



# ST. JOHN XXIII Catholic Church

13060 Palomino Lane, Fort Myers, FL 33912 | P 239-561-2245 | F 239-561-3713 | [www.johnxxiii.net](http://www.johnxxiii.net)

**May 5, 2024**  
Sixth Sunday of Easter

## *Love* OF *God*

*He has given  
us the  
Holy Spirit  
to fill our  
hearts with  
His love.*

- ROMANS 5:5



**May 5, 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, MAY 6**

- 8:00 AM † Timothy Kamper by Patrick & Linda Gross

**TUESDAY, MAY 7**

- 8:00 AM † Michael Rovnak by the Rovnak family

**WEDNESDAY, MAY 8**

- 8:00 AM † Cheryl Bronson by Elaine & Burke Quinn

**THURSDAY, MAY 9**

- 8:00 AM † Herman Preissler by his family

**FRIDAY, MAY 10**

- 8:00 AM † Edna Schaake by Richard

**SATURDAY, MAY 11**

- 8:00 AM † Pat LeGoff by Tina Antosiewicz
- 4:00 PM † Paul Glanzman by Bill & Marjorie Kirrane
- 8:00 PM † Joseph - Vietnamese Mass

**SUNDAY, MAY 12 - MOTHER'S DAY**

- †/♥ All Deceased & Living Mothers/Grandmothers
- 7:15 AM, 9:15 AM & 11:15 AM
- 1:30 PM - Spanish Mass

**\*\*\* 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.

**MAY 12, 2024 - READINGS**

- |               |                     |
|---------------|---------------------|
| • 1ST READING | ACTS 1:1-11         |
| • PSALM       | PS 47:2-3, 6-7, 8-9 |
| • 2ND READING | EPH 1:17-23         |
| • GOSPEL      | MARK 16:15-20       |



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**PART-TIME EMPLOYEES:**

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**Barbara Lange**  
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239-561-2245

MESSAGE FROM

The  
St. John XXIII  
Administrator

*Fr. Jay*



Dear Friends,

This weekend, I am leaving for India for the whole month of May to be with my parents and two brothers' families. I should be back, God willing, during the weekend of June 8th and 9th. It's going to be a very hot season climate-wise, when I am there, but it is always the coolest thing to be with the family! You may not receive my messages in the bulletin or email, but you will be in my thoughts and prayers. During my absence, Fr. Nick Thompson will be helping us with Masses from May 7th through 20th. Fr. Nick Thompson is currently serving as Parochial Vicar at St. John the Evangelist parish at Naples. Thanks to him for his help. Another priest (name not known yet) will be available from May 21st through June 7th. I'm sure you will enjoy their presence!

I ask you for your special prayers for safe travels and for India. General election is going on in India. India needs prayers!

The readings this weekend talk about LOVE of God. In the first reading, Cornelius, a powerful and authoritative Roman Centurian falls at the feet of Peter- an act of humbling himself. Peter realizes in turn how humble he had to be with the help of the Holy Spirit showered upon him. When we realize the love of God in our lives, there is no domination of anything. Love leads us to humility and humility leads to service and service brings/ bears fruit. Let us love!

*God Bless,*  
Fr. Jay Raju



## PRAYER FOR

# God's Love

*Oh loving Lord, I'm far from perfect.  
Many parts of my character could  
be more pure. And things aren't  
always how I want them to be.*

*One thing I know for sure, one thing  
I trust in, and count on with all my  
heart is the power of God's love.*

*Fill me, Oh Lord, with your grace  
and loving Spirit. The best  
answer to all my problems and  
imperfections, is more of You.  
Pour Yourself over me, Oh Lord.  
Cleanse and restore me. I ask for  
more of Christ in me to cast out the  
darkness, fear, hurt and shame.*

*Your love for me is infinite and all  
powerful. I am a child of God.  
I sing praise to Your glory. In Christ,  
my soul soars free. Amen.*



## Prayer List

Please remember in your prayers all of our parish family and friends who suffer physically, emotionally or spiritually, especially:

**Marlene LaRose  
Gary Neubauer  
Laura Ford  
Scott Dugan  
Braden O'Halloran  
Infant Anthony Vardaan  
Steve Lane  
Kathleen Fontaine  
Lucy DeRose  
Bill Becker  
Cynthia & William  
Sandy Szymanski  
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  
Mimi Weaver  
Linda Anderson  
Kristen Lipp  
Denis Ryan  
Kevin Walsh  
Janice Herrington  
Lucille Ouellette  
Cora Davies  
Marie Boutwell  
Louis Cooper, Jr.  
Bill Acini**

**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](mailto:epayer.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!*

**Stephen Lane Jr.  
William J. Brown**



## Tabernacle Candle

In Memory of: **Phil & Fran Barnas**  
Requested by: **Ken & Linda Barnas**

In Honor of: **First Communicants**



## DOWNLOAD OUR PARISH APP:

[myparishapp.com](http://myparishapp.com) or search your phone's app store for myparish. You can also text the word "APP" to 88202!





## Weekly Calendar

PLC = PARISH LIFE CENTER



### Monday, May 6

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

### Tuesday, May 7

- 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, May 8

- Pastoral Staff Meeting: Office Conference Room - 10am

### Thursday, May 9

- Manor Care Mass - 10am
- Journey to Hope: PLC/St. Therese - 6pm
- Adult Choir Rehearsal: Church - 6:30pm

### Friday, May 10

- Vietnamese Choir Rehearsal: Church - 8pm

### Saturday, May 11

- Hispanic Group Rosary: Memorial Garden - 10am
- Spanish Baptism Class: PLC/ St. Bernadette & St. Michael - 10am
- Vigil Mass: Church - 4pm
- Vietnamese Mass: Church - 8pm

### Sunday, May 12

## Mother's Day

- 7:15am, **NOTE: 9:15am\* Livestreamed** & 11:15am
- Bloodmobile: Parking Lot - 8am-1pm
- Pre-School Bible Class: PLC/St. Susanna - 9:15am
- HSYG Session/PLC/St. Michael - 10:15am
- Spanish Mass: Church - 1:30pm
- Praise & Worship: Adoration Chapel - 4pm

### WATCH AT HOME

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

### ONLINE

[www.dioceseofvenice.org/offices/offices-departments/communications/tvmass/](http://www.dioceseofvenice.org/offices/offices-departments/communications/tvmass/)



## WELCOME

### New Parishioners

- Julie Diaz
- Tiffany Nguyen
- Ed Keidat
- Gregory Smith
- Luis & Rita Wulff
- Alex & Miranda Lavender
- Rick & Meg Jacobs
- Peter & Susan Bernier

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](http://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  
 M/Sgt Jarod 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  
 Ensign Aaron Humphrey

## MAY CROWNING

SUNDAY MAY 5

The **St. John XXIII Women's Guild** is hosting a May Crowning of the statue, **Mary, Mother of the Life Within**, in the **Memorial Garden** on **Sunday, May 5 at 12:30pm.**

All members of the parish are invited to join us for this celebration. Please bring your rosary and help us honor Jesus' Mother.



## ATTENTION PARENTS



INFANT, CHILD AND ADULT

**WEDNESDAY, MAY 15**  
**6:00pm - 9:30pm**

PARISH LIFE CENTER  
*St. Michael/St. Bernadette*



The South Trail Fire Department is offering a First Aid /CPR class that will include instruction for infant, child and adult CPR!

This class has a limit of 15 participants and will be on a first come first serve basis.

### COST

The cost is \$40/participant which will be paid directly to STFD the evening of the class.

### SIGN UP

To sign up, please email **Paula Froio** at [paula@johnxxiii.net](mailto:paula@johnxxiii.net) or call **Frannie Cerniglia** at **239-561-7499**

### DEADLINE

Please sign up by **Tuesday, May 7**

# PARISH LIFE CENTER GUIDELINES

Treat Our *PLC* with *TLC*

## REGISTRATION:

- Submit a registration form and have it approved by authorized staff to reserve a requested space and be added to the parish calendar.

## SAFETY:

- Take care of yourself and be respectful of others. Document and report all accidents or injuries to a parish staff member.
- At least one authorized, trained kitchen user must be present. You must be at least 15 years old to be in the kitchen, unless special permission has been granted by authorized staff.
- All spills or trip hazards are to be contained and corrected. Report maintenance or repair needs.
- The stages are reserved for speakers, performers, and authorized personnel. Always keep children safe and off the stage.

## CLASSROOMS:

- When having a meeting in one of the flex rooms, please DO NOT move any of the panels/walls. Those are to be moved by trained staff for security purposes. If you need a smaller room than what is provided please advise when requesting the room for your meeting. Also if any tables or chairs are moved please return everything back to where it goes.
- Classrooms are food-free zones. No food or drinks are allowed in the five stand-alone classrooms.

## UPKEEP:

- Keep walls, windows, and doors free of decorations. Free-standing banners, easels, and portable walls are available for approved requests.
- Table decorations are allowed, including weighted balloons. All decorations must be removed during event clean-up.
- Only floor cord protectors, not tape, are to be used for extension cords.
- Refrain from placing feet on walls.

## CLEAN UP:

- Return the PLC to pristine condition after your event. All trash must be removed.
- Tables/chairs must be returned to original placement.
- Do not leave extra items without staff approval.

## TECHNOLOGY:

- Air conditioning and heating will be controlled only by authorized staff.
- Audio/visual equipment is to be operated by authorized and properly trained personnel.

*Save a Life*

## DONATE BLOOD

Lee Health Bloodmobile

**SUNDAY, MAY 12**

8am-1pm

St. John XXIII Parking Lot



*Women's Guild*

**BAKE SALE**

*Thank You*

The St. John XXIII Women's Guild would like to thank everyone who baked, donated and participated in the April Bake Sale. Due to your generosity, we raised **\$2,000!**

All proceeds will benefit Lifeline, Verity, and Community Pregnancy Center. Your help with the parish community is greatly appreciated!

*Sue Edwards, The Women's Guild*

# Faith FORMATION

Contact: Frannie Cerniglia | 561-7499 | [frannedre@johnxxxiii.net](mailto:frannedre@johnxxxiii.net)

**REGISTER NOW**



Sign up today for this summer's Vacation Bible School. It is sure to be "Deep" as we "SCUBA"- dive into Friendship with God!"

## VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

**June 24 - June 28**

(8:00am - 12:30pm)

ST. JOHN XXIII PARISH

PLC - Main Hall/Classrooms

**DEADLINE: May 20, 2024**



Online Registration Link:

<https://www.osvhub.com/st-john-xxiii-parish/forms/registration-1-1-2-2-2>

**Use the QR code to Register**



## TOTUS TUUS: GRADES 1- 6

**Week of July 15 - 19** (9:00am to 3:00pm)

OUR LADY OF LIGHT PARISH

Fee: \$75 per child, \$125 (2 children)

\$200 (3 children) \$300 (4+ children)

[debbie@ourladyoflight.com](mailto:debbie@ourladyoflight.com)

**DEADLINE: May 31, 2024**

## TOTUS TUUS: GRADES 7 - 12

**July 15 - July 18**

(6:30pm - 8:30pm)

ST. JOHN XXIII PARISH

Summer Nights Fee: \$20 per child

[kelly@johnxxxiii.net](mailto:kelly@johnxxxiii.net)

**DEADLINE: May 31, 2024**



**Use the QR code to Register**

## MONTH OF MAY



# Women's Guild



## SHOWER

During the month of May, The St. John XXIII Women's Guild is sponsoring a baby shower to support women in need of help with their babies. Items will be donated to the pro-life pregnancy centers in town.

All items donated must be new. Due to Covid, they are **unable to accept used items**.

You can donate one item or if you wish you can make up a basket for a child of a particular age. Items may be left at the display crib in the narthex. They are looking for items for ages 0-2T. Items needed are:

- Diapers of any size
- Onesies
- Clothing 0-2T
- Blankets
- Bibs
- Lotions etc.
- Crib sheets
- Gift cards to Walmart or Target
- Bottles
- Pacifiers
- Donations of cash for cribs and car seats



Please write in the check memo line:  
**"Women's Guild Baby Shower"**

All gift cards and checks can be left in the church office or in the collection basket. Please mark your envelope: **"WG Baby Shower"**

For more information contact **Sue Edwards** at: [sgedwards007@gmail.com](mailto:sgedwards007@gmail.com)





Coordinator of Youth Ministries 561-3022 xt 107  
Contact: Kelly Evers | [kelly@johnxxiii.net](mailto:kelly@johnxxiii.net)

### Rooted at St. John XXIII

Please visit our Rooted Facebook page for exciting information starting this summer.

*Here are a few group ideas:*

- **Rooted Newly Graduating and College**  
(18 - 25)
- **Rooted 26 and older**
- **Rooted and Married**  
(children welcome)



### Confirmation Program:

Classes have ended for the 2023-24 season. Registration will begin July 1 on the Parish website. Both first year and second year candidates must register and commit to all scheduled dates.

### High School Youth Group

Our last gathering of the season is 5/12 where we will sell flowers for moms after the 9:15am Mass. Visit our summer offerings page for ways to encounter Christ over the summer.

### Middle School Youth Group

Sessions have ended for the 2023-24 season. Registration will begin July 1 on our parish website. Visit our summer offerings page for ways to encounter Christ over the summer.

### 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.



Order of Christian Initiation

# 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 the last session reflections:**

### **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.



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**HERE IS HOW EASY IT IS:**

- 1.) Go to **formed.org**
  - 2.) Click on Register
  - 3.) Create your FREE account by entering our parish code and your email address.
- Our Parish Code is **1823ee**



# HAPPENINGS



## MORNING WITH MARY

### SATURDAY, MAY 18

Parish Life Center - 9:00am - 12:00pm



The St. John XXIII Women's Guild invites **ALL WOMEN** of the parish to a gathering on **Saturday, May 18** from **9:00am to 12:00pm** in the Parish Life Center Main Hall. Come and join us for a light breakfast, a great speaker, and a rosary.

### *About Fr. Angelo:*

I was born in Savannah Beach, GA, 1943, where my father volunteered to do the ballast for navy ships during WW II. Both my parents were born in Italy, my father in Naples and my mom in Asti Piedmont.

We moved to Brooklyn, NY when I was 9 months old. Even though I left Brooklyn when I was 18, Brooklyn totally is a part of me.

At the age of 18 I began my 9 year preparation for the priesthood in the Catholic Foreign Mission Society of American (MARYKNOLL). After ordination I was assigned to Korea. When my father had a severe stroke I returned to the US and began to work in the Diocese of Bridgeport. After serving in three parishes I was appointed Pastor of St. Gregory the Great in Danbury, CT. I was Pastor there for 27 years, retiring in August of 1990. I moved to Fort Myers, Florida, September 1 of 1990 and began my service to St. John XXIII and the parish community.

*Featured Speaker:*  
**FATHER ANGELO  
ARRANDO**



**MORNING WITH MARY SATURDAY, MAY 18 • PLC 9AM-12PM**

*To ensure that we have enough food, we ask you to RSVP by returning this tear off.*

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

NUMBER ATTENDING: \_\_\_\_\_

*Please return to the parish office or drop in the collection basket by May 13th*



**ST. JOHN XXIII**  
Catholic Church

## Weekly Financials



	04-28-24	04-30-23	Difference
Offertory	\$29,865.66	\$33,960.78	(\$4,095.12)
Building Fund	\$2,016.00	\$1,523.26	\$492.74
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$31,881.66</b>	<b>\$35,484.04</b>	<b>(\$3,602.38)</b>
Mass Attendance	3400	2762	
Registered Families	3577	3675	

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	\$331,145.67
Payments	<b>\$228,844.44</b>

## 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](mailto:holly@johnxxiii.net)**



## ENDOWMENT FUND



### For Good, For God, Forever

St. John XXIII now has an endowment fund with the Catholic Community Foundation, which is designed to help provide long-term sustainability for our parish far beyond our lifetimes.

The principal of the endowment fund remains intact, while a portion of the investment earnings are used to support the parish.

Please consider supporting the endowment fund or establishing your own fund to benefit St. John XXIII. For more information email our parish office manager, Holly Atkins: [holly@johnxxiii.net](mailto:holly@johnxxiii.net)



### Donors give THROUGH, not to the FOUNDATION

The Catholic Community Foundation helps create lasting Catholic legacies by working with you to provide long-term support and sustainability to the Catholic entities and programs about which you care most, like St. John XXIII Parish. The foundation ensures that your gifts will always be used in the manner you intended and is the only community foundation in Southwest Florida that invests all gifts in alignment with the teachings our Catholic faith.

The Catholic Community Foundation offers a wide range of gifting options including endowment/scholarship funds, charitable gift annuities, donor advised funds and more. The foundation can also help you coordinate a bequest of other estate gifts through your will or trust.

# MAY Mental Health

## Awareness Month

### Sean's Story by: by Joanne Halt. M.A.

Florida has the nation's third-largest population of people who are homeless. Many who have a mental health condition and are homeless come through the doors of St. Martin De Porres Outreach. One is 53 year old Sean from Richmond VA, who has lived unhoused in our area for 20+ years. His story is one of co-occurring disorders (mental health and alcohol use disorder). He experienced violence and instability in his home as a child. His mom died when he was 18 and already using alcohol to self-medicate. As I listened to Sean, his high level of stress in childhood guaranteed a mental health disorder. For those, who like Sean, lack support, diagnosis and treatment rarely occurs early enough to change the course of their lives; consequences of remaining untreated are incarceration or homelessness.

Sean would score high in the ACES (Adverse Childhood Experiences) questionnaire. It asks questions about childhood experiences for medical/mental health assessment covering: physical, emotional or sexual abuse, parental neglect, conditions of instability in the household or traumatic school/community events while a minor. These events affect a child's whole body-brain development, immune systems, and stress-response systems. Brain changes then affect a child's attention, decision-making, and emotion regulation which can lead to trouble forming stable relationships and ability to be employed. Being unhoused is just the next step. This path of untreated trauma/substance use disorder exists for many of SMDP's guests. Brain impacts continue when the unhoused face constant vigilance to protect themselves releasing more stress hormones. Sean has been beaten, run over by a car, suffering many severe injuries. After

treatment for a physical injury he was patched up, given an Uber ride paid for by the hospital and dropped off near the woods. By public policy, we agree that some folks are hopeless. Unhoused people have little value in a society placing prime value on productivity and consumerism.

SMDP is a Christ candle, a place of refuge where folks like Sean come to be fed and listened to, opening a person's heart to trust and hope. Before the unhoused can use the existing chain of services, supportive relationship must occur. SMDP called Centerstone, our local FACT (Florida Assertive Community Treatment agency) who sent a caseworker. Catholics Charities helped with document assistance so he could receive necessary paperwork to qualify for Arbor Village, a CASL (Community Assisted Supported Living) facility. None of us thrived or succeeded on our own; we achieved what we did due to those who nurtured us. We received strengths such as: empathy, resilience, gratitude, self-compassion, confidence, determination, courage, wisdom, and generosity from others.

Christ asks us to see the 'Jesus in disguise' in those who often are seen as less deserving. The reign of God that Jesus proclaimed includes a special place for those deemed "unworthy." This core gospel message needs our attention and energy today because lack of shelter for the unhoused is a major issue in our community. How can we profess to love the unseen God when we neglect those we do see, who lack basic shelter? May those serving at SMDP be blessed a hundredfold.

***Whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me. - Matt 25:40***

## Join Us - Journey to Hope:

This support group meets monthly to offer resources, support and hope in a caring and confidential setting to those who have a loved one with a mental health condition or co-occurring alcohol/substance use disorder. Our next meeting will take place **Thursday, May 9 in the Parish Life Center.** (please ring the doorbell)

In a mental health crisis, help is available from the National Suicide and Crisis Lifeline at **988** or our local Mobile Crisis Team at **844-395-4432**. For further information email: **[jhalt@namilee.org](mailto:jhalt@namilee.org)**

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If you do not support abortion, particularly late-term, painful, dismemberment abortion, it's time to get involved. If you want to stop the extreme abortion amendment on the November ballot in Florida, now is the time to take action!

*Join us for lunch and training!*

**WEDNESDAY, MAY 15**

**11:45am - 3pm**

*Parish Life Center*

**Registration Deadline: Noon May 14**



*Register Online*

LeadershipInstitute.org/ProLife



**TUESDAY, MAY 14**  
**PARISH LIFE CENTER**

Doors open at 5:30pm  
Games begin at 6:30pm

- 1 book of game cards is \$20
- 2 books of game cards is \$35
- Daubers cost \$1
- Each game pack includes 18 chances to win!
- Food and snacks available for purchase.

**MUST BE 21 TO PLAY**

*All proceeds will go to a charity in our community.*



**FOOD**

COLLECTION  
*church parking lot*

**NON-PERISHABLE**

**SATURDAY, MAY 18**  
**10AM-1PM**



**PLEASE CHECK EXPIRATION DATES**



## OUTREACH MINISTRY

### FOOD PANTRY *Donations*

The local food pantries are getting low now that our seasonal members have gone home. Buy one/get one free is a great way to teach your children the gift of giving to those in need. The below non-perishable items can be dropped off in the Narthex.

- Canned Vegetables
- Canned Fruit
- Rice
- Pinto Beans
- Maseca Flour
- Cooking Oil
- Canned Soup
- Canned Meat & Tuna
- Pasta
- Mac & Cheese
- Sauce
- Cereal
- Peanut Butter/Jelly
- Publix Gift Cards
- WalMart Gift Cards



# RESPECT LIFE

## 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 at: [respectlifejohn23@gmail.com](mailto:respectlifejohn23@gmail.com)



## RESPECT LIFE

## *Eucharistic Ministers* **NEEDED**



Our outreach Eucharistic Ministry to Gulf Coast Hospital is in need of ministers for

**Tuesdays, Fridays, and Sundays.**

We need parishioners who can volunteer 1-2 hours each of these days from **8:30am to roughly 10:00am.**

We have lost members due to many returning to the north. If you can participate, please **visit our table in the Narthex.**

Thank You,  
*Paul Kielmeyer, GCMH EM Coordinator*

## Catholic Community HAPPENINGS

**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.

**Food Pantry Volunteers Needed:** Catholic Charities is in need of volunteers for our Food Pantry, located at 4235 Michigan Link Avenue in Ft. Myers. Help is needed Wednesday 8:30am-11am and/or Thursday 8:30am - 12pm noon. On Wednesdays we bag the food and receive the delivery. Thursdays is the actual distribution with bagging also occurring. If you would like to help, please contact **Mike Vega** [mike.vega@catholiccharitiesdov.org](mailto:mike.vega@catholiccharitiesdov.org) or call (239)270-3291

**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](http://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](http://www.goodcounselcamp.org) or by emailing the camp director at: [info@goodcounselcamp.org](mailto:info@goodcounselcamp.org)

**St. Andrew Summer Spanish Summer Camp:** Children will have Spanish lessons based on the day's theme via visual support, tasting food, storytelling, dance and art. 4 weeks available from 9am -3pm. (June 3-7, June 10-14, June 17-21 and June 24-28. \$200 per week/per child. Payment due by May 24. For sibling discounts or more information, contact [ymartinez@standrews.org](mailto:ymartinez@standrews.org) or [chinks@standrews.org](mailto:chinks@standrews.org)

**Ave Maria University Conference:** Join our 13th Annual Ave Maria Eucharistic Conference, May 10-12 at Ave Maria University. With speakers and special breakout sessions will be offered in Spanish. For more information, visit: [aveconferences.com](http://aveconferences.com) or email: [aveconferences@gmail.com](mailto:aveconferences@gmail.com)

**TEC Retreat:** "To Encounter Christ", a Catholic Retreat for Young Adults. Memorial Day Weekend, Saturday, May 25 to Monday, May 27. Location: Cursillos de Cristiandad, 16250 SW 112 Ave. Miami, FL. For more information and sign up, visit [www.SonshineTEC.com](http://www.SonshineTEC.com)

**988 Suicide and Crisis Lifeline:** Suicide and Crisis Lifeline provides 24/7 service for those in emotional distress. Veteran services are also available. **Simply call 988**



It's officially May, which means it's also National Military Appreciation Month: an excellent time to honor both active and former members of our armed forces. To help do our part to thank those in the Army, Navy, Air Force, Coast Guard, Marines, Space Force, National Guard and beyond, we've rounded up more than 30 awesome military discounts available from the likes of Nike, Samsung and more.

### What is National Military Appreciation Month?

Officially recognized by Congress in 1999, National Military Appreciation Month includes several key dates pertaining to our soldiers: Loyalty Day, Military Spouse Appreciation Day, VE Day, Armed Forces Day and of course, Memorial Day.

Many of the military discounts found should extend far beyond these calendar dates, however, so these hard-working members of our community can get their thanks all year long. Keep in mind that some of the sites may require you to confirm your eligibility through third-party sites, but nabbing these exclusive discounts is still as easy as one, two, three.

### Sign up for Discounts:

Join **Military.com** as we honor the service and sacrifice of members of the Army, Navy, Air Force, Coast Guard, Marines, Space Force and National Guard as well as the contribution of their spouses.

Congress designated May as National Military Appreciation Month in 1999 to ensure the nation was given the chance to publicly show their appreciation for troops past and present.

[www.military.com/discounts](http://www.military.com/discounts)



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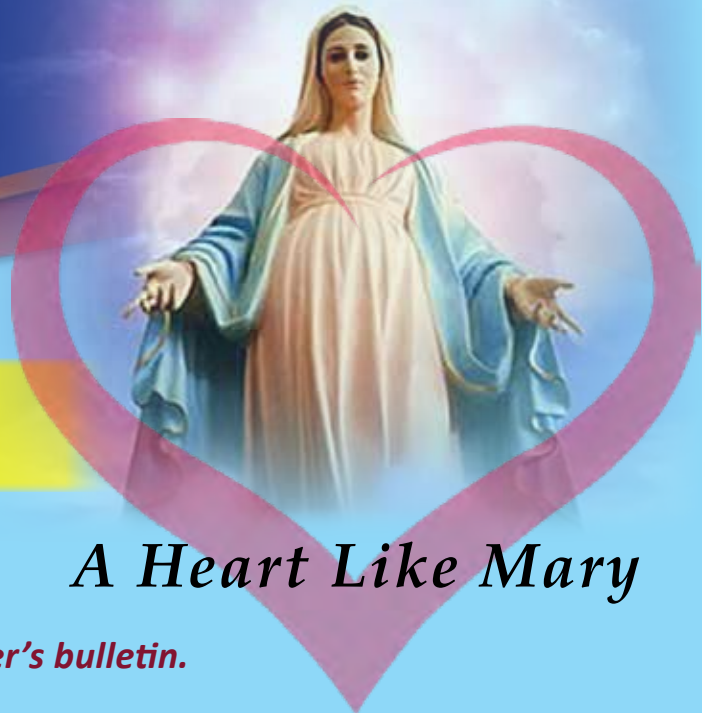
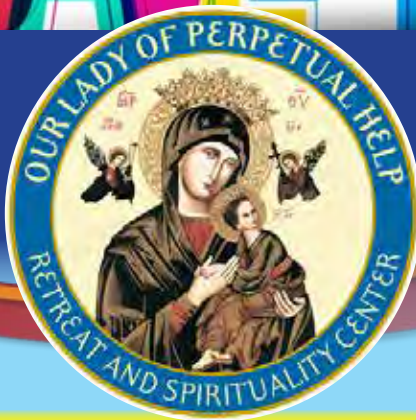
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*FYI: We will provide the form in September's bulletin.*

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