



ST. JOHN XXIII

Catholic Church

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

November 28, 2021

Hope

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

"May the God of Hope fill you with all the joy and peace as you trust in Him, so that you may overflow with Hope by the power of the Holy Spirit."

- ROMANS 15:13

St. John XXIII Catholic Parish in Fort Myers, Inc. a Florida non-profit corporation

November 28, 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 29

- 8:00 AM † John Nash by Margery Blackburn

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 30

- 8:00 AM † Donald Laux by Susan Laux

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 1

- 8:00 AM † Judy Cipullo by Neil & Susan Bencivengo

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 2

- 8:00 AM † Joe Flaharty by Marianne Kollasch

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 3

- 8:00 AM † Francisco & Lourdes Suico by their son, Ruben

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 4

- 8:00 AM † Barbara Downey by her family
- 4:00 PM † Mike Mullin by Joann Bernstein
- 8:00 PM † All Souls - Vietnamese Mass

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 5

- 7:15 AM † Lisette M. Ontiveros by Chuck & Charlene Moore
- 9:15 AM † Ann Pavlan by Kathy & Ken Rich
- 11:15 AM † Helen Barilone by John & Diane Fisher
- 1:30 PM † Virginia Diaz by her granddaughter, Rebecca Lopez

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.

DECEMBER 5, 2021 - READINGS

- | | |
|---------------|-------------------------|
| • 1ST READING | BAR 5:1-9 |
| • PSALM | PS 126:1-2, 2-3, 4-5, 6 |
| • 2ND READING | 1PHIL 1:4-6, 8-11 |
| • GOSPEL | LK 3:1-6 |

Low Gluten HOSTS

If you are interested in receiving **LOW GLUTEN** hosts at Mass, then please go to the Sacristy before Mass starts to make your request with a Sacristan.

Pastoral Team

Business Manager

Holly Atkins

holly@johnxxiii.net

239-561-2245

Maintenance

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239-561-2245

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239-561-2245

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239-561-3022

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Cynthia Conzatti

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239-433-4097

15200 S. Tamiami Trail #110

Ft. Myers, FL 33908

PART-TIME EMPLOYEES:

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239-561-7499

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239-561-2245

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blange@johnxxiii.net

239-561-2245

Admin. Assistant

Laura Hess

laura@johnxxiii.net

239-561-2245

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

During the Advent season, families should spend time together preparing for the approaching celebration of the birth of Christ. An Advent wreath can be a great focal point for family prayers and holiday celebrations.

An Advent wreath is a wreath of laurel, spruce or similar foliage with four candles that are lighted successively in weeks of Advent to symbolize the light that the birth of Christ brought to the world. Traditionally three of the candles are purple, the color of kings and of penance. A rose-colored candle is used to mark the Third Sunday of Advent as a time to rejoice over the closeness of Christmas and the coming of Christ.

Children love the beauty of the simple traditional ceremony. Lighting candles in an Advent wreath is a simple way to start a tradition of family worship in the home. Those who participate will cherish the experience all their lives.

Prayer:

Each day your family should gather around the Advent wreath, generally before the evening meal. The proper number of candles are then lighted and a prayer is said.

Blessing of the Advent Wreath:

It starts at the evening meal on the Saturday before the first Sunday in Advent with the blessing of the wreath. (The head of the household is the one designated to say the prayer, following which various members of his family light the candles. If the group is not a family, then a leader may be selected to say the prayers and other appointed to light the candles.) The following prayer can be used:

Leader: Our help is in the name of the Lord.

All: Who made heaven and earth.

Leader: O God, by whose Word all things are sanctified, pour forth Your blessing upon this wreath and grant that we who use it may prepare our hearts for the coming Christ and may receive from You abundant graces. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

All: Amen.

The wreath would then be sprinkled with water.

The following prayer which is said before the evening meal each night of the first week of Advent:

Leader: O Lord, stir up Thy might, we beg Thee, and come, That by Thy protection we may deserve to be rescued from the threatening dangers of our sins and saved by Thy deliverance. Through Christ our Lord.

All: Amen.

The candle is allowed to burn during evening meals for the first week.

“Advent increases our hope, a hope which does not disappoint. The Lord never lets us down.”

- Pope Francis

Advent & Christmas

SCHEDULE 2021

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 7
Vigil Mass for Holy Day - 6:00pm

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 8
Feast of the Immaculate Conception
8:00am Mass
12:00pm Mass
8:00pm Vietnamese Mass

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 14
7:00pm Advent Reconciliation Service
with Individual Confessions

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 15
8:30am - 9:30am Individual Confessions

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 24
CHRISTMAS EVE LITURGIES
4:00pm Mass
6:30pm Mass
9:00pm Mass
11:00pm Vietnamese Mass

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 25
CHRISTMAS DAY MASSES
7:15am, 9:15am & 11:15am Masses
1:30pm Spanish Mass

**PLEASE NOTE: Feast of Mary Mother of God
is NOT A HOLY DAY this year.**

SATURDAY, JANUARY 1, 2022
8:00am Mass
4:00pm Mass
11:00pm Vietnamese Mass

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

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!*
Louis Celestino



Tabernacle Candle

In Thanksgiving to the entire staff
at **St. John XXIII**
Requested by: **Tom Cheslik**



CREDIT CARD POLICY:

We MUST request that any credit card transactions made at St. John XXIII be a minimum of \$25.

Thank You!



Weekly Calendar

Monday, November 29

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

Tuesday, November 30

- 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, December 1

- Pastoral Meeting: OCR - 10am
- Walking with Purpose: Zoom/in Person - 10am
- Faith Formation 1st Session: PLC - 4:15pm
- Middle School Youth Group: PLC - 6pm
- Faith Formation 2nd Session: PLC - 6pm

Thursday, December 2

- Tentative Choir Practice: Church - 6pm
- Rooted: St. Martha & St. Mary - 7pm
- Walking with Purpose: Zoom - 7pm

Friday, December 3

- First Friday Adoration: Church - 8:30pm
- Adoration Chapel open 8:30pm-8pm
- Vietnamese Choir Rehearsal: Church - 8pm

Saturday, December 4

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

Sunday, December 5

- SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT
- Masses: 7:15, 9:15 & 11:15am
- RCIA: St. Bernadette & St. Michael - 10:15am
- Spanish Mass: Church - 1:30pm
- High School Social: PLC - 5pm

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

WATCH AT HOME

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

ONLINE

www.dioceseofvenice.org/offices/offices-departments/communications/tvmass/

WELCOME

New Parishioners

- Victor & Jenny Gutierrez
- Mark & Cecilia Laberda
- Brandon & Carly Layman
- Stanley & Angela Litvak

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

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
Sean Ball
Major Bart Boma
Staff Sgt. Dennis Cosgrove
Sgt. Phil Dellibovi
CPT Andrew Dugan, Spec. Forces
Major Andrew Duguay
Sgt. Jared Gaudet
Capt. Kellyn C. Hall
Andrew Herman
1st Lt. Paige Hortman
Sgt. Kathleen Hudepohl
PFC Michael P Hughes
SPC Michael Jednak
PFC Andrew Kanopkh
Michael Klem
Capt. Bradley D. Laux
Capt. Jacob Mundo, US Army
SSGT Anthony Padula
LCP James Palenik
Master SGT Peter Parison
Sgt. Justin Pingicer, Army
Lt. Col. Brady Sexton
2nd Lt. Kristen Thompson
Christian Troutner, US Navy
Alex Zizzo, US Navy Medic
PFC Jordan Feil, USA
Sgt. Hayden Linde, FLARNG
Aaron Crump, USCG

Sgt. Nathaniel Broemmel
Lt. Com. Mark Buonomo
Col. Scott C. Woodward
Private Nicholas Loeb, ARNG
Andrew Hawkinson, USN
Cavalry Scout Specialist,
Ryan Silva, Army
2nd Lt. Greg Fry, USMC
Jared Broemmel, US Navy
2nd Lt. Edward Hudson
Tillinghast IV, Army
Jethro Ignacio, US Air Force
1st Lt. Christopher Dryhurst,
US Air Force
Com. Craig Fowler, USN
Eric Sanchez, US Air Force
Lt. Col. Mike Garry, US Army
82nd ABN
Lt. Ross Walker, US Navy
PFC Eric Lyons, USMC
2nd Lt. Nicholas Meunier, US Army
Robert Trenton Morell, Medic
Specialist US Army
Michael Thomas Morell, US Navy
PFC Judy Martinez, US Army
1st Lt. Jeffrey Zivkovic, US Army
Christopher Dominski, PFC ARNG
2nd Lt. Sara Wulff

Faith FORMATION

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

DECEMBER SCHEDULE:

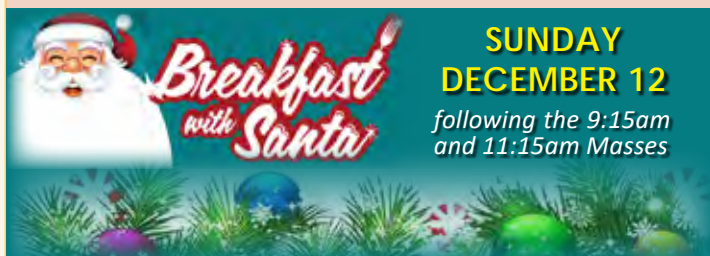
(Classes 4:15pm-5:30pm & 6pm-7:15pm)

12/8: Faith Formation Classes

12/15: Faith Formation Classes

12/22: NO Faith Formation Classes

12/29: NO Faith Formation Classes



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.

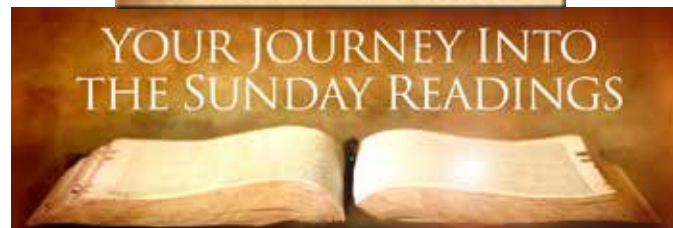
CONFIRMATION PREPARATION: Celebrating the Sacrament of Confirmation is a two year process that begins at the start of 9th Grade and is celebrated in the Fall of 11th grade. (Older teens are certainly welcome!). Each year consists of Faith Formation through the parish Youth Group or a Diocesan Catholic 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



**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

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**



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

Rooted at St. John XXIII

Welcoming all Young Adults 18 - 39

Rooted meets on the first Thursday of each month. 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, December 12**

EUCARIST RETREAT:

The Goal: candidates will tour the church and learn our sacred areas of the church & items used during Mass.

- **Second Year Students: Sunday, December 12**

MIRACLES OF THE EUCARIST AND ADORATION :

The Goal: To learn about the miracles of the Eucharist and adoration.

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 28:** No gathering due to Thanksgiving
- **December 5:** A Christmas Story - *A classic tale of Consumerism*

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.

- **December 1:** A Christmas Story - *A classic tale of Consumerism*

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://www.signupgenius.com/go/8050c45aeadd2daaf58-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



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
- **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 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. **(PLEASE CHECK EXPIRATION DATES)**
- **St. John XXIII Thrift Store:** Hours are Monday-Friday 10am-5pm and Saturday 10am-4pm. For more information email thrift@johnxxiii.net or visit 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.
- **Keep Our Database Current:** Have you moved, changed email addresses, dropped a landline or changed your cell number? Please email maryann@johnxxiii.net with any changes or additions to your contact information.
- **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

ADORATION CORNER

An hour actually passes very quickly, but if done on a regular basis, it establishes a structure for your entire week....

Come Sit With Me

DECEMBER SCHEDULE:

EVERY Wednesday and Friday during ADVENT the chapel will be open 8:30am-8:00pm.

- Wednesday, December 1
- Friday, December 3 (*First Friday*)
We have designated 4:00pm-8:00pm as "SPECIAL HOLY Hours" (silent prayer) for those on our Prayer list that need healing along with our own Special Intentions we hold in the Silence of our Hearts.
- Wednesday, December 8
(*Immaculate Conception - Holy Day*)
- Friday, December 10
- Wednesday, December 15
- Friday, December 17
- Wednesday, December 22
- Friday, December 24 - CLOSED
- Friday, December 31 OPEN 8:30am-6pm

**ADORATION
TO DEFEAT
ABORTION**

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 1:

Join Catholics across the country in Eucharistic Adoration to end abortion on December 1, when the Supreme Court hears the landmark pro-life case, Dobbs vs Jackson Women's Health.

For more information or to pledge to join us visit:

<https://catholicvote.org/dobbs>

SEIZING THE POWER OF *Advent*

by: **Father Angelo S. Arrando**

Receiving the Holy Spirit on Pentecost changed everything. After spending three years being tutored by Jesus, it took receiving the Holy Spirit to make the disciples finally understand.

Having already received the Holy Spirit, how do we finally grasp what Jesus is about and what our role is?

Understanding and grasping the purpose of the Liturgical Year can make the difference. The three-year cycle of Liturgical Seasons, Sunday Scriptures, and homilies, just like the three years that Jesus had forming His disciples, can only make a difference if we really believe that power of the Holy Spirit is ours. But it takes an ongoing commitment from each of us.

Jesus asks His disciples: *“Do you still not understand?”* (Mk 8:21)

Advent begins a new Liturgical Year. If we start now, we too have three years. What difference will these years make? The richness of our Liturgical Year shapes us, if we are willing to take the steps of change, perhaps even serious change. Changes rarely happen overnight, but if we imagine the three-year cycle, many possibilities emerge.

First, we must reevaluate the secular culture we feel far too comfortable in.

Advent has merely become the countdown to Christmas, losing its original purpose and challenge. Advent has been usurped, absorbed, taken over by the culture. As individuals, and collectively, we are caught in the rush and drive towards Christmas.

What if we approach Advent as a new opportunity to do it differently?

We need to stay focused on our liturgical cycles and appreciate their rhythm and richness. Change happens in small ways until we amaze even ourselves with what can be done. We have four weeks to begin the journey. Changing the course of anything takes time.

Advent’s original message was very clear: *“Just as surely as Jesus came the first time, Jesus will come again...prepare the way of the Lord!”*

Focusing in on Jesus’ humanity, from His birth, His life, His message, His rejection and His death, are the key to embracing our understanding of Jesus, one like us in ALL thing but sin. Living His humanity, totally, led to His resurrection by the Father.

Asking ourselves along the journey: ***“How does Jesus’ living His humanity help me to understand my faith journey?”*** – Not by denying our humanity but by embracing it. Along the three year journey, I will occasionally point out directions we might take to make it a truer learning experience.

Three years from now, if we have forged ahead with this new journey, we will better understand Jesus’ question: *“Do you still not understand?”* We will be in an entirely different place because we have had three years of our liturgical cycles challenging, probing, prodding and integrating into our very life. Three years to grow as disciples, to build the reign of God based on the very same experiences that the disciples followed when they began to create Community.

When hear the Easter stories from Acts, these can be our stories. What a culmination when we hear the year of Luke after two years of hearing two other Gospel writers, to know that the work of building God’s reign was lived out in the way the Acts community lived and acted with one another. Perfect community? Hardly. Trying to be? Definitely! Trying to build God’s reign? Absolutely!

It might take us three cycles of Evangelists to truly prepare for the power of the Spirit in our lives. But we will have three years of listening, examining and learning, challenged to awaken anew and take the next three-year journey. Each year better understanding: *“Do you still not understand?”*

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

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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 or

TOM DOLAN: mtd0522@yahoo.com

The Women's Guild Contact:

SUE EDWARDS: sgedwards007@gmail.com

PAVER ORDER FORM

Please circle the graphic to be added to the stone:



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

LINE 1 NAME _____

example: John Doe

LINE 2 RANK _____

example: SGT. USMC

LINE 3 SERVICE _____

example: WWII

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

PRINT NAME _____

SIGNATURE _____

DATE _____



ST. JOHN XXIII
Catholic Church

Weekly Financials



	11-14-21	11-15-20	Difference
Offertory	\$30,158.17	\$26,537.00	\$3,621.17
Building Fund	\$1,989.00	\$2,292.00	(\$303.00)
Total	\$32,147.17	\$28,829.00	\$3,318.17
Mass Attendance	2693	1465	
Registered Families	3660	3635	

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	\$612,027.78
% of Goal	124.40%
% of Households	18.05%
Payments	\$593,430.18

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



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/>

THE JOURNEY OF

Advent

Advent couldn't arrive at a more appropriate time of year. Just when we're getting geared up for special parties, homemade dishes to complement fine feasts, gift shopping, and lavish decorating, the Church reminds us to be still. To listen. To wait with God, and for Him.

It can be agonizing to wait in silence when we're used to bustling activity. Maybe we've set lofty expectations of what "must" be done, because it's a family tradition: getting that perfect photo for our Christmas cards, finding expensive gifts for our hard-to-please relatives, making grandma's pecan pie from scratch. To eliminate or substitute seems like utter failure, or at the very least, disappointment.

So we are, once again, a countercultural people as we attempt to retreat inward, slow down, and ponder the treasure nestled within Mary's womb. We don't like to wait, but wait we must. Only this time, during Advent, our waiting is intentional. Expectant. Anticipatory.

Most people are flippant when they have to wait. It's not about exercising charity in our demeanor and language. We don't always consider how we respond in situations that test our patience. Instead, we lash out at the poor cashier, construction manager, sales clerk, or receptionist. No, the world does not appreciate the value of waiting, certainly not this time of year.

But Advent waiting accesses a less primal part of us, namely, our souls. We're invited into a pregnant waiting instead of the "hurry up and wait" mentality of the current cultural climate. This spiritual expectancy differs from the secular understanding of its desire to eschew any opportunity, self-imposed or otherwise – to pause and ponder.

We can grow during our spiritual hiatuses. These include patience, practice, and perseverance: three very key virtues and disciplines (as in the case of practice) that will aid you in your Advent journey.

Hope

ANGEL TREE

GIFT RETURN DEADLINE

BEFORE DECEMBER 5

★ Please return ALL gifts to ensure timely delivery. ★

Your Cooperation is Appreciated

CHRISTMAS COOKIES & CANDY SALE



WEEKEND OF:

DECEMBER 18 & 19

After All Masses

Don't have time to bake for Christmas or not a baker? Then treat your friends and family to delicious homemade cookies and candy made by women of the St. John XXIII parish!

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3

TURN ON AmazonSmile

Open the app and find "Settings" in the main menu (≡). Tap on "AmazonSmile" and follow the on-screen instructions to turn on AmazonSmile on your phone.

Thank You! We thank the Art and Environment Ministry for their dedication. The chair for this ministry, Catherine Vaughn and the team, plan and decorate the Church, Narthex, Chapel and Parish Life Center.

Join Us! The Art and Environment committee is looking for a few people interested in assisting with decorating the church. We meet twelve times each calendar year as it corresponds with the liturgical calendar, with Easter and Christmas being our busiest times. We conduct most of our work on Saturday mornings.

You don't have to be a decorating expert just have the desire to help. If this committee appeals to you, please call the church office and give them your name and number. The committee chairperson will be in touch to discuss your interests and the committee's responsibilities.

For more information email: info@johnxxiii.net



Living **ROSARY**

DECEMBER 8



On Wednesday, December 8, the Middle School Youth Group invites parishioners to come and participate in a Living Rosary. The Rosary will begin at 6:30pm and will be held outside on the back lawn of the Parish Life Center. Parishioners are welcome to bring a blanket or lawn chair. It will be moved indoors if weather is bad.

This event is to encourage parishioners to sign up to bring the Traveling Mary into their homes for a week of family prayer together.



Memorial *Garden* **ROSARY**

DECEMBER 11

There will be a Rosary in the Memorial Garden at 12:00pm on Saturday, December 11. Please bring a chair and join us to pray for our world and keep Christ in Christmas.

BEREAVEMENT AND BEYOND



If you lost a loved one, we offer a safe, supportive place to deal with this life changing event.

We invite you to join us as you journey to find new meaning and purpose in your life. You will be warmly welcomed.

The Bereavement and Beyond Group meets each Tuesday from 1pm-3pm in the Parish Life Center. in rooms: St. Bernadette and St. Michael.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Contact the Parish office at **(239) 561-2245**

INTERESTED IN PLAYING



BRIDGE?

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** with "bridge" in the subject line.



SUNDAY, DECEMBER 12

FOLLOWING THE 9:15AM & 11:15AM MASSES

Please join us for Breakfast with Santa on Sunday, December 12th, following the 9:15am and 11:15am Masses in the Parish Life Center. There will be music and crafts. The children will get a chance to visit and have their picture taken with Santa. The youth will be selling ornaments they have made. The Knights of Columbus will be serving pancakes. The event is FREE, but in order to properly plan, we would like to have an idea of how many families will be attending. Please complete the form below and return to the Church Narthex or to Faith Formation.



SUNDAY, DECEMBER 12, 2021

ST. JOHN XXIII CATHOLIC CHURCH



Our family will be attending Breakfast with Santa after the:

9:15am Mass: _____ 11:15am Mass: _____

Number of Children: _____ Number of Adults: _____

Catholic Community HAPPENINGS

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/ 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 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. Register at 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 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 or visit: www.hopeafterabortion.com

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

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

Catholic Charities Support: To help, please visit www.catholiccharitiesdov.org/donate or send a check to: Catholic Charities, Diocese of Venice Inc., 5824 Bee Ridge Road, PMB 409, Sarasota, FL 34233-5065

Florida Catholic: The Florida Catholic is available to all members with no cost in an online format. You can sign up with your email at: <https://dioceseofvenice.org/news>

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.justiceforimmigrants.org



THURSDAY, DECEMBER 2 - 6:30PM

Church of the Resurrection

\$12 Donation

www.faithandwineleecounty.com

Guest Speaker:

DONNA HECKLER

"And Then God Gave Me a Time-Out"



THURSDAY, DECEMBER 9 - 6PM

Church of the Resurrection

\$10 Donation

RESERVATIONS ARE REQUIRED

www.faithandale.com

Guest Speaker:

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To confirm please complete and return with check(s) for all reservations. Tables must be paid in full. We have tables that seat 8 or 10, although the tables of 10 are limited. These tables of 10 are on a first come basis. To determine if tables of 10 are still available email baagrammy322@gmail.com. If your party is fewer than 8 we will seat additional guests at your table. Please list those to be seated at your table below and return with payment by January 30th.

ALL RESERVATIONS ARE TRANSFERABLE AND NONREFUNDABLE.

PLEASE PRINT - Table or reservations by:

Name: _____

Email Contact: _____

Phone # _____ **I have enclosed Check #** _____

For _____ **Reservations @\$45 each Total \$** _____

THOSE TO BE SEATED:

- | | |
|----------|-----------|
| 1. _____ | 6. _____ |
| 2. _____ | 7. _____ |
| 3. _____ | 8. _____ |
| 4. _____ | 9. _____ |
| 5. _____ | 10. _____ |

SPECIAL DIET MENU: will be offered for those requesting in advance.

Contact Barbara Artale at baagrammy322@gmail.com

MAIL FORM TO: St. John XXIII - Women's Guild Fashion Show
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