



# 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)

**February 27, 2022**



OUR *Lenten* JOURNEY *Begins*  
**ASH WEDNESDAY: MARCH 2**

*"Behold, we are going up to Jerusalem"* - Mt 20:18

**February 27, 2022**

**Please Note:**

**SATURDAY  
CONFESIONS  
takes place 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

**MONDAY, FEBRUARY 28**

- 8:00 AM † Joseph & Patricia Lancellot by Russ & Kathi Ogan

**TUESDAY, MARCH 1**

- 8:00 AM † Danny Ray Harper by Linda & Bill Bisset

**WEDNESDAY, MARCH 2 - ASH WEDNESDAY**

- 8:00 AM † Linda Sayres by Ron & Linda Vitticore
- 12:00 PM † Jim & Diane Wittenauer by The Eberhard Family
- 4:00 PM - PRAYER SERVICE
- 6:00 PM † Peter Lombardi by The St. John XXIII Pastoral Team
- 8:00 PM - Vietnamese Mass

**THURSDAY, MARCH 3**

- 8:00 AM † Donald Kelly by David Bjerke

**FRIDAY, MARCH 4**

- 8:00 AM † Edgar LeBlanc by Alice Bierch

**SATURDAY, MARCH 5**

- 8:00 AM ♥ Stan & Louise Kulig - Happy Anniversary  
by The Kulig Family
- 4:00 PM † Joseph & Patricia Lancellot by Russ & Kathi Ogan
- 8:00 PM † Gioan B. - Vietnamese Mass

**SUNDAY, MARCH 6**

- 7:15 AM † Thomas O'Keefe by Mary Moreay
- 9:15 AM † Marcelo & Natalia Factora by family
- 11:15 AM † Dennis Dzien by Dorothy Naruszewicz
- 1:30 PM † Pedro Bravo by Cristina Martinez

### ASH WEDNESDAY - MARCH 2, 2022

- |               |                                  |
|---------------|----------------------------------|
| • 1ST READING | JL 2:12-18                       |
| • PSALM       | PS 51:3-4, 5-6ab, 12-13, 14 & 17 |
| • 2ND READING | 2 COR 5:20-6:2                   |
| • GOSPEL      | MT 6:1-6, 16-18                  |

### SUNDAY - MARCH 6, 2022

- |               |                                |
|---------------|--------------------------------|
| • 1ST READING | DT 26:4-10                     |
| • PSALM       | Ps 91:1-2, 10-11, 12-13, 14-15 |
| • 2ND READING | ROM 10:8-13                    |
| • GOSPEL      | LK 4:1-13                      |

## MARCH 2 - NOT A HOLY DAY



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

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

**VIETNAMESE MASS:  
8:00PM**

**Pastoral Team**

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holly@johnxxiii.net

239-561-2245

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# OUR Lenten JOURNEY Begins

by: **Marty Doucette - Catholic Exchange**

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

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

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

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

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

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

**YOU SHALL BE CLEAN**

*before the LORD from all your sins.*

- Leviticus 16:30



## A LETTER FROM

# Bishop Dewane

## CENTRAL & EASTERN EUROPE COLLECTION

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Each year, the Diocese of Venice participates, along with dioceses throughout the United States, in the Collection for the Church in Central and Eastern Europe. Communism in this region fell more than 25 years ago, but the Church still struggles to rebuild after multiple decades of oppressive rule.

Your support of this collection helps renew vital aspects of Church life in more than 25 countries. Funds from this collection makes possible Pastoral care, catechesis, renovations, and seminary formation. When you support this collection, you help others, especially those impacted by oppression. Two examples of initiatives are the 72 Hours Without Compromise Project in Croatia and the Tabita Program in Belarus. Both help teach young people how to put their faith into action, to rebuild the fabric of society and to apply Catholic principles of solidarity in service to those in need.

The Diocese of Venice will be taking up a Collection for the Church in Central and Eastern Europe on Ash **Wednesday, March 2, 2022**. Please give generously to support those who strive to learn and live their faith. Thank you for sharing your blessings with the Faithful of Central and Eastern Europe and for helping to restore the Church and build the future.

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



Sincerely yours in Christ,

+Frank J. Dewane

+ 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	Kevin Natella
Marlene LaRose	Ann Pezzano
Erika Arquilla Hlavacek	Cathy McManus
Jeff Hlavacek	Elethia Oliver-Ajose
Gary Neubauer	Jake Williams
Tom Biedak	Daly Lynn-Hajian
Ron Hudepohl	Sophia Bentz
Denise Vannelli	Colleen Ryan
Laura Ford	Lynne Mogell
Tony Gagnet	Fran Lietz
Susan Davies	Helen Hitch
Cynthia & William	Ross Mannina
Donald Dantino	Virginia Lochner
Melissa Yost	Steve Lane
Desiree Vinci	Timothy Stephan Shea
Marilyn Marr	Mark Joseph Lattner
Anthony Prichinello	Kimberly Ann

**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 [eprayer.stjohn23@gmail.com](mailto:eprayer.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!*

**Jean Reiser**



## Tabernacle Candle

In Memory of: **Bill Preston**  
Requested by: **George & Leticia Lacson**



## DOWNLOAD OUR PARISH APP:

[myparishapp.com](http://myparishapp.com) or search your phone's app store for myparish. You can also text the word "APP" to 88202!





## Weekly Calendar

PLC = PARISH LIFE CENTER



### Monday, February 28

- Men's Gospel Forum: PLC/St. Martha & St. Mary - 7am
- Craftie Ladies: The Villas - 1pm
- Parish Mission w/Fr. Bill: Church - 6:30-8pm
- KofC Officer's Meeting: PLC/St. Martha & St. Mary - 7pm

### Tuesday, March 1

- Opening the Word: Zoom/PLC - 9am
- Bereavement: PLC/St. Bernadette & St. Michael - 1pm
- Faith Alive: Zoom Only - 6:30pm
- Parish Mission w/Fr. Bill: Church - 6:30-8pm
- Hispanic Charismatic Prayer Group: Chapel - 6:30pm
- AA Meeting: PLC/St. Martha & St. Mary - 7pm

### Wednesday, March 2 - Ash Wednesday

- 8:00am, 12pm & 6pm Masses/Ashes
- Pastoral Staff Meeting: Office Conference Room - 10am
- Walking w/ Purpose: Zoom/PLC - 10am
- 4:00pm Prayer Service w/ Distribution of Ashes
- 8:00pm Vietnamese Mass/Ashes

### Thursday, March 3

- Bridge: PLC/St. Bernadette & St. Michael - 12:30pm
- Alzheimer's Presentation: Main Hall - 1pm
- Hispanic Rosary Prayer Group: Chapel - 6:30pm
- Hispanic Music Rehearsal: St. Martha & St. Mary - 7pm
- Rooted: PLC/St. Martha & St. Mary - 7pm
- Walking w/ Purpose: Zoom Only - 7pm

### Friday, March 4

- First Friday Adoration: Church - 8:30am
- Adoration Chapel open 8:30am-8pm
- Stations of the Cross: Church - 6pm
- Middle School Overnight Retreat: PLC - 7pm
- Vietnamese Choir Rehearsal: Church 8pm



### Saturday, March 5

- Growing Rich in Mercy w/ Fr. Bill: - Main Hall - 9am
- Vigil Mass: Church - 4pm
- Saturday Mass w/ Fr. Angelo \* via Facebook
- Vietnamese Mass - 8pm

### Sunday, March 6

- Masses: 7:15, 9:15 & 11:15am \* Livestreamed
- Servant Sunday: Main Hall - 10:15am
- RCIA: St. Bernadette & St. Michael - 10:15am
- Hispanic Choir: PLC/St. Martha & St. Mary - 11am
- Grandparent Ministry: PLC - 12:15pm
- Spanish Mass: Church - 1:30pm \* via YouTube
- Just Faith: PLC/St. Bernadette & St. Michael - 2pm
- High School Social Session: PLC - 5pm



## WELCOME

### New Parishioners

- Rodolfo Perez Jr. & Angelica Lopez Ruiz
- Kervens Apolon & Bedora Lacarte Apolon
- Anthony & Mary Szalkowski
- Thomas & Dawn Aschenbrenner
- Marco Rabines & Giovanna Olivera

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, April 3, 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                 | Lt. Com. Mark Buonomo             |
| Sean Ball                      | Col. Scott C. Woodward            |
| Major Bart Boma                | Private Nicholas Loeb, ARNG       |
| Staff Sgt. Dennis Cosgrove     | Andrew Hawkinson, USN             |
| Sgt. Phil Dellibovi            | Cavalry Scout Specialist,         |
| CPT Andrew Dugan, Spec. Forces | 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           | Com. Craig Fowler, USN            |
| SPC Michael Jednak             | Eric Sanchez, US Air Force        |
| PFC Andrew Kanopkh             | Lt. Col. Mike Garry, US Army,     |
| Michael Klem                   | 82nd ABN                          |
| Major Bradley D. Laux          | PFC Eric Lyons, USMC              |
| Capt. Jacob Mundo, US Army     | 2nd Lt. Nicholas Meunier, US Army |
| SSGT Anthony Padula            | Robert Trenton Morell, Medic      |
| LCP James Palenik              | Specialist US Army                |
| Master SGT Peter Parison       | Michael Thomas Morell, US Navy    |
| Sgt. Justin Pingicer, Army     | PFC Judy Martinez, US Army        |
| Lt. Col. Brady Sexton          | 1st Lt. Jeffrey Zivkovic, US Army |
| 2nd Lt. Kristen Thompson       | Christopher Dominski, PFC ARNG    |
| Christian Troutner, US Navy    | 2nd Lt. Sara Wulff                |
| Alex Zizzo, US Navy Medic      | Sean Dryhurst US Navy             |
| PFC Jordan Feil, USA           | Lt. Amanda Macaluso               |
| Sgt. Hayden Linde, FLARNG      | Anthony An Schroeder,             |
| Aaron Crump, USCG              | 11 Bravo Infantry                 |
| Sgt. Nathaniel Broemmel        |                                   |

# Faith FORMATION

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

## MARCH SCHEDULE:

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

**3/2:** No Class - Ash Wednesday

**3/9:** Faith Formation

**3/16:** Faith Formation

**3/23:** No Class - Spring Break

**3/30:** Sacrament Prep Only  
Teaching Mass 6:00-7:15pm



## VACATION BIBLE CAMP:

Please mark your calendars for our annual Vacation Bible Camp which will be held June 13-17 from 9:00am-Noon for students entering Pre-K 4 through students entering 6th grade. Registration for the camp will begin in late February. Watch bulletin for more details.

## TOTUS TUUS:

Totus Tuus is a summer Catholic youth program dedicated to sharing the Gospel and promoting the Catholic Faith through evangelization, catechesis, Christian witness, and Eucharistic worship. The week-long Parish Summer Catechetical Program assists parents and parishes in the evangelizing and catechizing of their youth by supplementing the work they are currently doing.

The camp will be held at St. John XXIII July 11-15 from 9am-3pm. The cost is \$50.00 per camper. The age range for the day program is grades 1-5.

There is also an evening program for students in Middle and High School. Please watch future bulletins for registration information. To learn more about the program, please visit:

<https://totustuus.church/>

## 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.  
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. **Formed log in code: 1823ee**



*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





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.

- **March 3:** We will continue the series "*The Chosen*" and participate in the Bible study for season 1. Check the Facebook page for more information.



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

## Confirmation Program

- **Sunday, February 27 - First Year Students:** Teaching Mass (*Our Lady of Rosary Chapel*)
- **Sunday, February 27 - Second Year Students:** Sponsor/Candidate Retreat 2pm (*Parish Life Center*)

Please be sure to turn in all documents, complete 10 hours of ministry work, and do a weekly theology study. Check the Program Overview Booklet for a more detailed list of requirements.

## High School Youth Group

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

All high school teens and their friends are welcome to attend. We will end each session in the Adoration Chapel for final prayer and quiet time with Jesus. Please watch emails for dinner and location plans.

- **March 6:** The 7 Deadly Social Sins

## Middle School Youth Group

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

- **March 2:** NO SESSION
- **March 4/5:** Overnight Retreat and Saturday Day of Service

## 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/8050c45aead2daaf58-youth>

## *Hispanic Ministry ANNOUNCEMENTS*



La comunidad Hispana de St. John XXIII les desea una feliz semana.

### *Misas en Español*

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

Las misas también están siendo transmitidas a través de YouTube. Recuerda el rezo del Santo Rosario (antes de la misa de los domingos, 12:45pm).

### *Crecimiento en la Fe*

- Lugar: Video conferencia, enlace: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85742764481>
- Fecha y Hora: Todos los segundos viernes del mes. 7pm.

### *Grupo de Oración de Renovación Carismática*

- Lugar: Capilla Nuestra Señora del Rosario.
- Fecha y Hora: Todos los martes del mes. 6:45pm.

### *Rezo del Santo Rosario*

- Lugar: Capilla Nuestra Señora del Rosario.
- Fecha y Hora: Todos los jueves. 6:00pm.

### *Contáctanos*

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

## **Atención Padres**

La parroquia de San Juan XXIII quiere asegurar que sea un ambiente seguro para todos.

Los padres por favor asegúrese de acompañar a sus hijos al baño y mantenerlos con usted en el Narthex antes y después de la Misa.

*Gracias, Padre Bob*



# Join Us!

We would like to invite everyone to our Parish Mission. As you prepare for Lent, please join **Fr. Bill Jarema** for our Parish Mission:

**6:30pm - 8:00pm in the Church**

- **Sunday, February 27**
- **Monday, February 28**
- **Tuesday, March 1**

PRAYING  
the Challenges  
of the  
BEATITUDES:

The CORE  
to CHRISTIAN  
LIVING

## Amazing Parish Prayer:

*Heavenly Father, You have gathered us together as a parish to be Your visible life in our world. Here we unite in worship, proclaim Your word, celebrate the Eucharist, and are sent forth to share Your love and make disciples. Lord, we take your Great Commission seriously and long for our Parish to be so on-fire that we draw people to You. Help us in that endeavor, as we strive to work together, ordained, religious and laity. Please make our parish amazing, through Your power and Your grace. Amen*



# Fasting & Regulations

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

## REGULATIONS ON FASTING AND ABSTINENCE

Ash Wednesday, March 2 and Good Friday, April 15, are days of fast and abstinence. All Fridays of Lent are also days of abstinence from meat.

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

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

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

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



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

## WHY DO WE RECEIVE ASHES ON

# Ash Wednesday?

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

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

### DEATH, REPENTANCE

Ashes are equivalent to dust, and human flesh is composed of dust or clay (Genesis 2:7), and when a human corpse decomposes, it returns to dust or ash. For example, Abraham told God, "I am but dust and ashes" (Genesis 18:27), a reference to his human mortality. Jeremiah described death as a "valley of corpses and ashes" (Jeremiah 31:40). Ashes are an ominous sign, and we use them on Ash Wednesday to remind ourselves of our own impending deaths. Death may come sooner, or it may come later, but it will surely come.

And if death is coming, we need to be prepared, and the time to prepare for death is now, and the way to prepare is to live according to God's ways.

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

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

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

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

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

## 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.
- **St. Luke Adoration Chapel:** Chapel hours are Monday-Friday 8:30am-3:45pm and Saturday 8:30am-3:30pm. 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)
- **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.
- **FREE Rosary Repair:** Send broken rosaries in a padded envelope to: Betty & Dick Holden, 7930 Estero Blvd., #502, Ft. Myers Beach, FL 33931. Rosaries will be returned within a week of receipt. For more information email: [holdenbnd@gmail.com](mailto:holdenbnd@gmail.com) or call Dick at (239) 463-3993
- **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

## ADORATION CORNER

*Come Sit With Me*

### ASH WEDNESDAY/Lent

The St. Luke Adoration Chapel WILL BE OPEN for extended hours on **ASH WEDNESDAY, MARCH 2** from **8:30am until 8:00pm**.

**ALL FRIDAYS DURING LENT** the chapel will be open until **8:00pm**.

**Please Note:** The chapel is closed for the Triduum.

### REGULAR CHAPEL Hours

**MONDAY - FRIDAY: 8:30am-3:45pm**

**SATURDAY: 8:30am-3:30pm**

For information on The Adoration Chapel Ministry visit [johnxxiii.net/adoration-chapel-ministry/](http://johnxxiii.net/adoration-chapel-ministry/)

### 6 MINUTE Lenten SELF-REFLECTION & GOAL SETTING



#### *Do You Have 6 MINUTES a Day?*

If so, then you have time to pray! To help you with prayer during Lent, St. John XXIII is offering the "Little Black Book" reflection book to all parishioners for only \$1.00. The little book has a short reflection for each day of Lent to meditate and pray over. And it only takes 6 minutes a day!

#### *You Can Use It:*

- † When You Get Up
- † On your break at work
- † As a family meal prayer
- † Before you go to bed
- † Waiting to pick up the kids
- † ANYTIME!

Don't miss out on this fabulous opportunity! Also available for Children is The Little Purple Book filled with daily activities and prayers for children to use each day during Lent. Booklets will be available for purchase after Mass this weekend and Ash Wednesday Masses.



## Weekly Financials

<b>NO UPDATE</b>	<b>02-13-22</b>	<b>02-14-21</b>	<b>Difference</b>
Offertory	\$30,218.51	\$26,617.00	\$3,601.51
Building Fund	\$1,564.00	\$2,006.00	(\$442.00)
Total	\$31,782.51	\$28,623.00	<b>\$3,159.51</b>
Mass Attendance	3489	1907	
Registered Families	3591	3565	

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

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

### 2022 Catholic Faith Appeal - NO UPDATE

2022 Goal	\$458,000.00
Pledge	\$88,140.00
% of Goal	19.24%
% of Households	4.04%
Payments	<b>\$57,856.67</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)



## MAKING A STOCK TRANSFER

When making a stock transfer to the Diocese of Venice on behalf of St. John XXIII, please email [holly@johnxxiii.net](mailto:holly@johnxxiii.net) to let us know you made the request. Sometimes a transfer comes to the Diocese with no name or no parish name. This will help us track the transaction. Thank you.

## RECYCLING EQUALS MONEY

Here at St. John XXIII, we encourage you to recycle!

Our recycle bin is located to the far right of the Vietnamese Statue near the other side of the parking lot.

Items such as cardboard, newspapers, office paper and aluminum cans can be deposited in the recycle bin.

With your diligent help, we are able to receive money from the recycling company, Garden St. Paper Products, which in return, goes back to help the church.

Thank you for your support of our common home and the Parish community!



## MEMORIALIZE A LOVED ONE

Here at St. John XXIII, we have several ways to memorialize your loved one.

If you are interested in learning more, call our Business Manager, Holly Atkins at (239) 561-2245

**Memorialization**  
The art of  
commemorating  
the lives of  
those we love.





## MARCH 8 PARISH LIFE CENTER

Doors open at 5:30pm  
Games begin at 6:30pm

Sponsored by:

The Women's Guild and The Knights of Columbus  
Food and snacks will be available for purchase.

**MUST BE 21 TO PLAY**

All proceeds will go to a charity in our community.

## WEEKLY BRIDGE GAME



**PLEASE NOTE:** Our bridge group meets every Thursday in the Parish Life Center through the end of April and will resume every Thursday in September. Join our next scheduled game: **March 3 at 12:30pm**

If you are interested in playing, please contact:  
**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. Please register with Jan before coming to play.



## DUBIN CENTER PRESENTATION

### *Dementia Workshop*

**THURSDAY, MARCH 3**  
**1PM-3PM**  
**PARISH LIFE CENTER**

*With Guest Speaker:*

**LYNNE THORP**

*Executive Director of the  
Alvin Dubin Center*

*Lynn is an experienced Executive Director with a demonstrated history of working in the health and human services industry with a Master of Business (MBA) and Master of Arts (MA) in Special Education.*



For those parishioners who may be struggling with a new diagnosis for their love one and who are fatigued for caring for a love one with **DEMENTIA**, this will be a very informative session to help you with these issues.

Learn facts and figures about dementia, age associated signs of memory impairment vs dementia, what it's like to live with dementia, stages of dementia and caregiver strategies, fighting stigma, navigating local resources and how to support dementia caregivers.

There will be a question and answer session at the end of the presentation.



### **FOR MORE INFORMATION**

RSVP is requested for planning but not required.

Please email our parish nurse, **Toni Granchi** at **tagrn64@comcast.net** or text **(239) 600-0721**

# Craftie Ladies

## Remembering MERCEDES

On a very sad note, we have lost a very dear friend and Craftie Lady, Mercedes. If you were a regular at our craft shows, you have seen all the beautiful Christmas wreaths she would make. She will be dearly missed by many of us. We are comforted to know that she is with the Lord, enjoying her eternal life with Him. Rest in peace, our dear friend.



## Verity Bags:

We are currently cutting and sewing comfort blankets for Gulf Coast hospital. Thanks to Beth, and our many cutters who work every Monday on this project. In March, we plan to put together our Verity bags for those who choose to give their babies life, rather than the alternative. We usually fill and donate 100 bags. We feel this is the most important project we do. A special thanks to Kelly for leading this project.

## Giving Back:

The ladies made up and donated 2 raffle baskets for Catholic Charities, and the Women's Guild Fashion Show taking place this weekend. Thank you to Judy M, Cheryl R, and Trudy, for putting these beautiful baskets together. In addition, we also made a wreath for the funeral ministry. The urn sits right in the center of the wreath for the Mass. It is beautiful. Thank you Janet and Judy Siegel for putting this wreath together.



## Yarn/Fabric Needed:

As always, we are in need of yarn and fabrics. Please Do Not leave clothes, knickknacks, old curtains or other items. We cannot use them. You can contact Judy Siegel at (414) 529-4978 or (239) 437-4978

# Grandparents

## MINISTRY

## Join Us!



Please join us on **Sunday, March 6th** following the **11:15am Mass** for a gathering of our grandparent Ministry. Light refreshments will be served, and the session will last about an hour. Even if you have not joined us before, all grandparents are welcomed to join!



**MARCH 6  
11:00 AM**

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tavern**  
est 2010

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Fort Myers, FL 33907**

*If you plan on attending*

**PLEASE RSVP BY FRIDAY, MARCH 4  
Joann Hanak (239) 277-9886**

# YOU DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU DON'T KNOW

## *The HEARTBREAKING truths of ABORTION:*

by: **The Respect Life Ministry**

Did you know that 1/3-1/4 of 2 entire generations are lost as a result of abortion? That means for every 3-4 persons born from 1973-now they are missing one member of their generation, a brother, sister, and possibly their future spouse!

World wide the number one reason for abortion is sex-selection, girls being the primary target. Human trafficking and abortion are directly related.

Closer to home the main reason cited for abortion is lack of support. Many women state "If just ONE person had supported me or told me they would help, I would have never aborted my baby".

March 2nd marks the beginning of the 40 Days of Lent and this spring it also marks the beginning of the 40 Days for Life Campaign. 40 Days for Life is the peaceful prayerful vigil and fasting which has taken place since 2007 in 1000 cities and 63 countries throughout the world. Since its start 40 Days for Life has saved over 17,000 babies and their parents from abortion. Sadly by contrast 63,000,000 babies and counting have never had the chance to be born since the Roe v. Wade Supreme Court Decision of 1973.

Each day in this country alone almost 3,000 surgical abortion are performed. It is the number one surgical procedure performed throughout the world. With the FDA recently approving the abortion pill, non-medically supervised

abortions by mail order will increase the access and not only end the life of the baby but impact the health of the mother.

Roe v. Wade was founded on false principals and since its passing it has caused more harm than good, not only in the babies lives lost, but in the damage to women and men who often suffer in silence for years before seeking healing and peace.

### ***So WHAT can you do?***

Join a 40 Days Campaign! Here in Fort Myers the 40 Days campaign will kick off with a peaceful evening prayer vigil on Tuesday March 2nd. Churches and people from all denominations will commit to daily peaceful prayer and fasting outside of the local planned parenthood. No experience is necessary and if you have never been or are unsure what to do, we will connect you with some of our more experienced sidewalk advocates. **Please contact Maureen Nash at: 239-823-6800 OR 40daysforlifemsp@gmail.com**

What else? Are you carrying the pain of a past abortion? Project Rachel or many of the other healing ministries are available to you! Support your local pregnancy center! Educate yourself, fast and pray! For more information and resources see the display on the narthex or contact the respect life ministry directly at **respectlifejohn23@gmail.com**



# RESPECT LIFE



## ONGOING:

### **365 PRAYER:**

Come join in 365 prayer every Wednesday from 12-5pm at Planned Parenthood:  
6418 Commerce Park Dr. Fort Myers

### **FIRST FRIDAY of Every Month:**

Adoration for a peaceful end to the Death Penalty.

### **THIRD WEDNESDAY of Every Month:**

Respect Life general meeting Parish Life Center 8:45am.

## SAVE THE DATES:

- Evening Prayer Vigil **TUESDAY, MARCH 1** at Planned Parenthood
- 40 Days for Life begins **MARCH 2** (Ash Wednesday)
- 40 Days for Life Youth Rally with Bishop Dewayne **SATURDAY, MARCH 26** at 11:00am
- Closing Prayer Vigil Date TBA

## CONTACT US:

The Respect Life Ministry is open to all who are interested in learning about LIFE issues from conception to natural death. If you would like to be kept up to date please join our email list at: [respectlifejohn23@gmail.com](mailto:respectlifejohn23@gmail.com) or call the parish office at (239) 561-2245

*"Human life is sacred - all men must respect that fact. From its very inception it reveals the creating hand of God."*

*respect • love • protect*

# Thank You FOR YOUR GENEROSITY!



FOR  
THE  
POOR

A special thank you to all of the people that support our poor box. The poor box has been able to help many of our own families that have extra needs.

Thank you for your supporting our parish community!

*"for it is in  
giving  
that we receive."*

St. Francis of Assisi



**SATURDAY, MARCH 12**  
**10AM-1PM**



**PLEASE CHECK EXPIRATION DATES**

# STATIONS OF THE CROSS

The link below will take you to a very personal walking of the Stations of the Cross. We encourage you to pray these Stations, and if possible, do it in the St. John XXIII Memorial Garden. You can access this site on your phone and you are all set to start the clockwise walk.

[www.osvnews.com/amp/2020/02/27/walking-the-stations-of-the-cross-this-lent/](http://www.osvnews.com/amp/2020/02/27/walking-the-stations-of-the-cross-this-lent/)

GET READY TO LEARN IT. LIVE IT.  
LOVE IT. EVEN MORE!



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**Sign up today at [RelevantRadio.com/LENT](http://RelevantRadio.com/LENT)**

## HEALING OUR IMAGES OF GOD: Mercy or Misery

Don't miss your chance for spiritual growth! You can still register even if you missed the first session or other dates.

**Please note:** The cost remains \$100 for your workbook and supplies. You can make out a check to St. John XXIII and drop it off at the office or in the collection baskets along with your registration.

**COME JOIN Fr. Bill Jarema**

**SESSIONS: 9AM - 12PM IN THE PARISH LIFE CENTER**

- SATURDAY, MARCH 5      *Spiritual Inventory*
- SATURDAY, MARCH 19      *Meeting Your Growing Edge*



## HEALING OUR IMAGES OF GOD: Mercy or Misery REGISTRATION FORM

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL: \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

PAYMENT METHOD:  CHECK       CASH       CREDIT CARD

*For more information email Holly Atkins at [holly@johnxxiii.net](mailto:holly@johnxxiii.net) or call the office (239) 561-2245*

# Catholic Community HAPPENINGS

**Conference Cancellation Notice:** Due to far lower registration than expected, the upcoming Diocese of Venice Catholic Conference for Men & Women scheduled for Saturday, March 5, 2022 is cancelled. Everyone will receive a full refund. We apologize for any inconvenience this may cause. We hope all will consider joining us for our exciting 2023 Conferences that already in the planning stages!

**Marriage and Family Events:** Chris Stefanick, internationally acclaimed author, speaker, and television host is coming to Epiphany Cathedral for two nights only at 6:30pm, Monday, February 28: Inspiration for Teens and Tuesday, February 29: True Presence - Hope for All Ages. Doors open at 6:30 pm and there is no fee to attend. For more information, visit: [epiphanycathedral.org](http://epiphanycathedral.org)

**Summer Adventures:** Our Lady of Good Counsel Camp in Floral City, FL is a co-ed overnight camp which is owned and operated by the Catholic Diocese of St. Petersburg. All Children 7-15 years of age are invited to attend the camp's 75th summer! One and two week sessions are currently offered at affordable prices. All information is available on the camp website at [www.goodcounselcamp.org](http://www.goodcounselcamp.org) or by emailing: [info@goodcounselcamp.org](mailto:info@goodcounselcamp.org)

**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/>

**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)

**Free Consultations:** The National Catholic Bioethics Center answers questions from individuals who seek to better understand or apply Catholic moral teaching to specific ethical issues they are facing in health care or the life sciences, real life problems or dilemmas. These consultations are free and confidential. Complete the online form at [www.ncbcenter.org](http://www.ncbcenter.org) or call 24 hours/7 days per week (215) 877-2660 or more information call (239) 338-2306

**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>

You are invited



## Synod on Synodality Listening Sessions

As part of the Diocesan Phase for the XVI Ordinary General Assembly of Bishops, "For a Synodal Church: Communion, Participation, and Mission," as requested by His Holiness Pope Francis, the Diocese of Venice will be holding various listening sessions.

Bishop Frank J. Dewane invites all for an evening of listening with the goal of these sessions to discern the Word of God in Scripture, what those Words are saying to us while remembering the living Mission of the Church. Bishop Dewane stressed that this process be based on co-responsibility in the Church, or an accurate synthesis with what was said in a process that is transparent and fair. Sessions will take place from 6:30pm-8:00pm on the following dates and locations:

- **Thursday, March 3:** St. Andrew Parish, 2628 Del Prado Blvd., Cape Coral; (Eng.)
- **Monday, March 14:** St. John XXIII Parish, 13060 Palomino Lane, Fort Myers; (Eng.)
- **Wednesday, March 16:** Sacred Heart Parish, 211 W. Charlotte Ave., Punta Gorda; (Eng.)
- **Thursday, March 24:** site to be determined.
- **Monday, March 28:** St. John the Evangelist Parish, 625 111th Ave. N., Naples; (Eng.)
- **Monday, May 9:** St. Catherine Parish, 820 Hickory St., Sebring; (Eng./Sp)
- **Monday, May 16:** St. Agnes Parish, 7775 Vanderbilt Beach Road, Naples; (Eng.)
- **Monday, May 23:** Our Lady Queen of Heaven Parish, 355 S. Bridge St., LaBelle. (Eng./Sp)

**TO REGISTER ONLINE:** <https://dioceseofvenice.org/2022-synod-listening-sessions>

For any questions regarding the listening sessions, please email [synod@dioceseofvenice.org](mailto:synod@dioceseofvenice.org)

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