



ST. JOHN XXIII Catholic Church

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

March 12, 2023

THE *Lenten* CONNECTION

by: **William Saunders - Catholic Exchange**



Lent is a special time of prayer, penance, sacrifice and good works in preparation of the celebration of Easter. In the desire to renew the liturgical practices of the Church, The Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy of Vatican Council II stated, "The two elements which are especially characteristic of Lent — the recalling of baptism or the preparation for it, and penance — should be given greater emphasis in the liturgy and in liturgical catechesis. It is by means of them that the Church prepares the faithful for the celebration of Easter, while they hear God's word more frequently and devote more time to prayer".

The word "Lent" itself derives from the Anglo-Saxon words *lencten*, meaning "spring," and *lenctentid*, which literally means not only "springtide" but also was the word for "March," the month in which the majority of Lent falls.

Since the earliest times of the Church, there is evidence of some kind of Lenten preparation for Easter. For instance, St. Irenaeus wrote to Pope St. Victor I, commenting on the celebration of Easter and the differences between practices in the East and the West.

When Rufinus translated this passage from Greek into Latin, the punctuation made between "forty" and "hours" made the meaning to appear to be "40 days, 24 hours a day." The importance of the passage, nevertheless, remains that since the time of "our forefathers" — always an expression for the Apostles — a 40-day period of Lenten preparation existed. However, the actual practices and duration of Lent were still not homogeneous throughout the Church.

Lent became more regularized after the legalization of Christianity in A.D. 313. The Council of Nicea, in its disciplinary Canons, noted that two provincial synods should be held each year, including "one before the forty days of Lent." St. Athanasius in his "Festal Letters" implored his congregation to make a 40-day fast prior to the more intense fasting of Holy Week. St. Cyril of Jerusalem in his Catechetical Lectures, which are the paradigm for our current RCIA programs, had 18 pre-baptismal instructions given to the catechumens during Lent. St. Cyril of Alexandria in his series of "Festal Letters" also noted the practices and duration of Lent, emphasizing the 40-day period of fasting.

Continued on Page 3

March 12, 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

To Be Determined

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 13

- 8:00 AM † John Garvin by is wife, Lorraine & family

TUESDAY, MARCH 14

- 8:00 AM † Dolores & Robert Perkins by Donald Perkins

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 15

- 8:00 AM † Arlene Altmann by her family

THURSDAY, MARCH 16

- 8:00 AM † Lelio De Sanctis by his family

FRIDAY, MARCH 17

- 8:00 AM † Mari Cheslik by her family

SATURDAY, MARCH 18

- 8:00 AM † Salvadore S. Neville by Tim & Amy Shea
- 4:00 PM † Donald Laux by his wife, Susan
- 8:00 PM † Peter - Vietnamese Mass

SUNDAY, MARCH 19

- 7:15 AM † Lee Marchi by The St. John XXIII Women's Guild
- 9:15 AM † Marilyn Brummer by JoAnne Walsh
- 11:15 AM † Albert J. Gibbs by Loretta Gibbs
- 1:30 PM † Manuel Garcia Garcia by Yesenia Garcia

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 19, 2023 - READINGS

- | | |
|---------------|-------------------------|
| • 1ST READING | 1 SM 16:1B, 6-7, 10-13A |
| • PSALM | PS 23: 1-3A, 3b-4, 5, 6 |
| • 2ND READING | EPH 5:8-14 |
| • GOSPEL | JN 9:1-41 |

CANDY/STUFFED EGGS DONATIONS

Candy donations for stuffed Easter Eggs are being accepted throughout the entire month of March for the Annual Easter Egg Hunt on **Saturday, April 1.**

Parishioners may drop off "Stuffed Eggs" in a box in the Narthex. Please No Chocolate because it melts!



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

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franniedre@johnxxiii.net

239-561-7499

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ana@johnxxiii.net

239-561-2245

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239-561-2245

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239-561-2245

Youth Ministry

Kelly Evers

kelly@johnxxiii.net

239-561-3022

Thrift Store Manager

Cynthia Conzatti

thrifft@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

Lenten CONNECTION CONTINUED

Finally, Pope St. Leo preached that the faithful must "fulfill with their fasts the apostolic institution of the forty days," again noting the apostolic origins of Lent. One can safely conclude that by the end of the fourth century, the 40-day period of Easter preparation known as Lent existed, and that prayer and fasting constituted its primary spiritual exercises.

Of course, the number "forty" has always had special spiritual significance regarding preparation. On Mount Sinai, preparing to receive the Ten Commandments, "Moses stayed there with the Lord for forty days and forty nights, without eating any food or drinking any water...." (Ex 34:28). Elijah walked "forty days and forty nights" to the mountain of the Lord, Mount Horeb (another name for Sinai) (1 Kgs 19:8). Most importantly, Jesus fasted and prayed for "40 days and 40 nights" in the desert before He began His public ministry (Mt 4:2).

Once the 40 days of Lent were established, the next development concerned how much fasting was to be done. In Jerusalem, for instance, people fasted for 40 days, Monday through Friday, but not on Saturday or Sunday, thereby making Lent last for eight weeks. In Rome and in the West, people fasted for six weeks, Monday through Saturday, thereby making Lent last for six weeks. Eventually, the practice prevailed of fasting for six days a week over the course of six weeks, and Ash Wednesday was instituted to bring the number of fast days before Easter to 40.

The rules of fasting varied. First, some areas of the Church abstained from all forms of meat and animal products, while others made exceptions for food like fish. For example, Pope St. Gregory, writing to St. Augustine of Canterbury, issued the following rule: "We abstain from flesh, meat, and from all things that come from flesh, as milk, cheese, and eggs."

Second, the general rule was for a person to have one meal a day, in the evening or at three in the afternoon. These Lenten fasting rules also evolved. Eventually, a smaller repast was allowed during the day to sustain one's strength for manual labor. Eating fish was allowed, and later eating meat was also allowed through the week except on Ash Wednesday and Friday.

Dispensations were given for eating dairy products if a pious work was performed, and eventually this rule was relaxed totally. (However, the abstinence from even dairy products led to the practice of blessing Easter eggs and eating pancakes on Shrove Tuesday, the day before Ash Wednesday.)

Over the years, modifications have been made to the Lenten observances, making our practices not only simple but also easy. Ash Wednesday still marks the beginning of Lent which lasts for 40 days, not including Sundays. The present fasting and abstinence laws are very simple: On Ash Wednesday and Good Friday, the faithful fast (having only one full meal a day and smaller snacks to keep up one's strength) and abstain from meat; on the other Fridays of Lent, the faithful abstain from meat.

People are still encouraged "to give up something" for Lent as a sacrifice. (An interesting note is that technically on Sundays and other solemnities like St. Joseph's Day [March 19] and the Annunciation [March 25], one is exempt and may partake of whatever has been offered up for Lent. Nevertheless, concerning the Sunday exemption, I was always taught, "If you gave something up for the Lord, tough it out. Don't act like a Pharisee looking for a loophole.") Moreover, an emphasis must be placed on performing spiritual works, like attending the Stations of the Cross, attending daily Mass, making a weekly holy hour before the Blessed Sacrament, taking time for personal prayer and spiritual reading, and most especially making a good confession and receiving sacramental absolution.

Although the practices may have evolved over the centuries, the focus remains the same: to repent of sin, to renew our faith and to prepare to celebrate joyfully the mysteries of our salvation during Holy Week.



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

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!*
Virginia Belmont



Altar Flowers

Depending on the Liturgical season, flowers may be purchased to commemorate anniversaries, birthdays etc.



For more information contact MaryAnn in the parish office at: maryann@johnxxiii.net or call the parish office (239) 561-2245



Weekly Calendar

PLC = PARISH LIFE CENTER



Monday, March 13

- Men's Gospel Forum: PLC/St. Martha & St. Mary - 7am
- Craftie Ladies: PLC/St. Martha & St. Mary - 1pm
- KofC Meeting: PLC/St. Martha & St. Mary - 6pm

Tuesday, March 14

- Opening the Word: Zoom/PLC - 9am
- Walking w/Purpose: ZOOM/in Person PLC - 10am
- Bereavement: PLC/St. Bernadette & St. Michael - 1pm
- Bingo: Main Hall Doors open 5:30pm/Games 6:30pm
- Hispanic Charismatic Prayer Group: Chapel - 6:45pm
- AA Meeting: PLC/St. Martha & St. Mary - 7pm

Wednesday, March 15

- Walking w/Purpose: ZOOM - 9:30am
- Pastoral Staff Meeting: OCR - 10am
- Faith Formation Session 1: PLC - 4:15pm
- Middle School Youth Group: Main Hall - 6pm
- Faith Formation Session 2: PLC - 6pm
- Adult Choir Practice: Chapel - 6pm
- Modern Ensemble Rehearsal: Church - 7pm

Thursday, March 16

- Bridge: PLC/St. Michael/St. Bernadette - 12:30pm
- Faith & Ale/Faith & Wine Joint Event: Main Hall - 6pm
- Hispanic Music Rehearsal: PLC/Classroom - 7pm
- Walking w/Purpose: ZOOM - 7:30pm

Friday, March 17 - St. Patrick's Day

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

Saturday, March 18

- Women's Guild Bake Sale: Narthex
- KofC Food Drive: Parking Lot - 10am - 1pm
- Vigil Mass: Church - 4pm
- Vietnamese Mass: Church - 8pm

Sunday, March 19

- Women's Guild Bake Sale: Narthex
- 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
- St. Michael Statue Blessing: after 11:15am Mass
- Spanish Mass: Church - 1:30pm * *via YouTube*
- Carmelite Meetings: PLC/St. Martha & St. Mary - 1:30pm

WATCH AT HOME

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

ONLINE

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

WELCOME

New Parishioners

- Laura Ullrich
- Ann Marshall
- Anahi Francisco
- Martha Gayford
- Pierre Alfred Meme
- Dave & Amber O'Brien
- Ken & Laurie Faye
- Richard & Susan Glover

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

THANK YOU FROM *Father Bob*

My Dear Parishioners,

I sincerely want to thank all of you for the kind wishes, cards and gifts. Being your pastor for the last 16 years has been most fulfilling to me.

I have truly loved getting to know all of you and consider you my friends. It will be an adjustment for me to retire, but I do look forward to the next chapter on life's journey.

Once again, 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.

With heartfelt thanks,



Father Bob



THE LEGACY CONTINUES

Thank you to all parishioners who honored Father Bob last weekend. We are proud that his legacy will continue for years to come. The Legacy video is on our website homepage, just scroll down to see it:

<https://johnxxiii.net/>



SPECIAL THANKS

We would like to thank The Knights of Columbus for Sunday breakfast, Lois Becker, her Hospitality Team and all volunteers who helped provide a wonderful reception for Father Bob!

FROM THE PARISH STAFF

On behalf of the entire Parish Staff, we would like to thank Father Bob, for your leadership and guidance over the last 16 years! We wish you a happy retirement and blessings on your new journey!



You will be Remembered....



"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

and Forever in our Hearts!

Faith FORMATION

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

SAVE
THE
DATES

June 26 - June 30



Vacation Bible School

This summer's vacation Bible School is sure to be "Out of this World" and "STELLAR" as we "Shine Jesus' Light"! Registration and more information to follow in this section in upcoming bulletins.

SACRAMENT PREPARATION:

BAPTISM: Congratulations on your decision to baptize your child! At St. John XXIII, we are happy to help your family prepare for the celebration. Baptisms are offered for registered members of St. John XXIII and are scheduled only after the preparation process is completed by the parents. Please do not make arrangements for family members until you have actually received a date. Contact the office at **(239) 561-2245** for more information or to begin the process.

FIRST COMMUNION: (also called *First Eucharist* and *First Reconciliation*) Children in first grade or above, who have expressed a desire and willingness and are attending Mass, are welcome to begin the two year process of preparing for these Sacraments. The first year consists of regular attendance at Faith Formation classes or through a Diocesan Catholic school. (Either St. Francis Xavier or St. Andrew) The second year continues those classes, but also adds in direct Sacramental Preparation (Reconciliation and Communion) sessions. Please contact Frannie at 239-561-7499 for more information or to begin the process. Parents who home school their children must contact the office during Year I.

CONFIRMATION PREPARATION: Celebrating the Sacrament of Confirmation is a two year process that begins at the start of 9th Grade and is celebrated in the Fall of 11th grade. (Older teens are certainly welcome!). Each year consists of Faith Formation through the parish Youth Group or a Diocesan Catholic school (Bishop Verot) as well as scheduled Confirmation classes and a retreat. Please note: Students from Bishop Verot must register and attend the preparation classes at the beginning of 9th grade. If you are entering the 9th grade or would like more information on our program, please contact Frannie at 239-561-7499 to begin the process.

ADULT FAITH

Education

Keep in TOUCH with your *Faith* ONLINE:

OPENING THE WORD

YOUR JOURNEY INTO
THE SUNDAY READINGS



Tuesday Mornings at 9:00am - PLC

Meetings are available in person and through ZOOM. For more information, email **Linda Stanley** at: lindastanley.ls@gmail.com



RCIA

A JOURNEY IN FAITH

If you are thinking about joining the Catholic Church....

The RCIA Inquiry is the starting place for adults who are considering it.

For more information, please contact:

Leslie Robertson at **(239) 560-5617**



Our RCIA who will be received into the Church at the Easter Vigil, were sent by our parish on Sunday, February 26 with their sponsors to Bishop Dewane to be acknowledged for their efforts and progress and to be called to the sacraments at the Easter Vigil. It was a beautiful day and wonderful to have that shared time and sense of the Holy Spirit at work in our diocese with over 500 catechumens and candidates; a truly joyful gathering.

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



Guardian Angels WALKWAY

PAVER MEMORIALIZATION



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

FYI

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

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

Guardian Angels WALKWAY

Name _____

Address or PO Box _____

Unit/Apt # _____

City/State/Zip _____

Phone _____

Email _____

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

I would like to pay by:

___ CASH ___ CHECK ___ CREDIT CARD

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

To order, or check the status of an order, please contact
The Knights of Columbus:

LARRY EVENER: larryevener@yahoo.com

The Women's Guild Contact:

SUE EDWARDS: sgedwards007@gmail.com

PAVER ORDER FORM

Please circle the graphic to be added to the stone:



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

LINE 1 NAME _____

example: John Doe

LINE 2 RANK _____

example: SGT. USMC

LINE 3 SERVICE _____

example: WWII

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

PRINT NAME _____

SIGNATURE _____

DATE _____



ST. JOHN XXIII
Catholic Church

Weekly Financials



	3-05-23	3-06-22	Difference
Offertory	\$55,804.22	\$41,278.98	\$14,525.24
Building Fund	\$2,225.00	\$2,558.00	(\$330.00)
Total	\$58,029.22	\$43,836.98	\$14,192.24
Mass Attendance	4462	3766	
Registered Families	3718	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-----

2023 Goal	\$488,000.00
Pledge	\$164,983.00
Payments	\$97,174.66

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



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Charitable Gift Annuities are managed by the Catholic Community Foundation and the remainder can be restricted for offertory, debt reduction, capital project, CFA, or building our parish endowment.

To learn more about charitable gift annuities, contact the Catholic Community Foundation: **Michael Morse at (941) 441-1124**





Parish NURSING MINISTRY

NUMBERS YOU SHOULD KNOW **911 and 211**

THURSDAY, MARCH 23

1:00pm - 3:00pm

Parish Life Center

2-1-1

VERSUS

9-1-1

WHEN TO CALL 211 AND 911

- How does 211 differ from 911?
- Which one should I use?
- When should I call?
- What if I need help after a fall?
- How much will it **COST**?

This presentation will answer all these questions and more. Many people worry that they don't know how much it will cost when they dial 911. Others are not aware of all the help that is available on the 211 system.

Professional speakers will give informative details about their services, when to call, and what you would be charged. Bring your best questions and we will try to answer them.

Please join us in the Parish Life Center on **Thursday, March 23** from **1:00pm - 3:00pm** for this lively discussion.

NO REGISTRATION REQUIRED. This presentation is sponsored by the St. John XXIII Parish Nurse team.



FOOD

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church parking lot

NON-PERISHABLE

SATURDAY, MARCH 18
10AM-1PM



PLEASE CHECK EXPIRATION DATES



Women's Guild

**BAKE
SALE**

**NEXT WEEKEND
MARCH 18-19**



in the Narthex



The Women's Guild will be having their annual **BAKE SALE** and selling ALL of your **FAVORITE** goodies in the Narthex next weekend!

All proceeds will benefit Lifeline, Verity, and Community Pregnancy Center.

Out & About

Our Church Parish



Joanne Halt, her husband and the parish team **Journey to Hope**, participated in the 2023 NAMI Walks that took place at Centennial Park on Saturday, March 4.

Bulletin Editor, **Colleen Leavy** and her band **Electric Lipstick** also performed at the event.



St. Michael THE ARCHANGEL

Statue Blessing

SUNDAY, MARCH 19
AFTER THE 11:15AM MASS

Join Us

We will bless the ST. MICHAEL the ARCHANGEL statue on SUNDAY, MARCH 19 after the 11:15am Mass. We find comfort that "GOD'S GENERAL" is protecting our parish!



Knights of Columbus

WHAT'S NEW?



Left to right: Volunteer, **Arden Vorperian** - Annual Giving Manager, **Sue Edwards** - President of Women's Guild, **Larry Evener** - Grand Knight and Volunteer, two beautiful 3 month old Golden Lab's

On behalf of the Women's Guild and the Knights of Columbus, we thank all of the Bingo players from February. Thanks to your kindness and generosity, we were able to present the organization, **Golden Paws** with a check for **\$2,500**.

Golden Paws was founded in 2012. They place dogs at no cost to those that served. They provide highly skilled service or assistance dogs to combat veterans, first responders and children with life changing disabilities. For more information visit their website at: www.goldenpaws.org

Thank You!

FOR SAVING LIVES

Thank you St. John XXIII for hosting the Lee Health Blood Mobile on Sunday, February 5. Although it is a simple act of kindness, relatively few people recognize the importance of donating blood. There is no alternative to blood and without donations from selfless parishioners, we could not save lives in Lee County. We had 24 people who wanted to donate and 21 who were eligible. That's up to 63 lives saved! The next blood drive is scheduled for Sunday, April 2 from 8am-1pm in the church parking lot. The goal is 25 donors. We appreciate your continued partnership and helping us to save lives in our community!





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:

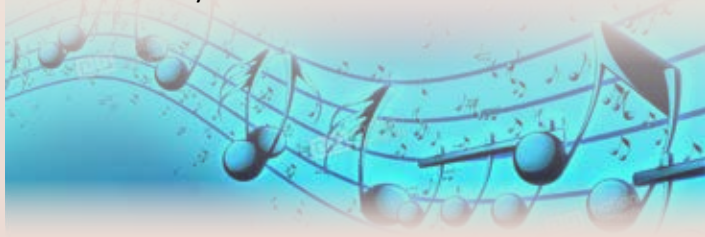
The Parish Choir is composed of adult women and men who lead the congregation at the Sunday 11:15AM Mass. Weekly rehearsals are Wednesdays, 6-7:00PM.

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.

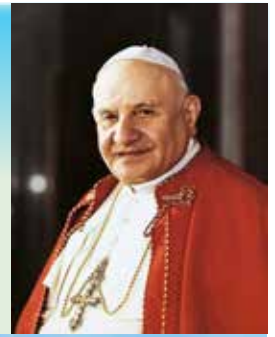


Musicians/Singers Needed:

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

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

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

About St. Patrick

Saints & Angels - Catholic Online

St. Patrick of Ireland is one of the world's most popular saints. He was born in Roman Britain and when he was fourteen or so, he was captured by Irish pirates during a raiding party and taken to Ireland as a slave to herd and tend sheep. At the time, Ireland was a land of Druids and pagans but Patrick turned to God and wrote his memoir, *The Confession*. In *The Confession*, he wrote: "The love of God and his fear grew in me more and more, as did the faith, and my soul was roiled, so that, in a single day, I have said as many as a hundred prayers and in the night, nearly the same. I prayed in the woods and on the mountain, even before dawn. I felt no hurt from the snow or ice or rain."

Patrick's captivity lasted until he was twenty, when he escaped after having a dream from God in which he was told to leave Ireland by going to the coast. There he found some sailors who took him back to Britain and was reunited with his family.

A few years after returning home, Patrick saw a vision he described in his memoir: "I saw a man coming, as it were from Ireland. His name was Victoricus, and he carried many letters, and he gave me one of them. I read the heading: 'The Voice of the Irish.' As I began the letter, I imagined in that moment that I heard the voice of those very people who were near the wood of Foclut, which is beside the western sea-and they cried out, as with one voice: 'We appeal to you, holy servant boy, to come and walk among us.'"

The vision prompted his studies for the priesthood. He was ordained by St. Germanus, the Bishop of Auxerre, whom he had studied under for years, and was later ordained a bishop and sent to take the Gospel to Ireland.

Patrick arrived in Slane, Ireland on March 25, 433. There are several legends about what happened next, with the most prominent claiming he met the chieftan of one of the druid tribes, who tried to kill him. After an intervention from God, Patrick was able to convert the chieftain and preach the Gospel throughout Ireland. There, he converted many people - eventually thousands - and he began building churches across the country.

He often used shamrocks to explain the Holy Trinity and entire kingdoms were eventually converted to Christianity after hearing Patrick's message.

Patrick preached and converted all of Ireland for 40 years. He worked many miracles and wrote of his love for God in *Confessions*. After years of living in poverty, traveling and enduring much suffering he died March 17, 461.

He died at Saul, where he had built the first Irish church. He is believed to be buried in Down Cathedral, Downpatrick. His grave was marked in 1990 with a granite stone.

We can aspire to Patrick's qualities of being humble, pious, gentle, whose love and total devotion to and trust in God should be a shining example to each of us. So complete was his trust in God, and of the importance of his mission, he feared nothing -not even death.

"The Breastplate", is Patrick's poem of faith and trust in God: "Christ be within me, Christ behind me, Christ before me, Christ beside me, Christ to win me, Christ to comfort and restore me, Christ beneath me, Christ above me, Christ inquired, Christ in danger, Christ in hearts of all that love me, Christ in mouth of friend and stranger."



CHRIST BESIDE ME,
Christ before me,

CHRIST BEHIND ME,
Christ within me,

CHRIST BENEATH ME,
Christ above me.

- Saint Patrick

Catholic Community HAPPENINGS



The Music Man at St. Francis: St. Francis Xavier Catholic School is proud to present the Music Man. Dates: March 31-April 2. Location: 2055 Heitman Street Ft. Myers, FL. Tickets can be purchased online at www.onthestage.tickets or for more information call (239) 334-7707 x222 or email Ester Kiesel at esther.kiesel@sfxm.org

Pope Francis Prayer Intention for March: 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.

Help Wanted at Church of Resurrection: We are seeking a bulletin editor/administrative assistant at our church. Duties include creating the bulletin, website updates, church/office/reception support. Microsoft Publisher a must! Full or part time. For more information, contact Melanie Arneri at (239) 481-7171

Sidewalk Counselors Needed: The Fort Myers Planned Parenthood has increased its abortion days to three times per week. The team of Sidewalk Advocates for Life is in need of individuals willing to be trained to offer women life-affirming alternatives and help to save lives. For training information, contact Jeanne Berdeaux, (941) 374-1068 or Berdeaux@dioceseofvenice.org

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>

Televised Mass for the Homebound: For those who are unable to attend Mass due to medical or physical limitations, the Diocese of Venice offers a televised Mass each Sunday. For viewers in the northern portions of the Diocese, the Mass airs at 9:30am on the CW Network; and for those in the southern portions of the Diocese, the Mass is at 10:30am on WFTX-TV (FOX-4).

Novena of Masses for Life: Participate in a Mass near you and pray for life! Visit www.dioceseofvenice.org/respectlife for the monthly schedule of Novena of Masses for Life.

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

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

DIVORCE/SEPARATION SUPPORT GROUP



Introductory Meeting SUNDAY, MARCH 26 9AM - PARISH LIFE CENTER

Divorce and separation are life-changing events. We offer a safe environment for men and women to come together, share their experiences, and find support and guidance on the path to recovery.

All are welcome at any stage or process that individuals are experiencing.

Please join us at 9:00am for an introductory meeting on Sunday, March 26 in the Parish Life Center. We will meet every other Sunday except Easter.

Our 1st Meeting April 23: "Weathering the Storm of Fear and Anxiety"

May 7: "Dealing with Depression and Loneliness"

Upcoming topics include:

- Anger
- The Catholic Church and Annulments
- Financial Issues
- Single and Dating
- Forgive and Forget

For registration and questions:

Carole Wheeler-Antle (239) 850-7443

email: wacarole@comcast.net



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/

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LOVE IT. *EVEN MORE!*

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