



ST. JOHN XXIII

Catholic Church

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

March 5, 2023

Lenten

HEALING & LIBERATION

by: **Kathleen Beckman - Catholic Exchange**

*"I am the Way and
Truth and the Life."*

Lent's forty days of prayer and fasting offer a process of healing and liberation. In Lent we place ourselves nearer to the suffering servant, Jesus Christ. We ponder the Redeemer's suffering. We remember that Christ's Passion sanctified all human suffering. We relate to His pain because we are touched by the corporate weight of sin and evil in the world. It rubs against us in ordinary life. The Christian is called to push back the tsunami of sin and evil.

Demons are liars and not to be listened to but as Fr. Bamonte, a Rome exorcist, teaches, there are times when, in the midst of the rite of exorcism, a demon is forced by God to say something absolutely true to glorify the Father and torment the demon.

We were praying the rosary silently as the mandated priest began to pray from the "Rite". Suddenly a guttural voice burst forth from the tormented person, "I hate Lent! We hate Lent! You believers do what you're supposed to do! Hate!"

Why does Lent pose a real threat to the kingdom of darkness? It's focus is on prayer, penance and almsgiving. This foundational tripod has the intentional purpose of formation for Love. We attempt to reorder our lives to the Gospel.

Through His suffering, Christ enters into our hearts anew; into that part of us that longs for encounter and healing.

On the Cross, divine love is revealed. His Passion, the bridge to Easter, tenderizes our heart; challenges our mind. The Paschal mystery is a unique love story; it's our story. It's personal. Christ saw you and me from the Cross. With our sin we echo, "Crucify Him".

Christ freely gives his life to save us. The demons hate Lent because the faithful remember our dignity in light of His passion. We recall the price He paid to heal and liberate us. Calvary is a matter of life and death. Through His wounds we receive healing as understood in scripture, "He himself bore our sins in his body on the cross, so that, free from sins, we might live for righteousness; by his wounds you have been healed (1 Peter 2:24)."

The following are 7 keys to healing liberation:

AWARENESS

"Stay awake, alert", scripture tells us. Lent invites us to keen awareness of God's abiding presence. We examine our consciousness, and conscience to repent and gain freedom to know, love and serve God. We are always aware of what or who we love. Once I heard a priest retreat master challenge the audience of clergy, "Fathers, if you are not aware of the angelic presence that is filling this room presently, then your spiritual antenna is not tuned in."

Continued on Page 3

March 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, MARCH 6

- 8:00 AM † Marion Lamone by her husband, Gene

TUESDAY, MARCH 7

- 8:00 AM † Joseph McKenna by Pat & Adrian Humbert

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 8

- 8:00 AM † Lorraine Ballarin by Mary Theresa Palma

THURSDAY, MARCH 9

- 8:00 AM † Joseph & Peter Curia by their family

FRIDAY, MARCH 10

- 8:00 AM † Pat Nacol by Jim & Cindy Dwyer

SATURDAY, MARCH 11

- 8:00 AM † Joe McCafferty by Mary Cramsey
- 4:00 PM † Richard Zaborowski by Ted Zaborowski
- 8:00 PM † Peter - Vietnamese Mass

SUNDAY, MARCH 12

- 7:15 AM † Pino Busanic by Italo & Anica
- 9:15 AM † Achille DeSanctis by Flavia
- 11:15 AM † Joseph Pash by his family
- 1:30 PM † Aida Pessagno by Silvana Krokos

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 12, 2023 - READINGS

- 1ST READING EX 17:3-7
- PSALM PS 95:1-2, 6-7, 8-9
- 2ND READING ROM 5:1-2, 5-8
- GOSPEL JN 4:5-42



Spring AHEAD

DON'T BE LATE FOR MASS next Sunday! Set your clocks 1 hour ahead on **Saturday, March 11** before you go to bed.

Pastoral Team

Business Manager

Holly Atkins

holly@johnxxiii.net

239-561-2245

Facilities Director

Jason Goss

239-561-2245

Maintenance

Jonathan Enright

239-561-2245

Dir. of Religious Education

Frannie Cerniglia

franniedre@johnxxiii.net

239-561-7499

Bookkeeper

Ana Thompson

ana@johnxxiii.net

239-561-2245

Receptionist

MaryAnn Deas

maryann@johnxxiii.net

239-561-2245

Admin. Assistant

Jennifer Baumgardner

jennb@johnxxiii.net

239-561-2245

Admin. Assistant

Marie Boutwell

marieb@johnxxiii.net

239-561-2245

Bulletin Editor

Colleen Leavy

bulletineditor@johnxxiii.net

239-561-2245

Liturgy Coordinator

Bethany Myers

bethany@johnxxiii.net

239-561-2245

Music Director

Richard Owen

musicdirector@johnxxiii.net

239-561-2245

Youth Ministry

Kelly Evers

kelly@johnxxiii.net

239-561-3022

Thrift Store Manager

Cynthia Conzatti

thrift@johnxxiii.net

239-433-4097

15200 S. Tamiami Trail #110
Ft. Myers, FL 33908

PART-TIME EMPLOYEES:

PLC Coordinator

Ivette Janoschka

ivette@johnxxiii.net

239-561-2245

Admin. Assistant

Barbara Lange

blange@johnxxiii.net

239-561-2245

Healing/Liberation CONTINUED

ACCOUNTABILITY

During Lent the Church intentionally increases opportunities for the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Confession is one of two sacraments categorized as “healing”. Accountability to a confessor is healthy for the soul, offering relief from shame and guilt, releasing the weight of sin-sickness. Confession is a healing encounter with Christ who quickly embraces us with His tender mercies.

REVELATION

The Paschal mystery is the revelation of Trinitarian love. Inexhaustible is the contemplation of the Father’s revelation in His Son Jesus. During Lent we can grow deeper in love with God and more able to imitate Christ’s life.

REPARATION

Lent is a time to offer reparation for the sins of the world. In Roman Catholic tradition, an act of reparation is a prayer or devotion with the intent to expiate the “sins of others”, e.g. for the repair of the sin of blasphemy, or the sufferings of Jesus Christ. The opportunity to offer reparation on behalf of the sins of others is a powerful act of mercy. If I can offer to God my act of reparation for the sins of any family (mine included), it is a privilege to do so. If you have loved ones living who left the Church (who doesn’t?), you can offer reparation to the heart of Jesus. The Sacred Heart never ceases to be pierced by our sin. The evil spirits will tempt and discourage you away from offering reparation. Resist and they will flee.

SIMPLICITY

Lenten practices encourage us to simplify our lives. Most of us strive for increased austerity during the 40 days of penitential practice. Prayer simplifies the heart. Fasting purifies the soul. Almsgiving magnifies the Lord. Interior and exterior simplicity exemplifies purity of heart. To be content with less is to make more room for God. We can ponder Mother Mary’s simplicity to see it’s genius and beauty. Even during her Son’s Passion, Mary models the simplicity of desiring only God’s will. Anyone who’s read the C.S. Lewis classic, *The Screwtape Letters* (a good lesson on spiritual warfare), learns how the evil spirits try to complicate our lives to distract us away from God.

OBEDIENCE

Obedience is a willed response to faith in God. We obey because we believe and love our Creator. One third of the angels were cast out of Heaven because they decided to disobey, and rebel against God’s will. During exorcisms, we witness how very legalistic the demons are. Obedience is a protective armor. Scripture reveals that God loves obedience. Obedience of faith is sometimes difficult but grace makes it very possible.

HUMILITY

Humility is truth; the moral virtue that prevents a person from reaching beyond himself. Pride does the opposite. Adam and Eve demonstrate pride through their disobedience in the Garden. Humility restrains the unruly desire for selfish greatness and lead us to true esteem with respect to God and others. Religious humility recognizes one’s total dependence on God. Moral humility recognizes one’s creaturely equality with others. Humility is not only the opposite of pride. It’s opposed to immoderate self-abjection, which fails to recognize God’s gifts and use them according to his will. Humility in Latin means humus, or ground.

Lent affords a special opportunity to consider Christ’s humility and imitate it. Pride can hide in corners of our heart. On Ash Wednesday the Church reminds us, “You are dust”, but we need to be aware that it is in His Blood that has sanctified, saved and healed the dust that we are.

How does Lent lead to healing? Accompanying Christ into the tomb, we arise with Him on Easter, a new creation.



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.

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
Braden O'Halloran
Cynthia & William
Jim Benham
Ella
John Hagan
Alan Podbesek
Ronald French
Suzanne Lambert
Sandy Peterson
John Matulis
Mary Paska
Michael Lawrence

Tony Thompson
Kevin Ferreira
David
Deborah Young
Jim Bedenko
Kevin Sutton
Michael D.
Hermann Preissler
Peg Gaffney
Laurie Gilligan
Lois Patterson
Elethia Oliver-Ajose
Cathy McManus
Infant Anthony Vardan
Jim Aversa
Stephen & Connie
Kahn Le
Cathy McManus

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!
Geraldo Alfaro



PLEASE HELP OUR ACCOUNTING DEPARTMENT BY INCLUDING YOUR ENVELOPE # ON YOUR DONATION

REMINDER

When you are writing a **CHECK** for your donation please only use **BLACK** or **BLUE INK** because other colors **DO NOT** show up when they are scanned at the bank.

Thank You



Weekly Calendar

PLC = PARISH LIFE CENTER



Monday, March 6

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

Tuesday, March 7

- Opening the Word: Zoom/PLC - 9am
- Walking w/Purpose: ZOOM/in Person PLC - 10am
- Bereavement: PLC/St. Bernadette & St. Michael - 1pm
- Spiritually Fit for Easter: Main Hall - 6:30pm
- Hispanic Charismatic Prayer Group: Chapel - 6:45pm
- AA Meeting: PLC/St. Martha & St. Mary - 7pm

Wednesday, March 8

- Walking w/Purpose: ZOOM - 9:30am
- Pastoral Staff Meeting: OCR - 10am
- Faith Formation Session 1: Church - 4:15pm
- Middle School Youth Group: Church - 6pm
- Faith Formation Session 2: Church - 6pm
- Adult Choir Practice: Chapel - 6pm

Thursday, March 9

- Manor Care Mass: -10am
- Bridge: PLC/St. Michael/St. Bernadette - 12:30pm
- Talk with Dr. Pardo on Diabetes: Main Hall - 2pm
- Hispanic Music Rehearsal: PLC/Classroom - 7pm
- Walking w/Purpose: ZOOM - 7:30pm

Friday, March 10

- Adoration Chapel open 8:30am - 8pm
- Stations of the Cross & Benediction: Church - 6pm

Saturday, March 11

- Growing Rich in Mercy: Main Hall - 9am-12pm
- Spanish Baptism Class: PLC/ St. Bernadette - 11am
- Vigil Mass: Church - 4pm
- Vietnamese Mass: Church - 8pm

Sunday, March 12

- 7:15am, 9:15am & 11:15am * *Livestreamed*
- Children's Choir Rehearsal: Chapel - 8:45am
- Pre-School Bible Class: St. Susanna - 9:15am
- RCIA: PLC/St. Bernadette & St. Michael - 10:15am
- Hispanic Choir: St. Elizabeth - 11am
- Blaze Bible Study: PLC/St. Therese - 12:15pm
- Spanish Mass: Church - 1:30pm * *via YouTube*
- Praise & Worship: Chapel - 4pm
- Confirmation Year 1: Main Hall - 5pm

WATCH AT HOME

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

ONLINE

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



WELCOME

New Parishioners

- Dustin & Michelle Rivers
- James & Linda Robinson
- Charles Martinko & Margaret Golick
- Michael & Karen Schwarck
- Hector Martinez & Zulema Mendoza

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, May, 21, 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 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



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.
- **Free FORMED Account:** Discover all the best Catholic content in one place! Go to formed.org and click on "register". Create your FREE account by entering our parish code and your email address. Our Parish Code is 1823ee
- **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/
- **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.
- **Keep Our Database Current:** Have you moved, changed email addresses, dropped a landline or changed your cell number? Please email maryann@johnxxiii.net with any changes or additions to your contact information.
- **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

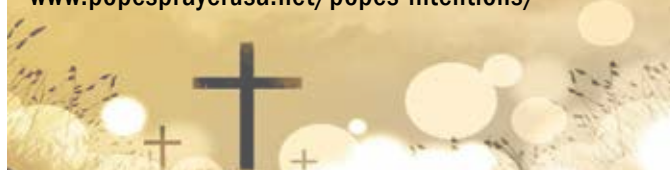
POPE'S PRAYER INTENTIONS

2022

MARCH: FOR VICTIMS OF ABUSE

We pray for those who have suffered harm from members of the Church; may they find within the Church herself a concrete response to their pain and suffering.

For more information:
www.popesprayerusa.net/popes-intentions/



ST. JOHN XXIII
THRIFT
store



Selling quality goods
for the good of others.

March

40% OFF Clothing with BPJ Stamp

30% OFF Scarves, Belts, Socks, Sets of China/Dishes, Table Linens, Window Treatments, Framed Artwork, Rugs 4 Foot & Over

(Please NOTE: Specials cannot be combined with other sales/offers)

MONDAY-FRIDAY 10AM - 5PM

SATURDAY - 10AM - 4PM

www.bpjthrift.com

Guest Speaker



*All are
Welcome!*

MIKE REESE

MARCH 7 - 6:30PM

Parish Life Center



Spiritually**FIT**

FOR EASTER

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



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

MESSAGE FROM *Father Bob*

My Dear Parishioners,

It is with mixed emotions that I'm letting you know that my official date of retirement is this Sunday, March 5, 2023.

I have been so very blessed to be your pastor for the last 16 years, celebrating Mass and the sacraments with you.

You have continually enriched my life and priestly ministry in so many ways and for this, I am truly grateful.

I know that St. John XXIII parish will continue to thrive and I pray that your next pastor will have your support and prayers.

God bless you all,



Father Bob



SATURDAY, MARCH 4
After the 4pm Mass - PLC

SUNDAY, MARCH 5
After all Masses - PLC

Join us this 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!



ABOUT *Father Bob*

For many parishioners, our pastor, Robert Tabbert was simply Fr. Bob and he liked it that way. Approachable. Knowledgeable. Friendly. Encouraging. Born and raised in Chicago in 1953 and led the thousands who call St. John XXIII their parish home in Ft. Myers, Florida. On May 19th, Fr. Robert Tabbert commemorates his 44th anniversary of ordained life in the priesthood. It is a praise-worthy achievement given a life so dedicated to serving the Lord and the many men and women whose lives he has touched over the years.

Fr. Bob began his life in Illinois as one of four children of devoutly Catholic parents, Bernadette and Robert Tabbert. "I have two older sisters and a younger brother. My earliest memories recall my parent's active involvement in the church. We attended Mass every Sunday." As a young boy, Bob Tabbert attended St. Theresa Elementary School. He went onto St. Thomas of Villanova and St. Viator High School in Arlington Heights, Illinois. It was during these influential high school years that Bob began to seriously reflect upon his call to the priesthood. "One of my greatest influences was Maryknoll, a non-profit missionary society that helps the poor and oppressed in Africa, Asia and Latin America." Maryknoll is a family of ministers who through active witness to Jesus Christ, work in partnership with those they serve to be a model of compassion and mercy while promoting a global vision of empowerment, community, justice and peace.

"Maryknoll had a special program in Glen Ellyn, Illinois for juniors and seniors in high school," says Fr. Bob. "I was introduced at that time to the concept of the Third World. Priests would talk to us about the call and I started to believe this path would be right for me."

After high school graduation, Fr. Bob spent time visiting Florida with his parents. "We toured the St. John Vianney College Seminary in Miami and I knew that I wanted to attend. I was accepted in 1971 and began my pastoral application." Becoming a priest isn't simply earning a college degree. It is an eight-year journey that Fr. Bob likens to the courtship experienced between a man and woman dating. "You begin by talking and getting to know one another, which can lead to an engagement and eventually a commitment. The seminary experience is very much like courtship. You get to know each other, find out what you like and what you don't and then you deal with the bumps along the road." For Bob, these years in the seminary were a time of great discernment. "Ultimately, I said 'Yes,' this is what God is calling me to do."

Upon completion of the two-year training program, Fr. Bob went onto the St. Vincent de Paul Regional Seminary in Boynton Beach, Florida.

He studied at their School of Theology for six years culminating with his ordination into the priesthood in 1979. "This was such a wonderful day," recalls Fr. Bob. "I remember celebrating my first Mass at St. Andrew Catholic Church in Cape Coral. It was an incredible moment and remains a highlight for me. I was surrounded by family, priests, relatives and friends. After the eight year seminary experience, it was truly joyful."

During his early years as a priest, Fr. Bob served in parishes along Florida's West Coast. Working full-time as a recruiter, counseling men that expressed an interest in the priesthood, Fr. Bob spent a lot of time on the road. "Eventually, I became the Director of Vocations for the Dioceses of St. Petersburg and Venice. I served at St. Martha's Parish in Sarasota for 3 ½ years and then was reassigned to St. Jude Cathedral," recalls Fr. Bob. "I enjoyed journeying with these men and helping them along the seminary process." He carried on this work until 1983 when the Diocese of Venice became its own entity, apart from the Diocese of St. Petersburg. "When this happened, I continued my recruiting work while in residence at the Cathedral of the Epiphany in Venice." Eventually I was reassigned as an associate pastor at St. Ann's Parish in Naples." Fr. Bob spent three years there and then got the call to lead parishioners at St. Peter the Apostle, also in Naples. "This was another great experience for me, as St. Peter the Apostle is a trilingual cultural parish. It was quite a challenge to blend the Hispanic and Haitian communities, but certainly an enjoyable one." During the five years Fr. Bob spent at St. Peter's, he was actively involved in a capital fund drive for a new church building. "I so enjoyed this campaign," says Fr. Bob. "To begin a grass roots effort which culminates in the creation of beautiful facilities so desperately needed is truly the work of God."

After St. Peter's, the Diocese asked Fr. Bob to return to St. Ann's, this time as Pastor, where he led the Church for 11 years. Through hard work and dedication, Fr. Bob initiated yet another capital fund drive. "We were able to complete a primary and middle school and also build a parish life center, chapel and residence for the clergy."

In May of 2007, Fr. Bob got the call to lead Blessed Pope John XXIII in Ft. Myers, a large and growing community he described as warm and welcoming. "The people of Blessed Pope John XXIII were wonderful – supportive, engaging and actively involved in the many ministries the parish offered. I was impressed with the witness the people of this parish gave to their faith." The call to volunteerism was truly inclusive.

When our patron was canonized a saint, our parish name changed, too. St. John XXIII has continued to grow in leaps and bounds.

Fr. Bob saw that an affordable housing complex become a reality and the Villas were built on location for seniors living with a fixed income. "To have a place where these people who have done so much for our country and our faith now have a decent and respectful place to live and sleep gives me great joy."

While enjoying the time shepherding his flock at St. John XXIII, Fr. Bob embarked on yet another building campaign- the construction and recent completion of the Parish Life Center and Adoration Chapel. The Faith Formation programs and Adult Education meetings now have a functional place to gather. The main hall can host a variety of celebrations and gatherings. The St. Luke Adoration chapel has become a place of personal prayer before the Blessed Sacrament for many parishioners. We could not have done this without the generous contributions and prayers of you, the parishioners.

"These 16 years have passed so quickly. It is my connection with you, my parishioners, and to our God, that will keep the flame alive and well."



Guardian Angels WALKWAY

PAVER MEMORIALIZATION



St. John XXIII Parish, along with the Knights of Columbus and The Women's Guild, are excited to offer **12x12 pavers**, which will be placed on the walkway around the site for our St. Michael the Archangel statue. **The price for each paver is \$350.** This is a wonderful way to pay tribute to a loved one who has served, or is currently serving in the military or as a first responder.

FYI

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

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

Guardian Angels WALKWAY

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If paying by check, please make checks payable to the Knights of Columbus.

To order, or check the status of an order, please contact
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LARRY EVENER: larryevener@yahoo.com

The Women's Guild Contact:

SUE EDWARDS: sgedwards007@gmail.com

PAVER ORDER FORM

Please circle the graphic to be added to the stone:



Please print clearly. The 12x12 paver has 3 lines.

LINE 1 NAME _____

example: John Doe

LINE 2 RANK _____

example: SGT. USMC

LINE 3 SERVICE _____

example: WWII

Please sign and date verifying all information is correct on the paver.

PRINT NAME _____

SIGNATURE _____

DATE _____



ST. JOHN XXIII
Catholic Church

Weekly Financials



	2-26-23	2-27-22	Difference
Offertory	\$40,830.34	\$32,651.17	\$8,179.17
Building Fund	\$3,031.50	\$2,648.50	\$383.00
Total	\$43,861.84	\$35,299.67	\$8,562.17
Mass Attendance	4140	3470	
Registered Families	3715	3585	

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-----

2023 Goal	\$488,000.00
Pledge	\$110,378.00
Payments	\$49,701.83

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



GIVING TO THE CFA Through a Qualified Charitable Distribution

In 2020 the law changed, requiring those 72 years old or older to begin taking a required minimum distribution (RMD) from their individual retirement account (IRA). However, only those who will turn 70½ (born on or after July 1, 1949) in 2020 or later may wait until age 72 to begin taking required distributions. If you are currently receiving RMDs (or should be) because you are over age 70½, you must continue taking these RMDs.

FOR TRADITIONAL ACCOUNTS THIS INCOME IS TAXABLE!

To avoid paying taxes on this income while also meeting the obligation of the RMD, you may designate the distribution as a gift directly from the IRA custodian to the CFA. You can donate up to \$100,000 and married couples can donate up to \$200,000 if the spouse has a separate IRA.

Help lower your tax burden while making a **GIFT OF HOPE** to those in your community!

DOUBLE YOUR GIFT

Matching gifts are a type of corporate philanthropy that allows donors giving smaller donations the opportunity to maximize the impact of their donation on an organization.



In a matching gifts program, a company donates to a nonprofit organization in response to one of their employees giving a gift.

These gifts can range in maximum sizes and ratio, but many companies will match an employee's donation at a 1:1 ration, starting at \$25. Retirees and/or spouses may also qualify.

To find out if your company offers a matching gift program, please visit:

<https://dioceseofvenice.org/offices/offices-departments/stewardship-and-development/matching-gifts/>

RESPECT
LIFE



40 DAYS
FOR LIFE™

PRAYER VIGIL - Every Wednesday:

All are welcome to join our prayer vigil every Wednesday **through March 29 from 11am to 5pm** at Planned Parenthood, 6418 Commerce Park Dr. in Fort Myers.

FIRST FRIDAY of Every Month:

Adoration for a peaceful end to the Death Penalty.

A Prayer for the Respect and Dignity of All Human Life: *God of Life and Love you created us in your image and sent your son to bring us life, from conception to natural death. Empower us to work for justice for the poor. Nourish us that we may bring food to the hungry. Inspire us to cherish the fragile life of the unborn. Strengthen us to bring comfort to the chronically ill. Teach us to treat the aging with dignity and respect. Bring us one day into the glory of everlasting life. We ask this through Christ our Lord. AMEN.*

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

OPENING DAY *Prayer Vigil*

February 22 kicked off Ash Wednesday and it was also the opening prayer and rosary for 40 DAYS FOR LIFE at Planned Parenthood. Rosary and procession with Our Lady of Fatima was led by students from Bishop Verot with opening remarks by Bishop Dewane.

Community Pregnancy Centers CEO Scott Baeir spoke beautifully and compassionately about the realities of abortion and offered peaceful prayer for the doctors, nurses, clinic workers, women and men who were a steady stream entering the facility.

Deacon John led the opening prayer as we were joined by churches of many denominations in peaceful prayerful vigil and fasting for a change of hearts and minds and an end to abortion.

Please join us anytime **now until April 2** and **ESPECIALLY on Wednesdays from 11am-5pm** as we continue to compassionately witness to those contemplating an abortion, working in the abortion industry and to make abortion unthinkable.

For more information, or if you believe you are called to do more and are considering prayer outside of Planned Parenthood, please visit: www.40daysforlife.com/fortmyers

May God Bless each and everyone of you.

Sincerely,

The St. John XXIII Respect Life Ministry



SOLES FOR SOULS

16th Annual Sneaker Drive

Sponsored by the Women's Guild of St. John XXIII
(In support of Social Justice Ministry)

**NOW
THROUGH
MARCH 31**



The large Sneaker in the Narthex marks the start of our **16th Annual Sneaker Drive** to supply needy kids with shoes in time for the start of the new School Year. This fund raiser is sponsored by the Women's Guild of St. John XXIII Church in support of our Social Justice Ministry.

Please take an envelope from the Sneaker Display Table, enclose your donation, and return it by mail or in the collection basket at Mass. Last year 400 children benefitted from your generosity.

Active Registered Parishioners who need help outfitting their child with return-to-school shoes may complete the request form below and email to: Stellamccaffrey@aol.com or mail to the parish office. **Forms must be received no later than March 31, 2023.** Return-addressed envelopes are available on the Sneaker Display Table in the Narthex.

REQUEST FORM FOR: SNEAKERS & BACKPACKS

Child's First Name	GENDER		AGE	SIZE	Check One		BACKPACK		GRADE
	BOY	GIRL			Kid Size	Adult Size	YES	NO	

Joint Event in the Parish Life Center



THURSDAY, MARCH 16 • 6:00PM

FEATURING: DR. EDWARD SRI

\$25 per person: (This event is not included in your Season Ticket)

Doors open at 6pm. Social time with appetizers and fellowship.

Presentation is from 7:15-8:30pm. Purchase tickets in advance.

Registration Required faithandale.com • faithandwineleecounty.com



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

Come join our Praise & Worship Ministry in the St. Luke Adoration Chapel on **Sunday, March 12** at **4:00pm**, and sing a joyful song to the Lord in the presence of Jesus. We are happy to report that we are witnessing increased attendance!

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

For more information, contact:

Gaby Frei at gabriela@gabrielafrei.com

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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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STATIONS OF THE CROSS

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

www.osvnews.com/amp/2020/02/27/walking-the-stations-of-the-cross-this-lent/

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

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Sign up today at RelevantRadio.com/LENT

Exploring the Seven Dwelling Places of ST. TERESA OF AVILA

Don't miss your chance for spiritual growth! You can still register even if you missed the first session or other dates. **Please note:** The cost remains \$100 for your workbook and supplies. *You can make out a check to St. John XXIII and drop it off at the office or in the collection baskets along with your registration.*

COME JOIN *Fr. Bill Jarema*

LAST SESSION: 9AM - 12PM PARISH LIFE CENTER

SATURDAY, MARCH 11 - Exploration of Dwelling Places 7



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

FLORIDA Catholic
MEDIA

Long-Sleeve Relief Drive 2023

Through Holy Thursday, April 6



Long-Sleeve Relief Drive 2023: 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>

In Concert - Richard Van Dyke, Piano: Join us at 7pm 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

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

Free Rosary Repair: Send your broken rosaries in a padded envelope to Betty and Dick Holden, Free Rosary Repair Service, 7278 Salerno Court, Naples 34114. 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

Parenting Pointer:

St. Patrick purportedly explained the mystery of the Trinity by using a shamrock. Which person of the Trinity – Father (creator), Son (redeemer), or Holy Spirit (sustainer) do you most identify with? Ask your child the same question. Is there anything mysterious about your child that you are still trying to understand?

“by Susan Vogt, www.SusanVogt.net”

ECO-FRIENDLY TIPS AND TRICKS

while you're out and about

PLASTIC

EASY: Newspapers often come wrapped in plastic bags. If you don't have a dog or other use for the bag, most grocery stores have recycling bins for such plastic film since it can't go in curbside recycling.

CHALLENGING: If your local grocery store still uses plastic bags, join or start a plastic bag free movement in your area. Past Plastics-Cincinnati Coalition is an example: www.facebook.com/cincypastplastic/

For more recycling basics visit:

www.susanvogt.net/blog/365194-recycling-basics/



Marriage Moment:

March 20 will be the official beginning of Spring. In the northern hemisphere new growth starts to sprout around us. Learn something new about your spouse today - no matter how long you've been married.

“by Susan Vogt, www.SusanVogt.net”



OUR LADY OF THE ROSARY CHAPEL

Stations of the Cross

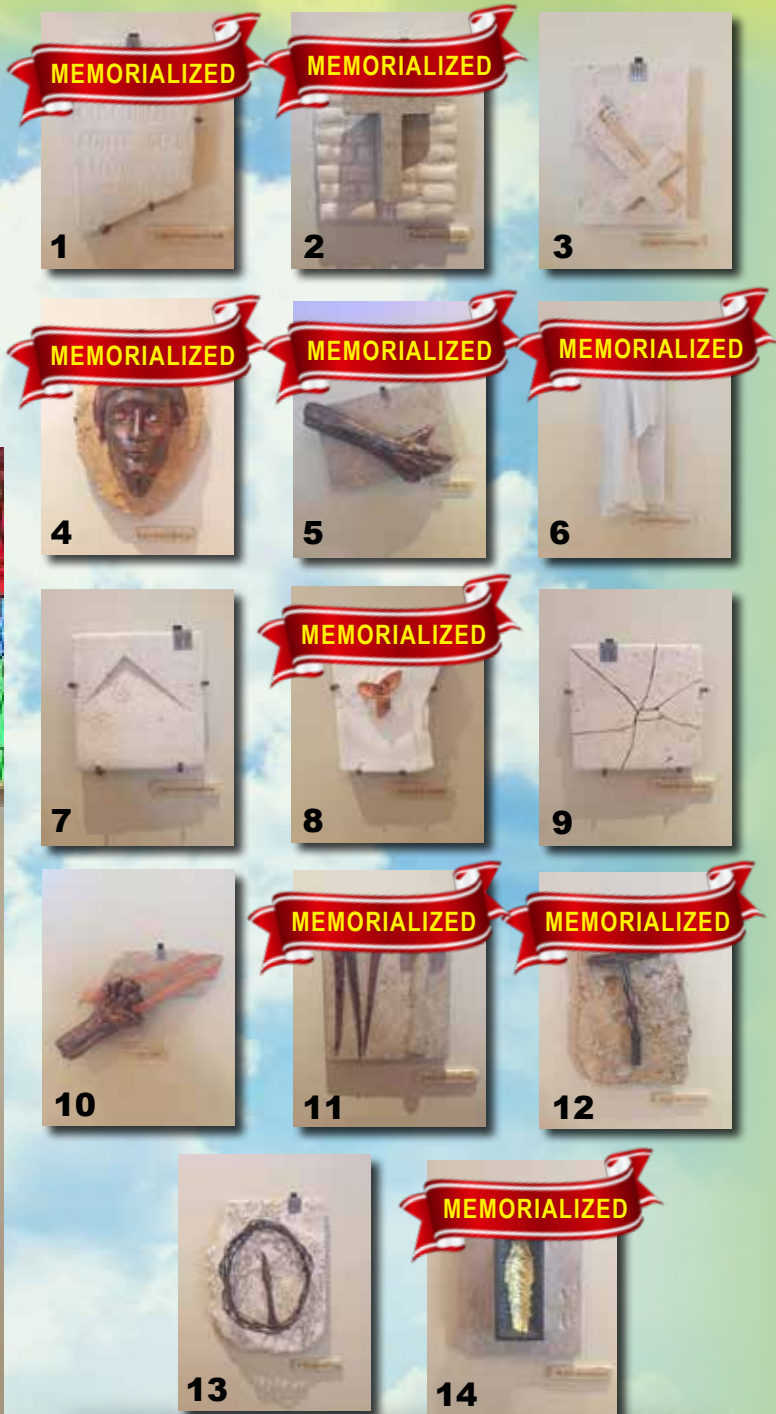
MEMORIALIZE A LOVED ONE

Artist Chris Scala has designed the beautiful new Stations of the Cross in the Our Lady of the Rosary Chapel. You may want to memorialize one of the stations during Lent. The cost is **\$5,000** per station.

This would be a great way to memorialize a loved one. For more information contact **Holly Atkins** in the Parish Office at holly@johnxxx.net



ARTIST: CHRIS SCALA



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