



ST. JOHN XXIII

Catholic Church

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

December 25, 2022

Christ

OUR SAVIOR IS

Born

*"For unto you is born
this day in the city of
David a Savior, who is
Christ the Lord."*

- LUKE 2:11



December 25, 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

frmike@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, DECEMBER 26

- 8:00 AM † Joseph Cicherillo by Ken & Linda Barnes

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 27

- 8:00 AM † William Kenny by his family

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 28

- 8:00 AM † Marilyn Milum by the St. John XXIII Pastoral Team

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 29

- 8:00 AM † Clem Wandrisco by Joe & Joanne Redman

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 30

- 8:00 AM † Carlos Martinez by family friend

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 31 - NEW YEAR'S EVE

- 8:00 AM † Beatrice Cordone by her family
- 4:00 PM † Lisa Battaglia-Schwartz by her family
- 8:00 PM † Eileen Ryan Farrell by Judy Yost

SUNDAY, JANUARY 1 - NEW YEAR'S DAY

- 7:15 AM † William Wakeham by Matthew Curran
- 9:15 AM † Theodore Bierch, Jr. by his wife, Alice
- 11:15 AM † Herbert Walsh by Marie Walsh
- 1:15 PM † Villanueva/Garcia Family by Yesenia

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 31, 2022 - READINGS

New Year's Eve

- 1ST READING NM 6:22-27
- PSALM PS 67:2-3, 5, 6, 8
- 2ND READING GAL 4:4-7
- GOSPEL LK 2:16-21

JANUARY 1, 2023 - READINGS

Feast of Mary Mother of God

- 1ST READING NM 6:22-27
- PSALM PS 67:2-3, 5, 6, 8
- 2ND READING GAL 4:4-7
- GOSPEL LK 2:16-21

Pastoral Team

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239-561-2245

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239-561-2245

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Cynthia Conzatti

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239-561-7499

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239-561-2245

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blange@johnxxiii.net

239-561-2245

KEEP *Christ* IN *Christmas*

by: **Father Dominic Vahling - Catholic Times**

When the clock strikes midnight on December 26, radio stations turn off Christmas music and department stores box up their Christmas displays. But for us as Christians, Christmas has only just begun. ***Here are 10 tips for keeping Christ in Christmas:***

1. KNOW WHEN THE CHRISTMAS SEASON ACTUALLY ENDS

The joy of Christmas cannot be contained to just one day or one Mass. The Christmas season lasts until the Catholic Church celebrates the Baptism of the Lord, which this year is January 10.

2. LISTEN TO CHRISTMAS MUSIC

Pull out your CDs (old-fashioned, right?) or make a Spotify playlist. Listen to Christmas music that lifts your heart and mind to God, especially now that you will not hear Christmas music on the radio.

3. ATTEND DAILY MASS

The Octave of Christmas — through January 1 — is one of the richest times of the liturgical year. Come to Mass to celebrate St. Stephen, the Holy Family, the Holy Innocents, St. Thomas Beckett, and Mary, the Mother of God on January 1.

4. KEEP YOUR CHRISTMAS DECORATIONS ON DISPLAY

While it may be tacky to leave the Christmas lights up year-round, at least keep them up through Jan. 10. Some prefer to keep decorations up until the celebration of the Presentation of Jesus on February 2.

5. INVEST IN A BEAUTIFUL NATIVITY SCENE

The tradition of recreating the Nativity scene goes back to St. Francis of Assisi. Every Catholic household should have a Nativity scene, either inside or outside. It does not have to be fancy, but it is a good way to remember the One who Christmas is all about.

6. LET THE THREE WISE MEN TAKE THEIR JOURNEY

The Three Wise Men did not arrive on Christmas Day. Bring them on a journey a little closer to the stable each day between Christmas and the Epiphany on January 3. This would be a good task for the little ones in the house!

7. SAY “MERRY CHRISTMAS!”

The cashier at your grocery store may be a bit confused to hear “Merry Christmas” in the first week of January. When they look at you sideways, just say that for Catholics, Christmas is not over yet!

8. CELEBRATE ADVENT WELL

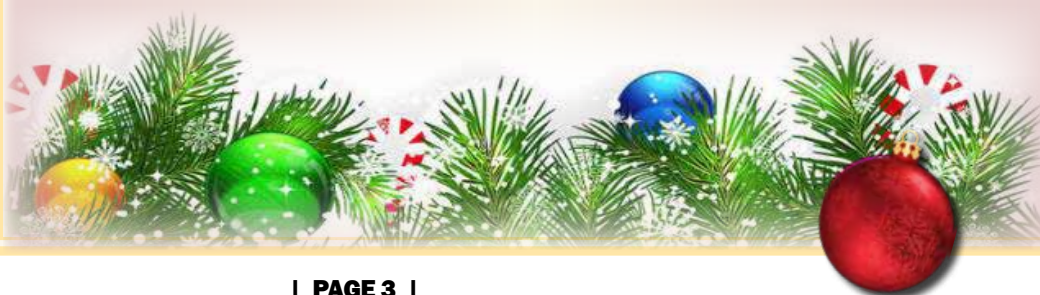
Preparation for Christmas should not be a burden. Do you ever feel yourself letting out a sigh of relief when Christmas day is over? If so, allow Advent to be a time of spiritual preparation and not a time of stress.

9. PRAY EVERY DAY

Jesus invites all of us to a deep friendship with him. Christmas happened because Jesus wanted to live with us and show us how much he loves each one of us. It is important to reciprocate this love by giving him time in prayer each day. No matter how busy the schedule is, make prayer a priority.

10. GIVE GIFTS ALL THROUGH THE CHRISTMAS SEASON

Allow Christmas to be a season of giving. Giving the gift of time and attention will be a more meaningful gift than anything material. Visit the homebound, call an old friend, and let your family know that you are thinking of them.



A Christmas Message From Father Bob

My Dear Parishioners,


On behalf of the priests and the entire parish staff, I want to wish each and every one of you a very Merry Christmas. May it be filled with countless blessings, good health and an ever deepening relationship with Jesus Christ.

It is my prayer that the year 2023 is filled with peace and love.

Blessings,



Rev. Robert D. Tabbert



Christmas isn't a day or even a season....Christmas is the compass needle that points toward God. The star shining for the Wisemen, The angels singing for the shepherds. Christmas is the illuminated path, across the wilderness of life, our map to this world, and if we follow it, if we surrender, joyfully, to it, Christmas will lead us to where we need to go.

The Christmas Plains by Joe Botum



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
Alma Walton
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
Alexandra Peterson
Ronald French

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!

Patrick Ahearn
Thomas Walsh
Daniel Brady



Tabernacle Candle

In Memory of: **José S. Maisog**
Requested by: **his family**



DOWNLOAD OUR PARISH APP:

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, December 26

- PARISH OFFICE CLOSED
- Men's Gospel Forum: PLC/St. Martha & St. Mary - 7am
- Adoration Chapel open 8:30am-3:45pm

Tuesday, December 27

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

Wednesday, December 28

- Adult Choir Practice: Chapel - 6:15pm

Thursday, December 29

- Bridge: PLC/St. Michael/St. Bernadette - 12:30pm
- Hispanic Music Rehearsal: PLC/St. Martha/Mary - 7pm

Friday, December 30

- Vietnamese Choir Rehearsal: Church - 8pm

Saturday, December 31

- Mass: Chapel - 8am
- Vigil Mass for Holy Day: Church - 4pm
- Vietnamese Mass for Holy Day: Church - 8pm



Happy New Year

Sunday, January 1

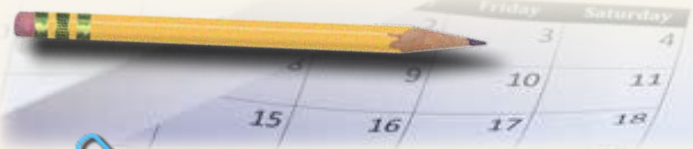
- Masses: 7:15am, 9:15am & 11:15am * *Livestreamed*
- RCIA: PLC/St. Bernadette & St. Michael - 10:15am
- Hispanic Choir: St. Elizabeth - 11am
- Spanish Mass: Church - 1:30pm * *via YouTube*

WATCH AT HOME

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

ONLINE

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



WELCOME

New Parishioners

- Judith Hebert
- Silvia Romero
- Kim George
- Alice Carney
- Timothy & Laurie Sullivan
- Kevin & Kathryn Tarsiewicz
- Patrick & Sheila Hultgren
- Victor & Gabriela Romero

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 Broemmel, 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 Broemmel | 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 |



ST. JOHN XXIII
Catholic Church

General Announcements

- **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!
- **Text to Give:** Text the dollar amount to 239-356-6529 to donate to our Offertory Fund and it will be processed.
- **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. Luke Adoration Chapel:** Chapel Hours are Monday-Friday 8:30am-3:45pm & Saturday 8:30am-3pm. First Friday Adoration and extended Friday hours in December during Advent. For information on The Adoration Chapel Ministry please visit: 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 or visit www.bpjthrift.com
- **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 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

New Year's Eve/Day

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



We would like to thank all of our friends and parishioners that brought cookies, breads and gifts for the priests and staff!

Also, on behalf of Fr. Bob, Fr. Simon and Fr. Mike, we want to thank you, the members and volunteers, that helped with all the Christmas Masses. It was a beautiful season of faith and worship!



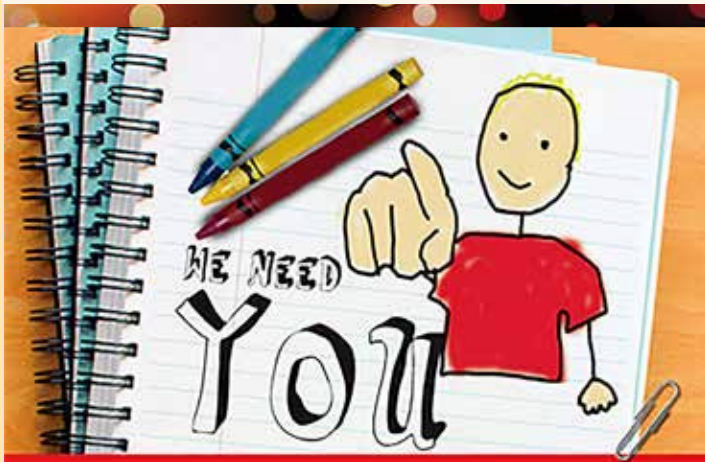
Breakfast with Santa

We would like to thank the Knights of Columbus, parish staff, volunteers and parishioners who participated in Breakfast with Santa that took place on Sunday, December 18. It was a fun filled day for family and friends!



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

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@johnxxxiii.net



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





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



FUNDRAISER

ST. JOHN XXIII YOUTH MINISTRY
is raising money for our
YOUTH GROUP MISSION TRIPS

AFTER ALL MASSES
THE WEEKEND OF
JANUARY 7 & 8

Youth Ministry will be handing out M&M's in the Narthex after the Masses on January 7 & 8.

- Enjoy the candy and return the canister filled with a donation for Youth Ministry
- Distribution Weekend of January 7 & 8
- Return the Following Week
- If donating coins please roll them before placing in the canister





History Showcase

LIVING HISTORY: Eye Witness Accounts - Part 1

by: **Maureen Dombrowski**

"Remembrance, like a candle, burns brightest at Christmastime"

- Charles Dickens

Remembering the rich 20-year history of our church, the following quotes of early parishioners capture the essence and spirit of this sacred space.

"When we joined the parish in 2004, it was Blessed Pope John XXIII. We attended Mass in the gym of Noonan Academy with fewer than 400 registered parishioners. **Fr. Charles Sullivan was pastor.**

Today we attend Mass in a beautiful church seating up to 1350, have over 3600 registered families and are still growing. **Father Bob Tabbert is our pastor.**

The Women's Guild first fashion show was held in rental space at Daniels Center. Finger sandwiches were made by members. The cost was \$5.00. In 2022 the Fashion Show will be held in our beautiful Parish Life Center, equipped with a full catering kitchen, with seating capacity of 350.

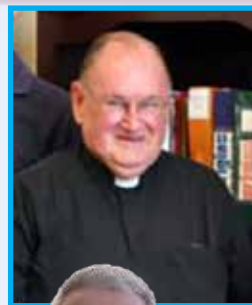
We enjoyed the early days at Noonan Academy where everyone knew each other. Today, even with our growing numbers, we still enjoy the feeling of 'belonging' because of involvement in the ministries available. It's a great parish." - **Stella and Jim McCaffrey**

"Serving as some of the first Eucharist Ministers, we knew it was going to be loving parish. People would automatically set up chairs before Mass and pick them up after Mass at Noonan Academy. No asking, they just did it. Father Sullivan had a great sense of humor and made us all feel at home. It became a custom to introduce oneself to any one near them. We did become a family." - **Cora Davies**, age 93, speaking for herself and her **late husband Don**.

"I remember Father Sullivan would say, 'We have all the money we need, but it's still in your pockets.' It's amazing how the parish blossomed and has grown so big with so many young families. As the first music director I am so proud of the wonderful musicians who have served in this position such as the **late Tom Tiehel** and our **current director Richard Owen**. "In my 12 years as director, I never missed a service even though I drove in from Punta Gorda. My Guardian Angel kept me safe." - **Barb Mendillo**

"Moving from a gym and building a new church is a long process. Everyone was so excited. It is a big thing having our own Church. I grew up in one parish in Pennsylvania and have belonged to only one parish here in Florida because I liked it so much. Our Church is out of this world. Father Bob is a great pastor who does a great job." - **Bernie Altmann**

The remembrances of these early parishioners all echo the hymn, "Surely the presence of Our Lord is in this place."





Weekly Financials



	12-04-22	12-05-21	Difference
Offertory	\$52,490.87	\$48,722.99	\$3,767.88
Building Fund	\$1,730.00	\$3,439.00	(\$1,709.00)
Total	\$54,220.87	\$52,161.99	\$2,058.88
Mass Attendance	2958	2808	
Registered Families	3713	3737	

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	\$567,577.41
Payments	\$551,493.84

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

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

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**

We always welcome instrumentalists, drummers and singers who are interested in praising the Lord in an upbeat and traditional repertoire!



***"I will sing and make MUSIC
with all my soul." - Psalm 108:1***



COVID-19, INFLUENZA AND RSV

Multiple respiratory viruses are currently circulating in the United States, including Covid-19, Influenza and Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV).

HOW DO WE STAY SAFE AND HEALTHY?

Try to follow a healthy diet and exercise plan, stay out of crowds, and use national guidelines for vaccination.

The CDC recommends that everyone 6 months and older get a flu vaccine to help protect against flu and its potentially severe complications. Influenza vaccination is a critical tool to prevent potential severe complications.

In terms of influenza vaccine and COVID-19 vaccines given together, CDC guidance states that routine administration of all age-appropriate doses of vaccines simultaneously is recommended for children, adolescents and adults, and are safe for most people. As always, your physician or medical provider is the best resource to address your vaccination needs.

Pediatric hospitals across the country are experiencing a rise in the number of patients admitted with RSV. Infections due to RSV have shown a sharp increase and are appearing earlier than usual this year. Because RSV and influenza are both respiratory viruses that usually circulate during the winter and generally affect younger children and older adults with increased severity, it is important to see your physician for treatment if you or your child is ill.

Most RSV infections go away on their own in a week or two, and there is no specific treatment for RSV. Healthy adults and infants infected with RSV do not usually need to be hospitalized. But some people with RSV infection, especially older adults and infants younger than 6 months of age, may need to be hospitalized if they are having trouble breathing or are dehydrated.

The Parish Nurse Team:

- Toni Granchi RN FCN
- Joann Andrews RN, DNP, FCN
- Judy Balyeat RN, FCN
- Helen Tuffy, RN, BSN, FCN





Knights of Columbus

WHAT'S NEW?

Both the Women's Guild and the Knights of Columbus want to thank all of our Bingo players in November. Due to your generosity, we were able to help the wonderful charity, **Myles Message**. This charity helps families with children that have Downs Syndrome. Before they started, there was very limited information and support for these families.

pictured: Sue Edwards President Women's Guild, Myles Levy, Maddie Levy CEO Myles Message, Larry Evener Grand Knight



Welcome
 **JASON GOSS**
 Facility Director

St. John XXIII Catholic Church is proud to introduce **Jason Goss** as our new Facility Director. Born and raised in Fort Myers FL, he resides with his wife Ashley, and 3 children. Jason is excited to keep up the beautiful grounds at St. John XXIII. We look forward to experience his faith and commitment to our Parish team!

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



CHRISTMAS FUN FACTS

- December 25 was originally a pagan celebration. Nobody knows when Jesus of Nazareth was born and nobody celebrated his birthday for hundreds of years. December 25 was co-opted from the pagan rites connected with the winter solstice.
- The nativity story resulted in several wars. In the first few centuries of the Christian era, controversy over whether or not Jesus was divine at birth created political and social unrest that frequently burst out into full-scale warfare.
- Mistletoe kissing originated with fertility rites. The hanging sprig is a very ancient symbol of virility and therefore anybody standing beneath it is signaling that he or she is available.
- Santa Claus originated in a newspaper ad. Far from being a quaint medieval legend, Santa Claus first appeared as a recognizable entity was in a newspaper ad for toys and "gift books" in the mid 19th century.
- Christmas is only recently a "family" holiday. It was originally celebrated as an adult form of "trick or treat," but with the "treat" consisting of booze and the threatened "trick" consisting of bodily harm or destruction of property!
- The Christmas Tree is a manufactured tradition. Victorian intellectuals invented the tradition as part of a social movement to consciously reform Christmas away from its tradition of harsh and loud drinking.
- "We Wish You a Merry Christmas" was originally a threat. The ever-popular song was originally sung, loudly and repeatedly, by crowds of rowdy, lower-class servants demanding booze from their masters... or else. (i.e. "We won't go until we get some!")



Parenting Pointer:

St. Paul encourages us to "put on compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience... forgiving one another... peace, gratitude." (Colossians 3:17) Discuss which of these virtues best fits each person in your family.

"by Susan Vogt, www.SusanVogt.net"

ECO-FRIENDLY TIPS AND TRICKS

while you're out and about

CLUTTER

EASY: Hopefully you've received a nice Christmas present or two. Identify one current possession that you no longer need and donate it to someone who does need it.

CHALLENGING: Choose one room or closet to do a deep dive decluttering day. If relatives or friends don't want your extra stuff, research the best places to recycle or dispose of them. Act within the month.



Marriage Moment:

The family has gathered, gifts shared, food eaten together. What remains? To carry the Spirit of Christmas beyond one day, ponder what new might be born into your marriage. If your nerves have been frazzled during the run up to Christmas, relax, slow down, forgive any hurts that may linger.

"by Susan Vogt, www.SusanVogt.net"



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

REGISTRATION FORM

NAME: _____

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

Annual Christmas Appeal: This largest annual fundraiser is critical to operating the social service organization. Gifts provide funding for the many Catholic Charities programs and services available throughout Southwest Florida. Your generosity enables us to serve those seeking help all year long. To donate please mail a contribution to Catholic Charities, Diocese of Venice, Inc., 1000 Pinebrook Road, Venice, FL 34285, or visit www.catholiccharitiesdov.org

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

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



THURSDAY, JANUARY 19 - 6PM

St. John XXIII Catholic Church

\$10 Suggested Donation

RESERVATIONS ARE REQUIRED

www.faihandale.com

Guest Speaker:

DR. PETER KLEPONIS

"Protecting Families Online"



THURSDAY, JANUARY 26 - 6:30PM

St. Cecilia Catholic Community

\$20 Suggested Donation

www.faihandwineleecounty.com

Guest Speaker:

KATHLEEN BECKMAN

God's Armor: "How to Pray for Healing and Deliverance of Your Family"



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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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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

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