



ST. JOHN XXIII Catholic Church

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

February 5, 2023

THE *Heart of Marriage*

by: **Sam Guzman - Catholic Exchange**

The matrimonial covenant, by which a man and a woman establish between themselves a partnership of the whole of life, is by its nature ordered toward the good of the spouses. This is clearly articulated by the Catechism of the Catholic Church:

“The matrimonial covenant, by which a man and a woman establish between themselves a partnership of the whole of life, is by its nature ordered toward the good of the spouses and the procreation and education of offspring; this covenant between baptized persons has been raised by Christ the Lord to the dignity of a sacrament.” (CCC, 1601)

Marriage, then, is no mystery but is well defined. And I might well continue to unpack this definition, exploring what marriage is and isn't by citing Church Fathers, Church documents, philosophers, and theologians.

But this would be talking about marriage from the outside, and it would be a mistake. I want to speak of marriage from the inside. That is, I want to speak from the heart, not about what marriage is, but what marriage means. For marriage is not merely a solemnly defined article in a catechism; it is not an abstraction or an idea for academics to toy with. Like all sacraments, it is a lived experience, a concrete reality. And it is of this reality that I want to speak.

When I was younger, and indeed more immature, I viewed marriage as the fulfillment of my longings. It was the answer, I believed, to my hunger for intimacy, to my desire for affirmation, and yes, even to my sexual urges. If only I could find a wife, I imagined, I would be content.

Eventually, I did find a beautiful woman whom I loved, and who, wonder of wonders, loved me in return. We quickly became engaged and began preparing for marriage. I eagerly poured over marriage books and articles and listened to countless talks about how to be a good husband.

In my naivete, I was quite convinced that I knew exactly what marriage was about, and I would no doubt be a wonderful and enviable husband. I understood marriage from the outside, and not from the inside.

But then I got married. No sooner had I done so than I came face-to-face with the ugliness of my own immaturity, my own selfishness, my own pride. It was jarring and unpleasant, to say the least. Wasn't I better than this? Didn't I know more about marriage than most young husbands? How can I hurt so often the woman I love? What is wrong with me?

These questions and more plagued the early days of our marriage, for I felt like a complete failure as a husband

February 5, 2023

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

DEACONS

Deacon Rich Klish
DeaconRich@johnxxiii.net

Deacon John Gaulin
deaconjpg@gmail.com

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, FEBRUARY 6

- 8:00 AM † Tom Watson by his family

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 7

- 8:00 AM † Deceased Members of the Percacciolo family by JoAnn Gair Wilson

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 8

- 8:00 AM † William & Jim Kenny by their family

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 9

- 8:00 AM † Roger Beaulieu by Bob & Linda Larochelle

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 10

- 8:00 AM † Margaret McGirr by Marian Loudon

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 11

- 8:00 AM † Ginger Ginette Hubbard by Susan Treacy
- 4:00 PM † Dan Pieper by his wife, Peggy
- 8:00 PM † Teresa - Vietnamese Mass

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 12

- 7:15 AM † Mari Cheslik by her family
- 9:15 AM † Arlene Altmann by her family
- 11:15 AM † Lisa Battaglia Schwartz by her family
- 1:15 PM † Mateo A. Rodriguez by Ana & Carla

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.

FEBRUARY 12, 2023 - READINGS

- 1ST READING SIR 15:15-20
- PSALM PS 119:1-2, 4-5, 17-18, 33-34
- 2ND READING 1 COR 2:6-10
- GOSPEL MT 5:17-37

Low Gluten
HOSTS

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

Pastoral Team

Business Manager

Holly Atkins
holly@johnxxiii.net
239-561-2245

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Jonathan Enright
239-561-2245

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239-561-7499

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239-561-2245

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ivette@johnxxiii.net
239-561-2245

Admin. Assistant

Barbara Lange
blange@johnxxiii.net
239-561-2245

Marriage CONTINUED



within a very short time. Despite my real love for my wife, I endlessly chose my needs and desires over hers, and I could not understand why.

What I did not realize then, and do realize now, is that marriage is not about self-fulfillment. It is certainly not about satisfying sexual cravings or about mere emotional affirmation. It is a school of love. And as a school of love, it is a duel to the death with our disordered passions and lusts. It is a daily dying to our sinful selves. It is a moment-by-moment choosing of the way of the cross, which is the way of sacrifice.

Marriage, rightly lived, will indeed bring you more joy than you can possibly imagine. But you cannot find this joy by seeking it directly. This will only lead to disillusionment. "Whoever would save his life will lose it," our Lord tells us, "and whoever loses his life for my sake will find it" (Matt. 16:25). Life can be found only through surrendering it. So too with the joy of marriage — it can be found only through self-forgetfulness and self-gift.

My wife and I have been married for eight years, and although I know it is almost a cliché to say it, I love her more now than I did when we got married. Through our years of marriage, I have learned much about authentic love and sacrifice (though I still have much to learn). And yet I have also realized that no matter how much I give to my wife, she has given me far more.

It is not enough to know that God loves us in an abstract sense. We must experience His unconditional love and mercy in a concrete way, and we most often do so through other people. My experience of God's love has come most profoundly through my wife.

I brought many insecurities and self-doubts into our marriage. I feared fully revealing myself to anyone, lest I be despised and rejected, and as a result, I had erected many defenses to guard myself from emotional vulnerability. Some of these defenses were harmless, while others led me to wound the woman I loved.

But despite my frequent foolishness, my insecurities began to heal one by one through my wife's relentless love. Through her forgiveness and unconditional acceptance, I received a rare and precious gift — the gift of being fully loved as myself. My defenses began to drop; my heart began to heal. I learned the meaning of true intimacy and the joy that it can bring. And I am still learning it.

Marriage is a sacrament, a channel of grace, a way to know and experience the love of God. St. Paul tells us that it is a great mystery that illustrates the relationship between Christ and His Church. Reflecting upon these truths, I see that there is one defining attribute that characterizes this mystical marriage between the Lord and His people more than any other: mercy.

Why did the Eternal Word, the brightness of the Father, humble Himself, take on flesh, and descend into Mary's womb? To save us from our sins. Why did the Lord of all creation allow Himself to be beaten, mocked, and nailed to a cross? To forgive us, to reconcile us, to demonstrate His unfathomable love for us. "One will hardly die for a righteous man," St. Paul says in breathless astonishment. "But . . . while we were yet sinners Christ died for us" (Rom. 5:7-8).

Mercy is at the heart of our redemption. And it is at the heart of marriage. Giving and receiving it. Being healed by it. I am firmly convinced that we come closest to the heart of marriage when we forgive — when we see each other exactly as we are, sins and all, and lay down our lives for one another anyway.

I began this article speaking about sacrifice and self-gift. In our self-indulgent age, these are dirty words. We associate them with pain, discomfort, even misery. Yet, for one who has experienced mercy, sacrifice is no burden. It flows naturally from the heart. It is the greatest joy.

In my marriage, I have indeed given much to my wife and children over the years. But nothing I have done can compare with what they have given me: a glimpse of the mercy and love of the Lord Jesus. Our marriages, our families, must become schools of genuine love and mercy. For if we love one another unconditionally, if we mercifully accept one another exactly as we are, we will experience a joy beyond description and a very real foretaste of heaven. Even more, our homes will become beacons radiating life and light to a world hungry for the love of God.



PRAYER FOR

Our Marriage

Dear Lord, help us to remember when we first met and the strong love that grew between us.

Help us to work that love into practical things so that nothing can divide us.

We ask for kind and loving words between us and that our hearts are always ready to ask for forgiveness as well as to forgive.

We ask for spiritual guidance as we put our marriage into Your loving hands.

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
Jim Benham
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
Ronald French
Suzanne Lambert
Sandy Peterson
John Matulis
Mary Paska
Michael Lawrence
Tony Thompson
Kevin Ferreira
David
Deborah Young
Fran D'Aleo
Jim Bedenko
Braden O'Halloran
Kevin Sutton

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, Oh Lord!*

**William Moll
Emilie Lazio
Aida Pessagno**



Memorial Flowers

In Memory of: **Mary Hickey
& Mary Percacchiolo**
Requested by: **JoAnn Gair Wilson**



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, February 6

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

Tuesday, February 7

- Opening the Word: Zoom/PLC - 9am
- Walking w/Purpose: ZOOM/in Person PLC - 10am
- Bereavement: PLC/St. Bernadette & St. Michael - 1pm
- Bingo: Main Hall - 5pm
- Hispanic Charismatic Prayer Group: Chapel - 6:45pm
- AA Meeting: PLC/St. Martha & St. Mary - 7pm

Wednesday, February 8

- Pastoral Staff Meeting: OCR - 10am
- Walking w/Purpose: ZOOM - 10am
- Sacrament Prep Only (Church Tour): Church - 6pm
- Middle School Youth Group: Outside - 6pm
- Adult Choir Practice: Chapel - 6pm

Thursday, February 9

- Eucharistic Exhibition: Main Hall - 9am-6pm
- Mass at Cypress Point: Discovery Commons - 9:30am
- Manor Care Mass 10am
- Bridge: PLC/St. Michael/St. Bernadette - 12:30pm
- Adoration: Chapel - 3pm-6pm
- Hispanic Music Rehearsal: PLC/Classroom - 7pm
- Walking w/Purpose: ZOOM - 7:30pm

Friday, February 10

- Eucharistic Exhibition: Main Hall - 9am-6pm
- Respect Life Meeting: St. Martha & St. Mary - 11:30pm

Saturday, February 11

- Eucharistic Exhibition: Main Hall - 9am-6pm
- Special Activity for Children: PLC/ St. Martha & St. Mary - 10:30am - 12:15pm
- Vigil Mass: Church - 4pm
- Vietnamese Mass: Church - 8pm

Sunday, February 12

- 7:15am, 9:15am & 11:15am * *Livestreamed*
- Children's Choir Rehearsal: Chapel - 8:45am
- Eucharistic Exhibition: Main Hall - 9am-6pm
- Pre-School Bible Class: St. Suzanna - 9:15am
- RCIA: PLC/St. Bernadette & St. Michael - 10:15am
- Hispanic Choir: St. Therese - 11am
- Blaze Bible Study: PLC/St. Elizabeth - 12:15pm
- HSYG Session: PLC/St. Martha & St. Mary - 12:15pm
- Spanish Mass: Church - 1:30pm * *via YouTube*
- Praise & Worship: Chapel - 4pm



WELCOME

New Parishioners

- Jules & Laurie Koveleski
- Michael & Regina Zabinski
- Thomas & Lynn Dougherty
- Kenneth & Vanessa LaRochelle III
- Robert Milian & Darlene Vazquez
- Alan Paquette & Riza Padios Paquette
- Timothy & Melissa Schwibbe
- Jose Soto & Lucia Soto Vazquez
- John Davila & Gloria Davila-Leon
- Randall & Margaret Kepple
- Eugene & Elizabeth Roberts
- Marco Frkovic & Noelle Pelletier

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, March 12, 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

PRAYERS FOR

Our Military Personnel

- | | |
|--------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| PFC Bryan Bard | Ryan Silva, Army |
| Sean Ball | 2nd Lt. Greg Fry, USMC |
| Major Bart Boma | Jared Broemmell, US Navy |
| Staff Sgt. Dennis Cosgrove | 2nd Lt. Edward Hudson |
| Sgt. Phil Dellibovi | Tillinghast IV, Army |
| CPT Andrew Dugan, Spec. Forces | Jethro Ignacio, US Air Force |
| Sgt. Jared Gaudet | Com. Craig Fowler, USN |
| Capt. Kellyn C. Hall | Eric Sanchez, US Air Force |
| Andrew Herman | Lt. Col. Mike Garry, US Army, |
| Sgt. Kathleen Hudepohl | 82nd ABN |
| PFC Michael P Hughes | CPL Eric Lyons, USMC |
| SPC Michael Jednak | 2nd Lt. Nicholas Meunier, US Army |
| PFC Andrew Kanopkh | Robert Trenton Morell, Medic |
| Michael Klem | Specialist US Army |
| Major Bradley D. Laux | Michael Thomas Morell, US Navy |
| Capt. Jacob Mundo, US Army | SPC 4 Judy Martinez, US Army |
| SSGT Anthony Padula | 1st Lt. Jeffrey Zivkovic, US Army |
| Master SGT Peter Parison | Christopher Dominski, PFC ARNG |
| Sgt. Justin Pingicer, Army | 2nd Lt. Sara Wulff |
| Lt. Col. Brady Sexton | Sean Dryhurst US Navy |
| 2nd Lt. Kristen Thompson | Lt. Amanda Macaluso |
| Christian Troutner, US Navy | Anthony An Schroeder, |
| Alex Zizzo, US Navy Medic | 11 Bravo Infantry |
| PFC Jordan Feil, USA | Derrick Hambling, Army Airborne |
| Sgt. Hayden Linde, FLARNG | Infantry |
| Aaron Crump, USCG | Maj. Paige Blevins USAF |
| Sgt. Nathaniel Broemmell | Maj. Christopher Blevins USAF |
| Lt. Com. Mark Buonomo | Capt. Cameron Hortman USAF |
| Col. Scott C. Woodward | PFC Alan Copeland |
| Andrew Hawkinson, USN | Augustus Gagis, Major, USAF |
| Cavalry Scout Specialist, | Zachary Gagis, Lieutenant, USN |



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.
- **Bereavement & Beyond:** If you have lost a loved one, we offer a safe, supportive place to deal with this life changing event. The Bereavement and Beyond Group meets each Tuesday from 1pm-3pm in Rooms St. Bernadette & St. Michael. For more information contact the Parish office at (239) 561-2245
- **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-3:30pm. First Friday Adoration with extended Friday hours during Lent except Good Friday. 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: holdenbd@gmail.com or call Dick at (239) 463-3993
- **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

POPE'S PRAYER INTENTIONS

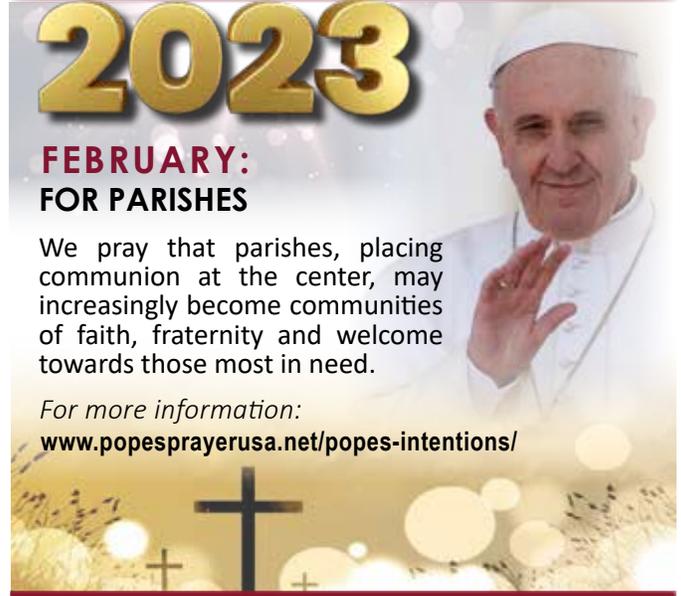
2023

FEBRUARY: FOR PARISHES

We pray that parishes, placing communion at the center, may increasingly become communities of faith, fraternity and welcome towards those most in need.

For more information:

www.popesprayerusa.net/popes-intentions/



ST. JOHN XXIII

THRIFT store



Selling quality goods
for the good of others.

February

30% OFF Framed Art 2' or smaller, Any Size Photo Frames, Stemware, Sets of China/Dishes (*does not include items in the locked cases*)

25% OFF Lamps, Radios, Adding Machines, Alarm Clocks, Speakers, TV's, Office Electronics

20% OFF Clothing, Footwear, Handbags, Costume or Fine Jewelry

PLEASE NOTE: *Specials Cannot be combined with other sales/offers*

Store Hours: MONDAY-FRIDAY 10AM - 5PM
SATURDAY - 10AM - 4PM

Visit our Website: www.bpjthrift.com

International Exhibition
**THE EUCHARISTIC
MIRACLES**
OF THE WORLD

Designed and created by
CARLO ACUTIS



Join Us!

IN THE NARTHEX
NEXT WEEKEND

FEBRUARY 9 - 12

Come and see the exhibition of 146 Vatican approved Eucharistic Miracles across the world. This exhibition was designed by Blessed **CARLO ACUTIS**.

The exhibition is **FREE** and will be available in English and Spanish.

SCHEDULE

For more information contact:
comunidadhispana@johnxxiii.net

Thursday February 9

Exhibition: 9am - 6pm (*Parish Life Center*)

Adoration: 3pm - 6pm (*Our Lady of Rosary Chapel*)

Friday, February 10

Exhibition: 9am-6pm (*Parish Life Center*)

Saturday, February 11

Exhibition: 9am - 6pm (*Parish Life Center*)

Special Activity for Children - The Eucharist:

The Great Miracle: 10:30am - 12:15pm

(*St. Martha and St Mary Room*)

K-2nd Grade: 10:30am - 11:15am

3rd-5th Grade: 11:30am - 12:15pm

Pre-registration is required for this activity.

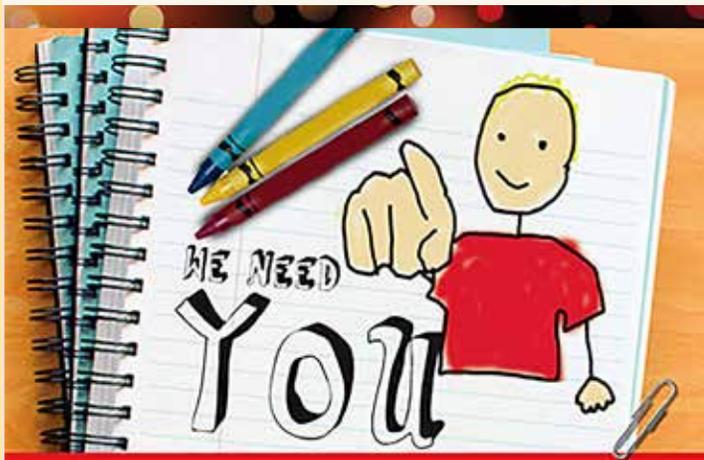
Sunday, February 12

Exhibition: 9am - 5pm (*Parish Life Center*)



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!

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



Are you **BEING CALLED** TO BE OUR NEXT **ASSISTANT FAITH FORMATION Director?**

Are you Catholic and do you have a high school diploma or higher degree?

Are you upbeat and friendly? Extremely organized and have great time management skills?

Do you possess strong computer skills, with a proficiency in Microsoft Word, Excel and Publisher?

Does the idea of working in a fast-paced environment and having fun while sharing our faith with children of all ages sound exciting to you?

If you answered **YES** to all of the above, please email your resume to:

FRANNIE CERNIGLIA
franniedre@johnxxxiii.net

For questions, please call Frannie Monday - Thursday from 8:30am to 4:00pm at **239-561-7499**



ST. JOHN XXIII Catholic Church

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

The music ministry is seeking inspired volunteers to join our exciting music programs. Please find below more information or contact our music director, **Richard Owen**, at: Musicdirector@johnxxiii.net

“Those who sing, pray twice”, said St. Augustine and ‘Those who sing well, sing thrice’.

St. John XXIII Parish Choir:

The Parish Choir is composed of adult women and men who lead the congregation at the Sunday 11:15AM Mass. Weekly rehearsals are Wednesdays, 6-7:00PM.

St. John XXIII Children’s Choir:

The choir is composed of children age 6 - 14 who sing monthly at the Sunday 9:15AM Mass. Rehearsals are on Sundays from 8:45-9:05AM in the Chapel.

St. John XXIII Modern Ensemble:

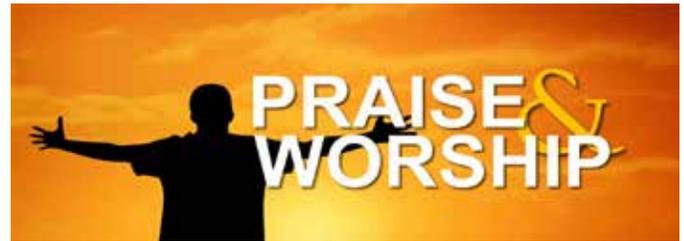
This vocal and instrumental group of teenagers and adults present diverse upbeat repertoire at a monthly 4:00pm Sunday Mass. Rehearsals are twice a month on Wednesdays from 7-8:00PM in the church.



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



SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 12 - 4:00PM
St. Luke Adoration Chapel

Come join our new Praise & Worship Ministry in the St. Luke Adoration Chapel on **Sunday, February 12 at 4:00pm**, and sing a joyful song to the Lord in the presence of Jesus. Our first meeting in January was a big success with approximately 30 people in attendance.

ALL ARE WELCOME! No choir experience necessary, just a loving prayerful heart.

For more information, contact:

Gaby Frei at gabriela@gabrielafrei.com

The
**NEWMAN
CONNECTION**



KEEP OUR YOUTH *Connected* TO THE CHURCH

Did you know that 80% of students stop practicing their faith at some point during college, while only 15% look for a campus ministry on their own?

The Diocese of Venice would like to support our incoming college freshmen by connecting them to catholic organizations at the Universities they will be attending.

The **Newman Connection** is a data entry program that assists in this effort at the national level. We will have Newman Connection cards available at the Welcome Desk for those parents and/or grandparents who wish to fill out the card. The only information needed is the student’s name, college choice and the college’s city. The Campus Ministry will welcome the students and reach out to them when they arrive.

For more information visit the Newman Connection at: www.newmanconnection.com

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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:

7:00pm - 8:00pm in the Church

- **Sunday, February 19**
- **Monday, February 20**
- **Tuesday, February 21**

EXPLORING THE MYSTERY OF PAIN AND SUFFERING

Pain and Suffering are a part of our lives. God does not intend to punish, but would rather like to refine us through pain and suffering. Most people at one time or another experience physical, spiritual, social or emotional pain and suffering. Hunger is frequently endured by a large percent of the world's population. Poverty is widespread. Still others suffer at the hands of people, either in difficult marriages, or with abusive relationships, or oppressive masters. As a result of greed and corruption, the political climate in some countries produces much bloodshed and war. Those with deep spiritual convictions have to suffer persecution because of their obedience to their beliefs. Millions of people around the world suffer daily. Why? What is the reason?



ST. JOHN XXIII
Catholic Church

Weekly Financials



	1-29-23	1-30-22	Difference
Offertory	\$40,943.31	\$30,364.37	\$10,578.94
Building Fund	\$1,845.00	\$2,202.50	(\$357.50)
Total	\$42,788.31	\$32,566.87	\$10,221.44
Mass Attendance	4094	2713	
Registered Families	3745	3581	

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 FINAL

2022 Goal	\$458,000.00
Pledge	\$633,060.36
Payments	\$628,092.10

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

YOU Can ELIMINATE Capital Gains Tax by DONATING Stock!



St. John XXIII Catholic Church is a qualified charity eligible to receive donations of stock. When appreciated stock (or another asset) that you have held for more than a year is transferred directly to charity — there is no capital gains tax due on the sale!

Gifts of stock are processed through the Diocese of Venice at no cost to the parish and can be restricted for offertory, debt reduction, capital projects, CFA, or building our parish endowment.

To make a stock gift, contact **Holly Atkins** in our Parish office at **(239) 561-2245**



2023 PLEDGE CARD

CATHOLIC FAITH APPEAL is **NEXT WEEKEND**. Pledge cards will be available in the church pews. All money collected will go towards the CFA assessment for 2023.

Catholic Faith Appeal

(Please print clearly)

Name: _____

Phone: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Parish Name/City: _____

Email: _____

Total Gift: \$ _____

Amount Enclosed: \$ _____

Balance:\$ _____

Please make checks payable to:

Catholic Faith Appeal

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY
PLACE LABEL HERE

- Cash Check Credit Card
- I made this year's gift directly to the Diocese of Venice.
- I am a previous contributor
- Credit Card information enclosed *(See reverse side)*
- One time Gift
- Monthly Payments

Pledging your gift may allow you to make a more generous and affordable contribution to the CFA. The pledge can be spread out over several months. You may pledge with an initial payment while the remaining balance can be donated at any time during the next nine months. The Diocese will send you monthly reminders.

Your gift to the 2023 CFA will continue to make a difference in supporting the spiritual, educational, charitable and pastoral initiatives at the Diocese of Venice. Thank you!

*"Let us not grow
tired of doing
good,
for in due time
we shall reap our
harvest." (Gal 6:9)*



GIVE ONLINE! Visit us at: www.dioceseofvenice.org

To increase the efficiency of processing your gift, please return this pledge card directly to the parish. If you wish to mail it to the Diocese, please enclose it in a separate envelope and mail to the following address:

Diocese of Venice, PO Box 60759, Fort Myers, FL 33906-6759

CATHOLIC FAITH APPEAL: Q&A

2023
Catholic
Faith
Appeal



What is the Catholic Faith Appeal and for what are its proceeds used?

The Catholic Faith Appeal (CFA) is a yearly invitation to come together as a Diocese and provide assistance to our needy brothers and sisters. It is one of the most effective ways to carry out the work of the Church, and it is a testament to how we live our Catholic Faith. Gifts to the CFA support a broad range of programs and services such as: Vocations and Seminarians, Religious Education, Parishes and Missions in financially challenged areas, Evangelization, Catholic Education, Peace and Social Justice, Catholic Charities and many more. On an annual basis, Parishes in the Diocese of Venice make a required contribution to financially support these efforts. The Catholic Faith Appeal is a means by which all parishioners can take part in helping their Parish to meet its contribution. A Parish Catholic Faith Appeal goal is determined by the income of the Parish and is not based on the number of registered families because our population grows in the winter months from northern visitors. This greatly adds to the success of the Appeal.

How does the CFA benefit my Parish and me?

The Catholic Faith Appeal helps to sustain many diverse programs in our Parishes. Some examples are preparing couples for marriage, providing the curriculum to educate both children and adults in our Faith, forming future priests, educating children in Catholic schools, and supporting religious sisters who serve in various roles. The CFA over the past three years has provided \$5 million to Parishes through donations raised above and beyond their goal. Parishes use the additional funds for a wide variety of purposes as agreed upon by Parish leadership and the Pastor. Some examples are capital improvements, building an endowment for maintenance, tuition assistance or emergency purposes, and expanding community outreach.

Why does Catholic Charities do additional fundraising?

Approximately 15% of the Diocesan budget is given to Catholic Charities to help support its very worthwhile presence in our Diocese. However, this amount is only a percentage of the money needed to carry out its work. In addition to what the Diocese is able to provide, further fundraising is required.

Why are the administrative services included?

The mission of the Church is to continue the work of Christ. To do so requires overseeing and supporting more than 1,000 employees in our schools, Parishes and agencies throughout

the ten counties within the Diocese. These shared services help streamline operations and reduce the overall cost for everyone.

Why are there so many mailings?

More than 3.5 million dollars of the appeal comes to the Diocese through the mailings. Once you have responded to a CFA mailing or made a gift through your Parish, mailings to you will stop with the exception of a thank you letter and yearly tax receipt. Tax receipts are sent to anyone who gives a gift of \$250 or more, which is required by the IRS. It is always wise to keep receipts of your charitable giving for audit purposes.

How much should I give?

In prayerful thanks for the many blessings from God, we as Stewards should reflect an attitude of gratitude by sharing those blessings with our brothers and sisters in need through contributions to our Parish or the CFA. Although we are not all able to make an equal gift, all are invited by Our Lord to make an equal sacrifice. Therefore, your gift is a personal decision between you and God, and should be made after prayerful consideration.

Should I make a pledge or a one-time gift?

Making a pledge allows you to spread your gift throughout the year, which may make it easier for you to pay, and may also allow you to give a larger gift. Pledge statements are sent out monthly unless otherwise requested. These are simply reminders and not bills. You can pay your pledge anytime before the end of the year. If your situation changes, you may also adjust your pledge.

How can I make my gift?

We try to make your giving as easy as possible. You can make a gift through checks, credit cards, stocks, direct debit, IRA transfer, on-line giving at www.dioceseofvenice.org, as well as approved gifts of real estate. Give us a call and we will happily answer your questions (941-486-4719).

Will any funds from the CFA be used to settle lawsuits or for legal expenses?

No, the Catholic Faith Appeal funds are restricted for the funding of the ministries and programs outlined in promotional materials and are not used to settle claims or pay claim related expenses.

If I contribute to my Parish's capital campaign, does the Diocese get a portion of my gift?

Funds from approved Parish capital campaigns are not assessable. Therefore, the fully donated amount is available for use by the Parish for capital campaign purposes.

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:

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 9 - 8:30AM

Pregnancy Resource Center invites you to Breakfast with Life Champions at Hyatt Regency Coconut Point Resort and Spa. Featuring Speaker Pam Tebow, mother of Tim Tebow. For tickets:

<https://secure.fundeasy.com/ministrysync/event/home.php?e=24154>

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 10 - 6:00PM

The New Beginnings of Southwest Florida 6th Annual Benefit Dinner hosted at Crowne Plaza in Ft. Myers. Guest Speaker Amy Ford, co-founder and President of Embrace Grace, Inc., a non-profit organization that seeks to inspire and equip the church to minister to single moms and women facing an unplanned pregnancy. She is also the author of *Help Her Be Brave* and *A Bump In Life*. Tickets are on sale: www.thenewbeginnings.org

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 or call the parish office at (239) 561-2245

respect · love · protect



THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 16 - 6:00PM
OUR LADY OF LIGHT

Suggested \$10 DONATION

Please register at:

www.faiithandale.com

Guest Speaker:

DANNY BADER

Author of "Back to Life" and "I Met Jesus for a Miller Lite".

"Near Death and How I Came Back"



THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 23 - 6:30PM
OUR LADY OF LIGHT

Suggested \$20 DONATION

Please register at:

www.faiithandwineleecounty.com

Guest Speaker:

EMILY JAMINET

"Encountering the Sacred Heart of Jesus So You Can Claim the Promises in Your Life"



END OF LIFE PLANNING



THE CATHOLIC PERSPECTIVE

WHAT DOES THE CATHOLIC CHURCH TEACH ABOUT...

Estate Planning? health care surrogates?
cremation? living wills?
Trust Law? the Sacrament of the Sick? DNR orders? burials?
proportionate vs. disproportionate care? pre-planning a funeral?

Thursday, February 23 • 6:30-8:30pm
Parish Life Center

INFORMATION ABOUT: The St. John XXIII Memorial Garden.
For planning purposes, an RSVP is requested, but not required.

To RSVP, call the Parish Office at **(239) 561-2245**

This is an informational Meeting Only / No Selling

Next Wedding Anniversary Celebration Mass



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 next available Mass will be celebrated at **11:00am on February 18 at Epiphany Cathedral:** 350 Tampa Avenue, Venice.

Please call the parish office at **(239) 561-2245** for reservations no later than a week before the Mass.

Exploring the Seven Dwelling Places of ST. TERESA OF AVILA

COME JOIN *Fr. Bill Jarema*

The 2023 Growing Rich in Mercy Program will explore the Seven Dwelling places of Teresa of Avila.

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



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:

themeracycenter@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

Venetian Ball: SATURDAY, MARCH 4, 2023



Delight in an elegant evening of cocktails, stories of perseverance and hope, dinner, auction and dancing. Proceeds will benefit Resilience, Rebuilding and Community for Hurricane Ian Survivors in Lee, Hendry & Glades Counties.

LOCATION: St. Leo the Great Catholic Church
Parish Life Center - Bonita Springs, Florida

COCKTAILS: 6:00PM **DINNER:** 7:00PM **TICKETS:** \$250 Per Person

Sponsorship Opportunities Available. For information, please contact (239) 334-4007 ext. 2100 or email: venetianball@catholiccharitiesdov.org

HELP NEEDED: Catholic Charities Ft. Myers needs help with your ideas and perhaps footwork to pull together a badly needed Venetian Ball to refill the coffers. Please join us by contacting (239) 225-0264 to help raise money for the many very needy people. Thank you for your time, talent and treasure.

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Youth Rally

Friday, March 24, 2023

5:00 p.m.-10:00 p.m.

Keynote Speaker

Father Timothy Anastos

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Saturday, March 25, 2023

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