and active members of the parish. 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 Palenik
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
Lt. Col. Mike Garry, US Army
82nd ABN
Lt. Ross Walker, US Navy
PFC Eric Lyons, USMC
2LT Nicholas Meunier US Army



Faith Formation

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



FAITH FORMATION SCHEDULE:

The next WEDNESDAY Faith Formation Class will be held **DECEMBER 16**

The next SUNDAY Family Faith Formation Class will be held **DECEMBER 6**

PLEASE NOTE: Due to covid, the pageant portion at the Children's 4pm Christmas Eve Mass will not take place.

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.

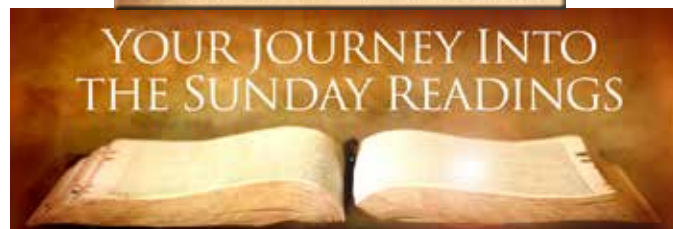
*Faith is taking the first step even when
you can't see the whole staircase.*

ADULT FAITH

Education

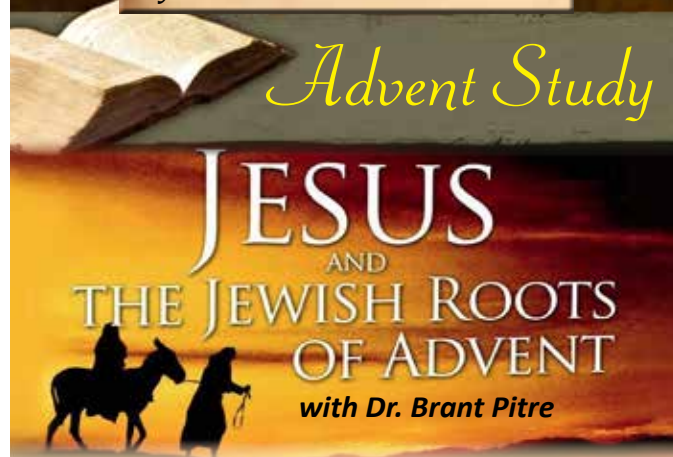
Keep in TOUCH with your *Faith* ONLINE:

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 **Linda Stanley** at: lindastanley.ls@gmail.com for more information.

JOIN US ONLINE



Join us for a ZOOM VIDEO STUDY of ADVENT

Have you ever felt that when Christmas comes around that you are just not ready?

What is the deeper meaning of Advent? And how can understanding this season help us better prepare for Christmas?

In this series, Dr. Brant Pitre shows how a deeper understanding of the ancient Jewish prophecies of the Messiah can help unlock the hidden meanings of the season of Advent.

We will meet on Zoom, Tuesdays from 6-8pm on December 8 and 15

Enjoy this FREE STUDY at home with no homework or fees! Study materials will be provided.

REGISTER BY EMAIL:

Linda Stanley - lindastanley.ls@gmail.com



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.

- **PLEASE NOTE:** Due to the current pandemic, Rooted has been cancelled until further notice.



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

Confirmation Program

Preperation Class - Sunday 5pm to 7pm

- **December 13** is the next Confirmation preparation class. Both year 1 & Year 2 will meet in the church for a Eucharist Retreat and church tour. Please watch your email for parent and sponsor at home discussion questions as well as in person and zoom offering choices.

High School Youth Group

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

- REGISTRATION IS NOT REQUIRED. All High school students are welcome and encouraged to attend. We hope to move this to an in-person ministry as soon as it is safe to do so. The sessions will be on the Zoom app. Please email Kelly for invitation link.
- **SUNDAY, DECEMBER 6:** Season of Giving
- **SUNDAY, DECEMBER 13:** Mandatory Eucharist Retreat (5pm to 7pm)

Middle School Youth Group

MSYG Sessions - Wednesdays 6pm to 7:15pm

- REGISTRATION IS NOT REQUIRED at this time. We will host this program on **Wednesday evenings at 6pm** via the Zoom app. Please check the website under the education tab in the Middle School Youth ministry for more information and email Kelly for link to the Zoom invitation.
- **WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 9** : Season of Giving

Volunteer Opportunitites

- For at home Youth Volunteer Opportunities please email Kelly Evers

Hispanic Ministry **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Misas en Español

- Lugar: Iglesia Católica St. John XXIII
- Hora: 1:30pm
- Fecha: Todos los domingos del mes.

Rezo del Santo Rosario

(Antes de la misa los domingos)

- Lugar: Iglesia Católica St. John XXIII
- Hora: 12:50pm
- Fecha: Todos los domingos del mes.

Rezo del Santo Rosario (Via Zoom)

- Lugar: Video conferencia a través de Zoom
- Hora: 6:00pm
- Fecha: Todos los martes del mes.

Charlas pre Bautismales

- Lugar: Iglesia Católica St. John XXIII
- Hora: 10:00am
- Fecha: Todos primeros sabados del mes.

NOTA: Registrarse previamente enviando un email al correo: comunidadhispana@johnxxiii.net

Contactanos

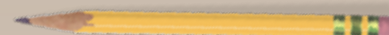
- Para más información sobre el link del rezo del Santo Rosario vía Zoom o preguntas relacionado al ministerio hispano, por favor dejarnos saber al correo comunidadhispana@johnxxiii.net
- Visítenos en www.facebook.com/ministeriohispano.sanjuan.1



INQUIRY ZOOM MEETINGS:
THURSDAY - 6:30PM

Dec. 10: Mass (Walk Through)

Dec. 24 & 31: NO SESSION - Christmas



For more information, please call or text **GINNY WHELAN** at (239) 634-3239 or email: vwhelan99@gmail.com



ST. JOHN XXIII
Catholic Church

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, search "St. John XXIII Catholic Church" and "like" our page.
- **Our Weekly Newsletter:** Visit our website, johnxxiii.net, scroll down to "Stay Connected" and enter your email address.
- **Download Our Parish App:** 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/>
- **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, please see a Sacristan to make a request.
- **Non-Perishable Donations:** Please consider donating items to St. Martin DePorres or The St. John XXIII Villas to help people in need during this pandemic.
- **Deacon Francis Go Fund Me:** If you would like to contribute to Deacon Francis' family in support of Will and Stacey, visit www.gofundme.com/f/for-stacey-and-will-for-francis-head
- **St. Luke Adoration Chapel:** Chapel Hours are Monday-Friday 8:30am-4pm & Saturday 8:30am-4pm. The Chapel will be open 8:30am-9pm on Tuesday, December 8th. For information on The Adoration Chapel Ministry please visit: johnxxiii.net/adoration-chapel-ministry/
- **St. John XXIII Thrift Store:** Hours are Monday-Friday 10am-5pm and Saturday 10am-4pm. For more information email thrift@johnxxiii.net
- **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. For more information email: holdenbnd@gmail.com or call Dick at (239) 463-3993
- **Craftie Ladies Order Requests:** Please contact Judy Siegel at: (239) 437-4978 or email craftieladiesxxiii@gmail.com
- **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
- **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

POPE'S PRAYER INTENTIONS

2020

DECEMBER: LIFE OF PRAYER

We pray that our personal relationship with Jesus Christ be nourished by the Word of God and a life of prayer.

For more information:

<https://www.jesuit.org.uk/pope-francis-2020-prayer-intentions-announced>



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



Words of Encouragement

from St. John XXIII Parishioners

St. John XXIII parishioners provided messages of faith, hope and encouragement. If you are interested in sharing a video on Facebook, please contact **Jennifer Engelman** at jennifer@johnxxiii.net

A LETTER FROM

Bishop Frank Dewane

My Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Now that the Advent season has arrived, please accept my pastoral greetings and concern for you, the good Faithful in the Diocese of Venice. My prayer is that the preparation for the Lord's coming in the Advent Season will enliven our hope in the promises of Christ.

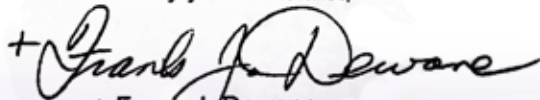
Allow me to update you regarding Masses as the Covid-19 Pandemic continues to impact the Diocese and all of us. In my October 9, 2020 letter, it was said that the General Dispensation from the obligation to attend Sunday Mass would remain in effect until November 28th, but considering the present circumstances of the virus spread, the General Dispensation is extended into the New Year and I will advise regarding its conclusion at a future date.

There are some optimistic signs and there are increasing numbers of the Faithful returning to Church for Sunday Mass. Also, there is greater weekday attendance. Please continue to make every reasonable effort to return to in-person worship if you are able. With gratitude, I acknowledge all who have returned and commend those who continue to join the live streaming of Mass due to vulnerabilities and those who care for them. Further, let us all keep in prayer our brothers and sisters who have had the virus and their families.

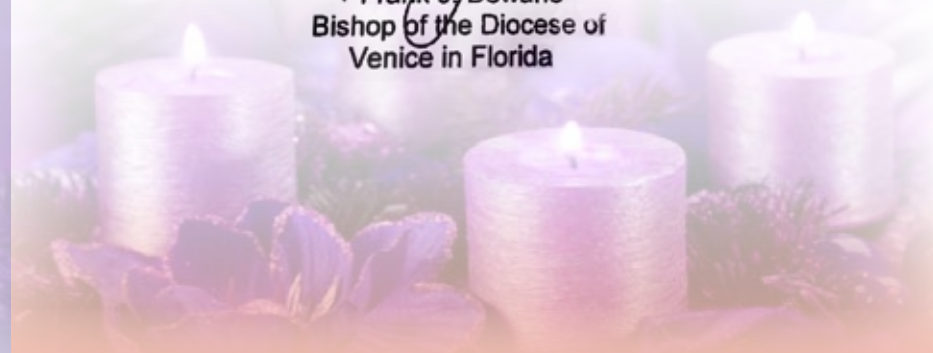
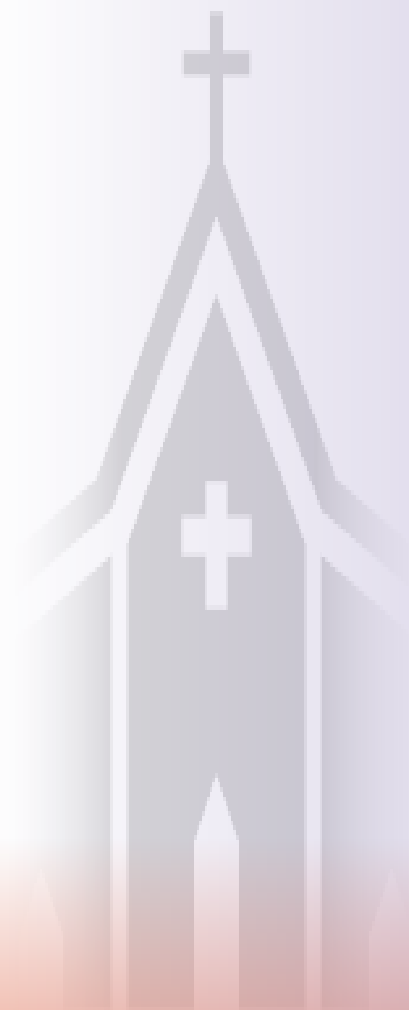
As Christmas and the New Year approach, it is crucial to maintain vigilance regarding safety precautions in Parishes. This will necessitate scaling back special Feast Day celebrations and holiday related events. Unfortunately, it cannot be as it was in the past. Particularly, I underscore the need for the wearing of masks, maintaining appropriate distances, as well as cleaning and sanitizing measures. Parishes have been encouraged to schedule more Masses for Christmas Eve and Christmas Day than is customary. Having additional Masses, perhaps at different times or in different locations (Parish hall or gymnasium), will safely accommodate the potential numbers of Faithful who may attend Mass for Christmas.

At this challenging time, let us be united in prayer as we journey through the Advent Season in preparation for the Birth of Our Lord and Savior. Be assured of my prayers for you and your family!

Sincerely yours in Christ,



+ Frank J. Dewane
Bishop of the Diocese of
Venice in Florida





Online Giving



ST. JOHN XXIII
Catholic Church

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

Dear Parishioners,

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



Giving has never been easier!





ST. JOHN XXIII
Catholic Church

Weekly Financials



	11-22-20	11-24-19	Difference
Offertory	\$18,284.00	\$23,126.00	(\$4,842.00)
Building Fund	\$1,523.00	\$4,226.00	(\$2,703.00)
Total	\$19,807.00	\$27,352.00	(\$7,545.00)
Mass Attendance	1461	3914	
Registered Families	3634	3735	

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	\$503,691.99
% of Goal	102.38%
% of Households	21.60%
Payments	\$490,642.59

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



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.

WRITING CHECKS

Please use only BLACK or BLUE ink when writing checks. PINK, PURPLE, RED, etc. do not scan well when deposited.



ENDOWMENT FUND



CREATE YOUR CATHOLIC LEGACY

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**

Guardian Angels WALKWAY

PAVER MEMORIALIZATION



St. John XXIII Parish, along with the Knights of Columbus and The Women's Guild, are excited to offer **12x12 pavers**, which will be placed on the walkway around the site for our St. Michael the Archangel statue. **The price for each paver is \$350.** This is a wonderful way to pay tribute to a loved one who has served, or is currently serving in the military or as a first responder.

Defend us in battle, be our protection against the wickedness and snares of the devil. May God rebuke him we humbly pray; and do thou, Oh Prince of the Heavenly host, by the power of God, cast into hell Satan and all the evil spirits who prowl about the world seeking the ruin of souls. Amen.

Guardian Angels WALKWAY

Name _____

Address or PO Box _____

Unit/Apt # _____

City/State/Zip _____

Phone _____

Email _____

Payments may be made by cash, credit card or check.

I would like to pay by:

___ CASH ___ CHECK ___ CREDIT CARD

If paying by check, please make checks payable to the Knights of Columbus.

To order, or check the status of an order, please contact
The Knights of Columbus:

LARRY EVENER: larryevener@yahoo.com or

TOM DOLAN: mtd0522@yahoo.com

The Women's Guild Contact:

SUE EDWARDS: sgedwards007@gmail.com

PAVER ORDER FORM

Please circle the graphic to be added to the stone:



Please print clearly. The 12x12 paver has 3 lines.

LINE 1 NAME _____

example: John Doe

LINE 2 RANK _____

example: SGT. USMC

LINE 3 SERVICE _____

example: WWII

Please sign and date verifying all information is correct on the paver.

PRINT NAME _____

SIGNATURE _____

DATE _____



ST. JOHN XXIII
Catholic Church

Advent & Christmas

SCHEDULE 2020

MONDAY, DECEMBER 7

Feast of the Immaculate Conception

6:00pm Vigil Mass

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 8

Feast of the Immaculate Conception - Holy Day

8:00am Mass

12:00pm Mass

8:00pm Vietnamese Mass

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 15

7:00pm Advent Reconciliation Service
with Individual Confessions

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 16

8:30am - 9:30am Individual Confessions

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 24

CHRISTMAS EVE LITURGIES

4:00pm Mass

6:30pm Mass

9:00pm Mass

11:00pm Vietnamese Mass

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 25

CHRISTMAS DAY MASSES

7:15am, 9:15am & 11:15am Masses

1:30pm Spanish Mass

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 31

6:00pm Vigil Mass for Holy Day

FRIDAY, JANUARY 1, 2021

Feast of Mary Mother of God - HOLY DAY

8:00am Mass

12:00pm Mass

8:00pm Vietnamese Mass

BEGINNING JANUARY 2, 2021

Saturday Vigil Masses resume at 3:30pm and
5:30pm through Palm Sunday, March 28, 2021

CELEBRATING

Advent

Does it seem to you that each year the holiday season gets busier and busier, and we get further and further away from the true meaning of Advent and Christmas?

The best way to combat this tendency is to adopt or renew Advent traditions in the home. Whether you are single, a busy parent with kids, or empty-nesters, you can celebrate Advent like you are actually anticipating the coming of Christ, which is the whole point. It's a spiritual journey!

Remember the reason for the season; Advent and Christmas are Christian liturgical seasons. When you know what the season is meant to be, you will more likely do the kinds of things that emphasize that purpose.



What does it Mean?

Advent derives from the Latin adventus meaning "arrival" or "approach". For thousands of years the world waited for the coming of the Messiah to redeem and to save the human race, restoring mankind's relationship to God.

We, too, experience this same longing for the coming of Christ. Spiritually, we long for the coming of Christ into our hearts as the Holy Spirit draws us into ever deepening relationship with Him; we also long for Christ in his Second Coming, when He will return physically to earth, as He promised, to restore all things to Himself.

The Advent season has these characteristics:

- 1) Hopeful longing,
- 2) Joyful expectation,
- 3) Prayerful penance, and
- 4) Spiritual preparation.

It looks to:

- 1) Salvation history of the past,
- 2) Our present redemption being accomplished
- 3) The future coming of Christ.

Advent connects us spiritually with God's whole plan of redemption through Jesus Christ.

OPLATKI TRADITION

Following the time honored tradition, many families will begin their Christmas Eve celebration by waiting for the appearance of the first star in the early evening sky as they look toward the East. This first star appearing symbolizes the Star of Bethlehem which announced that the Great Light was coming into our world, to the "people who lived in darkness."

The table at which the family gathers for the Christmas Eve dinner typically has some straw strewn beneath a fine white tablecloth to commemorate the birth of the Christ Child in the manger or cave where the animals lived. A more modern adaptation includes the use of straw or sprigs of evergreen which are placed on a serving platter and then covered with a fine white napkin on which the Oplatki wafers rest.

The Christmas Eve meal begins with the eldest member of the family taking an Oplatki wafer, breaking it and sharing it with the family member next to him. Each then shares pieces of the Oplatki wafer with everyone else present at the table. Some families, particularly of the Slovak tradition, share the Oplatki with honey on it, as a symbol of the sweetness and joy of the occasion. The sharing ritual is accompanied by embracing and the exchange of good wishes. The symbolism of sharing the wafer with each person and then back and forth, symbolizes the giving and sharing of our lives.

Christmas Oplatki *Bread*

Families of Polish, Slovak and Lithuanian background observe this Christmas Eve Tradition. Family members and guests are each handed an oplatek and they each break off a piece from one another and eat it, expressing best wishes and blessings to each other, and asking for forgiveness. This is a tender, touching family celebration of love and forgiveness. Envelopes of the bread are located in the Office and Church Narthex.

A \$3 donation towards the cost of the Oplatki is greatly appreciated and can be placed in the envelope next to the basket.



Advent DAILY REFLECTIONS

THE ROAD TO BETHLEHEM

FORMED: Introducing a new Advent journey for you and your family! Join us for the Road to Bethlehem, a journey that includes daily Advent reflections and enrichment from FORMED. We will be sending you handpicked videos, talks, and texts every day throughout Advent to nourish your spiritual life. Sign up today to prepare for the coming of our Lord Jesus at Christmas! Sign up today at:

<https://advent.augustineinstitute.org/>

FORMED CODE

1823EE

GIVE TO THE HOMELESS

A group of young moms, working with our Social Justice Ministry are doing a "give to the homeless" in our area.

SUGGESTED ITEMS NEEDED:

- Travel sized toiletries
- Individual snacks like trail mix or granola
- Water bottles, Gatorade or similar
- Gallon sized bags
- Clothing donations such as: gloves, hats socks and jackets

There will be a box in the Narthex of our church for your items. Please help with this worthy drive to help those in need.



Adoration Chapel UPDATE:

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 8 - IMMACULATE CONCEPTION DAY
CHAPEL OPEN: 8:30am (following daily mass) until 9:00pm
Open **EXTENDED HOURS** with **RESPECT LIFE MINISTRY** for
NATIONAL NIGHT OF PRAYER FOR LIFE

For information on The Adoration Chapel Ministry visit:
johnxxiii.net/adoration-chapel-ministry/



Bereavement Outreach

DIOCESE OF VENICE IN FLORIDA

"THERE IS HOPE"

A workshop focusing on surviving the holidays without your loved one and difficulties of isolation during the pandemic with:

Deacon Henry deMena



Sunday, Dec. 6 | Epiphany Cathedral
3 pm - 4:30 pm
310 Sarasota St, Venice, FL 34285



Sunday, Dec. 13 | San Marco Parish
3 pm - 4:30 pm
851 San Marco Rd, Marco Island, FL 34145

Thursday, Dec. 10 | Our Lady of Light
4 pm - 5:30 pm
19680 Cypress View Dr, Ft. Myers, FL 33967

NO COST OR NO REGISTRATION NEEDED
For more information, please contact **Carrie Harkey**
Harkey@dioceseofvenice.org or call (941) 484-9543



KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS
**KEEP CHRIST
IN CHRISTMAS**
POSTER CONTEST

The Knights of Columbus are having a poster contest again this year! It is called **KEEP CHRIST IN CHRISTMAS**. Below are the links to the advertising poster and entry form.

POSTER: <https://www.kofc.org/en/resources/faith-in-action-programs/family/keep-christ-in-christmas/5026-kcic-poster.pdf>

ENTRY FORM: <https://www.kofc.org/en/resources/faith-in-action-programs/family/keep-christ-in-christmas/5025-kcic-entry-score-sheet-fillable.pdf>

FORMS/CARDSTOCK: Forms and cardstock will be available in the Narthex, parish office, and in the Faith Formation hallway.

AGE DIVISIONS:
Kindergarten-2nd / 3rd-5th / 6th- 8th / 9th -12th

All entries must be turned in by SUNDAY, DECEMBER 20 by noon. Prizes are \$100 per grade level.

Catholic Community HAPPENINGS

OLPH Advent Retreat/Monthly Days of Prayer: The retreat center offers single days of prayer and overnight retreats in a safe environment. Encounter Mary and her Son on our Advent retreat, December 7-8. This retreat includes Mass, presentations, time for personal prayer, an opportunity for confession and/or spiritual direction. A Monthly Day of Prayer is offered on December 9 and 13). To register, visit www.olph-retreat.org and click on "Schedule of Events" or for more information, call (941) 486-0233

Adopt a Family for Christmas: Our Mother's House of Catholic Charities is looking for people to make Christmas special for single mothers and their babies by providing gifts from their wish list. If you are interested in helping, please contact Rita Millner at (941) 485-6264 or email rita.millner@catholiccharitiesdov.org. All wrapped gifts must be delivered before December 9th.

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

Livestreamed Mass from Catholic Center: Please join Bishop Frank J. Dewane at 9:15 a.m. for daily Mass from the Catholic Center at www.dioceseofvenice.org or <https://www.facebook.com/DioceseofVenice/>

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

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/>

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/spiritual-adoption-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.

Treatment Center for Teens: This treatment center is 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

RESPECT LIFE

LUNCHEONS 4 LIFE:

Join guest speaker, Ben Pratt on **Wednesday, December 9th**, from **11:30am-1:30pm** at The Holiday Inn Ft. Myers Airport at Town Center. RSVP by December 7th via Evenbrite.com For more information or questions, please contact **Bonnie LaVigne** at (239) 898-0687 or email luncheons4lifeleecounty@gmail.com

WALKING WITH MOMS IN NEED:

"Walking with Moms in Need" is designed to educate parishes about community resources for pregnant moms. If you would like more information please visit: www.walkingwithmoms.com

MENTAL HEALTH:

Drug addiction and mental health issues have increased as a result of Covid among young adults and the elderly. If you or someone you know is suffering, please call **1-800-950-NAMI(6264)** or text NAMI to 741741. More information is available at www.nami.org

CONTACT US:

The Respect Life Ministry is open to all who are interested in learning about LIFE issues from conception to natural death. If you would like to be kept up to date please join our email list at at: respectlifejohn23@gmail.com



THURSDAY, DECEMBER 10 - 6PM

FREE ZOOM EVENT

Registration Required:

www.faithandale.com

Guest Speaker:

FATHER TAD PACHOLCZYK

(Director of Education, National Catholic Bioethics Center)

"Vaccines, Ventilators & other Ethical Challenges of COVID-19"



Craftie Ladies

ORDER REQUESTS

Place an Order:

Please contact **Judy Siegel** at: **(239) 437-4978** or **(414) 529-4978** and she will channel your request to the right Craftie Lady who makes the item. They will then contact you and set up a meet time. **ONLY CASH** will be accepted.

For other questions or inquiries, please email us at: **craftieladiesxxiii@gmail.com**

AFGHANS



CHRISTMAS ARRANGEMENTS



CHRISTMAS PILLOW COVERS



GOLF HEAD COVERS

