



ST. JOHN XXIII

Catholic Church

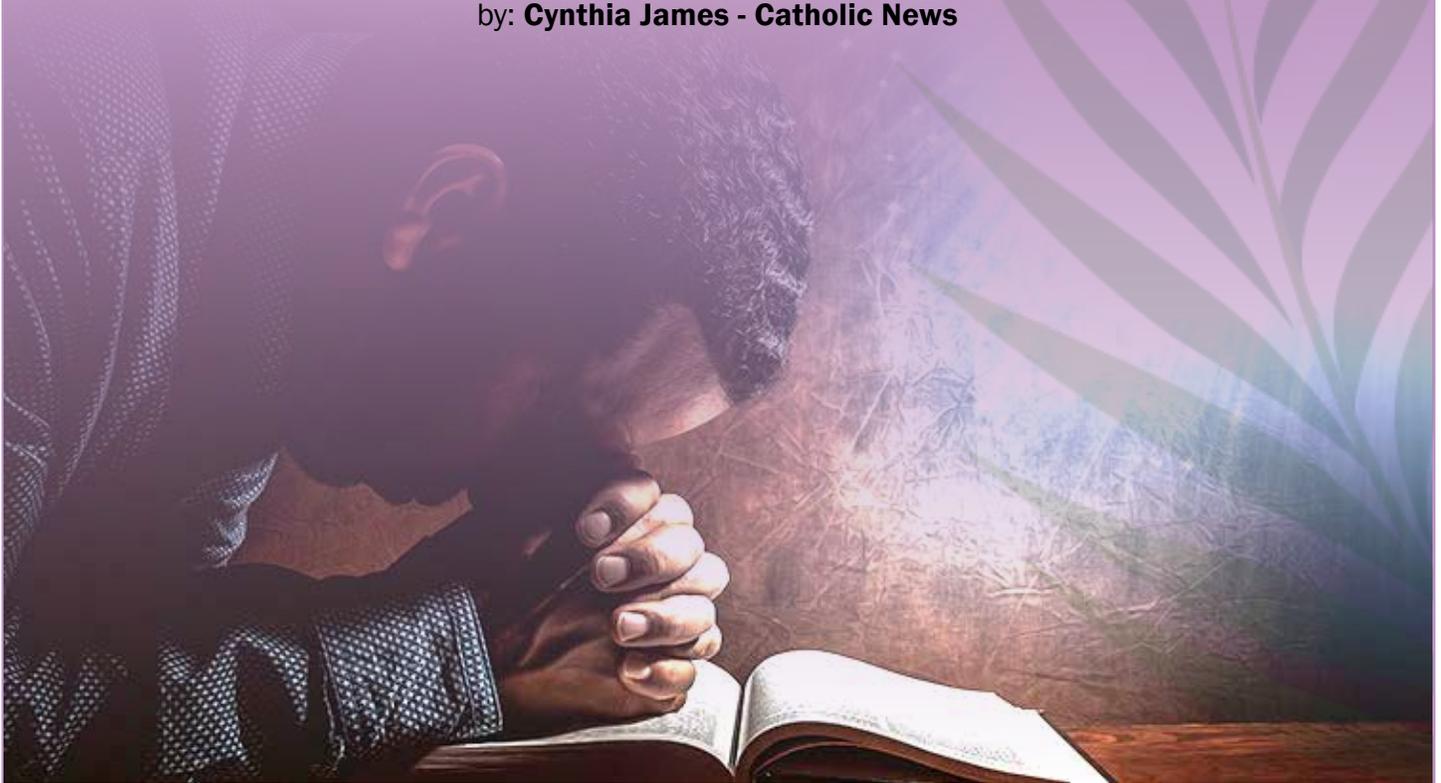
13060 Palomino Lane, Fort Myers, FL 33912 | P 239-561-2245 | F 239-561-3713 | www.johnxxiii.net

February 26, 2023

Lenten Message

WE NEED TO LISTEN TO JESUS

by: **Cynthia James - Catholic News**



Pope Francis recently shared a message for Lent 2023 that encouraged Catholics to listen to what Jesus wants to tell them through the Scriptures and through others. He used the story of Jesus' Transfiguration as a launching point to address both the journey of Lent and the Catholic Church's ongoing Synod on Synodality.

Continued on Page 3

February 26, 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

deaconjg@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 27

- 8:00 AM ♥ Brian Downey family by Louise

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 28

- 8:00 AM † Diane Shea Trevino by Tim Shea

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 1

- 8:00 AM † Gene Hibler by Dorothy LaBianca

THURSDAY, MARCH 2

- 8:00 AM † Darren McCarthy by Corvette Club friends

FRIDAY, MARCH 3

- 8:00 AM † Pat Nacol by Marc & Lucy Bingcang

SATURDAY, MARCH 4

- 8:00 AM ♥ Felix Jose family
- 4:00 PM † Leonard Dixon by the St. John XXIII Pastoral Team
- 8:00 PM † Anna - Vietnamese Mass

SUNDAY, MARCH 5

- 7:15 AM † Pat Nacol by Craig & Sue Edwards
- 9:15 AM † Adam Risvold by his parents
- 11:15 AM † Joseph & Josephine Calio by Marian Louden
- 1:15 PM ♥ Yesenia Villanueva by her family

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.

MARCH 5, 2023 - READINGS

- 1ST READING GN 12:1-4A
- PSALM PS 33:4-5, 18-19, 20, 22
- 2ND READING 2 TM 1:8B-10
- GOSPEL MT 17:1-9

FIRST FRIDAY Adoration

MARCH 3
ADORATION CHAPEL
open: 8:30am - 8:00pm

PLEASE NOTE: ALL FRIDAYS during Lent the chapel will be open until 8:00pm. The chapel is closed for the Triduum.

Pastoral Team

Business Manager

Holly Atkins

holly@johnxxiii.net

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239-561-2245

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239-561-2245

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239-561-2245

Admin. Assistant

Barbara Lange

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239-561-2245

Lenten Message CONTINUED

He started by recalling the command that God the Father addresses to the disciples on Mount Tabor as they contemplate Jesus transfigured. The voice from the cloud says: 'Listen to him.' The first proposal, then, is very clear: We need to listen to Jesus, he said. "Lent is a time of grace to the extent that we listen to him as he speaks to us."

During this liturgical season, he continued, the Lord takes us with him to a place apart. While our ordinary commitments compel us to remain in our usual places and our often repetitive and sometimes boring routines, during Lent we are invited to ascend 'a high mountain' in the company of Jesus and to live a particular experience of spiritual discipline — asceticism — as God's holy people.

Pope Francis compared the journey of Lent and the Church's ongoing Synod on Synodality to a "strenuous mountain trek." He acknowledged that the journey may be difficult and challenging, but encouraged believers to focus on their goals and stay committed. He reminded them that Lent is not an end in itself but a means of preparing for Easter. Similarly, the synodal process may be arduous, but the end result is undoubtedly something wondrous and amazing, which will help us to understand better God's will and our mission in the service of his kingdom.

He urged Catholics to undertake Lenten penance, which is a commitment to overcoming their lack of faith and resistance to following Jesus on the way of the cross. He also reminded them that the Lenten journey is like an uphill mountain trek, which requires effort, sacrifice, and concentration.

In addition, The Vatican's Dicastery for Promoting Integral Human Development will launch a communication campaign, "With him on the mountain: Lenten penance and the synodal journey," based on Pope Francis' message. Every week, the campaign will present a new "step" on the journey of Lent, including reflection questions based on the Scripture passages and the pope's message.

In conclusion, Pope Francis reminds Catholics to take the time to listen to Jesus and embrace the spiritual discipline of Lent. Though the journey may be difficult, the end result will be a better understanding of God's will and our mission in the service of His kingdom. He encourages them to stay committed, to confront the difficulties of daily life and to undertake the journey of Lent like an uphill mountain trek.



PRAY FAST GIVE

NEXT WEEKEND
Celebrate
 FATHER BOB

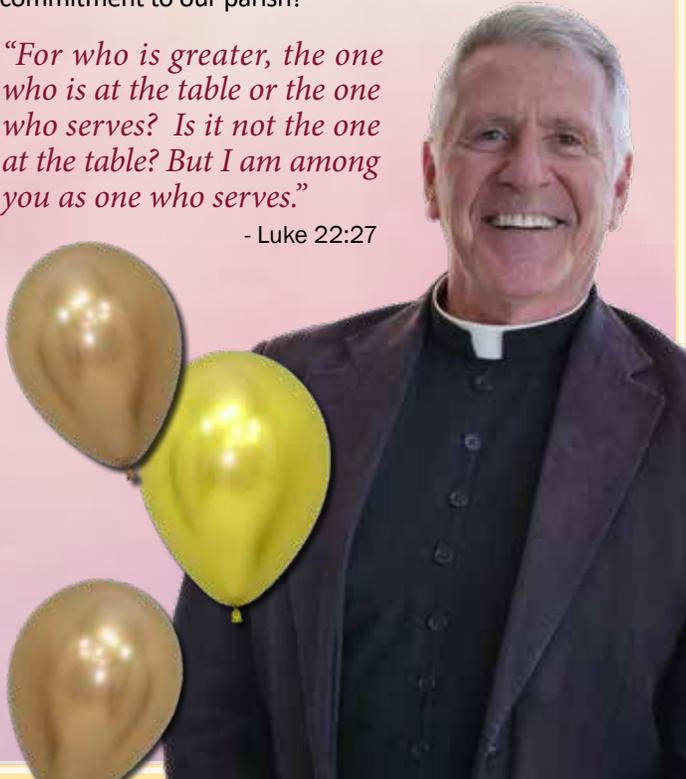


SATURDAY, MARCH 4
After the 4pm Mass - PLC
SUNDAY, MARCH 5
After all Masses - PLC

Join us next weekend for a reception in the Parish Life Center, as we honor **Fr. Bob Tabbert** in his retirement. His ordination date is May 19, 1979 and he has served 16 years at St. John XXIII. Thank you for your guidance and commitment to our parish!

“For who is greater, the one who is at the table or the one who serves? Is it not the one at the table? But I am among you as one who serves.”

- Luke 22:27



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
 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
 Michael D.
 Hermann Preissler
 Peg Gaffney
 Laurie Gilligan
 Lois Patterson
 Elethia Oliver-Ajose
 Cathy McManus
 Infant Anthony Vardan
 Jim Aversa

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 epriayer.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!*

Sandra Siewert



Tabernacle Candle

In Memory of: **Patricia Anastasio**
 Requested by: **Anthony**



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 27

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

Tuesday, February 28

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

Wednesday, March 1

- Walking w/Purpose: ZOOM - 9:30am
- Pastoral Staff Meeting: OCR - 10am
- Middle School Youth Group: Outside - 6pm
- Sacrament Prep Only (Teaching Mass): Church - 6pm
- Adult Choir Practice: Chapel - 6pm

Thursday, March 2

- Mass at Cypress Point: Discovery Commons - 9:30am
- Bridge: PLC/St. Michael/St. Bernadette - 12:30pm
- Hispanic Music Rehearsal: PLC/Classroom - 7pm
- Walking w/Purpose: ZOOM - 7:30pm

Friday, March 3

- 1st Friday Adoration: Church - 8:30am
- Adoration Chapel open 8:30am - 8pm
- KofC Fish Fry: Main Hall - 5:30pm - 7pm
- Stations of the Cross & Benediction: Church - 6pm



Saturday, March 4

- Growing Rich in Mercy: Main Hall - 9am-12pm
- Vigil Mass: Church - 4pm
- Fr. Bob Retirement: after 4pm Mass - Main Hall
- Vietnamese Mass: Church - 8pm

Sunday, March 5

- 7:15am, 9:15am & 11:15am * *Livestreamed*
- Fr. Bob Retirement: after all Masses - Main Hall
- Children's Choir Rehearsal: Chapel - 8:45am
- Pre-School Bible Class: St. Suzanna - 9:15am
- RCIA: PLC/St. Bernadette & St. Michael - 10:15am
- Hispanic Choir: St. Elizabeth - 11am
- Blaze Bible Study: PLC/St. Therese - 12:15pm
- HSYG Session: PLC/St. Martha & St. Mary - 12:15pm
- 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/tvmas/

WELCOME

New Parishioners

- Matthew & Breanna Hiller
- Carlos Rivera & Sandra De Jesus
- Brad & Juliana Negulescu
- Jose Sandoval & Diana Juarez
- Sean Dullea & Karen Richards

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

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 support on your envelope and place it in the weekly offertory basket.

PRAYERS FOR

Our Military Personnel

- | | |
|--------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| PFC Bryan Bard | Ryan Silva, Army |
| Sean Ball | 2nd Lt. Greg Fry, USMC |
| Major Bart Boma | Jared Broemmel, 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 Broemmel | 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 |

LENTEN PRAYER

Loving God, During the sacred season of Lent, bring me closer to you. Prepare a place in my home and heart for silence and solitude, so that I may rediscover the grace of a prayer-filled life.

Help me to fast from those things that threaten the well-being of my body and soul and remind me of the grace of simplicity.

Enlarge my heart so that I give to those in need and, in so doing, rediscover the grace and gratitude and generosity.

May this season be a grace-filled time to rekindle my love for, and faith in You.

Amen



FRIDAY, MARCH 3

5:30PM TO 7:00PM - PARISH LIFE CENTER

The Knights of Columbus will be holding a fish fry on **Friday, March 3** from **5:30pm to 7:00pm** in the Parish Life Center. **Dinner includes:** fish, french fries, coleslaw, beverages and chocolate pudding.

ADULTS: \$15 children 12 & under: \$10

Tickets will be available in the Narthex this weekend. **LIMIT 200 TICKETS**

Information Websites

Below are suggested websites to stay current on what is happening in the Catholic church:

WHISPERS IN THE LOGGIA:
whispersintheloggia.blogspot.com

CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE:
www.catholicnews.com

CRUX:
cruxnow.com

BISHOP BARRON:
www.wordonfire.org

FR. RICHARD ROHR:
cac.org/category/daily-meditations





Fasting & Abstinence Regulations

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

REGULATIONS ON FASTING AND ABSTINENCE

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

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

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

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

ST. PATRICK'S DAY DISPENSATION

With St. Patrick's Day falling on a Friday (March 17) during the Lenten Season, Bishop Frank J. Dewane is granting a one-day dispensation of abstaining from meat on that Friday alone. The Faithful are encouraged to choose another day in the same week to abstain from meat and to perform some other penance or work of charity on March 17 to assist in their spiritual Lenten journey. Abstinence from meat is to be observed by all Catholics who are 14 years of age or older. Ash Wednesday and all the Fridays of Lent (including Good Friday) are days of abstinence. Fasting, almsgiving, and prayer are the three traditional disciplines of Lent.

Parish NURSING MINISTRY

I HAVE DIABETES



**Now What?
I have so many Questions!**

DR. MANUEL PARDO M.D
Retired Endocrinologist

THURSDAY, MARCH 9
2:00PM - 3:30PM
PARISH LIFE CENTER

Samples of questions you may have:

- Could I have done anything to prevent Diabetes?
- What happens to my Pancreas that makes me Diabetic?
- What does my blood sugar tell me about Diabetes?
- What should my blood sugar be?
- How do I check my own blood sugar?
- What helps treat Diabetes?
- What can I eat if I know I have Diabetes?
- If I find something sugar free can I eat as much as I want?
- What kind of medicine will I take if I have Diabetes?
- How often do I need to check my blood sugar?
- Can I take pills for Diabetes or will I need a shot of Insulin?
- What is more dangerous? High or low blood sugar?

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Reservations are requested but not necessary. If you have any questions, please e-mail helengtuffy@gmail.com or call (239) 826-6873

On **Friday, February 17**, the highly anticipated arrival of the **St. Michael the Archangel** statue was installed! We find comfort that “God’s General” is protecting our parish!



The prayer which Pope Leo XIII composed was 10 times the length of the version we use today. Use of the prayer was discontinued in 1964. Thirty years later, in his Regina Coeli address, Pope John Paul II revived use of the prayer. He said, “Although the prayer is no longer recited at the end of Mass, I ask everyone not to forget it and to recite it to obtain help in the battle against the forces of darkness and against the spirit of the world.” The pope clearly intended that we should offer this prayer in our homes as well. *The prayer, is as follows:*

***St. Michael the Archangel,
defend us in battle. Be
our defense against the
wickedness and snares of
the devil. May God rebuke
him, we humbly pray, and
do thou, O Prince of the
heavenly hosts, by the
power of God, thrust into
hell Satan, and all the
evil spirits, who prowl
about the world seeking
the ruin of souls.***

Amen.



St. Michael THE ARCHANGEL

When one of our parishioners traveled to Orlando. He was looking for a church to attend on Sunday and found Our Lady Queen of the Universe Basilica. Walking from the parking lot to the church, right in the middle of a long, paved path is a statue of Saint Michael the Archangel. It was a beautiful statue, but there was something very appealing and welcoming about it. The way his hand was outstretched in a welcoming gesture, the look of peace on his face, the incredibly powerful wings: this was something holy! St. Michael, known as "God's General", has been fighting evil, keeping the devil at bay. It seems that evil has been making great strides in our world. A statue like this at St. John XXIII will remind us that this great saint, an Archangel, is willing and able to help us pray for the good.

We want to personally thank the anonymous family who funded the project of our new St. Michael the Archangel statue.

We look forward to sending a prayer to "God's General" as he stands outside the church, welcoming and protecting our parish family as we enter and exit.

About the Artist - Laura Parks Dobbs

Laura Parks Dobbs attended Boston University, the University of New Hampshire and the Skowhegan School of Art before settling at the Naguib School of Sculpture on the shores of Lake Michigan just outside of Chicago. There Laura began her education in the classic style of full figure human sculpture as protégé to world renowned artist and master sculptor Mustafa Naguib, where her work consisted of all aspects of steel armature construction, clay sculpture, mold making, casting and finishing.

Laura's recent works include commissions of St. Peter and St. Michael The Archangel for The Basilica of the National Shrine of Mary Queen of the Universe, in Lake Buena Vista Florida. Commissions for the Mennello Museum of American Art and The George C. Young United States Federal Building and Courthouse in Orlando, and a sculpture for The Smithsonian Institute in Washington DC.



Laura Parks Dobbs



History Showcase

PARISH LIFE CENTER

by: **Maureen Dombrowski**

“Need. Opportunity. Challenge.”

“These words come to mind when thinking of our beautiful Parish Life Center (PLC) and how we got to where we are today. The need was very apparent by 2013 as faith formation, adult education, and parish events were being held in makeshift areas throughout the decommissioned chapel, narthex, and church aisleways. The opportunity to pursue the PLC became a reality once the original mortgage was paid off and the diocese granted approval to proceed. The challenge was to raise more than \$5 million prior to breaking ground. The generosity of our parish community was simply overwhelming. It is something we should be proud of.” - *Steve Engelman*, former Strategic Planning Committee chairperson Steve’s words capture the essence of the herculean task of mounting a capital campaign and constructing our Parish Life Center. The vision for a PLC began with founding pastor, Rev. Charles K. Sullivan and became a reality under the guidance of current pastor, Rev. Robert Tabbert.

Due to the sacrificial giving of parishioners and the work of countless ministries, the multi-million goal was reached in 2017. The architectural firm of **SchenkelShultz** designed a facility that would blend in and complement the existing architecture of the parish campus. The local contracting firm of Owen-Ames-Kimball was hired and the long-awaited groundbreaking was held October 22, 2017.

The need for this 20,000 square foot complex, housing nine multi-use classrooms with office space, fellowship hall, indoor/outdoor stage and commercial kitchen grew as the parish expanded from the several hundred families when it began in 2002 to a parish that serves more than 3700 families in 2023.

Bishop Frank J. Dewane, Bishop of the Diocese of Venice, Florida, formally dedicated St. John XXIII Parish Life Center, along with our Adoration Chapel, on November 18, 2018. The bishop’s blessing of this holy ground echoes the sentiment of the capital campaign prayer, *“May we give as a gift to future generations what we have received as a gift from You, O God.”*





ST. JOHN XXIII
Catholic Church

Weekly Financials



	2-19-23	2-20-22	Difference
Offertory	\$37,331.39	\$38,347.62	(\$1,016.23)
Building Fund	\$1,619.30	\$1,459.30	\$160.00
Total	\$38,950.69	\$39,806.92	(\$856.23)
Mass Attendance	4115	3411	
Registered Families	3712	3589	

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

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

2023 Catholic Faith Appeal - NO UPDATE

2023 Goal	\$488,000.00
Pledge	\$85,848.00
Payments	\$34,817.83

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



OUR LADY OF THE ROSARY CHAPEL

Stations of the Cross

MEMORIALIZE A LOVED ONE

Artist Chris Scala has designed the beautiful new Stations of the Cross in the Our Lady of the Rosary Chapel. This is an opportunity for you to memorialize a loved one for **\$5,000** each. (*5 remaining*)

For more information please contact **Holly Atkins** at **(239) 561-2245**

NINE STATIONS have already been memorialized! Please inquire on availability.



Memorialization

The art of commemorating the lives of those we love.





MIKE REESE

MARCH 2 - 9:00AM

MARCH 7 - 6:30PM

Parish Life Center



SpirituallyFIT

FOR EASTER



- **Growing on our Faith Journey**
- **Fundamentals of the Spiritual Life**
- **Practical Advice & Tips**
- **Common Stumbling Blocks**
- **FAQ: Questions & Answers**



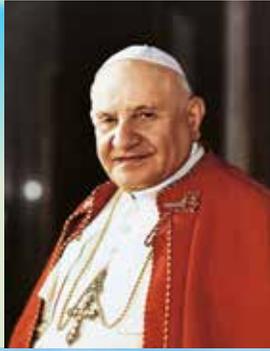
CHANGING OUR MINDS

by Joanne Halt, M.A.

February is National Black History Month. The topic of racism produces discomfort and it should. Scapegoating is a psychological defense mechanism of denial by projecting failure and blame onto others to deflect responsibility away from oneself. Slavery was justified for centuries here for the economic gain it enabled. Scapegoating slaves enabled folks to deflect responsibility from themselves for perpetuating this evil. Jesus knew the bias of his time (Jews vs Samaritans) and modeled inclusion. His alternate vision of no separation-no enemy, scandalized his followers. Even with the Romans, Jesus' response was one of non-violence. The impulse to scapegoat "others" is in our nature. It shows up in families, school bullying, mass shootings, police over-reaction. "Others" deserve what they get. Church history contains institutional scapegoating-burning heretics, crusades against infidels, anti-Semitism. How can we avoid this psychological defense mechanism? It takes practice to separate from our thoughts so we can observe them. Mindfulness is a technique to focus our awareness on the present moment, while acknowledging and accepting feelings, thoughts, and bodily sensations **before** we act. It helps us to avoid being **flooded** and carried away.

Catholic Social Justice teaches See-Judge-Act as the way to discern correct action in situations of injustice. SEE: **Experience** - what is happening? What is the lived experience of impacted people? Are we listening to people most directly affected? Can we/ do we share their experience? If not, do we need to undertake exposure/immersion? JUDGE: **Analyze** - why is this happening? What are the causes (historical, political, economic, social or cultural) of the situation? What are the consequences? How are these causes and consequences linked? Who are the key actors (subjects, agents of influence, decision makers)? Theological Reflection: Are Gospel values being upheld or denied? How do the Scriptures and Catholic Social Teaching speak to this situation? What experiences by the historical Christian community help us to discern this issue? ACT: **Respond** - We can respond to injustice by: direct service of the poor or marginalized; education or raising awareness; advocacy & transformation of causes; mobilization; faith formation. Our response will never be perfect or complete so we keep repeating See-Judge-Act. "Do justice, love mercy and walk humbly with God." *Micah 6:8*

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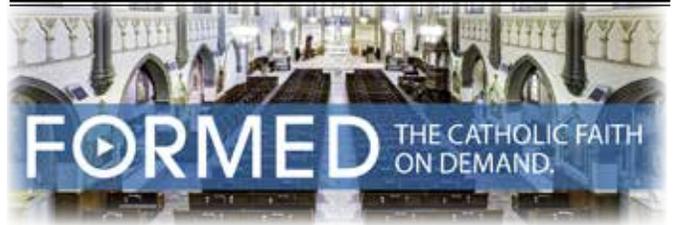
The Respect Life Ministry is open to all who are interested in learning about LIFE issues from conception to natural death. If you would like to be kept up to date please join our email list at: respectlifejohn23@gmail.com or call the parish office at (239) 561-2245

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Be Blessed and Encouraged at our next Magnificat breakfast for women, **Saturday, March 4, 9:30am-12:30pm** at the Holiday Inn Airport, Gulf Coast Town Center, in Fort Myers. Our guest speaker is Margaret Vasquez.

Margaret Vasquez, is a Licensed Professional Clinical Counselor, Certified Trauma Therapist, Certified Intensive Trauma Therapy Instructor, a Certified Traumatologist and Field Traumatologist, and is Certified in Myers-Briggs. She is the founder and director of Sacred Heart Healing Ministries.

Margaret has appeared on numerous episodes of Women of Grace on EWTN, many radio shows, podcasts, and has worked in the healing ministry for many years. She now provides healing/wellness/ and relationship coaching on-line and presents retreats and parish seminars based on a Theology of relationships.

Margaret suffered for many years as a traumatized person before finding healing and freedom through a variation of the therapy she has honed. Due to this experience, coupled with a degree in Theology, she sees life's challenges from a perspective of human and spiritual integration. Margaret is passionate about helping you live in the freedom and peace the Lord has for you.

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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

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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.

Catholic Community

HAPPENINGS



NAMI Walks: Our parish team, Journey to Hope will walk at sunset March 4 in the NAMI Walks that was postponed from October 1, 2022 due to Hurricane Ian. If you are interested in joining us at Centennial Park, contact Jhalt@NAMILee.org

In Concert - Richard Van Dyke, Piano: Join us on Sunday, March 5 for a concert featuring a kaleidoscope of works by classical German and contemporary American composers. Dr. Van Dyke holds a Doctor of Musical Arts Degree in Piano Performance from the Cincinnati Conservatory of Music and is currently the Keyboard Coordinator at Northern Kentucky University. He will be assisted on several piano duets by Lee Van Asten. Location: Iona Hall, St. Columbkille Catholic Church, 12171 Iona Rd., Fort Myers, FL. Free-will offerings accepted. For more information call (239) 489-3973

Long-Sleeve Relief Drive (Through April 6): Please consider collecting long-sleeve shirts, food, and/or money to benefit our farmworkers. For more information call 888-275-9953 or visit: <https://donorbox.org/long-sleeve-relief-drive-2-2>

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.

Safe Environment Training: The Diocese of Venice requires that all employees and those volunteers who work with children and/or vulnerable adults be fingerprinted and trained in Safe Environment prior to beginning employment or volunteering. For further details please visit <https://dioceseofvenice.org/offices/programs/safeenvironment/>

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

Regret Rosary Repair: Send your broken rosaries in a padded envelope to Betty and Dick Holden, Free Rosary Repair Service, 1900 Purdy Ave. #2115, Miami Beach, FL 33139. Rosaries will be repaired and returned within the week of receipt. Donations of old rosaries are also accepted which will be repaired and sent to missions. Include a note indicating repair or donation. For more details, please call (239) 463-3993 or email holdenbnd@gmail.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

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

WEEKLY BRIDGE GAME



Our weekly bridge group meets every Thursday at 12:30pm in the Parish Life Center. Join us at our next game on **March 2**

If you are interested in playing, please contact: **Jan Krahn at (239) 689-1142**

Please leave a message if there is no answer, or email at krahnd@hotmail.com with "bridge" in the subject line. Please register with Jan before coming to play.

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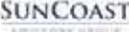
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