



ST. JOHN XXIII

Catholic Church

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

February 14, 2021

OUR *Lenten* JOURNEY *Begins*
ASH WEDNESDAY: FEBRUARY 17

February 14, 2021

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 and practice social distancing.

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 15

- 8:00 AM † Barbara Simpson by Rose Hornsby

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 16

- 8:00 AM † Deacon Francis Head by Ron & Linda Vitticore

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 17 - ASH WEDNESDAY

- 8:00 AM † Michael Biel by Karen Sanders
- 12:00 PM † Madeline Jioio by Denise & Vincent LaRosa
- 4:00 PM - ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE (Not a Holy Day)
- 6:00 PM † Marion Lamone by Joseph & Kathryn
- 8:00 PM - ASH WEDNESDAY Vietnamese Mass

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 18

- 8:00 AM † Christine Polazzi by Bruce Letmanski

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 19

- 8:00 AM † Barbara Regan by Tom & MaryLu MGreal

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 20

- 8:00 AM † Myron Wimmer by Bruce Letmanski
- 3:30 PM † Cathy Fugazzi by Peggy & Dan Pieper
- 5:30 PM † Mary DeSantis by Michael & Patricia Marco
- 8:00 PM † Teresa - Vietnamese Mass

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 21

- 7:15 AM † Diane Wittenauer by Curtis & Holly Atkins
- 9:15 AM † Michael Biel by The Tuffy Family
- 11:15 AM † Ted Zizzo by Marilyn Brummer
- 1:30 PM ♥ Pablo Reynoso by his mother, Ana - Spanish Mass

THE 2021 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.

FEBRUARY 21, 2021 - READINGS

- 1ST READING GN 9:8-15
- PSALM PS 25:4-5, 6-7, 8-9
- 2ND READING 1 PT 3:18-22
- GOSPEL MK 1:12-15

FEBRUARY 17 - NOT A HOLY DAY



PLEASE NOTE:

Ashes will be sprinkled on your head, per Pope Francis

**MASSES/ASHES:
8AM, 12PM & 6PM**

**PRAYER SERVICE
WITH DISTRIBUTION
OF ASHES: 4PM**

**VIETNAMESE MASS:
8:00PM**

Pastoral Team

Business Manager

Holly Atkins

holly@johnxxiii.net

239-561-2245

Maintenance

Supervisor

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239-561-2245

Maintenance Assistant

- Dave Mraz

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239-561-7499

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239-561-2245

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239-561-2245

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239-561-2245

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239-561-2245

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Ministries

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kelly@johnxxiii.net

239-561-3022

Thrift Store Manager

Cynthia Conzatti

thrifft@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

OUR *Lenten* JOURNEY Begins

by: **Marty Doucette - Catholic Exchange**

Ash Wednesday will start our Lenten journey – what Eastern Orthodoxy aptly calls “Forty Nights of Bright Darkness” – it is a good thing to reflect upon the meaning of those ashes placed upon our foreheads in the sign of the Cross with the words “Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return.” It is good to recall why we mourn together. The ashes are obviously in mourning for the present condition of humanity, but the words convey something more profound – they hint that much more is going on here than the reminder of our mortality. They are also a proclamation of our highest hope. We are being reminded of the sacred promise that we will rise together.

God’s divinely tough love was born in the very moments following our parents’ sins of self-worship and self-preservation. In that eternal moment, He launched a Selfless Plan that would unveil itself throughout millennia – a plan where God would sacrifice Himself as Ransom for His creation from the snares of death. That is what we mourn with the ashes on our foreheads – not feeling sorry for ourselves and our human condition, but rather, in sincere repentance for the price we know God would ultimately pay to bring us back rising from those ashes.

It takes a radical vantage point to begin to grasp how far we fell at the Fall and to what distances God had to go to bring us back – a vista like that which we gain in Exodus 90. For most of us, it takes the ninety days of a desert experience for us to begin to have the eyes to see like Adam saw before he first sinned.

God appeared to Moses as the promise to rescue men and women from their enslavement to their fallen gods – millennia after our first parents had first sold themselves into slavery. God entered human history at the Burning Bush to rescue Moses’ people. And ultimately, God permanently entered our human history as the Man Jesus Christ to once and for all time destroy humanity’s enslavement to death. It took millennia, but for us today – now – we are ransomed by the Blood of Jesus Christ and restored once again to the Image of God. But now we’re not just God’s human creation; we are forever His Children!

So today, as you and I walk forward and receive those ashes, let us grieve for what Christ has had to do for us. Let us not grieve because we need to lose weight or because our hair is thinning or because the guy next door has a better job or a cuter girlfriend or wife. Let us grieve because God considered us so vital to Himself that He entered human history to ransom us back. Let us grieve because we love Him so much. Let us grieve because we want our brother and sister to know Him too. Let us mourn because the world so severely needs Him. And for that reason, let us re-dedicate ourselves to Him during this Time of the Bright Darkness – that we will all rise from the ashes together. Amen.

For on this day shall atonement be made for you to cleanse you.

YOU SHALL BE CLEAN

before the LORD from all your sins.

- Leviticus 16:30



A LETTER FROM

Bishop Dewane

CENTRAL & EASTERN EUROPE COLLECTION

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

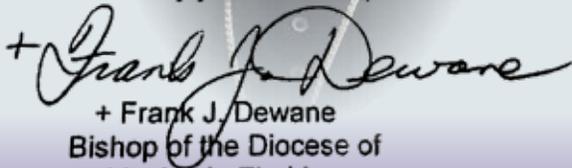
The special collection for the Church in Central and Eastern Europe will take place on **Ash Wednesday, February 17, 2021**. This annual collection provides aid to countries which continue rebuilding after years of suffering under the weight of communism. Religion and religious practices were openly persecuted and atheism was actively propagated and enforced.

The funds from this collection provide support for pastoral projects, scholarships and medical assistance to Catholic organizations in these countries that have been also deeply affected by the Coronavirus Pandemic. Catholic organizations further provide aide to homebound senior citizens using Church facilities to organize work and engage local volunteers; these volunteers prepare meals and deliver them to needy seniors. The Church collects and distributes protective clothing, masks, sanitizer, and other necessities to ensure the safety of health workers as they minister to the sick throughout the country.

In order for this region to continue to nurture and grow the Catholic Faith, financial assistance is needed. Your participation in the Collection for the Church in Central and Eastern Europe expresses your care and support for the people and their families in this region. Please be generous, and may God continue to bless you.

I take this opportunity to extend to you my continued consideration as well as my prayers on this Ash Wednesday, as we begin our Lenten Journey.

Sincerely yours in Christ,


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

Prayer List

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

Elaine Quan	Caroline Ann Toussaint
Ryan Novajasky	Donna Hart
Lynne Haughey	Meaghan Onofrey
Carol Clausen	Wayne & Carol Hilson
Marlene LaRose	Darlene Sardone
Erika Arquilla Hlavacek	Tony Raimo
Jeff Hlavacek	Denise Vanelli
Gary Neubauer	Bill Becker
Tom Biedak	Kenneth Huber
Ron Hudepohl	Bernadette Ryan
William James	Hugh Ryan
Linda Sayres	Michael Grunberg
Baby Henry Patrick Koch	Tim McMullen
Anna Acini	David Meunier
Pauline Reid	Jimmy Provanzano
Katie Cassidy	The Dasco Family
Denny Uhlik	William Riehle

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!*

**Theresa Behr
Anne Pavese Palmer
Kenneth Bennett**



Tabernacle Candle

In Memory of: **Mary Bissaillon**
Requested by: **Carol & Linda**



Adoration Chapel

Special Intentions for: **The Peffley Family**
Requested by: **Cliff Verderber**





WATCH ON FACEBOOK

DAILY MASS

8:00am Monday - Saturday

PLEASE NOTE: ASH WEDNESDAY

- 8:00am with Fr. Angelo

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 13

- 3:30pm with Fr. Angelo
- 8:00pm Vietnamese Mass

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

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 14

- 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

- James & Kathryn Lowndes
- Jeff & Anne Prickett
- Nancy Welicky
- Thomas & Suzy Newett

Those who are new to our parish, or have been attending mass without being registered, we need your help in staying organized and planning for our future needs. If you have not received a welcome letter, please call the parish office to confirm your registration. All new parishioners or those interested in registering in our parish, are invited to attend the **New Parishioner Orientation on Sunday, March 14, 2021 after the 11:15am Mass**

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, you 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 or are unable to contribute at this time, please note your prayerful support on your envelope and place it in the weekly offertory basket.

PRAYERS FOR

Our Military Personnel

- | | |
|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| PFC Bryan Bard | PFC Jordan Feil, USA |
| Sean Ball | Sgt. Hayden Linde, FLARNG |
| Major Bart Boma | Aaron Crump, USCG |
| Staff Sgt. Dennis Cosgrove | Sgt. Nathaniel Broemmel |
| Sgt. Phil Dellibovi | Lt. Com. Mark Buonomo |
| Staff Sgt. Chris Dominski | Col. Scott C. Woodward |
| CPT Andrew Dugan, Spec. Forces | Private Nicholas Loeb, ARNG |
| Major Andrew Duguay | Andrew Hawkinson, USN |
| Sgt. Jared Gaudet | Cavalry Scout Specialist, |
| Tech Sgt Jeffrey K. Green | Ryan Silva, Army |
| Capt. Kellyn C. Hall | 2nd Lt. Greg Fry, USMC |
| Andrew Herman | Jared Broemmel, US Navy |
| 1st Lt. Paige Hortman | Army 2nd Lieutenant Edward |
| Sgt. Kathleen Hudepohl | Hudson Tillinghast IV |
| PFC Michael P Hughes | Jethro Ignacio, US Air Force |
| SPC Michael Jednak | 1st Lt. Christopher Dryhurst, |
| PFC Andrew Kanopkh | US Air Force |
| Michael Klem | Com. Craig Fowler, USN |
| Capt. Bradley D. Laux | Eric Sanchez, US Air Force |
| Capt. Jacob Mundo, US Army | Lt. Col. Mike Garry, US Army |
| SSGT Anthony Padula | 82nd ABN |
| LCP James Palenik | Lt. Ross Walker, US Navy |
| Master SGT Peter Parison | PFC Eric Lyons, USMC |
| Sgt. Justin Pingicer, Army | 2LT Nicholas Meunier, US Army |
| Lt. Col. Brady Sexton | Robert Trenton Morell, Medic |
| 2nd Lt. Kristen Thompson | Specialist US Army |
| Christian Troutner, US Navy | Michael Thomas Morell, US Navy |
| Alex Zizzo, US Navy Medic | PFC Judy Martinez, Army |



Faith Formation

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



FAITH FORMATION SCHEDULE:

The next **WEDNESDAY** Faith Formation Class will be held **MARCH 3 - 4:15PM & 6:00PM**

The next **SUNDAY** Family Faith Formation Class will be held **MARCH 7 - 10:30AM**

FIRST RECONCILIATION for Year II Students will be held **SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 27 - 10:00AM**

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 seeing light in your heart when all your eyes can see is darkness.

ADULT FAITH

Education

Keep in TOUCH with your *Faith* ONLINE:

OPENING THE WORD

YOUR JOURNEY INTO THE SUNDAY READINGS



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



The Bible Timeline

The Story of Salvation

JEFF CAVINS, SARAH CHRISTMYER, and TIM GRAY

The Bible Timeline® Study Program takes you on a guided journey through salvation history. Presenter Jeff Cavins, shows you how fourteen of the Bible's narrative books tell the biblical story from beginning to end and gives you the keys to understanding the amazing story woven through Scripture.

We will meet on Zoom, Tuesdays from 6:30-8pm through March 30, 2021 for the first 12 weeks. The next 12 weeks will be scheduled in Fall 2021.

To Join our Study go to ascensionpress.com and sign in or sign up (if you don't have an account). On your menu dropdown select **Join a Study** and select **St. John XXIII** and order your workbook.

CONTACT:
Edith Trafford - lancith@aol.com



YOUNG ADULT & YOUTH Ministries

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 1st Thursday of each month however, in person gatherings have been suspended.

- **PLEASE NOTE:** We will be hosting a 4-week workshop through Formed called, "God and Science, from Nothing to Cosmos". Please email Kelly if you are interested.



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

Confirmation Program

The Diocese has given us a date for Confirmation. Year 2 students must have all requirements in by February 28 to be Confirmed. Please email Kelly Evers to inquire what your candidate may still need.

- **February 28** - Our next gathering for a Confirmation retreat with your sponsor. Year 1 students will join us in the church for a teaching Mass with Fr. Bob at 5pm.

High School Youth Group

HSYG Social Sessions - Sundays 5pm to 6pm

- 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.
- **February 14** - NO SESSION (In honor of St. Valentine)
- **February 21** - High Tech Addictions

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.
- **February 17** - NO SESSION (In honor of St. Valentine)

Volunteer Opportunities

- 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 sábados 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

2/18: A Love that Lasts and Paschal Mystery

2/25: Spiritual Life: Prayers, Devotions



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 <https://www.johnxxiii.net/e-newsletter-sign-up/> 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 bringing nonperishable items to church each week to be given to food pantries in our area. The next collection will take place on Saturday, February 20th from 10am-1pm
- **Online Giving:** We appreciate your donations to keep our parish running. You can enroll online through the St. John XXIII website at: <https://johnxxiii.net/giving>
- **St. John XXIII Thrift Store:** Hours are Monday-Friday 10am-5pm and Saturday 10am-4pm. For more information email thrifto@johnxxiii.net
- **Craftie Ladies Order Requests:** Please contact Judy Siegel at: (239) 437-4978 or email craftieladiesxxiii@gmail.com
- **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: holdenbd@gmail.com or call Dick at (239) 463-3993
- **Yarn/Fabric Needed:** The Craftie Ladies are in need of more yarn to make projects ou may drop off the donations in the church Narthex.
- **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
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ADORATION

CORNER

Come Sit With Me

DURING LENT

ASH WEDNESDAY - FEBRUARY 17

- The Chapel will be open from **8:30am-8:00pm**
- During Mass times at 12:00pm and 6:00pm, the Blessed Sacrament will be covered out of respect of the Eucharist during Mass.

EVERY WEDNESDAY - DURING LENT

- The Chapel will be open from **8:30am-8:00pm**

EVERY FRIDAY - DURING LENT

- The Chapel will remain open from **8:30am-8:00pm**
- The Stations of the Cross will take place in the Church from 6:00pm-7:00pm. **Please Note: There will be NO Benediction or Simple Supper.**

Reminder: The Rosary Walk is around the outside of the St. Luke Adoration Chapel to PRAY the Rosary to our Mother Mary...another way to PRAY when the Adoration Chapel is "filled".



"Let the little children come to Me"

- Matthew 19:14

*pictured:
Jonathan
and Gabi
Frei's
daughter,
Diana Frei*



Fasting & Regulations

The following information reminds the faithful of the regulations for fast and abstinence during the Lent and Easter season:

REGULATIONS ON FASTING AND ABSTINENCE

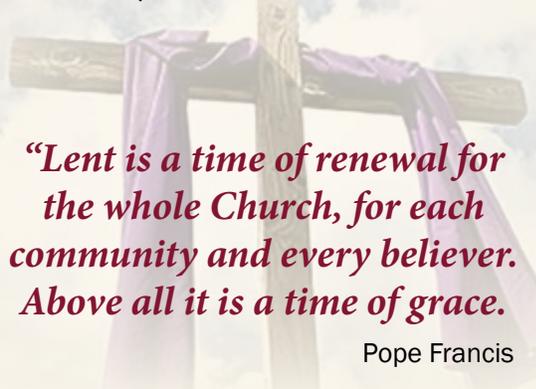
Ash Wednesday, **February 17** and Good Friday, **April 2** are days of fast and abstinence. All Fridays of Lent are also days of abstinence from meat.

Fasting is to be observed on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday by all Catholics between the ages of 18 years and 59 years (inclusive). On a fast day one full meal is allowed. Two smaller meals, sufficient to maintain strength, may be taken according to each one's needs, but together they should not equal another full meal. Eating between meals is not permitted, but liquids are allowed. If possible, the fast on Good Friday is continued until the Easter Vigil (on Holy Saturday night) as the "paschal fast" to honor the suffering and death of the Lord Jesus, and to prepare ourselves to share more fully and to celebrate more readily His Resurrection.

ABSTINENCE from meat is to be observed by all Catholics who are 14 years of age and older. Ash Wednesday and all the Fridays of Lent (and Good Friday) are the days of abstinence.

NOTE: If a person is unable to observe the above regulations due to ill health or other serious reasons, they are urged to practice other forms of self-denial that are suitable to their condition.

FASTING, ALMSGIVING AND PRAYER are the three traditional disciplines of Lent. The faithful and catechumens should undertake these practices seriously in a spirit of penance and of preparation for baptism or of renewal of baptism at Easter.



“Lent is a time of renewal for the whole Church, for each community and every believer. Above all it is a time of grace.

Pope Francis

WHY DO WE RECEIVE ASHES ON

Ash Wednesday?

The Catholic Spirit | by: Fr. Michael Van Sloun

The imposition of ashes is a solemn ritual that signals the beginning of the holy season of Lent. The ceremony is distinctive; there is no liturgical action like it throughout the entire church year.

The ashes come from a previous Palm Sunday. They are burned, collected, then crushed into a fine, sooty powder and placed into bowls.

The ashes are blessed by the priest during the Ash Wednesday Mass after the homily. Then, in a Communion-like procession, people are invited to come forward, and the ashes are applied to each person's forehead in the shape of a cross as the minister says either, "Turn away from sin and believe in the Gospel" (Mark 1:15), the usual prayer, or "Remember that you are dust, and unto dust you shall return" (Genesis 3:19), the older, more traditional invocation. Ashes symbolize two main things in the Old Testament.

DEATH, REPENTANCE

Ashes are equivalent to dust, and human flesh is composed of dust or clay (Genesis 2:7), and when a human corpse decomposes, it returns to dust or ash.

For example, Abraham told God, "I am but dust and ashes" (Genesis 18:27), a reference to his human mortality. Jeremiah described death as a "valley of corpses and ashes" (Jeremiah 31:40). Ashes are an ominous sign, and we use them on Ash Wednesday to remind ourselves of our own impending deaths. Death may come sooner, or it may come later, but it will surely come. And if death is coming, we need to be prepared, for death is now, and the way to prepare is to live according to God's ways.

When the prophet Daniel shamefacedly clothed himself in sackcloth and ashes, they were a sign of his people's contrition for their rebellion, wickedness and treachery (Daniel 9:3).

When Jonah warned the Ninevites that God planned to destroy their city because of their corruption and depravity, the people covered themselves with sackcloth and ashes as a sign of their intention to turn from their evil ways (Jonah 3:6,10).

Ashes are a plea to God for mercy and compassion, pardon and forgiveness.

Moreover, they are a public admission of guilt, an expression of sorrow for sins that have been committed, a promise to reform and a pledge to resist temptation in the future.

We, too, are sinners. When we come forward to receive ashes on Ash Wednesday, we are saying that we are sorry for our sins, and that we want to use the season of Lent to correct our faults, purify our hearts, control our desires and grow in holiness so we will be prepared to celebrate Easter with great joy.

2021 PLEDGE CARD

Catholic Faith Appeal is **THIS WEEKEND**. Cards will be given out in the Narthex this weekend. All money collected will go towards the CFA assessment for 2021.

Catholic Faith Appeal

CREDIT CARD INFORMATION

You may pay using your credit card at DioceseofVenice.org, or by providing us with the following information:

Cardholder's name: _____

Credit Card#: _____ Exp. Date: _____

Credit Card Type (Please Check One)

American Express Discover Master Card Visa

Only complete if information differs from outside flap.

Name: _____

Phone: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Parish Name/City: _____

Any questions please call - (941) 486-4756

One-Time Payment

Amount:\$ _____

Monthly Payments

Amount to be deducted each month:

\$ _____

Starting on (date) _____

**Payments will be deducted on the fifteenth day of every month until the gift is paid in full.*

**BE
GENEROUS,**
*and you will be
prosperous.*

**HELP
OTHERS,**
*and you will be
helped.* - PROVERBS 11:25



Pledging your gift may allow you to make a more generous and affordable contribution to the CFA. The pledge can be spread out over several months. You may pledge with an initial payment while the remaining balance can be donated at any time during the next nine months. The Diocese will send you monthly reminders.

Your gift to the 2021 CFA will continue to make a difference in supporting the spiritual, educational, charitable and pastoral initiatives at the Diocese of Venice. Thank you!

GIVE ONLINE! Visit us at: www.dioceseofvenice.org

To increase the efficiency of processing your gift, please return this pledge card directly to the parish. If you wish to mail it to the Diocese, please enclose it in a separate envelope and mail to the following address:

Diocese of Venice, PO Box 60759, Fort Myers, FL 33906-6759





ST. JOHN XXIII
Catholic Church

Weekly Financials



	02-07-21	02-09-20	Difference
Offertory	\$38,656.07	\$51,240.00	(\$12,583.93)
Building Fund	\$2,205.00	\$5,417.00	(\$3,212.00)
Total	\$40,861.07	\$56,657.00	(\$15,795.93)
Mass Attendance	1821	5118	
Registered Families	3573	3745	

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

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

2021 Catholic Faith Appeal

2021 Goal	\$492,000.00
Pledge	\$37,802.80
% of Goal	7.68%
% of Households	3.58%
Payments	\$19,188.73

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



CATHOLIC FAITH APPEAL

Ways To GIVE

PLEASE CONSIDER A PLEDGE TO THE CATHOLIC FAITH APPEAL

You greatly impact the lives of individuals, families and communities when you respond generously in support of the Catholic Faith Appeal. Please consider making a gift to the 2021 CFA.

Pledging your gift may allow you to make a more generous and affordable contribution to the CFA. The pledge can be spread out over several months. You may pledge with an initial payment while the remaining balance can be donated at any time during the next nine months. The Diocese will send you monthly reminders.

You may use the following methods to make your gift:

GIFT OPPORTUNITIES USING THE 10-PAYMENT PLAN

Gift Amount	Initial Payment	9 Monthly Payments
\$50,000	\$5,000	\$5,000
\$25,000	\$2,500	\$2,500
\$15,000	\$1,500	\$1,500
\$10,000	\$1,000	\$1,000
\$ 5,000	\$ 500	\$ 500
\$ 2,500	\$ 250	\$ 250
\$ 1,000	\$ 100	\$ 100
\$ 500	\$ 50	\$ 50



YOUR GIFT TO THE **2021 Catholic Faith Appeal** will continue to make a difference in supporting the spiritual, educational, charitable and pastoral initiatives at the Diocese of Venice.
Thank you!

FOR MORE INFORMATION
www.dioceseofvenice.org
(941) 486-4719



A Lenten Journey

Institute for Catholic Studies & Formation: Spend this Lent growing in prayer! "Encountering God in Prayer: A Lenten Journey" is a theological and practical online course, guiding you through the rich and beautiful teaching on personal prayer found in part four of the Catechism of the Catholic Church. Short video lectures, online discussions, prayer exercises and other learning activities. The instructor, Dr. John Gresham, Executive Director of the Institute, has extensive experience teaching on prayer in courses, workshops, and retreats. The course runs from Ash Wednesday, February 17 - April 5. For more information please call (941) 766-7334 or visit www.institute-dov.org email john.gresham@institute-dov.org



FOOD
COLLECTION
parking lot
NON-PERISHABLE

The Knights of Columbus and The Women's Guild will be collecting items for **St. Martin DePorres**.

The next food collection will take place on **Saturday, February 20** from **10am-1pm** in the church parking lot. Your help is greatly appreciated during these trying times.



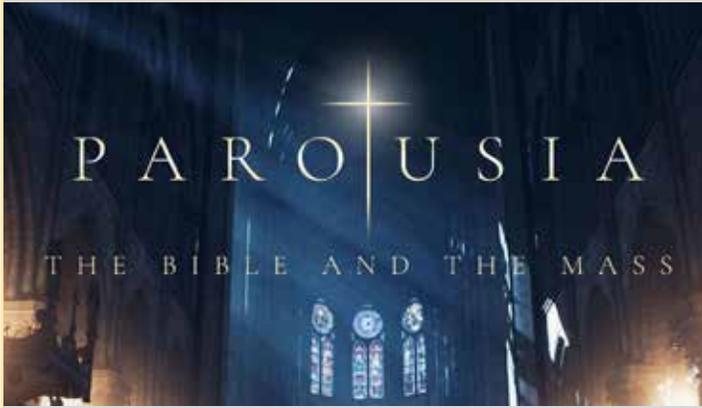
FEBRUARY 20 • 10AM

Thank You!

Wedding Anniversary Celebration Masses



All couples celebrating 25, 30, 35, 40, 45, 50, or more than 50 years of marriage are invited by Bishop Frank J. Dewane to an Anniversary Mass in their honor. The Anniversary Mass will be celebrated in two locations. This year, considering the ongoing COVID-19 Pandemic, the location will have two Masses to allow for appropriate social distancing. **The next scheduled Masses are 10am and 12pm, March 6 at St. Leo the Great Parish, 28290 Beaumont Road, Bonita Springs.** Please call the parish office at (239) 561-2245 for reservations no later than a week before the Mass you choose to attend.



FREE ONLINE SERIES

We invite you to take part this Lent in a brand new and completely free series by Dr. Scott Hahn and Kimberly Hahn focused on something we are all concerned about in this time: bringing as many people back to the Mass as possible.

This new study, called **Parousia: The Bible and the Mass**, is aimed at connecting the dots for Catholics and helping open our eyes to the beauty and wonder of the Mass – to deepen our love and appreciation for the Eucharist, showing how the Mass enables our whole faith to make sense.



SIGN UP FOR ALL 10 EPISODES:

<https://stpaulcenter.com/studies-tools/journey-through-scripture/parousia-the-bible-and-the-mass/>



DR. SCOTT HAHN AND KIMBERLY HAHN

Reflections by: J. Conroy

GENESIS 9:8-15 The First Covenant

The context of this reading is after the flood. Every other living creature on earth had been destroyed, according to Genesis 7:22-23. Only Noah, his family, and the pairs of animals he had brought upon the ark had survived. But what was the significance of the Flood Story? We know that there were other flood stories extant in the Ancient Near East; the Epic of Gilgamesh comes from Mesopotamia, and the myth of Deucalion is found in ancient Greek writings. But only in the Hebrew Scriptures is there a deeper, theological meaning: part of the meaning is a Covenant between God and all his creatures never again to bring a flood and destroy all life. But this means that there was a “Second Creation,” a “New Beginning,” a “Rebirth of Everything.” And the sign of the Covenant, the Rainbow, is to remind God of His Promise. Thus, this First Covenant, (which foreshadows both the Covenant with Abraham and the New Covenant in Christ Jesus) is a sign of hope, a sign of confidence.

Reflections on Scripture - Jack Conroy, Ph.D.

Lenten

SELF-REFLECTION & GOAL SETTING

“There is no growth in holiness without self-knowledge.” - *Father William J. Jarema*

“We need to do some thinking and praying before we chart a course through Lent. God is our guide, and it is to God we must go before we do anything.” “The Little Black Book: Six-minute Reflections on the Gospels of Lent”

- Sketch out Your Lenten Plan.
- Pray About It.
- Talk it Over with a Trusted Friend.
- Consider having a prayer partner for Lent. If you are involved in a parish ministry, consider partnering with someone in your ministry team.
- Check in on a weekly basis on how each other’s Lenten journey is progressing. Connect via text message, e-mail, phone call, or over coffee. Share your progress during your shared ministry meetings on a monthly basis.



40 DAYS FOR LIFE

February 17 - March 28

HELP SAVE LIVES IN FT. MYERS

You can protect mothers and children by joining this worldwide mobilization to pray and fast for an end to abortion!

Through prayer and fasting, peaceful vigils and community outreach, 40 Days for Life has inspired 1,000,000 volunteers!

With God's help, here are the proven results over 27 coordinated campaigns:

- **18,000 BABIES SAVED FROM ABORTION**
- **211 ABORTION WORKERS CONVERTED**
- **107 ABORTION CENTERS CLOSED**

Here's how to take part in 40 Days for Life in our community:

- **VIGIL LOCATION:** Public right-of-way outside Planned Parenthood located at: 6418 Commerce Park Dr. (1 block North of Daniels - Between Metro Parkway and Plantation)
- **VIGIL HOURS:** 9am to 5pm Monday - Saturday
- **LOCAL CONTACT:** Maureen Nash (239) 823-6800 email: 40DaysforLifeFMSP@gmail.com
- **LEARN MORE** ... get involved ... and sign up for prayer times by visiting our campaign at the web address shown below!

Help save lives by praying for an end to abortion in your community!

40daysforlife.com/FortMyers

RESPECT LIFE

40 DAYS FOR LIFE:

The Spring 40 Days for Life will begin on Ash **Wednesday, February 17th** and will kick off with 8am Mass at St. John XXIII celebrated by Bishop Frank DeWane; who will then lead the faithful in prayer at the Planned Parenthood clinic located at 6418 Commerce Park Drive (1 block north of Daniels just west of Plantation Rd.) All are invited to participate and join in planning meetings.

For more information contact: **Maureen Nash** at 40DaysforLifeFMSP@gmail.com

CONTACT US:

If you would like to learn about or become more involved, please leave your name and contact information at the parish office (239) 561-2245 or email respectlifejohn23@gmail.com



KICKOFF: February 17

Following the 8am Mass at St. John XXIII with Bishop DeWane, celebrant

YOUTH RALLY: March 20 - 11am

CLOSING CEREMONY:

March 28 - Time to be determined

OUR PRAYER VIGIL DAYS:

Tuesday, February 23	11am - 3pm
Tuesday, March 2	11am - 3pm
Tuesday, March 9	11am - 3pm
Tuesday, March 16	11am - 3pm
Tuesday, March 23	11am - 3pm

Planned Parenthood Location:

6418 Commerce Park Drive (1 block north of Daniels & between Metro Pkwy & Plantation) Maps available in the Narthex on the 40 Days For Life table.

Ft. Myers

PRAYER Walk

FOR



ALL ARE WELCOME!

Ash Wednesday, February 17, 2021

8:00 a.m. Mass, Bishop Frank J. Dewane, Celebrant
St. John XXIII Church, 13060 Palomino Lane, Ft. Myers

Rosary after Mass in front of
Planned Parenthood, 6418 Commerce Park Drive
Approximately 9:15 a.m.
Park on grass; all tires must be off pavement



40 DAYS FOR LIFE™

The logo features a stylized blue figure with arms raised above the number '40', followed by the words 'DAYS FOR LIFE' in a serif font with a trademark symbol.

The Prayer Walk marks the opening of *40 Days for Life*
which runs from February 17 to March 28.



For more information:
941-374-1068 or Berdeaux@dioceseofvenice.org
Sponsored by the Diocese of Venice Respect Life Office
www.dioceseofvenice.org/respectlife



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MEN'S CONFERENCE 2021

Saturday
Feb. 20



Featuring:



PATRICK MADRID



JOE STEPANEK

Location

Bishop Verot
High School
5598 Sunrise Dr.
Fort Myers, FL 33919

Time

9 am - 3 pm
(Doors open at 8 am)

Register

www.dioceseofvenice.org/adultconferences

For more information, call the Evangelization Office at (941) 484-9543 or email evangelization@dioceseofvenice.org

Catholic Community HAPPENINGS

OLPH Lenten Opportunites: Monthly Day of Prayer on Ash Wednesday, February 17 at 9:30am. February 20-21 weekend seminar on St. Ignatius Rules for Discernment of Spirits For more information on either event, call Denise at (941) 486-0233, ext. 3004, or visit www.olph-retreat.org and click on "Schedule of Events."

Saint Katharine Drexel Fashion Show: Saturday, February 20 at 11:30am in the parish hall with lunch provided. Tickets \$30. Social distancing and masks are required. For reservations contact Madeline (207) 754-2215 or email mmcdeblouis@gmail.com

Women's Conferences 2021: Saturday, March 13. at Bishop Verot High School in Ft. Myers from 9am-3pm with Mass celebrated by Bishop Dewane and Confession available all day. Featured speakers: Kimberly Hahn and Mary Ann Weisinger-Puig on To register visit www.dioceseofvenice.org/adultconferences

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/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.

Witnessing the Faith: Listen to Bishop Dewane on Relevant Florida Radio at 8:30am the last Friday of every month. Listen anywhere at RelevantRadio.com

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/>

Free Mental Health Counseling: Catholic Charities is providing free mental health counseling services. For help or support, please call our staff at (844) 385-2423 or visit www.catholiccharitiesdov.org

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



THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 18 - 7:00PM
FREE ZOOM EVENT

Advanced Registration Required:
www.faithandale.com

Guest Speaker:
FATHER ROY LEE

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THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 25 - 7:00PM
FREE ZOOM EVENT

Registration Required:
www.faithandwineleecounty.com

Guest Speaker:
DONNA-MARIE COOPER O'BOYLE

"Small Things with Great Love: To Love
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