



# ST. JOHN XXIII Catholic Church

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

**April 18, 2021**

## *Called* TO CARRY OUR *Cross*

by: **Vicki Burbach - Catholic Exchange**

*"I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me."*

- Galatians 2:20

We are living in trying times. The world seems to have lost its way, and so many of us feel powerless to correct its course. We begin each day wondering what happened to the world we once knew, and some are fearful of the future. But it's very possible that Our Lord has allowed this opportunity in history as a reminder for us that this world is passing away (1 John 2:17). Perhaps now is a perfect time to step back from material things and remember that there is something more for which we were made.

As Christians, our allegiance is not to this world, but to God alone, through His Son, our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. So what should we do? Perhaps we should take this time to return to our roots, examining what it means to be a Christian in the world today.

### **The Christian Mission:**

What does it mean to be a Christian? What does it mean to follow Christ? Two thousand years ago, it meant a complete transformation of one's heart, mind, and soul. It often meant a willingness to endure torture and death. It meant knowing the promise of an eternal life that was infinitely more valuable than the world in which we live. That promise provided Christians with a purpose that transcended the pleasures of this life.

For early Christians, the Cross was part of their identity, and they didn't shy away from it. Rather, they passionately pursued their mission, whatever the cost.

What was that mission? It was to bring the Gospel to every man, woman and child, opening hearts to God's

**Continued on Page 3**

**April 18, 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, bring sanitizer and practice social distancing. We will continue to livestream Masses on Facebook and the Website.

### **MONDAY, APRIL 19**

- 8:00 AM ♥ Olivia Verde Happy Birthday by Imelda Montelibano

### **TUESDAY, APRIL 20**

- 8:00 AM † Josephine King by Helen & Bob Tuffy

### **WEDNESDAY, APRIL 21**

- 8:00 AM † Eddie Burkey by his wife, Bonnie

### **THURSDAY, APRIL 22**

- 8:00 AM † Mary Carioto by her husband, Joe

### **FRIDAY, APRIL 23**

- 8:00 AM † Valerie Ross by Liz Schulte

### **SATURDAY, APRIL 24**

- 8:00 AM † Mari Cheslik by her son, Thomas
- 4:00 PM † Carmella Paolino by her daughter
- 8:00 PM † Daniel Marcano by Jim & Sonia

### **SUNDAY, APRIL 25**

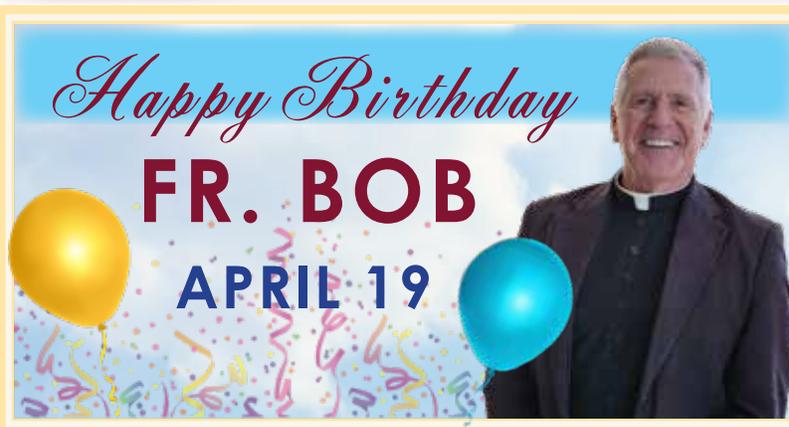
- 7:15 AM † Ed Mehringer by Tim & Amy Shea
- 9:15 AM † Mary Cummings by Tom Waddell
- 11:15 AM † Joe Ohl by George & Sandy Szymanski
- 1:30 PM ♥ Divine Mercy by Carolina Inojosa

### **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.

### **APRIL 25, 2021 - READINGS**

- 1ST READING ACTS 4:8-12
- PSALM PS 118:1, 8-9, 21-23, 26, 28, 29
- 2ND READING 1 JN 3:1-2
- GOSPEL JN 10:11-18



### **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**

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ana@johnxxiii.net

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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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

## Carry OUR Cross CONTINUED

grace, that He might draw every soul to Himself. Christians recognized that this mission required a life of sacrifice; a denial of “self.” It meant cooperating with the Master Gardener as He pruned and formed them, ridding their hearts and souls of all that might obscure Him from view. For they knew that in order to accomplish their mission, they must be able to say with St. Paul, *“I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me.”* (Gal. 2:20)

Today, this mission remains the same. Sadly, there is little evidence in the world of the Christianity of old. Our secular culture celebrates the temporal over the spiritual, and many of us have been seduced by the daily demands and attractions of the here and now. As a result, many have drifted from the Christianity of earlier times. In fact, in recent generations, Christianity has even developed a reputation in the West for soft sentimentalism. Christ has been reduced to tender emotion and unconditional love, wrapped up in a nonjudgmental blanket of relativism. This is what Archbishop Fulton Sheen referred to as Christ without His Cross.

Many Christians no longer strive to engage in lives of prayer and sacrifice in order to carry out the Great Commission — and most aren’t even aware of what has been lost. Rather than seeking to reunite Christ with His Cross, they have destroyed the Cross altogether and used the scraps to build a sort of progressive humanitarian religion based on materialism and self-entitlement.

This development should cause grave concern for those of us who truly desire to follow Christ, for how can one follow in His footsteps if the Way has been obscured by generations of distortions and misrepresentations?

### Christ Calls to Us:

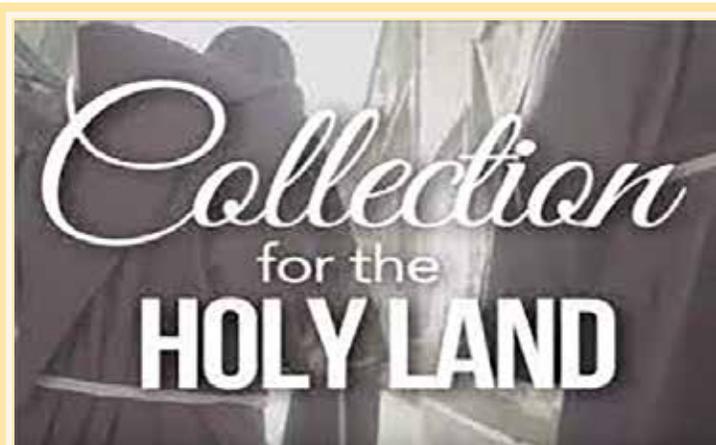
Like Christ, we are called to carry the cross and to be crucified. Of course, we can ask the Simons in our lives to help us make our way along the path, and we may certainly help them as well. But at the end of our fated journey, whether that journey is a moment of consideration for someone else or a lifetime of pain and suffering, each of us will be asked to climb right up there alongside Christ and sacrifice our very lives. By this I don’t necessarily mean that we are called to be martyrs, offering our blood as a testament of our allegiance to Christ — although, for some of us, that call may come — but rather that we offer ourselves as “bloodless” martyrs, ready to release our attachments, our desires, our preferences, our idiosyncrasies, our very wills, in deference to the will of God. Essentially, we are called to die to ourselves.

Sacrifice is hard but our souls were made for sacrifice. And deep down in the farthest corners of our hearts, in places that we keep hidden even from ourselves, we know that this is true.

Sadly, generations of comfort and excess and expectations have weakened our wills. In fact, there are many who argue for the need to scrap the concept of willpower altogether. We have grown soft. We have lost our way in a world of materialism and self-determination. We have slipped from the cross, even denying Christ, in order to avoid that call that speaks directly to the depths of our hearts.

So how can we find our way back to the cross? How can we reconnect to the root of our very souls? How can we find that part of us that absolutely knows we were made for love? For sacrifice? We may be moved by the contributions made to the world by our fellow man, and inspired by all the saints who’ve gone before us; but how can we bring ourselves to participate in the type of life for which we were made? How can we find the joy that is waiting for us?

Whatever your experience with the cross, whether you struggle with a painful and debilitating illness or with finding joy in the little interruptions in life, it is my prayer that you might reclaim the lost art of sacrifice.



Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Thousands of Catholics live in poor dioceses in areas such as Appalachia, the Deep South, the Rocky Mountain states, etc. The struggle to receive basic pastoral care and catechesis is real for thousands of faithful living in Home Mission Dioceses.

The Catholic Home Missions Appeal Collection supports these dioceses in our own country as they struggle to make ends meet. "Home Missions" is the name for dioceses in the United States which cannot provide basic pastoral services to Catholics without additional help. Pastoral services include Mass and Sacraments, religious education, training for priests, deacons, religious sisters, and lay people. The Catholic Home Missions Appeal aides these Mission Dioceses in forming vibrant faith communities and strengthening the Church in Mission areas.

The Catholic Home Missions Appeal Collection will take place in the Diocese of Venice the **weekend of April 24 and 25, 2021**. Please be generous in the Collection. Your support makes a difference in the lives of our brothers and sisters right here in the United States. Thank you!

I take this opportunity to assure you and your families of my continued consideration, as well as my prayers.



Sincerely yours in Christ,

*+ Frank J. Dewane*

+ 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             | John Hughbanks           |
| Ryan Novajasky          | Dolores Chuilli & Family |
| Lynne Haughey           | Michelle Snyder          |
| Carol Clausen           | Judy Montanye            |
| Marlene LaRose          | Jill Wagner              |
| Erika Arquilla Hlavacek | Henry Martinez           |
| Jeff Hlavacek           | Daniella Naomi Mejia     |
| Gary Neubauer           | Yinna Vesga              |
| Tom Biedak              | Cynthia & William        |
| Ron Hudepohl            | Donna Stutz              |
| Tim McMullen            | Bill Acini               |
| David Meunier           | Judy Walker              |
| Jimmy Provanzano        | Bobby Perillo            |
| The Dasco Family        | Thomas Kearns            |
| William Riehle          | Dottie Zielinski         |
| Janet Masterson         | Kevin Natella            |
| Colleen Ryan            | Lynn Palen               |

**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](mailto: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!*

**Carl Grispio  
S. Joseph Termotto  
Teresa Bradskey**



### Tabernacle Candle

In Memory of: **Kevin Deas**  
Requested by: **his family**



### Adoration Chapel

Special Intentions: **Cleo Hesselback**





## WATCH ON FACEBOOK

### DAILY MASS

8:00am Monday - Saturday

### SATURDAY, APRIL 17

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

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

### SUNDAY, APRIL 18

- 11:15am with Fr. Bob
  - 1:30pm Spanish Mass
- <https://www.facebook.com/ministeriohispano.sanjuan.1>



WATCH AT HOME:  
<https://dioceseofvenice.org/offices/offices-departments/communications/tvmas/>

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

PLEASE CONSIDER GIVING YOUR



## Online Gift



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

## WELCOME

### *New Parishioners*

- Edgar Bermudez & Janira Rivera
- Hai H. Ho & Thi K. Pham
- Lawrence & Pamela Del Sonno
- Joel Colon Figueroa & Yarelys Cabrera Rivera

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, May 16, 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](http://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](mailto:chrisdre@johnxxiii.net)



### FAITH FORMATION SCHEDULE:

The next **WEDNESDAY** Faith Formation Class will be held **APRIL 21 - 4:15PM & 6:00PM**

The next **SUNDAY** Family Faith Formation Class will be held **MAY 2 - 10:30AM**

### 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

Keep in **TOUCH** with your *Faith* **ONLINE:**

OPENING <sup>THE</sup> 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](mailto:lindastanley.ls@gmail.com) for more information.

## Join Us!

### LITURGICAL MINISTRIES

The St. John XXIII Liturgical Ministries are always open to new volunteers interested in serving our parish community. We can use bright, smiling faces at the doors of the Church welcoming all those who enter, as well as, friendly faces inside the Church guiding our congregation to their pews. We are also continuously searching for volunteers who feel a calling to bring the Body and Blood of Christ to their brothers and sisters through the Eucharistic Ministry.

*“for it is in giving  
that we receive.”* - St. Francis of Assisi



*For more Information:*

If you have an interest in volunteering as an Usher, Greeter, or Eucharistic Minister, please call the parish office at (239) 561-2245 to speak with:

**Bethany Myers**, Liturgy Coordinator  
email: [bethany@johnxxiii.net](mailto:bethany@johnxxiii.net)



Coordinator of Youth Ministries 561-3022 xt 107  
Contact **Kelly Evers** | [kelly@johnxxiii.net](mailto: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

Our next gathering will be **April 25 at 5pm**. The year one student's session is on the Power of Prayer and year 2 will have a reflection on Confirmation and a look into parish ministries

### 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.
- **APRIL 18** - Drama Free Relationships
- **APRIL 25** - Year 1 Power of Prayer, Year 2 Reflection

### 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.
- **APRIL 21** - Drama Free Relationships

### Volunteer Opportunities

We will be starting a new young adult, youth, and junior youth council. Please email Kelly Evers if interested in this leadership role.

- **Young Adult Council 18 - 30**
- **Youth Council High School Students**
- **Junior Youth Council Middle School Students**

## *Hispanic Ministry* **ANNOUNCEMENTS**



### *Misas en Español*

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

Las misas también están siendo transmitidas a través de YouTube, ahí podrá encontrarnos como Comunidad Hispana St John XXIII.

### *Rezo del Santo Rosario*

- Lugar: Iglesia Católica St. John XXIII
- Hora: 12:45pm
- 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.

### *Contactanos*

- Para más información contactarse a:  
**comunidadhispana@johnxxiii.net**



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

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

*For questions, please contact:*

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



## A LETTER FROM

*Bishop Frank Dewane*

### DISPENSATION UPDATE:

My Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

This Scripture passage reminds us that the Easter Season is an apt time to renew our fidelity to those essential actions that define us as the Body of Christ. Preeminent among these activities is gathering with the Church to celebrate the Most Holy Eucharist on Sundays and Holy Days.

In March of last year, because of the many unknowns that came with the Covid-19 Pandemic, and to protect the most vulnerable among us, after consultation I decided to take the unprecedented step of suspending public Masses and granting a general dispensation to the Catholic Faithful of the Diocese of Venice from the obligation to attend Mass on Sundays and Holy Days of Obligation. Together with our fellow citizens, I urged Catholics to exercise caution to protect the health of all. I thank everyone for their patience and understanding during this difficult time.

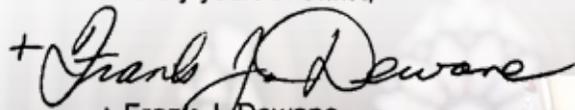
As the Faithful returned to in-person worship when restrictions were loosened, the Diocese's Clergy and Faithful performed exceptional service in maintaining safety protocols. In recent weeks as vaccines have become available, the news in Florida is encouraging, even more members of the Faithful have returned to our Parishes for Sunday Mass. Our Holy Week and Easter Liturgies were particularly edifying examples of commitment to Christ and the Eucharist. Furthermore, life in Southwest Florida has returned to some level of normalcy; restaurants, stores, and entertainment venues are open, and people of all ages seem willing to return to ordinary activities.

It is apparent that circumstances now allow almost all Catholics to attend Mass safely. Therefore, **beginning May 1, 2021, the general dispensation from the obligation to attend Mass on Sundays and Holy Days of Obligation will be lifted in the Diocese of Venice.**

At the same time, the Faithful should note this obligation does not apply to those who are ill, or others as outlined in the revised guidelines from the bishop. The revised guidelines adjust safety protocols to acknowledge that most Catholics can return to in-person worship at their Parish churches.

During this year dedicated to St. Joseph, the Faithful are encouraged to turn to his intercession for protection and courage. Let us be mindful in prayer of those who are no longer with us and those who continue in their recovery. May God bless you and your family.

Sincerely yours in Christ,



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





## 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](http://johnxxiii.podbean.com)
- **Like our Facebook Page:** For all the latest happenings, search "St. John XXIII Catholic Church" and "like" our page.
- **Download Our Parish App:** Download our app today at [myparishapp.com](http://myparishapp.com) or search your phone's app store for myparish. You can also text the word "APP" to 88202!
- **Our Weekly Newsletter:** Visit <https://www.johnxxiii.net/e-newsletter-sign-up/> and enter your email address.
- **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/>
- **Serve our Parish Family During Mass:** Men, women and teens may serve as a Greeter, Usher, Lector, or Eucharistic Minister. 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.
- **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>
- **Non-Perishable Donations:** Please consider bringing nonperishable items to church each week to be given to food pantries in our area.
- **St. Luke Adoration Chapel:** The Chapel is open Monday-Friday from 8:30am-4pm and Saturday from 8:30am-3pm. For information on The Adoration Chapel Ministry please visit: [johnxxiii.net/adoration-chapel-ministry/](http://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](mailto:thrift@johnxxiii.net)
- **Keep Our Database Current:** Have you moved, changed email addresses, dropped a landline or changed your cell number? Please email [maryann@johnxxiii.net](mailto:maryann@johnxxiii.net) with any changes or additions to your contact information.
- **arn/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
- **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

## MAY CROWNING

# SUNDAY MAY 2

The **St. John XXIII Women's Guild** is hosting a May crowning of the statue of Mary, *Mother of the Life Within*, in the **Memorial Garden** on **Sunday, May 2** at **12:30pm**.

All members of the parish are invited to join us for this celebration at the memorial garden. **Please wear a mask and social distance.** Bring your rosary and come help us honor Jesus' mother.



# 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:

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**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](mailto:larryevener@yahoo.com) or

TOM DOLAN: [mtd0522@yahoo.com](mailto:mtd0522@yahoo.com)

The Women's Guild Contact:

SUE EDWARDS: [sgedwards007@gmail.com](mailto: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

## Weekly Financials



	04-11-21	04-12-20	Difference
Offertory	\$30,987.00	\$35,433.00	(\$4,446.00)
Building Fund	\$1,686.00	\$16,469.00	(\$14,783.00)
Total	\$32,673.00	\$51,902.00	(\$19,229.00)
Mass Attendance	2365	0	
Registered Families	3543	3713	

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	\$255,421.80
% of Goal	51.92%
% of Households	12.50%
Payments	<b>\$170,090.14</b>

## 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](mailto:holly@johnxxiii.net)**



## GIVING TO THE CFA Through a Qualified Charitable Distribution

In 2020 the law changed, requiring those 72 years old or older to begin taking a required minimum distribution (RMD) from their individual retirement account (IRA). However, only those who will turn 70½ (born on or after July 1, 1949) in 2020 or later may wait until age 72 to begin taking required distributions. If you are currently receiving RMDs (or should be) because you are over age 70½, you must continue taking these RMDs.

### FOR TRADITIONAL ACCOUNTS THIS INCOME IS TAXABLE!

To avoid paying taxes on this income while also meeting the obligation of the RMD, you may designate the distribution as a gift directly from the IRA custodian to the CFA. You can donate up to \$100,000 and married couples can donate up to \$200,000 if the spouse has a separate IRA.

Help lower your tax burden while making a **GIFT OF HOPE** to those in your community!

### DOUBLE YOUR GIFT

Matching gifts are a type of corporate philanthropy that allows donors giving smaller donations the opportunity to maximize the impact of their donation on an organization.



In a matching gifts program, a company donates to a nonprofit organization in response to one of their employees giving a gift.

These gifts can range in maximum sizes and ratio, but many companies will match an employee's donation at a 1:1 ration, starting at \$25. Retirees and/or spouses may also qualify.

To find out if your company offers a matching gift program, please visit:

<https://dioceseofvenice.org/offices/offices-departments/stewardship-and-development/matching-gifts/>



## SATURDAY, APRIL 24

**BE BLESSED AND ENCOURAGED** at our next Magnificat breakfast for women: **Saturday, April 24**, from **9:30AM - 12:30PM** at the **Holiday Inn Airport**, Gulf Coast Town Center, Fort Myers. Our guest speaker is **Margaret Adams**, a member of St. Cecilia Catholic Community.

Margaret was born and raised in Bermuda. She married and came to the United States in 1957 and settled in California. She attended Catholic school for 12 years run by the Sisters of Charity from Canada. Her upbringing by these nuns influenced her entire life. One of these sisters inspired her to never quit and to have stick-to-itiveness. Her marriage, however, did not work, and after 5 children and 3 miscarriages her marriage was dissolved. She raised her children, ages 9 to 2, with the help of God. Being open to life she hung on the scripture: *"Do not worry about what you will eat or what you will wear. Look at the birds of the air and the lilies of the field"* (Matthew 5:25-31)

She attended nursing school and moved to Florida in 1972. She worked at Lee Memorial Hospital for over 20 yrs. Another favorite scripture They that wait upon the Lord, shall renew their strength; They shall mount up with wings, they shall run and not grow weary and not faint. (Isaiah. 40:31)

Margaret will share how God led her through ups and down and gave her a happy life!

### **SEATING IS LIMITED:**

NO WALK-INS or payment at the door!

ADVANCED REGISTRATION ONLY

**MASKS ARE REQUIRED**

### **ORDER ONLINE:**

Reservations can be made until noon on April 19:

<https://magnificatfortmyers.com/order-tickets/>

For more information contact:

**Peg Mengle at (239) 826-7475**



## *Reflections* by: **J. Conroy**

### John 10:11-18 - The Good Shepherd

The idea of Jesus as "Shepherd" is common among the Gospels. We see in Matthew the story of the Shepherd who has a hundred sheep, who loses one, and risks all the others to find the one stray. However, in this reading of a common theme, the identification of Jesus as the Good Shepherd is both pointed and unmistakable. Here the Good Shepherd lays down his life for his flock. What is important is that this expression brings us to the theological point that the Fourth Evangelist makes: Jesus will consciously lay down his life for those whom He loves; but more so, as He has the power to lay it down, so He has the power to take it up again. In the Synoptic Gospels, God raises Jesus from the dead. In St. John's Gospel, Jesus has absolute power over life and death; He both lays down His life and takes it up on His own power! This is because of His being one with the Father; this is called "High Christology," where the answer to the question "Who is Jesus?" is: The Eternal Word of God, One with the Father."

### MONTH OF APRIL



## *Women's Guild* **Bake<sup>(NO)</sup> Sale**

**For the month of April**, we are asking those who normally bake, to donate the amount that it would cost them to make their items. Also, those who normally purchase items, could donate what they would normally spend at the bake sale. Checks should be made out to St. John XXIII and on the envelope designate "WG" and put bake sale in the memo line. Donations may be mailed to the office or put in an envelope and placed in the offertory. Please write Women's Guild in the memo.



All proceeds will benefit Verity Pregnancy Center and Lifeline Family Center. Your help with the parish community is greatly appreciated!



# Divine Mercy Sunday

We would like to thank the priests, volunteers and all the parishioners who attended Divine Mercy Sunday in the Parish Life Center. *"Jesus, I Trust in You!"*



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## CIBORIA MEMORIALIZATION

Do you have a family member who has gone home to be with the Lord but had a special connection to the Eucharist, possibly as a Sacristan or Eucharistic Minister? Or maybe you are looking for a way to honor a living family member or friend who currently volunteers with our parish or is about to celebrate a significant milestone.

We recently purchased **12 NEW CIBORIA** to use during our Eucharistic Celebrations as our current ciboria have been well used and have begun to tarnish significantly. If you would like to **memorialize one of the new ciboria for \$1000** to honor a family member or friend, either living or deceased, please contact **Bethany Myers** at the parish office: (239) 561-2245 or [bethany@johnxxiii.net](mailto:bethany@johnxxiii.net)





You are invited to watch the new movie, **ROE V. WADE**, until **Monday, April 26**, via a special virtual screening before it is released to streaming platforms. The movie is more than the true story about the most famous court case in America. It is the personal stories of people behind the movement to legalize abortion and those who fought valiantly against it.

**WATCH THE MOVIE AT:**  
[www.watchroevwade.com/florida](http://www.watchroevwade.com/florida)  
**Discounted Price through April 26**  
 Watch at home or on your electronic device.  
 For questions, call **(941) 374-1068**



Open to Life Ministry would like to welcome our newest little parish members: Olivia Kazor and Emily Schulte! Please pray for the Kazor family to adjust to life with 4 children and the Schulte family to adjust to life with 6 kiddos. Your prayers and kind words at Mass go a long way in encouraging these families as they continue to be Open to Life and what God has in store for them.

### *Make a Difference:*

O2L is looking for individuals who want to take action and make a difference in the lives of families in our community. For more information, contact:

**Elizabeth Andrews**  
**Elipchik@hotmail.com**



Our Spring 40 Days for Life campaign is over, and we know of **454 confirmed babies saved** from abortion since we started on February 17th thanks to your prayers—and prayers all over the world, with reports of more saves continuing to pour in!

We have grown our church and organization involvement from ten to eighteen. We now have involvement from many churches from all different faiths and involvement from Naples, Bonita and Marco.

We had over 150 people at our Youth Rally. Our speaker was Steve Karlen, from 40 Days For Life headquarters. We had Students from Ave Maria, Bishop Verot, Donahue Academy and Faith Formation students from St. John XXIII. Our music was led by the beautiful voice of Sophie Cruz, a student at Bishop Verot, and a parishioner at St. John XXIII.

### *Continuing the Fight*

We are initiating our commitment to be at Planned Parenthood on the days that abortions are performed, Wednesdays and Thursdays. We will commit to be there from 9:00am to 4:00pm. With the number of churches and people involved, we hope to be able to cover these two days year around.

Our hearts are filled with joy because of the dedication, and commitment from all of you. Many of you have been dedicated to this mission of love and life since we began 40 Days For Life in Fort Myers years ago. We thank you from the bottom of my heart. For those of you that have not been able to join us yet...give some thought to give just an hour of your time to God's most precious gift, the unborn baby in the womb. It will change your heart.

***Thank you and God bless!***



OUR LADY OF THE  
ROSARY CHAPEL

# Stations of the Cross

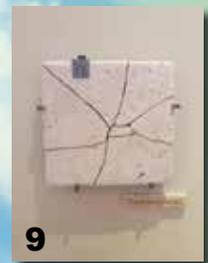
## MEMORIALIZE A LOVED ONE

Artist Chris Scala has designed the beautiful new Stations of the Cross in the Our Lady of the Rosary Chapel. You may want to memorialize one of the stations. The cost is **\$5,000** per station.

This would be a great way to memorialize a loved one. For more information contact **Holly Atkins** in the Parish Office at [holly@johnxxx.net](mailto:holly@johnxxx.net)



ARTIST: CHRIS SCALA



### *Memorialization*

The art of  
commemorating  
the lives of  
those we love.



## Catholic Community HAPPENINGS

**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](mailto:project.rachel@dioceseofvenice.org) or visit: [www.hopeafterabortion.com](http://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](http://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](mailto:Berdeaux@dioceseofvenice.org)

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

**Marriage Prep Retreat for Couples over 55:** The Office of Family Life is hosting a one-day sacramental marriage preparation retreat for those couples over 55 who are preparing for marriage or convalidation from 9am-5pm, Saturday, April 24 at Our Lady of Lourdes Parish, 1301 Center Road, Venice. Lunch is included. Pre-registration is required at <https://dioceseofvenice.regfox.com/two-become-one>

**Safe Environment Training:** The Diocese of Venice requires that all employees and those volunteers who work with children and/or vulnerable adults be fingerprinted and trained in Safe Environment prior to beginning employment or volunteering. For further details please visit <https://dioceseofvenice.org/offices/programs/safeenvironment/>

**Help Your Parish:** Parishes face increased risk of financial shortfalls due to the pandemic. Please 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](http://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

**Witnessing the Faith:** Listen to Bishop Dewane on Relevant Florida Radio at 8:30am on Friday, April 30. You can listen anywhere at [RelevantRadio.com](http://RelevantRadio.com)

**Theology on Tap:** Young Adults are invited to attend Theology on Tap at Southern Fresh Farms, 8500 Penzance Blvd, Fort Myers, for a lovely outdoor venue with picnic benches for food and refreshments as well as practical presentations. Feel free to bring a lawn chair if you are more comfortable. The event runs from 7-9pm on the second Thursday of each month. Please contact Joshua Mazrin at [evangelization@dioceseofvenice.org](mailto:evangelization@dioceseofvenice.org) or Patty Cox at [patty@ourladyoflight.com](mailto:patty@ourladyoflight.com) with any questions.

**Know Your Immigration Rights:** The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) has numerous resources outlining the rights of immigrants located on the website [www.justiceformigrants.org](http://www.justiceformigrants.org)

## Catholic Charities Offers **Free** Mental Health Counseling!

We are now actively providing **FREE** Youth Tele-Mental Health Counseling Services in your area!

### ARE YOUR CHILDREN:

- struggling with anxiety
- showing changed behavior
- feeling depressed

If you need help, please call to speak with Catholic Charities staff for support.

### FOR MORE INFORMATION:

*please contact the number for your area:*

Sarasota/Manatee/DeSoto/Hardee/Highlands counties: **844-385-2407**

Charlotte/Lee/Hendry/Glades counties: **844-385-2423**

Collier County: **844-385-2404**

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[www.catholiccharitiesdov.org](http://www.catholiccharitiesdov.org)

MATT FRADD

# HOW THE PORN INDUSTRY HAS TAKEN OUR CULTURE HOSTAGE



## *About Matt:*

**Matt Fradd** is the creator and host of the *Pints With Aquinas* podcast. He is the author and coauthor of several books including, *Does God Exist? A Socratic Dialogue on the Five Ways of Thomas Aquinas*. Matt earned his undergraduate and graduate degrees in philosophy from Holy Apostles College & Seminary which also awarded him an honorary doctorate. He lives in Steubenville, Ohio, with his wife Cameron and their four kids.

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