



ST. JOHN XXIII

Catholic Church

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

December 18, 2022

Joy

FOURTH SUNDAY OF

Advent

"He will be a joy and delight to you, and many will rejoice because of His birth, for He will be great in the sight of the Lord."

- LUKE 1:14-15

December 18, 2022

Please Note:
SATURDAY
CONFESSIONS
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. Mike Young

fr mike@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, DECEMBER 19

- 8:00 AM † Gloria Mallon by Lisa George

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 20

- 8:00 AM † Abelardo Manansala by Corazon Manansala

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 21

- 8:00 AM ♥ Tommy Bovinett by Mom & Dad

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 22

- 8:00 AM † Rosanne Pantuso by her daughter, Sara

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 23

- 8:00 AM † Biagio & Elaine Dente by the Dente family

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 24 - CHRISTMAS EVE

- 4:00 PM* Livestreamed Mass/Children's Paegent
6:30 PM, 9:00 PM & 11 PM Vietnamese Mass

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 25 - CHRISTMAS DAY

- 7:15 AM, 9:15 AM, 11:15 AM* Livestreamed Mass
& 1:30 PM Spanish Mass

FYI

MASS INTENTION UPDATE

The 2023 book is NOW open. Please visit the parish office for requests. Other options will remain available such as Tabernacle Candle \$15 per week and Eucharistic Host \$15 per week.

DECEMBER 24, 2022 - READINGS

Christmas Eve - 4th Saturday of Advent

- 1ST READING IS 62:1-5
- PSALM PS 89:4-5, 16-17, 27, 29
- 2ND READING ACTS 13:16-17, 22-25
- GOSPEL MT 1:1-25

DECEMBER 25, 2022 - READINGS

Christmas Day - Nativity of the Lord

- 1ST READING IS 62:1-5
- PSALM PS 89:4-5, 16-17, 27, 29
- 2ND READING ACTS 13:16-17, 22-25
- GOSPEL MT 1:1-25

Pastoral Team

Business Manager

Holly Atkins

holly@johnxxiii.net

239-561-2245

Maintenance

Jason Goss

Jonathan Enright

239-561-2245

Dir. of Religious Education

Frannie Cerniglia

frannedre@johnxxiii.net

239-561-7499

Bookkeeper

Ana Thompson

ana@johnxxiii.net

239-561-2245

Receptionist

MaryAnn Deas

maryann@johnxxiii.net

239-561-2245

Admin. Assistant

Jennifer Baumgardner

jennb@johnxxiii.net

239-561-2245

Admin. Assistant

Marie Boutwell

marieb@johnxxiii.net

239-561-2245

Bulletin Editor

Colleen Leavy

bulletineditor@johnxxiii.net

239-561-2245

Liturgy Coordinator

Bethany Myers

bethany@johnxxiii.net

239-561-2245

Music Director

Richard Owen

musicdirector@johnxxiii.net

239-561-2245

Youth Ministry

Kelly Evers

kelly@johnxxiii.net

239-561-3022

Thrift Store Manager

Cynthia Conzatti

thrift@johnxxiii.net

239-433-4097

15200 S. Tamiami Trail #110

Ft. Myers, FL 33908

PART-TIME EMPLOYEES:

Faith Formation Assistant

Trisha Fields

trisha@johnxxiii.net

239-561-7499

PLC Coordinator

Ivette Janoschka

ivette@johnxxiii.net

239-561-2245

Admin. Assistant

Barbara Lange

blange@johnxxiii.net

239-561-2245

THE JOY OF ADVENT

Prepare Your Heart

by: Hannah Brockhaus - Catholic News Agency

During Advent, we should prepare our hearts for the coming of Jesus like we joyfully prepare our homes for a visit from a family member or friend, Pope Francis said Sunday, especially removing anything keeping us from Christ.

"When we await at home a visit from a loved one, we prepare everything with care and happiness. In the same way we want to prepare ourselves for the coming of the Lord: to wait for him every day with solicitude, to be filled with his grace when he comes," the pope said this December.

In his weekly Angelus address, Francis reflected on the day's first reading from Isaiah, which says to "make straight in the wasteland a highway for our God! Every valley shall be filled in, every mountain and hill shall be made low."

The pope pointed out that the valleys in this passage can represent our sins of omission, such as failing to pray, or praying very little. The valleys could also be the ways we have failed to have charity toward others, especially those most in need of material or spiritual help.

In Advent, "we are called to be more attentive to the needs of others, those closest (to us). Like John the Baptist, in this way we can open roads of hope in the desert of the dry hearts of many people," he said.

Therefore, Advent is a good time to fill these valleys in our life, he said; to pray more intensely, to prioritize your spiritual life.

On the other hand, when the verse says, "every mountain and every hill be lowered," we are reminded of our faults of pride, arrogance and superiority, which must become attitudes of meekness and humility, just like our Savior is "meek and humble of heart."

Then, when we've examined our conscience, "we are asked to eliminate all the obstacles we put into our union with the Lord" with joy, he said, because we are preparing for the coming of our Savior.

"The Savior we are waiting for is able to transform our life with the power of the Holy Spirit, with the power of love. Indeed, the Holy Spirit pours into our hearts the love of God, an inexhaustible source of purification, of new life and freedom," Francis said.

May the Virgin Mary, he concluded, who prepared for the coming of Christ with her whole being and existence, "help us to follow her example and guide our steps to meet the Lord who is coming."

***"Always be full of joy in the Lord. I say it again: rejoice!
Let everyone see that you are considerate in all
you do. Remember, the Lord is coming soon."***

- Philipians 4:4-5

ADVENT PRAYER

4TH SUNDAY

Joy to the World

This Advent, as we strive to become the best versions of ourselves, we pray to be filled a with deep and abiding joy. Help us share this joy with everyone we encounter, especially those who need it most. Lord, our God, we praise You for Your Son, Jesus Christ. He is the Wisdom that teaches and guides us. He is the Savior of us all. Oh Lord, let your blessing come upon us as we light all candles of this wreath. May the wreath and its light be a sign of Christ's promise of salvation. May He come quickly and not delay. We ask this in His holy name.

Amen



Prayer List

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

Marlene LaRose
Gary Neubauer
Ron Hudepohl
Laura Ford
Tony Gagnet
Scott Dugan
Cynthia & William
Carol Gannon
Sophia Bentz
Diane Hedges
Jim Benham
Janene
Elethia
Dr. Gerardo Alfaro, Jr.
Doug Thompson
Tabatha Zavetsky
Kelly Graham
Deborah Moerner

Rosanne Meade
Timothy Shea
Mark Lattner
Mary Monaco
Maeve Walsh
Maureen Gatt
Doris Westberry
Lucy Sloan Pautler
Hayden Lecius
Brook Jones
Ella
Celeste Cavazos
Sue Yingling
John Hagan
Alan Podbesek
Andrea Melendez
Tony Thompson
Carlos A. Martinez

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 epayer.stjohn23@gmail.com

Their names will be circulated to an ever-growing list of people who will pray for them by name!

Join our ePrayer community and give the gift of prayer. Register at: <https://johnxxiii.net/e-prayer/>

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!

Geraldine Schlenk
Luz Maria Vargas



Tabernacle Candle

In Memory of: Margaret O'Rourke
Cindy Gilbert
Requested by: Tony & Mary DaCosta



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

PLC = PARISH LIFE CENTER



Monday, December 19

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

Tuesday, December 20

- Opening the Word: Zoom/PLC - 9am
- Walking w/ Purpose: PLC/St. Martha & St. Mary - 10am
- Bereavement: PLC/St. Bernadette & St. Michael - 1pm
- Hispanic Charismatic Prayer Group: Chapel - 6:45pm
- AA Meeting: PLC/St. Martha & St. Mary - 7pm

Wednesday, December 21

- Pastoral Staff Meeting: Office Conference Room - 10am
- Walking w/ Purpose: ZOOM Only - 10am
- Christmas Pageant Rehearsal: Church - 5pm
- Adult Choir Practice: Chapel - 6:15pm

Thursday, December 22

- Bridge: PLC/St. Michael/St. Bernadette - 12:30pm
- Hispanic Music Rehearsal: PLC/St. Martha/Mary - 7pm
- Walking w/ Purpose: ZOOM Only - 7:30pm

Friday, December 23

- PARISH OFFICE CLOSED
- Adoration Chapel open 8:30am-3:45pm
- Vietnamese Choir Rehearsal: Church - 8pm

Saturday, December 24

- Adoration Chapel open 8:30am-3pm
- Vigil Mass/Children Pageant: Church - 4pm
- Christmas Eve Mass: Church - 6:30pm
- Christmas Carols: Church - 8:30pm-9pm
- Christmas Eve Mass: Church - 9pm
- Vietnamese Mass: Church - 11pm



Sunday, December 25

- Masses: 7:15am, 9:15am & 11:15am * *Livestreamed*
- Hispanic Choir: St. Elizabeth - 11am
- Spanish Mass: Church - 1:30pm * *via YouTube*
- Vietnamese Christmas Celebration: Main Hall - 4pm

WATCH AT HOME

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

ONLINE

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



WELCOME

New Parishioners

- Rose Mary Riccione
- Brett & Camila Zaczyk
- Clint & Beth Staggs
- Joe & Paula Riccione
- Shawn & Janine Goulet
- Pierre Vu & Lillian Do
- Salvatore & Trieste Amato
- Bob & Jill Hulsmann

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 Sunday, January 8, 2023 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	Cavalry Scout Specialist,
Sean Ball	Ryan Silva, Army
Major Bart Boma	2nd Lt. Greg Fry, USMC
Staff Sgt. Dennis Cosgrove	Jared Broemmell, US Navy
Sgt. Phil Dellibovi	2nd Lt. Edward Hudson
CPT Andrew Dugan, Spec. Forces	Tillinghast IV, Army
Sgt. Jared Gaudet	Jethro Ignacio, US Air Force
Capt. Kellyn C. Hall	Com. Craig Fowler, USN
Andrew Herman	Eric Sanchez, US Air Force
Sgt. Kathleen Hudepohl	Lt. Col. Mike Garry, US Army,
PFC Michael P Hughes	82nd ABN
SPC Michael Jednak	CPL Eric Lyons, USMC
PFC Andrew Kanopkh	2nd Lt. Nicholas Meunier, US Army
Michael Klem	Robert Trenton Morell, Medic
Major Bradley D. Laux	Specialist US Army
Capt. Jacob Mundo, US Army	Michael Thomas Morell, US Navy
SSGT Anthony Padula	PFC Judy Martinez, US Army
Master SGT Peter Parison	1st Lt. Jeffrey Zivkovic, US Army
Sgt. Justin Pingicer, Army	Christopher Dominski, PFC ARNG
Lt. Col. Brady Sexton	2nd Lt. Sara Wulff
2nd Lt. Kristen Thompson	Sean Dryhurst US Navy
Christian Troutner, US Navy	Lt. Amanda Macaluso
Alex Zizzo, US Navy Medic	Anthony An Schroeder,
PFC Jordan Feil, USA	11 Bravo Infantry
Sgt. Hayden Linde, FLARNG	Derrick Hambling, Army Airborne
Aaron Crump, USCG	Infantry
Sgt. Nathaniel Broemmell	Maj. Paige Blevins USAF
Lt. Com. Mark Buonomo	Maj. Christopher Blevins USAF
Col. Scott C. Woodward	Capt. Cameron Hortman USAF
Andrew Hawkinson, USN	PFC Alan Copeland



Christmas & New Year

SCHEDULE 2022

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 24

CHRISTMAS EVE LITURGIES (NO 8AM MASS)

4:00pm Mass/Children's Pageant

6:30pm Mass

8:30pm Christmas Carols

9:00pm Mass

11:00pm Vietnamese Mass

***Adoration Chapel open 8:30am-3:00pm**

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 25

CHRISTMAS DAY MASSES

7:15am, 9:15am & 11:15am Masses

1:30pm Spanish Mass

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 31

8:00am Mass

Vigil Mass for Holy Day - 4:00pm

Vietnamese Mass for Holy Day - 8:00pm

***Adoration Chapel open 8:30am-3:00pm**

SUNDAY, JANUARY 1, 2023

FEAST OF MARY MOTHER OF GOD

7:15am, 9:15am & 11:15am Masses

1:30pm Spanish Mass



THE JOY OF

Advent

In the season of Advent each of us may ask ourselves: what do I expect? Advent starts a new liturgical year full of possibilities to deepen our spiritual perspectives and closeness with God. Advent season invites us to awaken new hope in God's plan and promises. Advent can be a season of healing through deeper awareness that the Christ Child desires to be born anew in you. The Savior arrives to save, heal, and deliver you. His coming is profoundly personal. For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life" (Jn 3:16).

The Incarnation was the fulfillment of the ancient expectancy of a Messiah, healer and deliverer of his people. The Catechism teaches, "When the Church celebrates the liturgy of Advent each year, she makes present this ancient expectancy of the Messiah, for by sharing in the long preparation for the Savior's first coming, the faithful renew their ardent desire for his second coming" (524).

First, let's consider the experience of expectation and preparation. Think of a couple expecting a child, a person waiting for the results of an exam, someone expecting the arrival of a friend, the anticipation of someone meeting a loved one. According to Pope Benedict XVI, "We could say that man is alive so long as he expects, so long as hope remains alive in his heart. Men and women can be recognized by their expectations, and that our moral and spiritual stature may be measured by what our hopes are."

Advent is an opportunity to renew our commitment to Christ as Lord of our life. Oftentimes in the lives of the saints we read of how they made "acts of oblation" during Advent or Lenten retreats. I find this to be very efficacious because with each passing year, I'm changed, and circumstances of my life are different also. Therefore each "act of oblation" or "re-consecration" of myself to the Lord, brings a fresh offering with new perspective of self-offering. In preparing for Christmas we have weeks to reset our spiritual life. Likely, this won't happen if we don't prioritize our time spent with the Lord. The Church's liturgy certainly helps us to focus.

Joy

MULTICULTURAL MASS



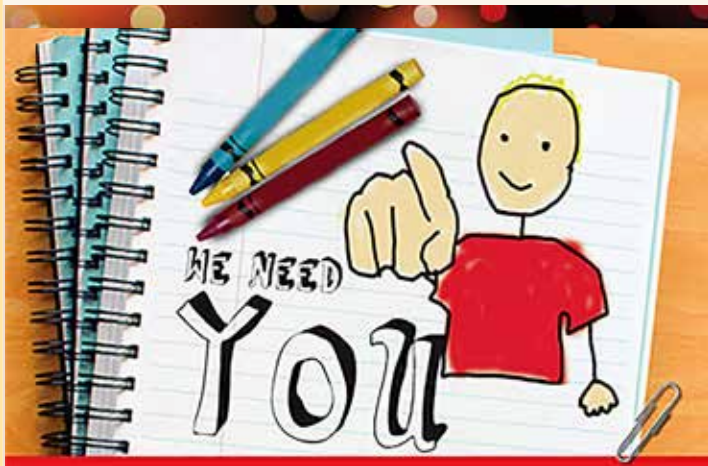
Thank You!

We would like to thank EVERYONE who participated in the Multicultural Mass that took place on Christ the King Sunday, November 20, 2022. It was a wonderful gathering of mutual faith and fellowship!



Faith FORMATION

Contact: Frannie Cerniglia | 561-7499 | franniedre@johnxxxiii.net



SEEKING TEACHERS, ASSISTANTS AND OTHER VOLUNTEERS

YOU do NOT need to be a teacher to share the gift of God's love and word with the children of our parish!

WE NEED HELP, WE NEED YOU!

We are currently in need of extra assistance with our Faith Formation program. You do not need any previous experience as we will provide you with the needed training. You just need to be available on Wednesday afternoons or evenings as we have 2 sessions; one at 4:15pm and one at 6:00pm We are looking for:

- People willing to substitute when our regular catechists are absent
- Additional people to take attendance and walk groups of children from one classroom to another classroom for Grades Kindergarten – 5th grade.

Do you like working with children? Do you have a passion for Scripture? If you answered yes to these two questions, then we hope you will answer the call to volunteer to help us with Children's Liturgy of the Word (CLOW) either at the 9:15am or the 11:15 Mass. If we get enough volunteers, we often only need you to help out once or twice a month. We are organizing a meeting for you to come learn more about CLOW and how rewarding this ministry can be! Mark your calendar for January 8th as we will meet in between the 9:15 & 11:15 Masses, so approximately 10:20am. We will meet in the PLC in the St. Joanna Classroom. Please call or email us at the contact below if you are able to join us for this meeting.

For more information, please call 239-561-7499 or email FrannieDre@johnxxxiii.net



Christmas Eve
DECEMBER 24
during the 4pm Mass



After All Masses - Narthex

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 St. John XXIII parishioners!

**ALL FUNDS WILL BE DISTRIBUTED
AMONG THE WOMEN'S GUILD
CHARITABLE FUNDS**





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.

- **January 5:** Please check the Facebook page for more information.



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

Confirmation Program:

Sundays 5pm - 6pm

Both Year one and Year two students must register through our parish website under the Sacraments tab. Program begins in September each year.

High School Youth Group

HSYG Social Sessions: Sundays 11:15am Mass and Social

REGISTRATION and SCHEDULE are located under the EDUCATION TAB on Parish Website.

Middle School Youth Group

MSYG Sessions - Wednesdays 6pm to 7:15pm

Registration and the schedule are located under the education tab on Parish Website.

Youth Council

Meets Quarterly: The mission of St. John XXIII Youth Council is to challenge and equip children of God with the tools to inspire and disciple others while giving a voice to young leaders to serve, love and grow with the St. John XXIII Community.

Volunteer Opportunities

Visit Sign up Genius website at:
www.signupgenius.com/go/8050c45aead2daaf58-youth



Hispanic Ministry **ANNOUNCEMENTS**



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).

Grupo de Oración de Renovación Carismática

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

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



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.

FYI

Paver orders may also be placed at **www.KC23.org**

Defend us in battle, be our protection against the wickedness and snares of the devil. May God rebuke him we humbly pray; and do thou, Oh Prince of the Heavenly host, by the power of God, cast into hell Satan and all the evil spirits who prowl about the world seeking the ruin of souls. Amen.

Guardian Angels WALKWAY

Name _____

Address or PO Box _____

Unit/Apt # _____

City/State/Zip _____

Phone _____

Email _____

Payments may be made by cash, credit card or check.

I would like to pay by:

___ CASH ___ CHECK ___ CREDIT CARD

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

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 _____



Weekly Financials



	11-27-22	11-28-21	Difference
Offertory	\$28,131.83	\$26,555.42	\$1,576.41
Building Fund	\$2,830.50	\$2,281.00	\$549.50
Total	\$30,962.33	\$28,836.42	\$2,125.91
Mass Attendance	3037	2804	
Registered Families	3713	3584	

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

2022 Goal	\$458,000.00
Pledge	\$560,680.41
Payments	\$543,065.13

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



St. Francis Xavier CATHOLIC SCHOOL

HURRICANE IAN RELIEF

Hurricane Ian impacted thousands in our community that include our school families. We prayerfully ask you to support our \$80,000 Hurricane Ian Relief effort. 100% of your donation will help address the tuition assistance and financial needs of these school families. We thank you for your support as "Every Gift Counts."

Ways to Help:

stfrancisfortmyers.ejoinme.org/HurricaneIan
St. Francis Xavier Catholic School
2055 Heitman Street Fort Myers, FL
239-334-7707 | www.stfrancisfortmyers.org



HELP 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.

If you are interested in helping with gardening, trimming, watering etc., please contact:

Paul McKenna (412) 606-1650
email: 007phm@gmail.com

Cindi Knudsen (616) 560-4827
email: cmknudsen@charter.net





ST. JOHN XXIII

Catholic Church

Contact: **Richard Owen** | musicdirector@johnxxiii.net

CHRISTMAS CAROLS

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 24

8:30pm - 9:00pm in the Church

Volunteers Needed:

We are looking for volunteers to help with our 3 musical groups: Children's choir, Adult choir and Modern Ensemble. For more information contact Richard at: **Musicdirector@johnxxiii.net**

SHARE YOUR TESTIMONY

Giving Witness:

St. John XXIII is inviting individuals to share short personal testimonies about how the Lord works in their lives.

If you would like to share something meaningful with our congregation, please reach out to:
Musicdirector@johnxxiii.net



5 SIMPLE TIPS For Parents to Keep Their Sanity During Holiday Mass

Michele Chronister - Catholic Exchange

1.) SET REASONABLE EXPECTATIONS

Toddlers are not designed to be confined in a pew for an hour. You are not a failure if you have to take a child out of Mass! Figure out how long it usually takes for your child to begin to melt down, and try to leave the pew before that point. Eventually, they're able to stay in the pew for the whole Mass, but in the meantime, reasonable expectations keep everyone happier.

2.) TEACH ONE OR TWO SIMPLE THINGS

Making priorities is to help your little ones to love Jesus in the Eucharist. From the time they are babies, you can teach them to do one simple thing: to blow a kiss to the tabernacle after Mass. It is such a simple thing, but it reinforces a belief in the Real Presence, and it launches a relationship with Jesus. Other simple things to teach: how to make the Sign of the Cross, how to genuflect, and how to bless yourself with holy water.

3.) USE WHATEVER WORKS

If a bag full of books or toys keeps your child happy, then use them! You can have a family policy that they can bring one stuffed animal or doll to Mass, until your Sacramental preparation year.

4.) LOVE IS YOUR PRAYER

Your number one goal as a parent is NOT to teach your child to behave perfectly at Mass. We are surrounded by all of the saints and angels, united to Christ, and all of his mystical body. Of course you should teach your children this doctrine...but your average one or two year old won't understand it, yet. Mass is a good time to snuggle your kids. What other time of week are you all confined together, in a small space, for an hour? So go out of your way to love them a little extra during Mass.

5.) THIS TOO SHALL PASS

Above all, remember that this is a fleeting stage of childhood, and keep persisting in bringing those little stinkers to Mass. There will come a day when you can once again kneel quietly in your pew and pray at Mass. In the meantime, remember the words of Christ, and rest assured that in welcoming these little ones, you are actually welcoming Him...and that prayer is very pleasing to Him, indeed.



OPLATKI TRADITION

Following the time honored tradition, many families will begin their Christmas Eve celebration by waiting for the appearance of the first star in the early evening sky as they look toward the East. This first star appearing symbolizes the Star of Bethlehem which announced that the Great Light was coming into our world, to the "people who lived in darkness."

The table at which the family gathers for the Christmas Eve dinner typically has some straw strewn beneath a fine white tablecloth to commemorate the birth of the Christ Child in the manger or cave where the animals lived. A more modern adaptation includes the use of straw or sprigs of evergreen which are placed on a serving platter and then covered with a fine white napkin on which the Oplatki wafers rest.

The Christmas Eve meal begins with the eldest member of the family taking an Oplatki wafer, breaking it and sharing it with the family member next to him. Each then shares pieces of the Oplatki wafer with everyone else present at the table. Some families, particularly of the Slovak tradition, share the Oplatki with honey on it, as a symbol of the sweetness and joy of the occasion. The sharing ritual is accompanied by embracing and the exchange of good wishes. The symbolism of sharing the wafer with each person and then back and forth, symbolizes the giving and sharing of our lives.

Christmas Oplatki *Bread*

Families of Polish, Slovak and Lithuanian background observe this Christmas Eve Tradition. Family members and guests are each handed an oplatek and they each break off a piece from one another and eat it, expressing best wishes and blessings to each other, and asking for forgiveness. This is a tender, touching family celebration of love and forgiveness. Envelopes of the bread are located in the Office and Church Narthex.



A \$3 donation towards the cost of the Oplatki is greatly appreciated and can be placed in the envelope next to the basket.



THE GIFT OF *Recycling*

Start planning your strategy for recycling all of your Christmas gift packaging.

Your greeting cards, envelopes and most wrapping paper can be recycled. Paper containing aluminum should not be recycled.

Cardboard gift boxes and shipping packaging should be broken down before placing in recycling bin.



BEREAVEMENT AND BEYOND



The holidays can be an especially tough time for those who have experienced with the loss of a loved one. The Bereavement and Beyond Group at St. John XXIII offers 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**

Parenting Pointer:

Wednesday, December 21, is the Winter Solstice, which is the longest night of the year. Ponder the growing darkness. Being in the dark can be scary, but a little candlelight can make it enchanting (and also save electricity). Turn off unneeded lights in your home for an evening. Talk, tell stories. No TV.

"by Susan Vogt, www.SusanVogt.net"

ECO-FRIENDLY TIPS AND TRICKS

while you're out and about

CHRISTMAS GIFT GIVING

EASY: Give quality/interesting gifts that you already have but no longer need. Donate to a worthy cause in someone's name.

CHALLENGING: If you have a talent, hand-make a gift or offer a service instead of buying something. Instead of buying plastic or inflatable lawn decorations, create a scene with sleds, snow people, etc.



Marriage Moment:

As we approach the longest night of the year on December 21, dark nights can be cozy when warmed by love and candlelight. If this week finds you blessed with pleasant experiences of darkness, pray for those who aren't.

"We need to see each child as a gift to be welcomed, cherished and protected."

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RESPECT LIFE



PRO-LIFE HELP NEEDED

At the FORT MYERS PLANNED PARENTHOOD CLINIC

Please consider becoming a **SIDEWALK ADVOCATE FOR LIFE** interacting with women (and men) who are dealing with an unplanned pregnancy and considering aborting their baby.

A comprehensive training program is provided for this life saving ministry.

Jesus said: "*the harvest abundant but the laborers are few*". - Matthew 9:37

If you feel you are being called to make a difference, please contact Mary Claire Dant at: maryclairedant@gmail.com

We are always peaceful and law abiding. A few hours a week or month would be a big help. All materials and handouts will be provided.
(Bi-lingual volunteers are also needed)

JOIN US:

365 PRAYER:

Come join in 365 prayer every Wednesday any time from **12pm-5:00pm** at Planned Parenthood: 6418 Commerce Park Dr. Fort Myers

FIRST FRIDAY of Every Month:

If you are at the Adoration Chapel, we ask that during the regular hours people offer up special prayers for an end to the death penalty.

THIRD WEDNESDAY of Every Month:

Respect Life general meeting Parish Life Center at **8:45am**

CONTACT US:

If you would like more information, or interested in volunteering, email: respectlifejohn23@gmail.com or call Maureen Nash at **(239) 823-6800**

respect • love • protect

Exploring the Seven Dwelling Places of ST. TERESA OF AVILA

COME JOIN *Fr. Bill Jarema*

OVERVIEW: The Growing Rich in Mercy Program is a dynamic and exciting program that empowers each person committed to a way of holiness. We believe that Spiritual growth is a pilgrimage that takes us on a journey that we walk together and alone.

A well-balanced spiritual life touches, integrates and becomes aware of how God mingles with our whole-person. God is continually healing and redeeming the spiritual, physical, social, and psychological dimensions of our personhood; each reflecting His image and likeness. (*1 Thes. 5:23*)

The 2023 Growing Rich in Mercy Program will explore the Seven Dwelling places of Teresa of Avila. To help us understand St. Teresa's spiritual journey we will borrow from St. John of the Cross who was a spiritual companion for St. Teresa as she struggled to articulate her experiences of consolation and desolation, mystical encounters, meeting God in the pots and pans of life and explaining her experiences of ecstasy and rapture. St. Teresa has been called a psychological mystic because she can teach us what happens to us psychologically and spiritually when we encounter the depths of mysticism.

Our ultimate goal for those who journey with us in the Growing Rich in Mercy Program is to become more aware of God's mercy and active loving influence within our daily life.

Sharing the spiritual journey with a loving community will enhance your desire to become a generous distributor of God's Mercy.

The cost is **\$100.00** with half going to the Mercy Center and half to the parish for the 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.

PARISH LIFE CENTER: 9:00AM - 12:00PM

- **SATURDAY, JANUARY 7** - Introduction to St. John of the Cross
- **SATURDAY, JANUARY 28** - Introduction to St. Teresa of Avila
- **SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 4** - Exploration of Dwelling Places 1 & 2
- **SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 18** - Exploration of Dwelling Places 3 & 4
- **SATURDAY, MARCH 4** - Exploration of Dwelling Places 5 & 6
- **SATURDAY, MARCH 11** - Exploration of Dwelling Places 7



Rev. William J. Jarema, BA, MS, M.Div., MAS. NCC, is an international retreat and workshop provider. He has been an ordained Catholic priest for 40 years and a clinical psychotherapist for 43 years. Fr. Bill has published numerous books and CD's on healing and personal growth and development. Fr. Bill's books and CD's will be available at the classes.

For more information about Fr. Bill and his work with the Mercy Center Inc. and a list of all his retreats and workshops held in Colorado Springs, books and CD's go to:

themercycenter@aol.com



Exploring the Seven Dwelling Places of St. Teresa of Avila

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EMAIL: _____ PHONE: _____

PAYMENT METHOD: ☐ CHECK ☐ CASH ☐ CREDIT CARD

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

Catholic Community HAPPENINGS

Hurricane Ian Support:

IF YOU NEED HELP: For those in need of help, please visit www.catholiccharitiesdov.org. There you will find an updated list of distribution points for food, water, and supplies. This list is updated regularly.

TO VOLUNTEER: For those interested in volunteering or wish to bring needed supplies (food, water, diapers, new clothing/footwear for children and adults), you can go to Catholic Charities distribution points. For more information visit: www.catholiccharitiesdov.org

TO DONATE: For those interested in making a financial donation to the Diocesan response to Hurricane Ian, visit www.dioceseofvenice.org/hurricaneian or send a check to Diocese of Venice in Florida, ATTN: Hurricane Ian Relief, 1000 Pinebrook Road, Venice, FL 34285

2023 Couples Anniversary Masses: All couples celebrating 25, 30, 35, 40, 45, 50, or more than 50 years of marriage are invited by Bishop Frank J. Dewane to an Anniversary Mass in their honor. The Anniversary Masses will be celebrated in two locations: February 4th at St. Leo the Great Parish in Bonita Springs at 11am, and February 18th at Epiphany Cathedral in Venice, also at 11am. Please contact your local parish office for reservations no later than one week before the event you choose to attend.

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).

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.



Regret Having an Abortion? Hope and healing are available. Contact Sylvia at (941) 412-5860 for confidential help and information about the next Project Rachel One Day Retreat or visit project.rachel@dioceseofvenice.org

Men's Support after Abortion Program: According to a national survey, 71% of men said they had an adverse effect after abortion. Participate in a confidential and free healing series for men, led by Father Mark Harris. To schedule/register for the virtual sessions, call (941) 412-5860 or project.rachel@dioceseofvenice.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


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



A MESSAGE FROM:
The Fort Myers Police Department

- Avoid driving alone or at night.
- Keep all car doors locked and windows closed while in or out of your car. Set your alarm or use an anti-theft device.
- If you must shop at night, park in a well-lighted area.
- Avoid parking next to vans, trucks with camper shells, or cars with tinted windows.
- Park as close as you can to your destination and take notice of where you parked.
- Never leave your car unoccupied with the motor running or with children inside.
- Do not leave packages or valuables on the seat of your car. This creates a temptation for thieves. If you must leave something in the car, lock it in the trunk or put it out of sight.
- Be sure to locate your keys prior to going to your car.
- Keep a secure hold on your purse, handbag and parcels. Do not put them down or on top of the car in order to open the door.
- When approaching or leaving your vehicle, be aware of your surroundings.
- Do not approach your car alone if there are any suspicious people in the area.
- Ask mall or store security for an escort before leaving your shopping location.



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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.

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Email Contact: _____

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

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

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SPECIAL DIET MENU: will be offered for those requesting in advance.
Contact Barbara Artale at baagrammy322@gmail.com

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