



# ST. JOHN XXIII

## Catholic Church

13060 Palomino Lane, Fort Myers, FL 33912 | P 239-561-2245 | F 239-561-3713 | [www.johnxxiii.net](http://www.johnxxiii.net)

**November 14, 2021**



## November is National Adoption Month

by: **Ryan Bomberger - The Christian Post**

November is National Adoption Month. But what is adoption? We often hear about it, particularly as one of two alternatives to the injustice of abortion. Millions of us are the recipients of this incredible gift, where our birthparent(s) turned the unplanned into a loving plan. Yet, there are still so many misconceptions about it.

Adoption happens because of brokenness. In the natural and the supernatural, this courageous act of love and selflessness helps to bring healing, hope and wholeness. It was God's plan to reconcile us to Himself as evidenced in Ephesians 1:4-5: "For He chose us in Him before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in His sight. In love He predestined us for adoption to sonship (or daughtership) through Jesus Christ, in accordance with His pleasure and will."

There is no salvation without adoption. So, Christians, especially, should understand adoption in a deeply

spiritual and personal way. Adoption is the essence of salvation. In the natural, we shouldn't think of it as a last resort. Sometimes, it should be the first resort.

But the way we understand adoption skews the way we apply it in our society. Perhaps, it explains why there were only 110,373 adoptions in 2014 (the latest year reported by the National Council for Adoption, or NCFA) yet 926,200 abortions. In 2007, according to the same NCFA report, there were 133,737 adoptions. So, total adoptions in the U.S. have fallen. Part of the decline is due to a reduction in international adoptions, but the fact remains that the number of infant adoptions was only 18,329 and 57,397 children in foster care (in 2014) who were available for adoption weren't adopted. The most recent stats reveal that out of the 117,794 foster children available for adoption in 2016, 57,208 were thankfully adopted; 60,586 precious vulnerable children were not.

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**November 14, 2021**

**Please Note:**  
**SATURDAY**  
**CONFESSIONS**  
have resumed in  
the church from  
**8:30am-9:00am**

**We will continue**  
**LIVE streaming**  
**some 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:** The chapel will be open during weekend Masses for those who prefer additional space. However, due to Children's Liturgy of the Word on Sundays, Our Lady of the Rosary Chapel will not be available during the 9:15am & 11:15am Masses.

**MONDAY, NOVEMBER 15**

- 8:00 AM † Maryann Radell by The Tlusty Family

**TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 16**

- 8:00 AM † Al Pantuso by Sara Noel

**WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 17**

- 8:00 AM † James Stevenson by Neil & Susan Bencivengo

**THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 18**

- 8:00 AM † Ann Pavlan by Jeanne Faas

**FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 19**

- 8:00 AM † George Suico by Ruben Suico

**SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 20**

- 8:00 AM ♥/† Rogers & Podolak Families by Rita
- 4:00 PM † Mike Mullin by Mike & Debby Navarro
- 8:00 PM † All Souls - Vietnamese Mass

**SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 21**

- 7:15 AM † James Rohrbach by his parents, Marilyn & Paul
- 9:15 AM † Bo Broemmell by JoAnne Walsh
- 11:15 AM † Joyce Ferranti by Bob & Kris Fisher
- 1:30 PM † Ana Blanco Mendoza by Ramon DeJesus

**THE 2022 MASS BOOK IS NOW OPEN FOR THE ENTIRE YEAR**

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

### NOVEMBER 21, 2021 - READINGS

- |               |                 |
|---------------|-----------------|
| • 1ST READING | DN 7:13-14      |
| • PSALM       | PS 93:1, 1-2, 5 |
| • 2ND READING | RV 1:5-8        |
| • GOSPEL      | JN 18:33B-37    |

## Christ the King

### SUNDAY NOVEMBER 21, 2021

*"When the Son of man comes in His glory, and all the angels are with Him, then He will sit on His glorious throne."*

- MATTHEW 25:31



### Pastoral Team

#### Business Manager

Holly Atkins

holly@johnxxiii.net

239-561-2245

#### Maintenance

Rob Erp/Dave Mraz

239-561-2245

#### Dir. of Faith Formation

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239-561-7499

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239-561-2245

#### Youth Ministry

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239-561-3022

#### Thrift Store Manager

Cynthia Conzatti

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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

##### PLC Coordinator

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ivette@johnxxiii.net

239-561-2245

##### Office Assistant

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239-561-2245

##### Admin. Assistant

Barbara Lange

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239-561-2245

##### Admin. Assistant

Laura Hess

laura@johnxxiii.net

239-561-2245



## Adoption CONTINUED

No child should languish in foster care. No mother should feel that the violence of abortion is even an option. Our pregnancy centers, in all of the incredible frontline work they do to protect mothers, fathers and their children, aren't enough to create a culture that values Life and encourages adoption. Our churches must do a better job leading in the defense of Life, at its most vulnerable, in what the Book of James declares as pure religion: "Religion that God our Father accepts as pure and faultless is this: to look after orphans and widows in their distress and to keep oneself from being polluted by the world."

Although the United States is not engaged in a militaristic war within our borders, we have a cultural and spiritual war that has caused more casualties than all of our military wars—combined. There have been over 60 million killed since abortion was "legalized" in this country. Roe v. Wade never empowered women. It empowers men to have sex and run. This has led to a massive culture of abandonment where women are effectively left behind as widows, and children in the womb are orphaned by both the absent father and the mother who has chosen to give into the distress caused by pro-abortion propaganda. The pollution of this world is the warped belief system that others, not the Author of Life, can determine your worth. We allow our minds and hearts to be polluted by the lie that we aren't created with purpose and that we can't be stronger than our circumstances. I don't know about you, but I serve the God of the Impossible. I've living proof of the impossible becoming possible. My birthmom was raped yet bravely rejected the violence of abortion, choosing Life and adoption, instead. Philippians 4:13 proclaims: "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me."

The same Christ who was humanly "unplanned". In fact, I was recently struck as I read Matthew 1:1-16 about the birth of Christ. I have read this many times throughout my life, but something profound happened to me this time. It's not Mary's genealogy that is detailed in the opening chapter. It is the genealogy of the man who would become Jesus' adoptive father—Joseph. Christ's lineage was drawn from a man who was not genetically tied to him, at all. The paradigm of adoption was revealed in a courageous teen mother with a humanly unplanned pregnancy (certainly Divinely planned), a father who chose to love rather than to leave, and a Savior who would sacrifice himself in order to offer redemption, adoption and transformation to those who confess and believe.

Adoption is courageous and messy and joyful and mysterious and loving. We need to uplift all of those in this beautiful triad—the birthmom/birthdad, adoptee and adoptive family. No one's pretending it's easy. Parenting biological children isn't easy, unless I missed the memo that genetically-related children present no problems in life.

Adoption doesn't just change the child. It changes the family, the community, and sometimes...the world. Look at the late CEO of Apple, Steve Jobs. He was adopted and loved, too. And he, inarguably, changed the world.

This November, and every month, may we rethink false narratives on adoption. May we look at this act for what it is...transformative love. I'm a firm believer that's there's always a 'plan' in the 'unplanned'. What we don't see from a human perspective, God knows from a Divine perspective. We're meant to be, regardless of the circumstances of our conception, regardless of our real or perceived abilities or disabilities, regardless of what others think we contribute to this world. We have equal and irrevocable worth simply because we exist. And adoption is a powerful and culture-changing way to unleash that God-given Purpose.



### *For more information:*

Whether you are pregnant or hope to adopt, please visit Florida Adoption Support for Life at [www.adoption.com](http://www.adoption.com) or call 1-800-236-7898

## PRAYER FOR FAMILIES

*Heavenly Father,  
Please bless our families  
with Your love and protect  
us from harm. Give us  
grace to forgive, strength  
to overcome the difficulties  
we face, and keep us  
together when the world  
tries to pull us apart.  
In Jesus Name,  
Amen.*



## Prayer List

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

Elaine Quan  
Marlene LaRose  
Erika Arquilla Hlavacek  
Jeff Hlavacek  
Gary Neubauer  
Tom Biedak  
Ron Hudepohl  
Denise Vannelli  
Laura Ford  
Tony Gagnet  
Susan Davies  
Cynthia & William  
Vicki Gelardi  
Bill Martin  
Chuck Nieset  
Carol Graver  
Linda Barnas

Melody Bitting  
Dustin Grossenbaugh  
Polley Sedahl  
Jack Gannon  
Peter Meade  
Kieran Rooney  
Phil Peterson  
Sue Edwards  
Doris Westberry  
Sandra Averhart  
Ken Marple  
Steven Clausen  
Donald Dantino  
Madlyne Terinoni  
Melissa Yost  
William Riehle  
Desiree Vinci

**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!*

**Gregg Evans  
Thomas Short  
Nello Papi, Jr.**



### Tabernacle Candle

In Memory of: **Baby Luke**  
Requested by: **Aunt Andrea**



### Memorial Flowers

In Memory of: **Christine Saliga Sullivan**  
Requested by: **her husband Michael**





## Weekly Calendar

### Monday, November 15

- Men's Gospel Forum: St. Martha & St. Mary - 7am
- Craftie Ladies: St. Martha & St. Mary - 1pm

### Tuesday, November 16

- Opening the Word: Zoom/PLC - 9am
- Bereavement: St. Bernadette & St. Michael - 1pm
- Faith Alive: Zoom only - 6:30pm
- AA Meeting: St. Martha & St. Mary - 7pm

### Wednesday, November 17

- Respect Life Meeting: St. Martha & St. Mary - 8:45am
- Walking with Purpose: Zoom/in Person - 10am
- Sacrament Preparation: Main Hall - 6pm
- Middle School Youth Group: St. Patrick Patio - 6pm

### Thursday, November 18

- Tentative Choir Practice: Church - 6pm
- Walking with Purpose: Zoom - 7pm

### Friday, November 19

- Vietnamese Choir Rehearsal: Church - 8pm

### Saturday, November 20

- Vigil Mass - 4pm
- Vietnamese Mass - 8pm

### Sunday, November 21

- FEAST OF CHRIST THE KING
- Masses: 7:15, 9:15 & 11:15am
- RCIA: St. Bernadette & St. Michael - 10:15am
- Spanish Mass: Church - 1:30pm

### EVERY SATURDAY (via FACEBOOK)

- 4:00pm Mass with Fr. Angelo

### EVERY SUNDAY (via PARISH WEBSITE/FACEBOOK)

- 11:15am Mass *\*(Mass is removed by Monday)*

<https://johnxxiii.net/streaming-mass/>

- 1:30pm Spanish Mass (via Youtube)

[www.facebook.com/ministeriohispano.sanjuan.1](http://www.facebook.com/ministeriohispano.sanjuan.1)

### WATCH AT HOME

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

### ONLINE

[www.dioceseofvenice.org/offices/offices-departments/communications/tvmass/](http://www.dioceseofvenice.org/offices/offices-departments/communications/tvmass/)

## WELCOME

### New Parishioners

- Thomas Capalbo
- Marjorie Penton-Capalbo
- Jhon Vargas Zuluaga
- Maribel Martinez Ramos

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, February 13, 2022 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	Sgt. Nathaniel Broemmel
Sean Ball	Lt. Com. Mark Buonomo
Major Bart Boma	Col. Scott C. Woodward
Staff Sgt. Dennis Cosgrove	Private Nicholas Loeb, ARNG
Sgt. Phil Dellibovi	Andrew Hawkinson, USN
CPT Andrew Dugan, Spec. Forces	Cavalry Scout Specialist,
Major Andrew Duguay	Ryan Silva, Army
Sgt. Jared Gaudet	2nd Lt. Greg Fry, USMC
Capt. Kellyn C. Hall	Jared Broemmel, US Navy
Andrew Herman	2nd Lt. Edward Hudson
1st Lt. Paige Hortman	Tillinghast IV, Army
Sgt. Kathleen Hudepohl	Jethro Ignacio, US Air Force
PFC Michael P Hughes	1st Lt. Christopher Dryhurst,
SPC Michael Jednak	US Air Force
PFC Andrew Kanopkh	Com. Craig Fowler, USN
Michael Klem	Eric Sanchez, US Air Force
Capt. Bradley D. Laux	Lt. Col. Mike Garry, US Army
Capt. Jacob Mundo, US Army	82nd ABN
SSGT Anthony Padula	Lt. Ross Walker, US Navy
LCP James Palenik	PFC Eric Lyons, USMC
Master SGT Peter Parison	2nd Lt. Nicholas Meunier, US Army
Sgt. Justin Pingicer, Army	Robert Trenton Morell, Medic
Lt. Col. Brady Sexton	Specialist US Army
2nd Lt. Kristen Thompson	Michael Thomas Morell, US Navy
Christian Troutner, US Navy	PFC Judy Martinez, US Army
Alex Zizzo, US Navy Medic	1st Lt. Jeffrey Zivkovic, US Army
PFC Jordan Feil, USA	Christopher Dominski, PFC ARNG
Sgt. Hayden Linde, FLARNG	2nd Lt. Sara Wulff
Aaron Crump, USCG	



# Faith FORMATION

Contact **Chris Biel** | 561-7499 | [chrisdre@johnxxiii.net](mailto:chrisdre@johnxxiii.net)

## NOVEMBER SCHEDULE:

**(Classes 4:15pm-5:30pm & 6pm-7:15pm)**

**11/17:** Sacrament **Preparation Only**

**11/24:** NO Faith Formation CLASSES

**Advent Wreath Making Event:** Sunday, November 21, following the 11:15am Mass in the Parish Life Center. There will be a light lunch followed by Advent Wreath making. The Cost is \$20 per family and includes wreathmaking materials. For us to plan, you must RSVP with the number in your group. **Please see page 10 for more details.**

**Children's Liturgy of the Word:** Join us every Sunday after the 9:15am and 11:15am Masses.

## 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 St. 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.

## ADULT FAITH

### *Education*

Keep in TOUCH with your *Faith* ONLINE:

### OPENING THE WORD

### YOUR JOURNEY INTO THE SUNDAY READINGS

### Tuesday Mornings at 9:00am PARISH LIFE CENTER

Meetings are available in person and through ZOOM. Masks are recommended while attending. For more information email **Linda Stanley** at:

**[lindastanley.ls@gmail.com](mailto:lindastanley.ls@gmail.com)**

Watch a short video each week on Formed.org to help prepare you for the upcoming Sunday Readings. You can 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.

## 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 first Thursday of each month. Please check the Facebook page for more information.

- **December 2:** Annual Christmas party and white elephant gift exchange.



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

### Confirmation Program

- **First Year Students: Sunday, November 14**

#### CHURCH HISTORY:

**The Goal:** To learn the history of our Catholic faith and how our church has been a big part of shaping our world today.

- **Second Year Students: Sunday, November 14**

#### SHARING THE FAITH:

**The Goal:** many people today do not have faith to fall back on in need or to know they are loved. Being able to invite friends in is exactly what Jesus calls us to do daily.

### High School Youth Group

#### **HSYG Social Sessions** - Sundays 5pm to 6pm

All high school teens and their friends are welcome to attend. Sessions will be held outside unless bad weather. We will end each session in the Adoration Chapel for final prayer and quiet time with Jesus.

- **November 14:** No class due to Confirmation Classes

### Middle School Youth Group

#### **MSYG Sessions** - Wednesdays 6pm to 7:15pm

Please be sure to register. We will meet in the Parish Life Center but will be outside as much as we can while Covid numbers are high.

- **November 17:** Outdoor Social Night

### Volunteer Opportunities

Visit Sign up Genius website to view and sign up for youth and adult volunteering opportunities. Confirmed high school students can sign up as small group leaders at the HSSS.

**Events:** <https://https://www.signupgenius.com/go/8050c45ead2daaf58-youth>

## *Hispanic Ministry* **ANNOUNCEMENTS**



### *Crecimiento en la Fe*

- Lugar: Video conferencia, enlace: <https://zoom.us/j/2555496221>
- Hora: 7:00pm
- Fecha: Todos los segundos jueves del mes.

### *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*

(Antes de la misa los domingos)

- Lugar: Iglesia Católica St. John XXIII
- Hora: 12:45pm
- Fecha: Todos los domingos del mes.

### *Contáctanos*

Estamos ofreciendo el servicio de misas especiales como Quinceañeras, Bautismos y Matrimonios para más información comunicarse con nosotros al email: [comunidadhispana@johnxxiii.net](mailto:comunidadhispana@johnxxiii.net)



# RCIA

A JOURNEY IN FAITH

***If you are thinking about joining the Catholic Church....***

The RCIA Inquiry is the starting place for adults who are considering it.

For more information, please contact:

**Leslie Robertson** at (239) 560-5617

## *Join Us!*



**MEETINGS** in the PLC or ZOOM:  
Sunday Morning after the 9:15am Mass



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](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!
- **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>
- **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 your nonperishable items to church. These donations fill pantries in our area. Items can be dropped off in the Narthex.
- **St. Luke Adoration Chapel:** Chapel Hours are Monday-Friday 8:30am-3:45pm & Saturday 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) or visit [www.bpjthrift.com](http://www.bpjthrift.com)
- **Free Mental Health Services:** Catholic Charities offers free mental health services for adults, children and families. Counselors can help resolve a wide variety of issues such as stress, anger, anxiety, relationship problems, trauma, depression, low self-esteem and grief. Call (239) 337-4193
- **Yarn/Fabric Needed:** The Craftie Ladies are in need of more yarn to make projects. You may drop off the donations in the church Narthex.
- **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

## ATTENTION PARENTS

St. John XXIII Parish wants to be sure that it is a safe environment for all.

Parents please be sure to accompany your children to the restroom and keep them with you in the Narthex before and after Mass.

Thank You  
Father Bob

## MAY WE SUGGEST....

# RELAX!



### Parents of Young Children:

God put the wiggle in your children so don't feel you have to suppress it in God's house. All are welcome! Sit toward the front where it is easier for your little ones to see and hear what is going on at the altar. They tire of seeing the backs of others! Quietly explain the parts of the Mass and actions of the priest, altar servers, lectors, choir, and others. Sing the hymns, participate in the liturgy, and pray! Children learn about worship and liturgical behavior by copying you. If you have to leave Mass with your child, feel free to do so, but please come back. As Jesus said, "Let the children come to me". Remember that the way we welcome children in the church directly affects the way they respond to the church, to God, and to one another. Let them know that they are at home in His house of worship.

### Those Without Young Children:

The presence of children is a gift to the church and a reminder that our parish is growing. Please welcome our children and give a smile of encouragement to their parents.

**Get more resources for families at:**  
[www.themassbox.com](http://www.themassbox.com)



# TOM LABANAUSKAS - DIRECTOR OF MUSIC MINISTRIES

# WELCOME

WE'RE GLAD YOU'RE HERE



St. John XXIII Catholic Church is proud to introduce **Tom Labanauskas** to the Parish Team! We look forward to experience his faith and commitment to the Parish!



## *About Tom:*

Musically gifted and multi-talented, Tom Labanauskas began his musical journey at the age of 5, beginning with organ lessons and then moving on to both organ and piano lessons. Tom was a member of the Children's Choir at his parish, St. Bernard's in Homer Glen, Illinois, from the age of 8 until age 12. At the age of 11, he began taking flute lessons at nearby Lewis University and by age 13 was playing at Church Masses, and often substituted in the organist's absence.

Upon entering Providence Catholic High School, in New Lenox, Illinois, Tom joined the Providence Catholic Band and was the piano accompanist for the Providence Catholic School Choir. In his junior year, the Providence Catholic Marching Band was resurrected and Tom became the first drum major of the Providence Catholic Marching Band in 21 years, leading the band to win 1st place trophies at competitions and festivals. During his years at Providence, Tom also provided the music for all the school Masses, musicals, and special events. As a senior, Tom's musical achievements were recognized and he was awarded the prestigious John Phillip Sousa Band Award, presented to the most outstanding music student.

Tom went on to DePaul University School of Music in Chicago where he studied Performing Arts Management. While attending college, Tom took on the position of accompanist at St. Emeric Catholic Church in Country Club Hills, Illinois. After two years, Tom was named Director of Music at St. Emeric at the age of 19, and was the youngest music director in the state of Illinois, at that time.

In February of 2003, Tom became Director of Music at St. Jude Catholic Church in New Lenox, Illinois. The St. Jude Music Ministry, under Tom's direction, was composed of six different choirs with a total of over 100 choir members,

ranging in age from 7-97. Under his direction, the Youth Choir and Handbell Choir were created, both of which were enthusiastically supported. The former Adult Choir was transitioned to a more formal group, becoming known as the St. Jude Chorale. Under Tom's direction an annual Christmas tradition was begun during the Advent season featuring a Christmas Cantata combining all the musical choirs of the St. Jude Music Ministry, an orchestra, guest vocalist of the Chicago Lyric Opera and Chicago Symphony Chorus, guest choirs of other churches and schools together to sing and play Christmas songs along with readings of the Gospel proclaiming the birth of Jesus. In addition to the Christmas Cantatas, an Easter Cantata performance was added and performed during Holy Week.

In addition to the church, Tom has been a member of various orchestras, choral piano accompanist (most recently the Grand Prairie Singers of Homewood/Flossmoor, Illinois), and playing engagements for weddings, formal dinners, cocktail hours, reunions and the list goes on. At present, Tom is the resident pianist/organist for the Naperville Winds a symphonic band located in Naperville, Illinois.

Through Tom's musical talent and skills, he hopes to continue a sense of meaning and awareness of the music brought to the liturgies at St. John XXIII. One of Tom's goals is to attain an increase in the amount of participation, not only with those who are involved in the Music Ministry, but also by those in the pews who are enthusiastically singing. At each Mass celebration, it is a hope to fill the rafters with a wide variety of classic traditional hymns as well as the most current Christian songs.

Tom is very dedicated to furthering the efforts of the Music Ministry and is anxious to see this much loved and supported ministry further expand and blossom.

# Third Annual

## ADVENT WREATH MAKING FAMILY EVENT

We hope all will attend this special event to prepare us for the birth of Christ Our Savior. You will learn about the history and significance of Advent and make an Advent Wreath to take home.

This event is a chance for the ENTIRE COMMUNITY to come TOGETHER and kick off the ADVENT SEASON in such a fun and memorable way!

**SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 21**

**Parish Life Center - 12:30PM**

**LUNCH AND GUEST SPEAKER**

**\$15** PER FAMILY  
or Individual

IF USING WREATH FROM PREVIOUS YEAR

**\$20** PER FAMILY  
INCLUDES WREATH FORM

**\$30** AT THE DOOR  
IF SPACE AVAILABLE

- ALL SUPPLIES WILL BE PROVIDED FOR THE WREATH-MAKING
- ADDITIONAL CRAFTS FOR THE LITTLE ONES
- WREATHS WILL BE BLESSED
- LUNCH PROVIDED/BRING A DESSERT TO SHARE



**ST. JOHN XXIII**  
Catholic Church

*3rd Annual* **ADVENT WREATH MAKING FAMILY EVENT**

Family Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Number of Adults: \_\_\_\_\_ Number of Children: \_\_\_\_\_

Please fill out this form/money by **MONDAY, NOVEMBER 15** so we have enough food and supplies. You can return to the Parish Office or Faith Formation Office.

*Thank You and God Bless!*





ST. JOHN XXIII  
Catholic Church

## Weekly Financials



	11-07-21	11-08-20	Difference
Offertory	\$34,342.67	\$38,856.67	(\$4,514.00)
Building Fund	\$1,435.60	\$2,613.00	(\$1,177.40)
Total	\$35,778.27	\$41,469.67	(\$5,691.40)
Mass Attendance	2503	1417	
Registered Families	3644	3632	

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	\$581,702.78
% of Goal	118.23%
% of Households	17.91%
Payments	\$563,025.18

## 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)**



# WRITING CHECKS

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



# VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

Paul McKenna and his wife Penny maintain the Vietnamese Memorial Garden and the pots on the St. Patrick Patio and at the Adoration Chapel. They are looking for a few able-bodied volunteers to help with weeding, trimming, mulching and watering. They frequent the Memorial Garden on Tuesday and Thursday after the 8am Mass for about an hour. Paul would also be available to meet volunteers on Saturday mornings.



**No expertise is required.** If you have any interest or questions, please email: [007phm@gmail.com](mailto:007phm@gmail.com)







## ST. JOSEPH STATUE DEDICATION

**SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 28**  
AFTER THE 11:15AM MASS

We would like to thank the anonymous donor for dedicating the beautiful statue of St. Joseph holding a young Jesus' hand.

The statue will be placed in our memorial garden across from Mary, the Mother Within. Join us on Sunday, November 28 after the 11:15am Mass.



# NOVEMBER

Brian Downey

by: **Maureen Dombrowski**

*Marking the **150th Anniversary of St. Joseph** being declared patron of the universal church, Pope Francis proclaimed a year long celebration dedicated to the foster father of Jesus. Each month during this special year, we will feature an interview with a member of the St. John XXIII parish whose life reflects the virtues and characteristics of St. Joseph.*



## LITANY OF ST. JOSEPH

*Head of the Holy Family, pray for us.*

*Joseph Most Just, pray for us.*

*Joseph Most Prudent, pray for us.*

*Joseph Most Obedient, pray for us.*

*Glory of Domestic Life, pray for us.*

*Pillar of Families, pray for us.*

## BRIAN DOWNEY,

*attorney at law, devoted husband of Rebecca for 12 years and father of three children, ranging in age from 11-7, believes that St. Joseph serves as a role model in his life as husband and father. "Not having a whole lot of information of St. Joseph from scripture, I've always viewed him as husband/father working hard for the betterment of his family, as best he could according to God's will, willing to do what it took to put his family in the best possible positions. As a father I try to do the same with as little fanfare as possible."*



Brian's wife shares his zeal for betterment of the family by deepening her faith commitment and by helping other women do the same. Rebecca is session facilitator for Walking with Purpose Bible Study, a group that recognizes a need for greater support for young Catholic moms. These Bible study sessions are open to women of all ages, featuring small group sessions comprised of 8-10 women.

A former member of the parish finance committee and a current board member of the SW Florida Free Pain Clinic, Brian sees special challenges facing men serving in his role today. "I believe the greatest challenge is attempts by secular society to downplay the role of the nuclear family in creating a cohesive, functioning society." He credits the church for helping him carry out and support his paternal and leadership role "by being a strong voice for value of the nuclear family."

For Brian the reward of his role as husband and father outweighs the challenges. "The reward is learning how to put one's will and desires in second place. This is our call from God, to serve and desire His ways, and not our ways, and there is no better earthly teacher than raising a family."





# WE NEED TO RETURN TO WEEKLY MASS



by: **Father Angelo S. Arrando**

The pandemic has interrupted our Sunday Mass routine. Sitting in our living room is too convenient but not what worship calls us to. So, unless you're someone who needs to stay home for health reasons, each of us has to understand the importance of gathering together live.

Gathering together is not the most important thing we do, but the important thing cannot happen unless we personally gather together.

Our Bible consistently teaches that the church is Christ's body (*Eph. 1:22-23*). Each believer is a different body part, but we're intricately knitted together. We're not independent but interdependent. When we gather together, we make Christ present (*Matt. 18:20*). **It is for this presence that Jesus calls us together - together with Him in our midst, He brings us to God, the Father.** With His presence we celebrate our Mass, our Eucharist, where we worship God, as the Body of Christ, where we are given the very Body of Christ in Communion, that we may continue to be the Body of Christ in the world. This is the important reason for gathering together live. Comfortably watching from our living rooms cannot be a substitute for this.

When we are physically present, we welcome people who may never be our friends. What we have in common is far more than blood, far more than the mutual affection of friends. **What we have in common is Baptism in Christ.** That's it. That's all that matters here. That's why rich and

poor should be sitting side by side. Every barrier society erects to keep us apart is worthless here. Every bond society builds up to put us into this little group or that clan or the other club is also worthless here. All the externals are gone. All that we wear is Christ. We all wear the Christ Who we were Baptized into.

When we stay home, we still can listen and see Mass celebrated, but it is not what baptism calls us to. Watching Mass meets a need during a pandemic but watching Mass cannot acquire what only physical presence can. Holding firm to our understanding that it is we who make Jesus present when we gather together, should impel us to take seriously why St. John XXIII needs to have us be physically present.

Sunday Mass is what we do together. That isn't a theory that will work no matter how we look, how we sound, how we act. It isn't a theory, it's practice. The church has to get itself together. If we work at it, all of us, maybe we'll come to a time when we'll walk through the door and, without even thinking about it, head for the empty place closest to the altar. If we work at it, we won't have to imagine that we are one in Christ; we'll act like we are.

**Please encourage others to return in person to our worship, to our church, to our parish.** All of us are needed. All of us make up the very Body of Christ.





# ANGEL TREE GUIDELINES

PLEASE TAKE A TAG ONLY IF YOU  
CAN RETURN THE GIFT BEFORE  
**DECEMBER 5**

Our **Angel Tree** is in the Narthex with gift request tags for children in need: Veterans, Homebound, Catholic Charity elderly, and our Villa residents. They are depending on us to brighten their Christmas. **Please return your wrapped gift before December 5.**

## SELECT A GIFT TAG:

Purchase and return your wrapped gift before **December 5** with the color-coded tag on top. *(Please do not take a Tag if you are unable to return it by December 5)*

## DONATION:

Note **"Angel Tree"** in the memo portion of your check. Either drop it into the offertory basket or mail it to:

**St. John XXIII Church, 13060 Palomino Lane  
Fort Myers, FL 33912**

## EACH TAG REPRESENTS SOMEONE IN NEED

*A child, senior, veteran, homebound,  
or a member of our faith community.*

## Craftie Ladies

### BABY & ADULT QUILTS

The Craftie Ladies have a fabulous selection of baby and adult quilts. Have one in mind for that special baby or friend?

We are grateful for the support St. John XXIII parishioners give us every year. Together, we can make miracles!

For inquiries or questions, please email the ladies at:  
**[craftieladiesxxiii@gmail.com](mailto:craftieladiesxxiii@gmail.com)**



## INTERESTED IN PLAYING



We are looking to start a bridge group at St. John XXIII, **STARTING IN JANUARY 2022**. We will be playing on Thursday afternoons in the Parish Life Center.

If you would like to find out more, please contact parishioner, **Jan Krahn** at **(239) 689-1142** (please leave a message if there is no answer)

or email at **[krahnd@hotmail.com](mailto:krahnd@hotmail.com)** with "bridge" in the subject line.

## Catholic Community HAPPENINGS

**Nine Day Novena Preceding Christ the King:** For the nine days leading up to the Solemnity of Christ the King Sunday, November 21, the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) has prepared a Novena to be prayed from Friday, November 12 through Saturday, November 20. Let us offer prayers to our Sovereign King for the freedom of the Church. To participate in the novena visit [www.dioceseofvenice.org](http://www.dioceseofvenice.org)

**Holiday Wish List:** Catholic Charities, Diocese of Venice, Inc. is in need of key items leading up to Thanksgiving and Christmas. All Catholic Charities food pantries are in need of non-perishable food items (canned fruits and vegetables, soup, peanut butter, tuna, tomato sauce, rice, pasta and cereal) to help restock the shelves for the holiday season. We are also accepting donations for Christmas including unwrapped gifts for children (baby and toddler toys, board games, athletic equipment, bicycles and more) and for the elderly (card, dominoes, activity books, crossword puzzles). Gift cards to local grocery and retail stores are also accepted. To donate, please visit [www.catholiccharitiesdov.org/how-you-can-help/](http://www.catholiccharitiesdov.org/how-you-can-help/) or call (941) 488-5581.

**40 Days for Life 365:** The Fall Campaign may be over, but the effort continues to cover Planned Parenthood in prayer for an end to abortion every day that they are open. Please visit [www.40daysforlife.com/fortmyers](http://www.40daysforlife.com/fortmyers) for more details.

**Join a National Prayer Campaign:** The Supreme Court case Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization could impact the fate of millions of preborn children and their mothers by overturning Roe v. Wade, the Supreme Court decision that legalized abortion. Pray that the Justices will not be persuaded by political pressure or perceived public opinion, but that they would be impartial in their judgment. Oral arguments begin Wednesday, December 1, a decision will be announced by June 22, 2022. Register at [www.prayfordobbs.com](http://www.prayfordobbs.com) to join together in continued prayer and stay informed on the case. For additional information contact Jeanne Berdeaux at [Berdeaux@dioceseofvenice.org](mailto:Berdeaux@dioceseofvenice.org) or call (941) 374-1068.

**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)

**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.

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

**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](http://RelevantRadio.com)



with Lee  
County Sheriff  
CARMINE  
MARCENO



## SAFETY TIP

## BEWARE Suspicious Packages Arriving by Mail

Lee County Sheriff Carmine Marceno is warning residents to be vigilant about opening unsolicited packages arriving by mail that appear to have originated from China. The packages typically have Chinese characters on the label and may contain mysterious items such as white powder, seeds or jewelry.

At this time, it is unclear who exactly is sending these packages, why they are being distributed and if they are being sent to harm the receiver.



## Avoid This Scam:

If you receive a suspicious package in the mail you DID NOT order, the Sheriff's Office is advising you not to open it and limit contact with the package. Immediately call Postal Inspectors at **1-877-876-2455** If you DO OPEN the package and experience a medical or health issue, please call 911.



THE ST. JOHN XXIII WOMEN'S GUILD IS SPONSORING:

# HOLLY JOLLY Christmas

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 5

Please join the Women's Guild in welcoming in the Christmas Season on Sunday, December 5.

This holiday song and dance EXTRAVAGANZA is PERFECT entertainment for all ages!

Holly Jolly Christmas embraces the season with Broadway-style dancing, stunning costumes and the traditional holiday favorites you know and love. Bring family and friends and celebrate the most wonderful time of the year with Holly Jolly Christmas, Jingle Bells, Silent Night, Santa Clause is Coming to Town and more!

**TICKET PRICE  
\$60 EACH**

**DINING ROOM OPENS AT 5:30PM  
SHOW STARTS AT 7PM**

(As this is a fundraising event, tickets are non-refundable)

*For more information:* LOIS BECKER (239) 826-2558 or [lasftmyers@embarqmail.com](mailto:lasftmyers@embarqmail.com)



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## Saturday, February 26, 2022

### THE 15TH ANNUAL

# FASHION SHOW

FORMS WILL BE AVAILABLE IN NEXT WEEK'S BULLETIN



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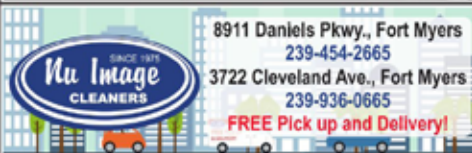
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