



# 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 12, 2024**  
Seventh Sunday of Easter

## *Blessed Mother's Day*

*"Honor Her  
for all She  
has Done."*

- PROVERBS 31



**May 12, 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 VICAR**

**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 13**

- 8:00 AM † Deceased Members of the Riccione family by their family

**TUESDAY, MAY 14**

- 8:00 AM † Nina Hoover by Jane & Tom Hoover

**WEDNESDAY, MAY 15**

- 8:00 AM † Mark Lattner by Tim & Amy Shea

**THURSDAY, MAY 16**

- 8:00 AM † Mark Lattner & Tim Shea by Paula Lattner

**FRIDAY, MAY 17**

- 8:00 AM † Harold Clough by Curtis & Holly Atkins

**SATURDAY, MAY 18**

- 8:00 AM † Timothy Shea by Steven & Susan Jaburg
- 4:00 PM † Margaret Friend by Charles & Carolyn Nieset
- 8:00 PM † Maria - Vietnamese Mass

**SUNDAY, MAY 19**

- 7:15 AM ♥ Parishioners of St. John XXIII
- 9:15 AM † Domingo DeJesus by Ramon DeJesus
- 11:15 AM † Olympia DeLucia by the Cabot family
- 1:30 PM ♥ Thanksgiving for His Mercy from Collado family

**\*\*\* 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 19, 2024 - READINGS**

- 1ST READING ACTS 2:1-11
- PSALM PS 104:1, 24, 29-30, 31, 34
- 2ND READING 1 COR 12:3B-7, 12-13
- GOSPEL JOHN 20:19-23

*Low Gluten*  
**HOSTS**

If you are interested in receiving **LOW GLUTEN** hosts at Mass, then please go to the Sacristy before Mass starts to make your request with a Sacristan.



**Pastoral Team**

**Business Manager**

**Holly Atkins**  
holly@johnxxiii.net  
239-561-2245

**Facilities Director**

**Jason Goss**  
239-561-2245

**Maintenance**

**Mark Bellis**  
239-561-2245

**Dir. of Religious Education**

**Frannie Cerniglia**  
frannedre@johnxxiii.net  
239-561-7499

**Faith Formation Assistant**

**Paula Froio**  
paula@johnxxiii.net  
239-561-7499

**Bookkeeper**

**Ana Thompson**  
ana@johnxxiii.net  
239-561-2245

**Receptionist**

**MaryAnn Deas**  
maryann@johnxxiii.net  
239-561-2245

**Receptionist**

**Martha Lovley**  
martha@johnxxiii.net  
239-561-2245

**Admin. Assistant**

**Nathalie Severini Llinas**  
nathalie@johnxxiii.net  
239-561-2245

**Admin. Assistant**

**Marie Boutwell**  
marieb@johnxxiii.net  
239-561-2245

**Bulletin Editor**

**Colleen Leavy**  
bulletineditor@johnxxiii.net  
239-561-2245

**Liturgy Coordinator**

**Bethany Myers**  
bethany@johnxxiii.net  
239-561-2245

**Music Director**

**John Renfroe**  
musicdirector@johnxxiii.net  
239-561-2245

**Youth Ministry**

**Kelly Evers**  
kelly@johnxxiii.net  
239-561-3022

**Thrift Store Manager**

**Clayton Goodridge**  
thrift@johnxxiii.net  
239-433-4097  
15200 S. Tamiami Trail #110  
Ft. Myers, FL 33908

**PART-TIME EMPLOYEES:**

**PLC Coordinator**

**Ivette Janoschka**  
ivette@johnxxiii.net  
239-561-2245

**Admin. Assistant**

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

# Mother OF God



by: **Fr. William Saunders - Catholic Exchange**

Mary is truly a “mother”. Not just the physical means by which our Lord entered this world, but she is also in the fullest sense mother. As mother, she always wants to present her Son to others, and to lead others to her divine Son. In the Gospels, she presented Him to the shepherds, the Magi, the Priest Simeon and Anna, and to the wedding party at Cana. She desires to do the same for each of us. When our Lord died on the Cross, standing there were His mother, Mary, and St. John the Apostle; Jesus said to Mary, “Woman, there is your son,” entrusting His widowed mother to the care of St. John; and to St. John, “There is your mother” (Jn 19:26-27). Traditionally, we have always held that here Jesus gave Mary as a mother to the Church as a whole and to each of us.

## *By Her Presence*

Over the last 200 years, the Blessed Virgin Mary has appeared to many different people all throughout the world. By her presence in our world, the messages she gave, will be one way in which she will convert sinners.

As we learn the messages she spoke, they challenge us to reflect on how we live our life and consider how God might be inviting us to greater conversion of life. Mary’s presence, her concern for all God’s children, is one way by which she will convert sinners.

## *By Her Prayers*

The first way Mary converts sinners is through her prayers. In a different apparition received by a Belgian immigrant in the United States back in 1859, the Blessed Mother told the seer, Adele Brise, “I am the Queen of Heaven who prays for the conversion of sinners.” Assumed body and soul into Heaven, Mary now intercedes for the world.

As the Queen Mother, she advocates for the world before the throne of her Son. Isn’t it the case that the hearts of some hardened sinners have been converted and conquered by the Blessed Virgin’s love?

Mary is praying for the conversion of sinners. She’s praying for you and me. And by her prayers, she will obtain the grace of conversion from her Son, and convert sinners.

## *By Her Example*

We meet the Blessed Virgin in the pages of the gospel. The way by which she lived her life offers us a great example.

When we are confronted with vices, we look at Mary’s virtues. When we are tempted towards pride, we remember her humility before God. When we want to be disobedient, we recall her obedience to God’s will. When impurity and unchastity confronts us, her example of purity and chastity inspires us to live similarly. When we wish to ignore the needs of our brothers and sisters in Christ, her attentiveness and generosity towards Elizabeth beckons us to respond to their needs.

Let us look to our Blessed Mother’s example and rely on her prayers. May we turn to her always as our own Mother, pleading, “Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners now and at the hour of our death. Amen.”



# PRAYER FOR

## THE BLESSED MOTHER

### Mother's Day - May 12

*Oh, most beautiful flower of Mt. Carmel, fruitful vine splendor of Heaven; Blessed Mother of the Son of God, Immaculate Virgin, assist me in my necessity. Oh, Star of the Sea, help me and show me, herein you are my Mother. Oh Holy Mary, Mother of God, Queen of Heaven and Earth! I humbly beseech you from the bottom of my heart to succor me in my necessity. There are none who can withstand your power. Oh, Show me herein that you are my Mother. Oh, Mary, conceived without sin, pray for us who have recourse to thee. Holy Mary, I place this cause for your hands. Holy Spirit, you who solve all problems, light all roads so that I can attain my goal. You who gave me the divine gift to forgive and forget all evil against me and that in all instances in my life you are with me. I want in this short prayer to thank you for all things as you confirm once again that I never want to be separated from you in eternal glory. Thank you, Blessed Mother for your mercy toward me and others. 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 Cernel  
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!*

**Joseph H. Bissell**



### Tabernacle Candle

In Memory of: **Dorothy Adams**

Requested by: **Marie Hagan**



### Adoration Chapel

In Memory of: **Lillian Gill**

Requested by: **Richard Gill**





## Weekly Calendar

PLC = PARISH LIFE CENTER



### Monday, May 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 - 7pm

### Tuesday, May 14

- Opening the Word: Zoom/PLC - 9am
- 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, May 15

- Pro-Life Campaign Kickoff: Main Hall - 11:30am-3pm
- Pastoral Staff Meeting: Office Conference Room - 10am
- CPR/1st Aid Class: PLC/St. Bernadette & Michael - 6pm

### Thursday, May 16

- Adult Choir Rehearsal: Church - 6:30pm

### Friday, May 17

- Vietnamese Choir Rehearsal: Church - 8pm

### Saturday, May 18

- Morning with Mary: Main Hall - 9am-12pm (Noon)
- KofC Food Drive: Parking Lot - 10am-1pm
- Hispanic Rosary Prayer: Memorial Garden - 10am
- Vigil Mass: Church - 4pm
- Vietnamese Mass: Church - 8pm



### Sunday, May 19

- 7:15am, **NOTE: 9:15am\* Livestreamed** & 11:15am
- Separation/Divorce Group: PLC/St. Michael - 9am
- Pre-School Bible Class: PLC/St. Susanna - 9:15am
- Spanish Mass: Church - 1:30pm
- Carmelite Meeting: PLC/St. Martha & St. Mary - 1:30pm
- Praise & Worship: Adoration Chapel - 4pm
- Confirmation End of Year Family Dinner: Main Hall - 5pm

### 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*

- **Nicholas & Francesca Byers**
- **Peter & Alexandra Hendrickson**
- **James & Sharon Rose Jamieson**
- **Juan Delgado Gonzalez & Milagros Bonet Robles**

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 Broemmell  
Lt. Com. Mark Buonomo  
BG Scott C. Woodward  
Andrew Hawkins, USN  
Cavalry Scout Specialist,  
Ryan Silva, Army  
2nd Lt. Greg Fry, USMC  
Jared Broemmell, 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

# Feast of the ASCENSION of the Lord

Sunday, May 12, 2024

## The Ascension Reminds us that this is Not our Home:

In the glory, awe, mystery, and joy of the Resurrection we celebrate the gift of our salvation. We have been redeemed in Christ. The Lord's Ascension reminds us that earth is our temporary home. We are sojourners with our gaze fixed on the faraway land. We seek the white shores, the place of peace, eternity with our Beloved. Christ has paved the way for us and He calls each one of us to follow Him back to the Father, so that we may truly rest in the love of the Most Holy Trinity. We are now able to follow Christ back to our permanent home in Heaven. We too are called to return to the Father.

## Christ Intercedes for us through our Joys and Sorrows:

The path home is an arduous journey. In our struggle to become holy through God's grace, we will constantly stumble and begin again. The spiritual life is a constant beginning again. St. Francis de Sales reminds us: "It is right that we should begin again every day. There is no better way to complete the spiritual life than to be ever beginning it over again." In the seemingly mundane experiences of daily life, we can become overburdened and frustrated with our failures in the spiritual life. In reality, Our Lord now sits at the right hand of the Father interceding on our behalf constantly. Through His grace, we are able to make progress. This progress may not even be obvious to us each day, but bit by bit we continue on the journey home. The point is to begin again and keep our eyes fixed on Christ and His desire to draw us to Him.

## We Always Live in Hope:

The Ascension is cause of great joy and hope. The Ascension points to Christ's kingship and the renewal of the world. We now wait in joyful hope for His glorious return. In a world marred by sin, pain, and suffering we are able to look in hope to our Heavenly home and the end of time. When we read the news, and see violence, pain, suffering, or when we ourselves experience sorrow and suffering, we can look in hope as the Apostles did when Our Lord returned to the Father at the Ascension. It is because Christ now reigns at the right hand of the Father that we can stand firmly in hope, faith, peace, and charity as the storms of this life rage on around us. The battle is won!

## PRAYER FOR

Ascension  
Sunday

Risen Jesus,

Help us to begin living  
eternal life today.

Help us to know your  
presence with us now,  
even as we anticipated  
the joy of heaven.

Teach us to live this  
life in a way that  
draws us into eternal  
life with you.

Amen.



# May Crowning

Father Mike, the Knights of Columbus, Women's Guild and parishioners honored our Blessed Mother with the beautiful May Crowning on **Sunday, May 5.**



# Faith FORMATION

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

# Families OF CATHOLIC SCHOOL STUDENTS



We are glad you are sending your children to Catholic Schools, and we want to support you in your efforts. Financially, it is a sacrifice for many families. The schools offer a discount for members that are regularly attending Mass.

Each year Bishop Verot High School gives families a form and asks that the Pastor of the parish you attend sign to say that you are using your envelopes and attending Mass each week. This is a school form not a parish form. Please use your envelopes each week. St. Francis Xavier gives a list of all families that applied to their school and mark St. John XXIII as their parish. We check to see if envelopes are used on a regular basis and send this back to the school.

Fr. Jay is not concerned if there is money in the envelope, as much as the fact you are regularly attending Mass with your children. The only way Fr. Jay can know you are coming each week is by the envelope use. This is stated on the form from the school. Many of you give online, which is great, but you still need to put your envelope into the basket each week if you are applying for the discount.

**Thank you!**







# YOUNG ADULT & YOUTH Ministries

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.



## Hispanic Ministry ANNOUNCEMENTS



### *El rezo del Rosario Hispano*

- Lugar: Jardín Memorial
- Fecha y Hora: 10am todos los sábados de mayo

### *Misas en Español*

- Lugar: Iglesia Católica St. John XXIII
- Fecha y Hora: Todos los domingos del mes. 1:30pm.

Las misas también están siendo transmitidas a través de YouTube. Recuerda el rezo del Santo Rosario (antes de la misa de los domingos, 12:45pm).

### *Grupo de Oración de Renovación Carismática*

- Lugar: Capilla Nuestra Señora del Rosario.
- Fecha y Hora: Todos los **martes** del mes. 6:45pm.

### *Contáctanos*

Estamos ofreciendo el servicio de misas especiales como Quinceañeras, Bautismos y Matrimonios para más información comunicarse con nosotros al email: [comunidadhispana@johnxxiii.net](mailto:comunidadhispana@johnxxiii.net)



# 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



# Farewell from FR. MIKE



To the Parishioners at St. John XXIII Catholic Church:

It is with a heavy heart that I must inform you that I have been transferred to Epiphany Cathedral in Venice, FL. As a newly ordained priest, it is expected that I am subject to transfer every two years in order to gain experience in my priestly formation.

Also, there is the issue of my health. My doctor has recommended that I be assigned to a church with a regimented schedule that will allow me to be consistent with my post stroke recovery therapy. Epiphany Cathedral meets all the standards that are required of my doctor's recommendation.

I want to thank all of you for your prayers and support. You have all truly made a positive difference in all aspects of my priestly formation. My experience here at St. John XXIII Catholic Church has been invaluable due to all of you.

I ask that you continue to pray for me and know that all of you remain in my prayers, as well.

Your brother-in-Christ, Fr. Mike

## Hospitality June 29-30

On behalf of Fr. Jay and the parish staff, we want to thank Fr. Mike for his dedicated service to our community over the last 2 years. We will have a hospitality reception after all Masses in the Parish Life Center the **weekend of June 29-30**, so we can give him a proper goodbye.

## A LETTER FROM

# Bishop Dewane

Support the  
Catholic  
Communication  
Campaign



Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

The Catholic Communication Campaign (CCC) is an opportunity to bring truth and hope to people across the United States and around the world. Through websites, social networks, television, radio and print, the Catholic Communication Campaign (CCC) makes it possible for campaigns supporting marriage, family and catechesis to reach millions.

Your support of the Catholic Communication Campaign provides the means to fund grants that support the collective communication work of the Bishops of the United States, such as the daily reflection videos found on the USCCB website. These powerful videos help viewers grow in faith by engaging with the texts of the daily Mass readings.

The Catholic Communication Campaign Collection is scheduled in the Diocese of Venice for the **weekend of May 18 and 19, 2024**. Half of the funds collected remain here in the Diocese to further our Evangelization efforts through regular communication to all the faithful, including production of a weekly digital newspaper, monthly radio program and televised Sunday Mass for the homebound.

Please generously support the Catholic Communication Campaign which through the means of media, invites everyone to encounter and come to know God.

I take this opportunity to assure you and your families of my continued consideration as well as my prayers. Thank you for your generosity!

Sincerely yours in Christ,

+ Frank J. Dewane  
Bishop of the Diocese of  
Venice in Florida



**ST. JOHN XXIII**  
Catholic Church

## Weekly Financials



	<b>05-05-24</b>	<b>05-07-23</b>	<b>Difference</b>
Offertory	\$45,484.50	\$35,532.21	\$9,952.29
Building Fund	\$1,944.00	\$1,682.00	\$262.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$47,428.50</b>	<b>\$37,214.21</b>	<b>\$10,214.29</b>
Mass Attendance	2882	2876	
Registered Families	3582	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	\$341,015.67
Payments	<b>\$237,764.44</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)**



## You Can Make a Gift AND Receive Lifetime Payments!



When you establish a Charitable Gift Annuity, you receive an immediate tax deduction, then receive guaranteed payments for life (with a portion of your payments being tax-free). At the end of your life, the remainder of the annuity will benefit St. John XXIII Catholic Church. You can even avoid capital gains tax if you donated appreciated assets like stock.

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**



*You are Invited*

TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE



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Register now for

PRO-LIFE  
ACTIVISM TRAINING



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](http://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**



# 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.



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

### 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.



**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*



## CHANGING OUR MINDS by Joanne Halt, M.A.

### *Hope Endures All Things*

Hope that is based on gratitude for what is, is an attitude of the heart. Radical Hope built diverse people into the Body of Christ. When Jesus was scapegoated by his own religious leaders and then executed by the Roman Empire, His disciples had to base their hope on past experiences of His love and teachings, awaiting baptism in His Spirit. Christ as risen Lord allowed a few to experience His Divine Nature after His resurrection. But Pentecost- that divine encounter of outpouring of the Spirit for so many - changed our world. God was experienced by ordinary folks as an empowering and unifying energy. We can only imagine what went unrecorded.

Grateful Hope is a radical stance in response to the reality of earth life. It empowers us, even today, to imagine the unimaginable. It's easy to confuse Hope with 'hopes', but we must not confuse the two. We set our 'hopes' on something we can imagine. Hopes are based on circumstance, but Hope is an attitude and endurance of the heart. Hope empowers an opening of the heart to the unimaginable. If this seems a naive way to live, check your ego (Edging God Out) thinking and choose an openness to possibility. Our triune God has not changed and still meets us in an experiential way when we open our hearts to full Presence-creator, savior, and empowering advocate. Grace is thwarted when we refuse to trust the unimaginable love God holds us in. The benefits of Hope are great: increased resilience, stronger relationships, lower burnout. The collective benefits are greater: empowerment to help us create a just and peaceful world. Stand in grateful Hope and openness. Come Holy Fire of the Spirit...melt us, mold us, fill us, use us.

***"Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things." - 1 COR 13:7***

## SEPARATION/DIVORCE SUPPORT GROUP



**SUNDAY, MAY 19**

**9:00AM - PARISH LIFE CENTER  
Room: St. Michael**

You are welcome to attend at any time in whatever stage of separation/divorce you are in. We meet every other Sunday through July.

*For more information contact:*

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



*Knights of Columbus*

### WHAT'S NEW?



The Knights of Columbus and the Women's Guild want to thank our 114 bingo players in the month of April. We are very thankful for their generosity and willingness to help our heroes. These men and women are willing to place their lives on the line to protect the freedoms that we tend to take for granite.

4 the Fallen is 100% volunteer, direct impact non-profit organization in support of our country's heroes. Given a 501(c) (3) designation by the IRS in September 2015, the organization's goal is to create funds necessary to operate critical programs and services. The High Impact Prosthetic, Certified Service Dogs, and Adaptive Sports programs were established to ensure that America's Heroes receive services and access at no cost to them. 4 the Fallen is committed to growing these programs which directly impact the lives of injured American Heroes who volunteered to serve our great nation.

# MOTHER'S DAY

# FUN FACTS

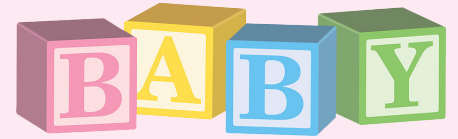
- Mother's Day originated in the United States in the early 1900's and was recognized as a holiday in 1914.
- In the majority of the world's languages, the word for "mother" all begin with the letter M.
- Of all the flowers bought for holidays, one quarter are purchased for Mother's Day.
- Approximately \$14 billion dollars is spent on Mother's Day.
- In what was formerly Yugoslavia, children would tie up their mother on Mother's Day. The only way she could get free would be to pay her children with treats.
- In the United States alone, an estimated 122 million phone calls are made to moms on Mother's Day.
- Carnations are very popular flowers for Mother's Day and are thought to be made from the tears of Jesus' mother (Mary) when she wept at His feet the day He was crucified.
- The most common flower for Mother's Day is the carnation. Pink and red represent mothers who are alive and white for those who have passed away.
- Mother's Day is celebrated in close to 50 countries in different parts of the world.

*Happy Mother's Day*

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)

Join the Women's Guild

**SUNDAY, JUNE 16**

**THE ORIGINAL BROADWAY**



**LIMITED SEATING IS AVAILABLE**

Tickets are **NON-REFUNDABLE**  
as this is a Fundraiser

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## FLORIDA BISHOPS OPPOSE Extreme Abortion Amendment Vote No on Amendment 4



## Prayer TO DEFEAT AMENDMENT 4:

Florida Amendment 4, which will appear on Florida's November 2024 ballot, is an extreme proposal that legalizes fullterm abortion with no protections for the preborn child, including when the child is capable of feeling pain. This proposed amendment to our state constitution would prohibit all restrictions on abortion before viability and create a broad exception that any healthcare provider could exploit to allow abortion up to birth.

Furthermore, the amendment would effectively overturn or seriously jeopardize common-sense state laws that have regulated abortion for years. These include basic health and safety requirements for clinics where abortions are performed, requiring a physician to perform abortions, informed consent requirements, laws limiting public funding of abortion, and parental consent requirements before a minor's abortion.\* These risks demonstrate the extreme nature of the amendment.

We urge all Floridians of goodwill to stand against the legalization of late-term abortion and oppose the abortion amendment. In doing so, we will not only protect the weakest, most innocent, and defenseless of human life among us but also countless women throughout the state from the harms of abortion.

Human life is sacred. The dignity of the human person is the foundation of a moral vision of society. Direct attacks on innocent persons are never morally acceptable, at any stage or in any condition. In our state, human life is repeatedly being destroyed by abortion. Over 84,000 vulnerable and voiceless children were aborted in Florida in 2023.

This matter concerning the respect for human dignity and the fundamental value of human life is of grave importance to both our Church and our state. The threat of abortion remains our pre-eminent public policy priority. Therefore, we support a coordinated campaign to mobilize against the proposed amendment.

*Ever-living God, you give life and desire a future for all your children. Take hold of our nation, state and community and awaken in every heart awe for the gift of life. Send your Spirit to strengthen us with wisdom and fortitude as we defend mothers and children in Florida from laws that disregard their health and safety.*

*Mary and Joseph trusted in you and welcomed Jesus into our broken world. God Almighty, we ask their intercession to protect the preborn and their mothers, and to guide all parents in raising their children. May they help us build a civilization of love by upholding the sacredness of life and accompanying pregnant women in need.*

*We ask this through Christ, our Lord. Amen.*

*Our Lady, Mother of the Family, pray for us! St. Joseph, Protector of the Unborn, pray for us!*

**Most Rev. Thomas G. Wenski**  
Archdiocese of Miami

**Most Rev. Gerald M. Barbarito**  
Diocese of Palm Beach

**Most Rev. Gregory L. Parkes**  
Diocese of St. Petersburg

**Most Rev. William A. Wack, CSC**  
Diocese of Pensacola-Tallahassee

**Most Rev. Frank J. Dewane**  
Diocese of Venice

**Most Rev. John G. Noonan**  
Diocese of Orlando

**Most Rev. Erik T. Pohlmeier**  
Diocese of St. Augustine

**Most Rev. Enrique E. Delgado**  
Archdiocese of Miami

\* Florida law distinguishes between parental consent prior to a minor's abortion (Ch. 390.01114(5) which would be invalidated by Amendment 4 and parental notice of a minor's abortion (Ch. 390.01114(4)), which would be retained.



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