



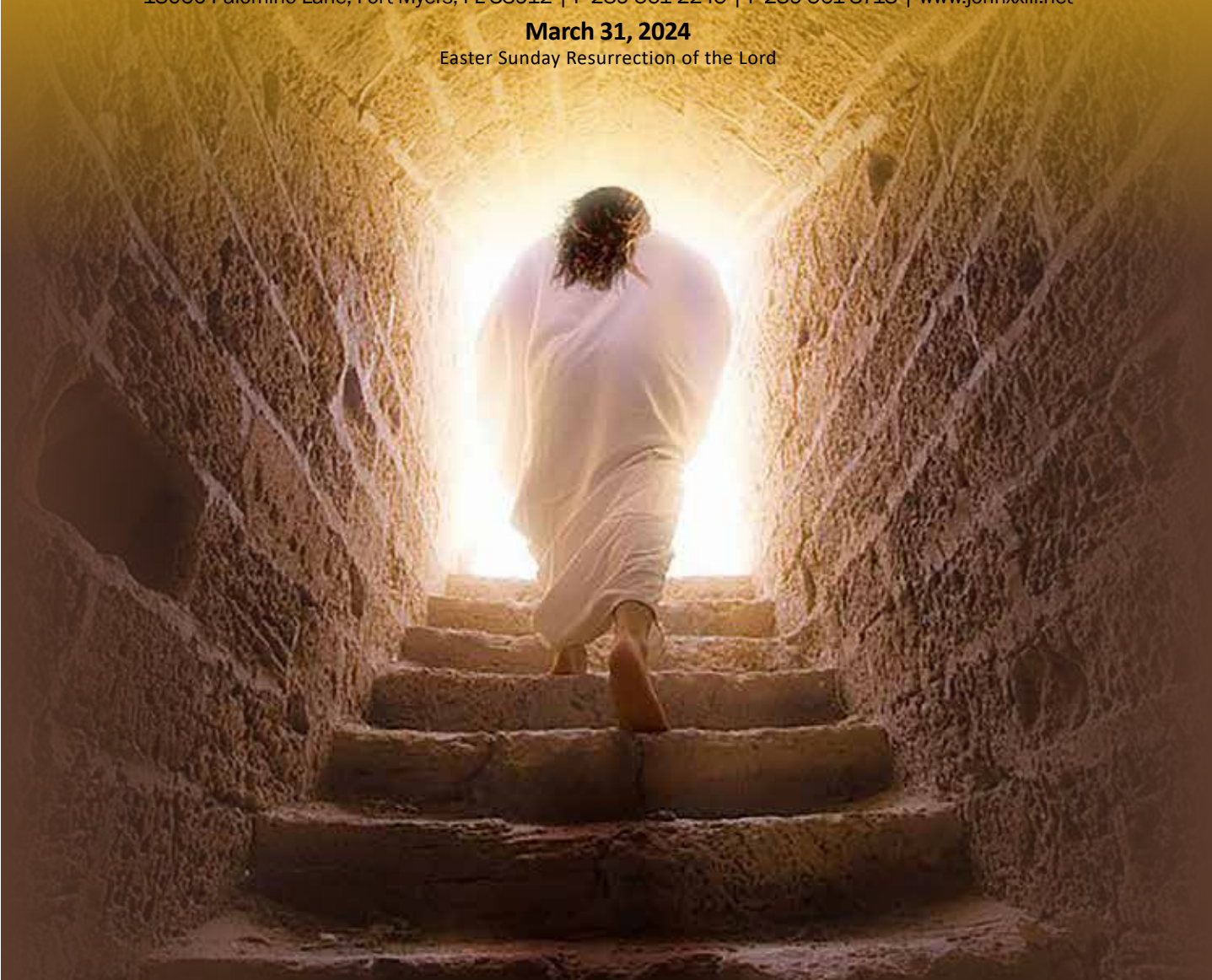
ST. JOHN XXIII

Catholic Church

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

March 31, 2024

Easter Sunday Resurrection of the Lord



He Is Risen!

March 31, 2024

Please Note:
SATURDAY
CONFESSIONS
takes place in the
church from
8:30am-9:30am
Livestreamed
9:15am MASS on
Facebook/Website

ADMINISTRATOR

Fr. Jayabalan (Jay) Raju
frjay@johnxxiii.net

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.

FORT MYERS:

St. Columbkille
239-489-3973

Health Park & Hope Hospice

St. Francis Xavier
239-334-2161

Lee Memorial Hospital

St. Vincent de Paul
239-693-0818

Select Hospital

LEHIGH ACRES:

St. Raphael
239-369-1831

Hope Hospice, Lehigh Hospital
and Health & Rehab Center

BONITA SPRINGS:

St. Leo the Great
239-992-0901

Hope Hospice

The Mission of St. John XXIII Catholic Church is to actively engage all those who desire to more fully accept and live out the message of Christ, welcoming and respecting all people regardless of background, history, race or color, as we strive to nurture spiritual growth and personal holiness on our journey to become more responsible stewards of God's gifts.

Mass Intentions

MONDAY, APRIL 1

- 8:00 AM † Rogers & Podolak families by Rita Rogers

TUESDAY, APRIL 2

8:00 AM † Sally Petrella by Jim & Andrea Buczek

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 3

- 8:00 AM † Ryan Vanderson by his family

THURSDAY, APRIL 4

- 8:00 AM † Edith Celestino by Cathy & Paul

FRIDAY, APRIL 5

- 8:00 AM † Timothy Shea by Sara Dennerline & Kari O'Conner

SATURDAY, APRIL 6

- 8:00 AM † Allen Jordan by Kevin Weigand
- 4:00 PM † Michael Cullen by Lori Cullen
- 8:00 PM † All Souls - Vietnamese Mass

SUNDAY, APRIL 7 - DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY

- 7:15 AM † John Hens by Dea. John & Deborah Gaulin
- 9:15 AM † John DiBartolomeo by Dea. John & Deborah Gaulin
- 11:15 AM † Agnes Stanley by Jerry & Connie
- 1:30 PM ♥ Raquel Llinás "Happy 82 Bday" by Nathalie Sevrini
- 3:00 PM - Divine Mercy - Church

***** MASS INTENTION UPDATE *****

The Mass Book for 2024 is almost full. Please know we have another option of "Unannounced Masses." This means the particular intention under the Unannounced Masses will be given to a religious or retired priest of DOV to be celebrated at a time of their choosing. Please call the parish office for more details.

APRIL 7, 2024 - READINGS

- 1ST READING ACTS 4:32-35
- PSALM PS 118:2-4, 13-15, 22-24
- 2ND READING 1 JOHN 5:1-6
- GOSPEL JOHN 20:19-31

Divine Mercy Sunday

SUNDAY, APRIL 7

Reconciliation:
1:00pm (Church)

Mass:
3:00pm (Church)



Pastoral Team

Business Manager

Holly Atkins
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239-561-2245

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239-561-2245

Maintenance

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239-561-2245

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Clayton Goodridge
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239-561-2245

Admin. Assistant

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

MESSAGE FROM

The St. John XXIII Administrator

Fr. Jay



Dear Friends,

Hallelujah...the Lord is risen! Along with the entire parish staff, I wish you all a Happy Easter!

Every year we celebrate this holy season with the culmination of Easter joy. Easter joy lies in our faith that if there were no resurrected Christ, there is no Christianity. Resurrection is the supreme and supernatural form of His revelation to the world that He is the Son of God.

The large stone has been rolled back **not because Jesus got out of the tomb, but to allow His followers to enter in.** The lucky ones that entered in first were women- Mary Magdalene and Mary, the mother of James and Salome , who were sent as heralds to carry the good news to the Apostles.

For the last 40 days of Lent, we were able to see and locate some of the large stones that kept us away from the Lord. By enjoying His Grace through our meaningful Lenten efforts, we understood that God is always ready to remove such large stones.

Every time we celebrate Easter, we proclaim His message as His Heralds. Easter joy brings everyone to the Lord, particularly the weak and the outcast.

I would like to acknowledge and thank everyone who helped through different ministries as responsible Disciples (Stewards) during the Holy Week events and Easter celebrations. Your dedication and hard work are blessings and strong pillars of our community, adding divine praises to our Lord!

Please take note of two important events happening in our parish during this week and try to participate if you can. On Friday, April 5th, we have the Sacrament of Confirmation by our Bishop Dewane of at least 50 Confirmandi. Please keep them in your prayers. On Sunday, April 7th, you can attend the Divine Mercy Mass in the afternoon and receive His mercy and compassion. There are more details inside this bulletin.

May God bless you and all your family members.

Hallelujah...Halleluja. Happy Easter!

Fr. Jay Raju

- *Reading 1: Acts 10:34a, 37-43*
- *Reading 11: Colossians 3:1-4*
- *Gospel: Mark 14:1- 15:47*

Easter Sunday

PRAYER

Jesus, Risen Savior, we rejoice with You today. You have risen! Alleluia, Alleluia. With You we celebrate new life, new beginnings, new hope and new joy. May Your risen glory shine through us in all that we do and say. We praise God for raising You up and for giving us the gift of Your eternal presence.

Amen

"I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in me will live, even though he dies; and whoever lives and believes in me will never die."

- John 11:25-26

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

Laura Ford

Scott Dugan

Braden O'Halloran

Infant Anthony Vardaan

Steve Lane

Kathleen Fontaine

Lucy DeRose

Cynthia & William

Sandy Szymanski

Chuck McCallum

Bill Mackie

Julia Reitz

Marshall Conner

Nancy Hall

Leonard Hall

Barbi Cooper

Abby Newsome

Collin Carnel

Russ Aubrey

MaryAnn Hemmer

Girard Cugini

Edward Virtue

Ray & Janie Sucik

Karen Racz

Jill Louden

Darlene Kepshire

Crystal Heim

Debbie Glittone

Mimi Weaver

Linda Anderson

Kristen Lipp

Dennis Ryan

Kevin Walsh

Janice Herrington

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 eprayer.stjohn23@gmail.com

Join our ePrayer community and give the gift of prayer. Register at: <https://johnxxiii.net/e-prayer/>



Honoring Your Loved One

You can honor or remember your loved ones by donating the Tabernacle Candle or Eucharistic Host for \$15 for the week. Please inquire in the parish office.

Prayers for Eternal Life

Life is changed, not ended.

Eternal rest grant unto them, Oh Lord!

Deceased Parishioners of St. John XXIII



Tabernacle Candle

In Honor of: **Our Confirmandi**



CREDIT CARD POLICY:

We **MUST** request that any credit card transactions made at St. John XXIII be a minimum of \$25.

Thank You!



Weekly Calendar

PLC = PARISH LIFE CENTER



Monday, April 1

- PARISH OFFICE CLOSED
- Adoration Chapel open 8:30am - 3:45pm
- Men's Gospel Forum: PLC/St. Martha & St. Mary - 7am
- Craftie Ladies: Villas - 1pm

Tuesday, April 2

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

Wednesday, April 3

- Pastoral Staff Meeting: Office Conference Room - 10am
- Faith Formation Session 1: PLC - 4:15pm
- Pizza Social: Main Hall - 5:30pm
- Faith Formation Session 2: PLC - 6:15pm
- MSYG Session: Main Hall - 6:15pm

Thursday, April 4

- Adult Choir Rehearsal: Church - 6:30pm

Friday, April 5

- 1st Friday Adoration: Church - 8:30am
- Adoration Chapel open 8:30am - 8pm
- Confirmation: Church - 6:30pm
- Vietnamese Choir Rehearsal: Church - 8pm

Saturday, April 6

- First Saturday
- Benediction/Adoration/Confession after 8am Mass
- Vigil Mass: Church - 4pm
- Vietnamese Mass: Church - 8pm

Sunday, April 7 - DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY

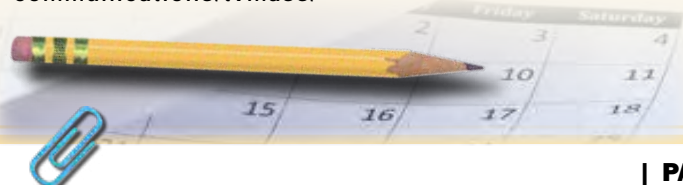
- 7:15am, **NOTE: 9:15am* Livestreamed** & 11:15am
- Divorce & Separation Group: PLC/St. Michael - 9am
- Pre-School Bible Class: PLC/St. Susanna - 9:15am
- OCIA: PLC/Martha/Mary/Bernadette - 10:15am
- Divine Mercy Confessions: Church - 1pm - 3pm
- Spanish Mass: PLC - 1:30pm
- Divine Mercy Mass: Church - 3pm

WATCH AT HOME

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

ONLINE

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



WELCOME

New Parishioners

- Andrew Hudak
- John Lokay
- Anthony Cappello
- RC Manna
- James McLaughlin
- Anthony Cappello
- DJ & Kimberly Martin
- Michael Rodriguez

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, June 9, 2024 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
Sean Ball
Major Bart Boma
Staff Sgt. Dennis Cosgrove
Sgt. Phil Dellibovi
Sgt. Jared Gaudet
Capt. Kellyn C. Hall
Andrew Herman
Sgt. Kathleen Hudepohl
PFC Michael P Hughes
SPC Michael Jednak
PFC Andrew Kanopkh
Michael Klem
Major Bradley D. Laux
Capt. Jacob Mundo, US Army
SSGT Anthony Padula
Master SGT Peter Parison
Sgt. Justin Pingicer, Army
Lt. Col. Brady Sexton
Christian Troutner, US Navy
Alex Zizzo, US Navy Medic
PFC Jordan Feil, USA
Aaron Crump, USCG
Sgt. Nathaniel Broemmel
Lt. Com. Mark Buonomo
BG Scott C. Woodward
Andrew Hawkinson, USN
Cavalry Scout Specialist,
Ryan Silva, Army
2nd Lt. Greg Fry, USMC
Jared Broemmel, US Navy
2nd Lt. Edward Hudson
Tillinghast IV, Army
Jethro Ignacio, US Air Force

Eric Sanchez, US Air Force
Lt. Col. Mike Garry, US Army,
82nd ABN
Sgt. Eric Lyons, USMC
Lt. Nicholas Meunier, US Army
Robert Trenton Morell, Medic
Specialist US Army
Michael Thomas Morell, US Navy
SPC 4 Judy Martinez, US Army
1st Lt. Jeffrey Zivkovic, US Army
Christopher Dominski, PFC ARNG
2nd Lt. Sara Wulff
Sean Dryhurst US Navy
Lt. Amanda Macaluso
Anthony An Schroeder,
11 Bravo Infantry
Derrick Hambling, Army
Airborne Infantry
Maj. Paige Blevins USAF
Maj. Christopher Blevins USAF
Capt. Cameron Hortman USAF
PFC Alan Copeland
Augustus Gagis, Major, USAF
Zachary Gagis, Lieutenant, USN
Andrew Duffy, USSF
A1C Mark Greenwald, USAF
Col. Jeffrey Greenwald, USMC
Sarah Lambert, USAF
2nd Lt. Jarod Pankau
2nd Lt. Curi Pankau
Charles Robert Connolly, US Navy
PFC Abner Casiano, US Army
Ranger

He Is Risen!

RESURRECTION: HE IS RISEN, INDEED!

by: **Laura Bagby - CBN News**

Easter Sunday. To many it means the Easter bunny, a day of food and celebration. For some it is an obligatory church-attending holiday, after which life goes on as usual.

How sad that we have so quickly forgotten the true meaning of Easter. Our God reigns! Jesus Christ died, yes. But even more importantly, He rose again and is now seated at the right hand of God the Father, as we say in the Creed.

Jesus Christ literally defied death. But He did more than just a Houdini move. We “ooo” and “ahhh” over the narrow escapes by magicians like David Copperfield and others, but eventually even those daredevils will face death. Their power is limited.

But Jesus Christ was greater - He defied death FOREVER. Jesus Christ lives and reigns for eternity, whether you or I believe that fact or not.

And He has reclaimed life for all those who believe in Him. This is the second miracle of Easter. Through God’s work on the cross, we have access to eternal life as well:

- *For I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God for the salvation of everyone who believes: first for the Jew, then for the Gentile. For in the gospel a righteousness from God is revealed, a righteousness that is by faith from first to last, just as it is written: ‘The righteous will live by faith’ (Romans 1:16-17).*
- *If you confess with your mouth, ‘Jesus is Lord,’ and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you confess and are saved (Romans 10:9-10).*
- *Whosoever acknowledges me before men, I will also acknowledge him before my Father in heaven. But whoever disowns me before men, I will disown him before my Father in heaven (Matt. 10:32-33).*

Please consider today the wonder of God’s power and His love for you. He knows you. He knows what you have done. He knows what you are going to do. But He is waiting for your response, my friend. God doesn’t need your praise or your service to Him; He desires it. It is not what we do for God that gets us into heaven and gives us a right relationship with God. It is only by faith in Jesus Christ. Look at these Scriptures:

- *Know that a man is not justified by observing the law, but by faith in Jesus Christ. So we, too, have put our faith in Christ Jesus that we may be justified by faith in Christ and not by observing the law, because by observing the law no one will be justified (Galatians 2:16).*
- *For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith -- and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God -- not by works so that no one can boast (Ephesians 2:8-9).*

For what I received I passed on to you as of first importance: that Christ died for our sins, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day.

- Corinthians 15:3-4



Special Thank You

On behalf of the St. John XXIII staff, we would like to thank all the volunteers and ministries who made Holy Week so wonderful. Your dedication allows us to appreciate the beauty of the Easter season!



Thank you for your continued love and support of our Parish Community!

EASTER JELLY BEAN PRAYER

RED Signifies all the love Jesus showed.

PURPLE Signifies the sadness of this death.

ORANGE Signifies the setting sun on that faithful Good Friday.

BLACK Signifies the nights Jesus spent in the tomb.

YELLOW Signifies the brightness of the Easter morning sun.

PINK Signifies our joy.

WHITE Symbolizes the Easter candle.

GREEN Symbolizes the hope, promise and new life of spring.

A bag of jellybeans colorful and sweet is a remembrance, a prayer, and a treat.

Have a wonderful Easter!

What is Resurrection?



Why are eggs associated with Easter? Why are they such a powerful symbol of resurrection? Resurrection is transformation. The symbols of resurrection are many. So then, why eggs and Easter? An egg is totally changed. What is yellow and white liquid becomes alive with feathers and a chirp. If you look at the liquid of eggs alone, you would never tell what they would become. A liquid goo becomes a chicken – a sea gull, crow or magpie. Another Easter symbol is the seed, or acorn. You can look at a seed and never imagine what color it may turn out to have. Similarly with a caterpillar and butterfly. These are resurrection symbols because they become something else, totally unforeseen and beautiful. And yet there is continuity: the egg becomes a chicken; an acorn becomes an oak-tree; a caterpillar becomes a butterfly.

There are also human resurrection symbols: persons recovering from drug addiction or alcoholism become what they have despaired of happening. They are the same persons, but now transformed; they have new life, new hopes, and new possibilities. Another resurrection symbol might be a teenager becoming an adult: he or she is the same, but different with the new beauties of maturity.

The resurrection is an invitation to look around to see transformation, to see what is evil being changed, what is immature becoming adult; what appears inert like an egg or seed sprouting life.

But for the Christian, the resurrection has a still richer meaning. Christ died for our sins in accordance with the scriptures and that he was buried, and that he was raised on the third day according to the scriptures.

The first thing we can see is that Jesus “was raised on the third day.” Who raised him? The Father by the power of the Holy Spirit (see Romans 1:3-4; 8:11). When we look at the resurrection appearances we notice that Jesus is not at first recognized by those who loved him and who were his close associates or disciples. The exception seems to be the Beloved Disciple who had special insight (see John 20:8; 21:7). The others come to faith; indeed faith was necessary to identify Jesus. The Risen Jesus is then the same but different. This can be put in another way by saying that Jesus is not resuscitated, but is resurrected.

Christ is risen, and has promised to take us with him. This life is not the end; we too will be transformed in endless life and beauty. Human life is good, but it will end. The resurrection gives hope and meaning to our existence here. We will be raised in His glory.



Faith FORMATION

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

SAVE
THE
DATES

June 24 - June 28



This summer's vacation Bible School is sure to be "DEEP" as we "SCUBA - dive into Friendship with God!" Registration and more information to follow.



TOTUS TUUS: GRADES 1- 6
Week of July 15 - 19

(9:00am to 3:00pm)

PLEASE NOTE: at Our Lady of Light Parish

TOTUS TUUS: GRADES 7 - 12
July 15 - July 18

(6:30pm - 8:30pm)

PLEASE NOTE: at St. John XXIII Parish

SAVE
THE
DATES

Sacrament PREPARATION

If you would like more information on **BAPTISM**, **FIRST COMMUNION** or **CONFIRMATION PREPARATION**, please visit the parish website sacraments tab: <https://johnxxxiii.net/sacrament-prep/>

MARRIAGE PREPARATION: For more information or to begin the process, please contact **Marie** in the parish office at **239-561-2245**



OCIA

A JOURNEY IN FAITH

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

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

For more information, please contact:
Leslie Robertson at (239) 560-5617

Welcome to Participate!

Reflection QUESTIONS

We would like to invite parishioners to share in the OCIA experience by making them aware of the Reflection Questions that the participants are discussing each week.

Below are some upcoming reflections:

4/7 - Conversion: Life-long Process

Where and how do you feel God calling you on your faith journey: At home/family, at work, in your parish, community?

4/14 - Role of the Laity

How is God calling you to get involved at St. John XXIII, using your unique skills and talents?

4/14 - Family Life

At what age did you know without a doubt that there was a God? Who helped you to discover that you are a child of God - and how can you be that person for someone else?

4/21 - Discernment

Describe a time when you 'felt' God tugging at your heart. How did you respond? Why?

4/21 - Spiritual Gifts

Have your needs, attachments or fears ever kept you from doing what you thought God was inviting you to do?

4/28 - Call to Holiness

Explain what 'holiness' means to you and describe your journey to grow in holiness.

4/28 - Living the Virtues

What are 'virtues'? Describe one virtue that is particularly important to you.



Coordinator of Youth Ministries 561-3022 xt 107
Contact: Kelly Evers | kelly@johnxxiii.net

Rooted at St. John XXIII

We are reformatting the Rooted Ministry and looking for small group leaders. If you have a small group idea and would like to meet on the first Thursday of each month 7pm -8:30pm, please contact Kelly Evers.

Here are a few group ideas:

- **Rooted in College**
- **Rooted Special Needs**
- **Rooted 20 years of age to 30**
- **Rooted and Married**
(children welcome)
- **Rooted 30 years of age to 55**



Confirmation Program:

Our next sessions:

- **1st Year Study: April 28-** Power to Pray - In the Parish Life Center.
- **2nd Year Study: April 4 -** Confirmation Rehearsal
April 5 - Confirmation Mass

High School Youth Group

All High School students and friends are welcome to attend our gatherings on select Sunday mornings in the Parish Life Center between the 9:15am & 11:15am Masses. **(4/14, 5/12)**

Middle School Youth Group

Visit our Parish website at johnxxiii.net under the Education tab to see dates and topics. High School Youth are welcome to attend to earn volunteer hours as mentors.

Youth Council

Mission statement: To challenge and equip children of God with the tools to inspire and disciple others while giving a voice to young leaders to serve, love, and grow with St John XXIII Community.

Volunteer Opportunities

Scan this code with your mobile device photo app to be directed to the sign up genius webpage for opportunities to volunteer.



CAMP VERITAS

WHY IT IS IMPORTANT

A beautiful transformation of faith and fellowship:

Transformation is the reason why youth ministry is taking kids to camp. Spending time in nature, doing simple activities, and building face to face relationships are exactly what our children need today. Plus, learning our beautiful Catholic traditions and celebrating them daily, gives the kids a completely different outlook on why we do what we do as Catholics.

Camp Veritas Is completely run by volunteers. There are no paid positions. All the money goes to support the kids and their Catholic faith. In fact most volunteers take a week off of work to volunteer.

Overnight Camp Details:

- Lake Placid, Florida - June 9 to 14
- For ages 12 to 18
- Registration has begun and early bird pricing ends April 1, 2024
- \$550 per camper (includes housing, food, and activities. Does not include transportation to and from)

Registration OPEN NOW



A week long sleep away for Catholic Teens ages 12-18, with adoration, engaging talks, praise, worship, team building activities and so much more!

www.campveritas.org



ST. JOHN XXIII
Catholic Church

Weekly Financials



	03-17-24	03-19-23	Difference
Offertory	\$45,900.47	\$40,146.18	\$5,754.29
Building Fund	\$1,592.00	\$1,231.30	\$360.70
Total	\$47,492.47	\$41,377.48	\$6,114.99
Mass Attendance	4079	3752	
Registered Families	3579	3726	

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

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

2024 Catholic Faith Appeal

2024 Goal	\$492,000.00
Pledge	\$233,405.58
Payments	\$160,356.57

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/>

FIRST FRIDAY

Adoration

APRIL 5

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

PLEASE NOTE: Chapel Hours are Monday-Friday 8:30am-3:45pm and Saturday 8:30am-3:30pm. Every first Friday has extended hours 8:30am-8pm

For more information:

EMAIL:

stjohnxxiiiadorationchapel@gmail.com

WEBSITE:

johnxxiii.net/adoration-chapel-ministry/



BENEDICTION
ADORATION
CONFESSIONS

Saturday, April 6

Saturday, April 6, we offer the monthly First Saturday benediction followed by adoration after the 8:00am Mass until 10:00am. Confessions will still be available.

PLEASE NOTE: The Adoration Chapel will not be open until 10:00am on the 1st Saturday. We invite people into the church for adoration.

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SCAN ME

MONTHLY

Blessings

Join us **NEXT WEEKEND, APRIL 7**, as we offer the **MONTHLY BLESSINGS** for all **ANNIVERSARIES** and **BIRTHDAYS**.

The blessing after the homily will be dedicated to anyone celebrating an anniversary that month. Parishioners can just stand in place.

Birthday blessings will take place after Mass once a month.

EASTER FUN FACTS

- The tallest Easter egg chocolate was made in Italy in 2011. It stood at 10.39 meters and weighed an astounding 7,200 kg.
- The art of painting eggs is called pysanka, which originated in Ukraine. It involves using wax and dyes to color the egg.
- The term Easter gets its name from Eastre, the Anglo-Saxon goddess who symbolizes the hare and the egg.
- The exchange or giving of Easter eggs actually dates back to before Easter and the giving of eggs is actually considered a symbol of rebirth in many cultures.
- Americans consume more than 16 million jelly beans during this holiday. That is enough jelly beans to circle the globe not once, not twice, but three times.
- Peep peep! Did you know Americans buy more than 700 million marshmallow Peeps during Easter? This makes Peeps the most popular non-chocolate Easter candy.
- During the Easter holiday, more than 90 million chocolate bunnies, 91.4 billion eggs and 700 million Peeps are produced each year in the United States alone.
- Next to Halloween, Easter is the biggest candy consuming holiday of the year. Good thing they are almost six months apart, perfect for your yearly dentist check-ups!

Happy Easter



Parenting Pointer:

Easter has come. Hurray! We can eat sweets again and let go of "giving up." But what has Lent taught you this year? Reflect together honestly about how this Lent (or harder times in general) have taught you a life lesson, perhaps how to love each other better, warts and all.

"by Susan Vogt, www.SusanVogt.net"

ECO-FRIENDLY TIPS AND TRICKS

while you're out and about

CLUTTER

EASY: Decluttering tip: Not everything has to be stored in your house. (Think extra sheets, toys, canned goods...) That's what stores are for.

CHALLENGING: Walk through each room in your home. Notice what you use often vs. what are mentos or "just in case" items.

MAKE 3 PILES: Save, Donate and Discard. Do something with the discard pile!

For more recycling basics visit:

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



Marriage Moment:

As we remember Jesus' sorrow and pain, parents also have days of regret and pain while raising a child. Forgive yourself. Forgive your child. A better day will come. Sorrow is a necessary part of growing up for both your child and yourself. Don't give up!

"by Susan Vogt, www.SusanVogt.net"



40 DAYS FOR LIFE

Continued PRAYERS ARE Needed

40 Days For Life vigils have dramatically reduced the abortion rate around the world....But the abortion industry continues to prey upon vulnerable moms, dads, and babies each and every day of the year. They don't stop on Day 41.

40 Days For Life 365 campaign, offers local pro-lifers the opportunity to build a prayer presence in front of the abortion facilities throughout the year.

Former abortion workers report that when somebody is out praying in front of an abortion facility, the **no-show rate for abortion appointments can go to as high as 75%**. The impact of your community's peaceful vigils makes an impact. A year-round presence means more abortion workers will convert and leave their jobs.

Your presence can devastate an abortion facility's bottom line—and help close its doors forever.

Continue TO Pray

Please continue to be present to pray for the moms, dads, and babies each Tuesday or any day that you can make it. **YOUR PRESENCE AND PRAYERS DO MAKE A DIFFERENCE!**

- 150 Babies Saved since February 14
- 24,242 Babies Saved since 2007
- 148 Abortion Facilities Closed
- 256 Abortion Workers Quit

Let's MAKE A Difference

SUPPORT

>>> AFTER ABORTION
www.supportafterabortion.com



Worldwide Call for PRAYER:

NOVENA TO OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE



"I'm calling on every Catholic in America to return to Our Lady and join in prayer."

- Raymond Leo Cardinal Burke

In these early days of the novena, carry the events of the first apparition in your hearts as you pray the following each day:

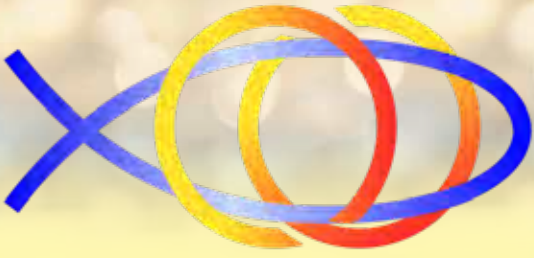
"Oh Virgin Mother of God, we fly to your protection and beg your intercession against the darkness and sin which ever more envelop the world and menace the Church. Your Son, Our Lord Jesus Christ, gave you to us as our mother as He died on the Cross for our salvation. So too, in 1531, when darkness and sin beset us, He sent you, as Our Lady of Guadalupe, on Tepeyac to lead us to Him Who alone is our light and our salvation.

Through your apparitions on Tepeyac and your abiding presence with us on the miraculous mantle of your messenger, Saint Juan Diego, millions of souls converted to faith in your Divine Son. Through this novena and our consecration to you, we humbly implore your intercession for our daily conversion of life to Him and the conversion of millions more who do not yet believe in Him. In our homes and in our nation, lead us to Him Who alone wins the victory over sin and darkness in us and in the world.

Unite our hearts to your Immaculate Heart so that they may find their true and lasting home in the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus. Ever guide us along the pilgrimage of life to our eternal home with Him. So may our hearts, one with yours, always trust in God's promise of salvation, in His never-failing mercy toward all who turn to Him with a humble and contrite heart. Through this novena and our consecration to you, Oh Virgin of Guadalupe, lead all souls in America and throughout the world to your Divine Son in Whose name we pray." Amen.

For more information visit:

<https://novena.cardinalburke.com/>



Teams of Our Lady

Your MARRIAGE is ORDAINED and BLESSED by GOD

Find out how to help grow your marriage in God's love and enjoy the fellowship of other Catholic Married Couples.

Dessert and Information night

You and your spouse are invited to a Teams of Our Lady Dessert and Information Night:

DATE: Friday, April 5 at 7pm

LOCATION: at the home of Linda and John Stankiewicz

RSVP: to John or Linda at 239-481-1898 by Monday, April 1

John and Linda hope to see you and your spouse soon!



May God Bless you and your marriage!



DIVORCE/SEPARATION SUPPORT GROUP



SUNDAY, APRIL 7

9AM - PARISH LIFE CENTER
Room: St. Michael

You are welcome to attend at any time in whatever stage of separation/divorce you are in.

Join our next session, Sunday, April 7 at 9am in the Parish Life Center, room St. Michael. We will meet every other Sunday through July and you are welcome to come to any session any week.

For more information contact:

Carole Wheeler-Antle (239) 850-7443
email: cdwantle819@gmail.com



APRIL 7
11:00 AM



14261 S. Tamiami Trail
Fort Myers, FL 33912

If you plan on attending

PLEASE RSVP BY FRIDAY, APRIL 5
Carole Eckhout (248) 385-4100

Divine Mercy Sunday

SUNDAY, APRIL 7: IN THE CHURCH 3:00PM

Join us for a very special celebration of Divine Mercy Sunday. Divine Mercy Sunday is the Sunday following Easter, on April 7. There will be Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, the Divine Mercy Chaplet, Veneration of the image of the Divine Mercy and confessions will be heard starting at 1:00pm in the church.

The message of The Divine Mercy is simple. It is that God loves us. All of us. And, he wants us to recognize that His mercy is greater than our sins, so that we will call upon Him with trust, receive His mercy, and let it flow through us to others. Thus, all will come to share His joy.

DIVINE MERCY NOVENA:

Jesus asked that the Feast of the Divine Mercy be preceded by a Novena to the Divine Mercy which would begin on Good Friday, March 29. He gave St. Faustina an intention to pray for on each day of the Novena, saving for the last day the most difficult intention of all, the lukewarm and indifferent of whom He said:

"These souls cause Me more suffering than any others; it was from such souls that My soul felt the most revulsion in the Garden of Olives. It was on their account that I said: 'My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass Me by.' The last hope of salvation for them is to flee to My Mercy."

In her diary, St. Faustina wrote that Jesus told her:

"On each day of the novena you will bring to My heart a different group of souls and you will immerse them in this ocean of My mercy ... On each day you will be My Father, on the strength of My passion, for the graces for these souls."

TO COMPLETE THE NOVENA:

EVERY DAY AT 3 RECITE THE DIVINE MERCY CHAPLET:

- **March 29 - First Day:** Good Friday, March 29: Bring to Me All Mankind, especially all sinners
- **March 30:** Bring to me the Souls of Priests and Religious.
- **March 31:** Bring to me all devout and faithful souls.
- **April 1:** Bring to me those who do not believe in God and those who do not yet know me
- **April 2:** Bring to me the souls of those who have separated themselves from my church.
- **April 3:** Bring to me the meek and humble souls and the souls of little children.
- **April 4:** Bring to me the souls who especially venerate and glorify my mercy.
- **April 5:** Bring to me the souls who are detained in purgatory.
- **April 6:** Bring to me souls who have become lukewarm.

DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY PLENARY INDULGENCE: In a spirit that is completely detached from the affection for a sin, even a venial sin, take part in the prayers and devotions held in honor of Divine Mercy, or who, in the presence of the Blessed Sacrament exposed or reserved in the tabernacle, recite the Our Father and the Creed, adding a devout prayer to the merciful Lord Jesus (e.g. Merciful Jesus, I trust in you!").



Our Holy Fathers have told us that Divine Mercy is the greatest attribute of God, and it is especially needed in our modern, secular times. All are invited to attend our Divine Mercy Service to receive these powerful graces and blessings of Mercy.

Jesus, I Trust in You

To fittingly observe the Feast of Mercy, we should:

1. Celebrate the Feast on the Sunday after Easter
2. Sincerely repent of all our sins
3. Place our complete trust in Jesus
4. Confess your sins to Jesus before that Sunday
5. Receive Holy Communion on the day of the Feast
6. Venerate* the Image of The Divine Mercy
7. Be merciful to others, through our actions, words, and prayers on their behalf.

*To venerate a sacred image or statue simply means to perform some act or make some gesture of deep religious respect toward it because of the person whom it represents in this case, our Most Merciful Savior.

For a complete background and detailed information on Divine Mercy Sunday visit thedivinemercy.org



CONFESSIONS will be held prior to Mass from 1:00pm-2:45pm in the Church and Rosary Chapel.

DIVINE MERCY MASS will take place at 3:00pm in the Church.

YOUTUBE: For more information on Divine Mercy Sunday from our own parishioner, Ryan Arciero, please follow this youtube link:

www.youtube.com/watch?v=LZov0GPmDk8&t=2s

Catholic Community HAPPENINGS

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/>

Decline to Sign Petition: Abortion activists are working to gather petition signatures to have a pro-abortion constitutional amendment placed on the statewide ballot in the November 2024 election. To do so, they need nearly 900,000 signatures. Floridian Catholics should not sign the petition as we approach the November elections.

Join a Prayer Group: "Who is Jesus to you? A picture or a statue? Is He flesh and blood to you? We are a group of women who gather to meditate on the Gospels, to develop a personal relationship with the Living Word Himself. To share our experience of the Word, apply it concretely to our daily lives, and provide spiritual support to one another. In short, to "know" Jesus intimately through prayer according to Catholic Tradition and the Doctors of the Church. "Come taste and see the goodness of the Lord." Interested? Gospel Encounter meets twice monthly in the afternoons on the second and fourth Wednesdays. Contact **Peggy Kepple (734) 223-8151** or email peggykepple@yahoo.com for more information.

Southwest Florida Concert Band: Join us for Sunday concerts at South Fort Myers High School, 14020 Plantation Rd. Ft. Myers. The April 14 concert is "Traveling the World with Music". All concerts start at 2pm and are FREE with donations accepted. For more information: southwestfloridaconcertband.org

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.

Healing after Abortion: For more information or questions, contact Sylvia Jimenez by email or on the Project Rachel Helpline at **(941) 412-5860**

Good Counsel Camp: Summer adventures await at Our Lady of Good Counsel Camp in Floral City, FL. This is a co-ed overnight camp which is owned and operated by the Catholic Diocese of St. Petersburg. All Children 7-15 years of age are invited to attend. One and two week sessions are currently offered at affordable prices. All information is available on the camp website at www.goodcounselcamp.org or by emailing the camp director at: info@goodcounselcamp.org

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We have an opening in our parish office for a full time Receptionist starting May 1st.

- **Minimum of high school diploma or equivalent.**
- **2-3 years of experience in a position with similar duties and responsibilities preferred.**
- **Previous church employment/ experience extremely helpful.**
- **Excellent communications skills both written and oral.**
- **Proficiency with Microsoft Suite. Able to multi-task in a busy office environment.**
- **Strong organizational skills. Bilingual is a big plus!**
- **Must pass DOV assigned level II FDLE background check.**

For more information contact:
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email: holly@johnxxiii.net

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