



# 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)

**August 10, 2025**

Nineteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

### THE ASSUMPTION OF *Mary* MOTHER OF GOD

*"May the  
Virgin Mary,  
whose entire  
life was a  
response to  
the Lord's  
call, always  
accompany us  
in following  
Jesus."*

- Pope Leo XIV



**August 10, 2025**

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

**PASTOR**

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

**PAROCHIAL VICARS**

**Fr. Jimmy Pham**  
frjimmy@johnxxiii.net

**Fr. Greg Dougherty**  
frgreg@johnxxiii.net

**DEACONS**

**Deacon Rich Klish**  
DeaconRich@johnxxiii.net

**Deacon John Gaulin**  
deaconjpg@gmail.com

**SEMINARIAN: Lam Vo**  
lam@johnxxiii.net

**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**

**MASS SCHEDULE:**

8:00am Daily Mass (Monday-Saturday)  
4:00pm Vigil Mass (Saturday)  
7:15am, 9:15am, 11:15am (Sunday)  
1:30pm Spanish Mass (Sunday)  
5:00pm Vietnamese Mass (Sunday)

**PRAYING THE ROSARY:**

7:15am Mon-Fri & Saturday 7:00am  
Our Lady of the Rosary Chapel  
**ADORATION CHAPEL:**  
8:30am-6:00pm (Mon Tue Thurs Fri)  
8:30am-3:45pm (Wed)  
8:30am-3:30pm (Saturday)

*Mass Intentions*

**MONDAY, AUGUST 11**

- 8:00 AM † John Izral by his wife, Martha (Lori) Izral

**TUESDAY, AUGUST 12**

- 8:00 AM † Margaret McDonald by her family

**WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 13**

- 8:00 AM † John Hagan by Marie Hagan

**THURSDAY, AUGUST 14**

- 8:00 AM † Frank Valencic by Frank & Mary Jane Robers
- 6:00 PM Vigil Mass † Alexander Fields by The Deas Family

**FRIDAY, AUGUST 15 - ASSUMPTION OF MARY (HOLY DAY)**

- 8:00 AM † Elizabeth Lehmkuhl by Catherine Vaughn
- 12:00 PM † Marianita Pascual by Marlene Chew
- 6:00 PM - Vietnamese Mass

**SATURDAY, AUGUST 16**

- 8:00 AM † Mary Rovnak by The Rovnak Family
- 4:00 PM ♥ Parishioners of St. John XXIII

**SUNDAY, AUGUST 17**

- 7:15 AM † Sintua Chew by The Chew Family
- 9:15 AM † Michael Shackelton by The Shackelton Family
- 11:15 AM † Dennis O'Neill by the Hagan Family
- 1:30 PM † Isabel Sanchez by her daughters - Spanish Mass
- 5:00 PM † Micae & Phanxico - Vietnamese Mass

**\*\*\* MASS INTENTIONS INFORMATION \*\*\***

Mass Intentions for **JANUARY 1, 2026 THROUGH JUNE 30, 2026** are NOW  
available for purchase in the parish office. Each registered family may  
purchase four Masses (2 weekend and 2 weekday) per calendar year.

Another option for you to consider is "Unannounced Masses" which  
are available for purchase by anyone at any time. These "Unannounced  
Masses" are said privately by a DOV priest. Please contact the parish  
office with any questions. All Masses are \$10 each.

**AUGUST 17, 2025 - SUNDAY READINGS**

- 1ST READING JEREMIAH 38:4-6, 8-10
- PSALM PSALM 40:2, 3, 4, 18
- 2ND READING HEBREWS 12:1-4
- GOSPEL LUKE 12:49-53

**IN MEMORIAM**

**A FUNERAL MASS will be held in the CHAPEL**  
**Saturday, August 16 at 11:00am for:**

*Joseph Deramo*

**Visitation: 10:30am/Narthex Burial: 12pm/Memorial Garden**

**Pastoral Team**

**Business Manager**

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

**Facilities Director**

**Jason Goss**  
239-561-2245

**Maintenance**

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239-561-2245

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239-561-7499

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239-561-2245

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239-561-2245

**Admin. Assistant**

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239-561-2245

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239-561-2245

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**John Renfroe**  
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239-561-2245

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kelly@johnxxiii.net  
239-561-3022

**Thrift Store Manager**

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

**PLC Coordinator**

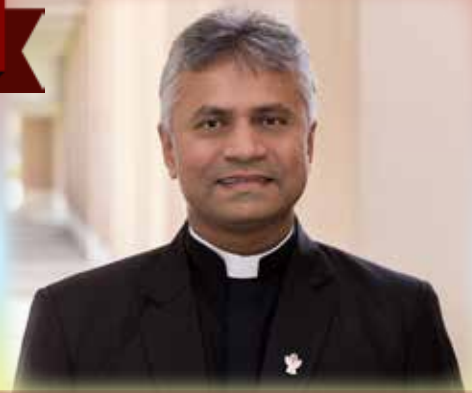
**Ivette Janoschka**  
ivette@johnxxiii.net  
239-561-2245



## MESSAGE FROM

The  
St. John XXIII  
Pastor

*Fr. Jay*



Dear Friends,

Last week, we reflected on how emptying oneself would bring real wealth through the example of the parable of the foolish rich man. This week, the theme expands to reflect deeper on the real wealth, called 'Faith'.

*All three readings directly talk about faith:*

1. The first reading reminds us how faith in God saved the people of Israel in one accord from their enemies.
2. The second reading explains the faith of Abraham that brought life in abundance with a better homeland, a heavenly one.
3. In the gospel, Jesus tells another parable about a faithful steward. He raises the level of expectation saying, "Much will be required of the person entrusted with much, and still more will be demanded of the person entrusted with more".

Faith is not only a subjective trust of God but also calls for an objective and deeper **expression of our trust in the Lord**. Such an expression involves embracing everyone in one accord. Our true faith can never lead to self-righteousness, but to love everyone with inclusiveness. Reaching out to the wounded and bringing healing to them is the outward sign and expression of our faith.

I appreciate all of you being involved in the various ministries at our parish. This is an expression of your faith. Last month at our Parish Advisory Council meeting, we consolidated the mission, goals, objectives and needs of 46 active ministries. The heads of these ministries, along with their teams, clarified what they do, who they serve and how they effectively provide for our parishioners. I am personally so impressed to see an effective and dedicated team of stewards from our parish. Please reflect personally on how the Lord could touch you to be the best steward to your own family, and to the parish family both directly and indirectly.

I became quite emotional while watching the Iranian short film, "*The father, daughter and shopkeeper*" on YouTube. The financially broken father goes to a convenience store with his daughter. He looks furtively around to see if anyone sees him, picks up a loaf of bread and tries to sneak away. The shopkeeper stops him. The daughter, without knowing what's going on, looks at her father. The shopkeeper says to her 'your father forgot the change' and stashed some money into his hands. The father was already brimming with tears in his eyes. Another customer handed him a bag of rice and told him, 'Sir...you are also forgetting to pick up your rice bag'. The following lines appear on the screen: **Every thief is not a thief. Some could be poor and needy. We should help them in such a way that they are not humiliated (especially in front of relatives and children)..**

I was reminded of the words of Jesus in the gospel today: "Much will be required of the person entrusted with much and still more will be demanded of the person entrusted with more".

This coming week, we celebrate the Feast of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary. Let us pray to our Blessed Mother to intercede for us so we can get closer to her and experience the nearness of our Lord. The closer we get to Him, the more He reveals Himself as Son of God. Hail Mary - Mother of God pray for us!

God Bless,  
Fr. Jay Raju

## PRAYER FOR

# THE *Assumption*



*Oh Immaculate Virgin, Mother of God and Mother of all, we believe with all the passion of our faith, in the triumphal Assumption, both body and soul, into Heaven, acclaimed as Queen by all the choirs of angels and all the legions of the saints. And we unite with them to praise and bless the Lord, who has exalted you above all other pure creatures and to offer you the tribute of our devotion and love.*

*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**  
**Braden O'Halloran**  
**Steve Lane**  
**Cynthia & William**  
**Sandy Szymanski**  
**Jackie Ryall**  
**Marie Boutwell**  
**Celeste Kane**  
**Cole McGinnis**  
**Carol Quid**  
**Paul Bock**  
**George Flaherty Sr.**  
**Ed & Jan Rybczyk**  
**Kelly Roper**  
**Brian Collins**  
**Vicki DiVona**

**Dahlia Garcia**  
**James Hickey**  
**Kathleen Kelmer**  
**Bryce Smedley**  
**Linda Bissett**  
**Linda Anderson**  
**Bob Van Arnum**  
**Kevin Rando**  
**Maria Maragioglio**  
**Bob McQueary**  
**Kevin Walsh**  
**Anthony Donatelli Jr.**  
**Michael Alicanti**  
**Meghan Hemmer**  
**Fr. Bill Jarema**  
**Mary Ann Owen**  
**Chuck Nieset**  
**Glen Beatty**

**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)



## *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!*

**Cherie Hopson**  
**Christian Gorski**  
**Amanda 'Mandee' Connor**  
**John E. Gerard**

## *Tabernacle Candle*

In Memory of: **Fr. Paul Landwerlen**  
 Requested by: **Craig & Sue Edwards**

## *Eucharist Host*

In Memory of: **Bill & Michelle Michaelis**  
 Requested by: **Diane Michaelis**





## Weekly Calendar

PLC = PARISH LIFE CENTER



### Monday, August 11

- Rosary - 7:15am/Daily Mass: Chapel - 8am
- Adoration Chapel open 8:30am - 6pm
- Men's Gospel Forum: PLC/St. Martha & St. Mary - 7am
- Pilgrim Confession: 11:15am/Pilgrim Mass: 12pm - Chapel
- Craftie Ladies: PLC/St. Martha & St. Mary - 1pm
- KofC Monthly Meeting: PLC/Martha/Mary/Bern - 7pm

### Tuesday, August 12

- Rosary - 7:15am/Daily Mass: Chapel - 8am
- Adoration Chapel open 8:30am - 6pm
- Opening the Word: Zoom/PLC - 9am
- Bereavement: PLC/St. Michael - 1:30pm
- Pilgrim Confession: 5:15pm/Pilgrim Mass: 6pm - Chapel
- Pilgrim Adoration & Benediction: Chapel - 6:30pm
- Hispanic Catechist Meeting: PLC/Martha/Mary - 6:30pm
- Hispanic Charismatic Prayer Group: Chapel - 7pm
- AA Meeting: PLC/St. Martha & St. Mary - 7pm

### Wednesday, August 13

- Rosary - 7:15am/Daily Mass: Chapel - 8am
- Adoration Chapel open 8:30am - 3:45pm
- Pastoral Staff Meeting: Office Conference Room - 10am
- Pilgrim Confession: 11:15am/Pilgrim Mass: 12pm - Chapel

### Thursday, August 14

- Rosary - 7:15am/Daily Mass: Chapel - 8am
- Adoration Chapel open 8:30am-6pm
- Pilgrim Confession: 11:15am/Pilgrim Mass: 12pm - Chapel
- Bell Choir Rehearsal: Narthex - 5:30pm
- Journey to Hope: PLC/St. Therese - 6pm
- Assumption of Mary Vigil Mass: Main Hall - 6pm
- Rooted - Ages 18-35: PLC/St. Martha/St. Mary - 6:30pm

### Friday, August 15 - ASSUMPTION OF MARY (Holy Day)

- **PARISH OFFICE CLOSED**
- Rosary - 7:15am/Assumption Mass: Chapel - 8am
- Adoration Chapel open 8:30am - 6pm with Overnight Adoration from 6pm-8am
- Pilgrim Confession: 11:15am - Chapel
- Assumption of Mary Mass: 12pm - Chapel
- Vietnamese Mass: Main Hall - 6pm
- Vietnamese Choir Rehearsal: Chapel - 8pm

### Saturday, August 16

- Rosary - 7am/Daily Mass: Chapel - 8am
- Confessions after 8am Mass
- Adoration Chapel open 8:30am - 3:30pm
- KofC Food Drive: Parking Lot - 10am-1pm
- Spanish Baptism Class: PLC/St. Susanna - 10:30am
- Vigil Mass: Main Hall - 4pm

### Sunday, August 17

- 7:15am, **NOTE: 9:15am\* Livestreamed** & 11:15am in the Main Hall
- Pre-School Bible Class: St. Susanna - 9:15am
- OCIA: PLC/St. Martha & St. Mary - 10:30am
- New Family Orientation: Chapel - 12:15pm
- Spanish Mass: Main Hall - 1:30pm
- Carmelite Meeting: PLC/St. Martha/St. Mary - 1:30pm
- Vietnamese Mass: Chapel - 5pm



## WELCOME

### New Parishioners

- Denise Conner
- Mary Robinson
- Claudia Jones
- Joseph Faya
- Jerry & Cristy Von Gruben
- Brandon & Alesha Watchowski
- Joshua & Veronica Millward
- Edward & Marianna Zaliagiris

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 next Sunday, August 17, 2025 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               | Lt. Col. Mike Garry, US Army,     |
| Sean Ball                    | 82nd ABN                          |
| Major Bart Boma              | Sgt. Eric Lyons, USMC             |
| Staff Sgt. Dennis Cosgrove   | Capt. Nicholas Meunier, US Army   |
| Sgt. Phil Dellibovi          | Robert Trenton Morell, Medic      |
| M/Sgt Jarod Gaudet           | Specialist US Army                |
| Capt. Kellyn C. Hall         | Michael Thomas Morell, US Navy    |
| Andrew Herman                | SPC 4 Judy Martinez, US Army      |
| Sgt. Kathleen Hudepohl       | Christopher Dominski, PFC ARNG    |
| PFC Michael P. Hughes        | 2nd Lt. Sara Wulff                |
| SPC Michael Jednak           | Sean Dryhurst US Navy             |
| PFC Andrew Kanopkh           | Lt. Amanda Macaluso               |
| Michael Klem                 | Anthony An Schroeder,             |
| Major Bradley D. Laux        | 11 Bravo Infantry                 |
| Capt. Jacob Mundo, US Army   | Derrick Hambling, Army            |
| SSGT Anthony Padula          | Airborne Infantry                 |
| Master SGT Peter Parison     | Maj. Paige Blevins USAF           |
| Sgt. Justin Pingicer, Army   | Maj. Christopher Blevins USAF     |
| Lt. Col. Brady Sexton        | Capt. Cameron Hortman USAF        |
| Christian Troutner, US Navy  | PFC Alan Copeland                 |
| Alex Zizzo, US Navy Medic    | Zachary Gagis, Lt. Cdr, USN       |
| PFC Jordan Feil, USA         | Andrew Duffy, USSF                |
| Aaron Crump, USCG            | A1C Mark Greenwald, USAF          |
| Sgt. Nathaniel Broemmell     | Col. Jeffrey Greenwald, USMC      |
| Lt. Com. Mark Buonomo        | Sarah Lambert, USAF               |
| BG Scott C. Woodward         | 1st Lt. Jarod Pankau USAF         |
| Ryan Silva, Army             | 1st Lt. Curi Pankau USAF          |
| 2nd Lt. Greg Fry, USMC       | Charles Connolly, US Navy         |
| Jared Broemmell, US Navy     | PFC Abner Casiano, US Army Ranger |
| 2nd Lt. Edward Hudson        | Ensign Aaron Humphrey             |
| Tillinghast IV, Army         | Lieutenant Adam Blevins USAF      |
| Jethro Ignacio, US Air Force | Lt. Colonel Ken Hussey            |
| Eric Sanchez, US Air Force   | Lt. Com. Zachary Gagis            |



# History OF THE Assumption

by: **Adelaide Mena - Catholic News Agency**

Catholics around the world mark the Feast of the Assumption of Mary, commemorating the end of her earthly life and assumption into Heaven. But while the feast day is a relatively new one, the history of the holiday, and the mystery behind it – has its roots in the earliest centuries of Christian belief. “As her earthly life comes to an end, the Assumption helps us to understand more fully not just her life, but it helps us to always focus our gaze to Eternity,” said EWTN Senior Contributor Dr. Matthew Bunson. “We see in Mary the logic of the Assumption as the culmination of Mary’s life,” he continued. “A Eucharistic requirement for that day is very fitting.”

The dogma of the Assumption of Mary – also called the “Dormition of Mary” in the Eastern Churches – has its roots in the early centuries of the Church. The Catholic Church teaches that when Mary ended her earthly life, God assumed her, body and soul into heaven. This belief traces its roots back to the earliest years of the Church. While a site outside of Jerusalem was recognized as the tomb of Mary, the earliest Christians maintained that “no one was there,” Bunson said.

According to St. John of Damascus, in the 5th century, at the Council of Chalcedon in 451, Roman Emperor Marcian requested the body of Mary, Mother of God. St. Juvenal, who was Bishop of Jerusalem replied “Mary died in the presence of all the Apostles, but her tomb, when opened upon the request of St. Thomas, was found empty; wherefrom the Apostles concluded that the body was taken up to heaven,” the saint recorded.

By the 8th century, around the time of Pope Adrian, the Church began to change its terminology, renaming the feast day of the Memorial of Mary to the Assumption of Mary, Bunson noted.

The belief in the Assumption of Mary was a widely-held tradition, and a frequent meditation in the writings of saints throughout the centuries. However it was not defined officially until the past century. In 1950, Pope Pius XII made an infallible, ex-cathedra statement in the Apostolic Constitution *Munificentissimus Deus* officially defining the dogma of the Assumption.

“By the authority of our Lord Jesus Christ, of the Blessed Apostles Peter and Paul, and by our own authority, we pronounce, declare, and define it to be a divinely revealed dogma: that the Immaculate Mother of God, the ever Virgin Mary, having completed the course of her earthly life, was assumed body and soul into heavenly glory,” the pope wrote.

Within the decree, which was passed beforehand to dioceses around the world, Pius surveys centuries of Christian thought and the writings of a number of saints on the Assumption of Mary. “We have throughout the history of the Church an almost universal attestation of this,” Bunson said of the Christian tradition’s testimony to Mary’s Assumption.

“We have this thread that runs throughout the whole of the history of the Church in support of the dogma. That’s significant because it supports the tradition of the Church, but it also supports a coming to a deeper understanding of the teachings of the Church of how we rely upon the reflections of some of the greatest minds of our Church.”

What’s also notable about the dogma, he added, is that it “uses the passive tense,” emphasizing that Mary did not ascend into heaven on her own power, as Christ did, but was raised into heaven by God’s grace.



# JUBILEE YEAR OF HOPE 2025



## SPECIAL *Jubilee* CELEBRATIONS

### **Mondays, Wednesdays Thursdays & Fridays:**

- **11:15am - 11:45am Confessions**
- **12pm(Noon) Pilgrim Mass**

*Please Note: The Adoration Chapel is open until 6:00pm during the week but closed at 3:45pm on Wednesdays.*

### **Tuesdays:**

- **5:15pm - 5:45pm Confessions**
- **6:00pm Mass**
- **6:30 Adoration**
- **7:00pm Benediction**

*The 9 prayer site locations selected below are located around our campus. Visitors to our parish will be able make this pilgrimage! We are so honored to share this opportunity with our parish community.*

- 1. Relics in the Church: St John XXIII and St. Maria Goretti**
- 2. St. Gerard Majella: Patron Saint of Fertility & Pregnancy**
- 3. St. Patrick's Patio**
- 4. Vietnamese Martyrs Memorial**
- 5. Memorial Garden**
- 6. St. Michael the Archangel Statue**
- 7. The Grotto of Our Lady of Guadalupe**
- 8. Rosary Walk**
- 9. Adoration Chapel**

## New Parishioner Orientation

**SUNDAY, AUGUST 17**  
*after the 11:15am Mass*



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 next Sunday.

## Celebrating Children at



**ST. JOHN XXIII**  
Catholic Church

*To the parents of our young children, may we suggest...*

- Relax! God put the wiggle in children, don't feel you have to suppress it in God's house.
- Sit toward the front where it is easier to see and hear.
- Quietly explain the parts of the Mass.
- Sing the hymns, pray and voice the responses. Children learn liturgical behavior by copying you.
- If you need to leave Mass with your child, feel free to do so, but please come back.
- Remember that the way we welcome children in church directly affects the way they respond to Church, and to God. Let them know they are at home in this Liturgical gathering.

To members of the parish, a smile of encouragement is always welcome to parents with small active children.



# Faith FORMATION

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

## REGISTER NOW



## DEADLINE: AUGUST 14

Registration is now open for the 2025-2026 Faith Formation Program, Middle School Youth Group and Sacrament Preparation Programs.

Go to the church website: [www.johnxxiii.net](http://www.johnxxiii.net) and click on the "Education" Tab.

### K-5TH GRADERS:

Click on "Faith Formation K-5th"

### MIDDLE SCHOOL YOUTH GROUP:

Click on "Middle School Youth Ministry"

### RECONCILIATION & FIRST COMMUNION:

If your child is in their second year of Faith Formation and they will receive First Reconciliation and First Holy Communion this year. ALSO register for Sacrament Preparation Sessions. They need to attend BOTH Faith Formation AND Sacrament Preparation. This registration can be located under the tab labeled "Sacraments".

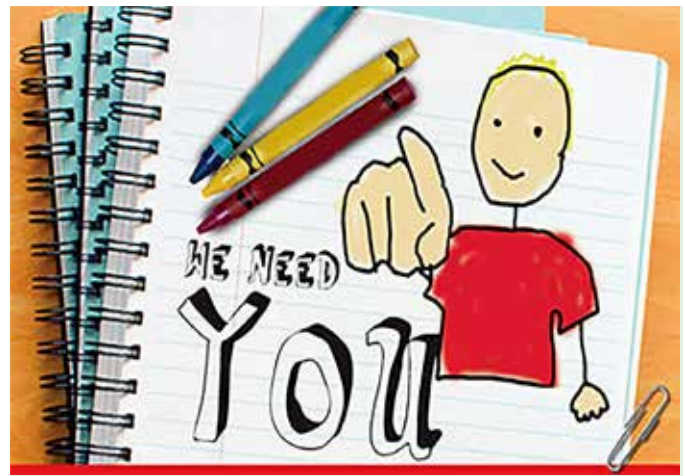
If your child attends Catholic School and has completed 1st grade or at least one year in Catholic School (Kindergarten does not count), then you will want to register your child for Sacrament Preparation Sessions ONLY. They do NOT need to sign up for Faith Formation.

### CONFIRMATION:

Go to the "Sacraments" Tab.

If your child is entering 9th grade or it is their first year of preparing for Confirmation click on Year 1 to register.

If your child has completed their first year then click on Year 2 to register.



We are *Seeking* TEACHERS, ASSISTANTS and other VOLUNTEERS, RETIRED TEACHERS, and those with a gift for sharing God's love and Word with others!

We need *YOU* for Faith Formation & Youth Ministry programs:

## FAITH FORMATION

Grades K - 5



## MIDDLE SCHOOL PROGRAM

Grades 6-8



## CHILDREN'S LITURGY OF THE WORD

9:15am & 11:15am Masses

## PRESCHOOL BIBLE CLASS

Pre-K ages 2 ½ -5

9:15am Mass



For more information:

**Frannie Cerniglia:**  
[FrannieDre@johnxxiii.net](mailto:FrannieDre@johnxxiii.net)  
**239-561-7499**







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

### Rooted at St. John XXIII

Visit our Rooted Facebook page for more information or join our Flocknote contact group: <https://StJohnXXIIICommunity.flocknote.com/Rooted2024-2025>

#### ROOTED 18-35

MEETS *Every Thursday*  
6:30pm in the Parish Life Center

#### ROOTED YOUNG FAMILIES

(children welcome)

MEETS THE *First Thursday*  
OF EACH MONTH  
7pm in the Parish Life Center



### Confirmation Program

**Registration for 2025-26 Season is NOW OPEN!**

Visit the parish website under the Sacrament Tab

- **First Year Study** - There will be a Eucharist Retreat with parents on **September 14 at 5pm**
- **Second Year Study** - Parent and child meeting will take place on **September 14 at 3pm**

### Gospel Talks for Teens

**Registration is NOT REQUIRED**

All high school parishioners are welcome to join in on the conversation from 10:15am to 11:15am on the **following Dates:** 9/21, 9/28, 11/14, 11/21, 1/18, 1/25, 2/8, 2/15, 2/22, 3/22, 3/29, 4/19, 4/26, 5/3

### Middle School Youth Group

**Registration for 2025-26 is NOW OPEN!**

**Dates include:** 8/24, 9/3, 9/10, 9/17, 9/24, 10/1, 10/8, 10/22, 10/29, 11/5, 11/12, 11/19, 12/3, 12/10, 1/7, 1/14, 1/21, 1/28, 2/4, 2/11, 2/18, 2/25, 3/4, 3/25, 4/8, 4/15, 4/22

### Faith in Action Team (F.I.A.T.)

This is a group of Middle and Highschool aged youth who meet together to plan events such as our upcoming **Praise and Worship Concert on 8/24 with Adoration.**

### Volunteer Opportunities

Scan this code to be directed to our SignUp genius page to register for youth volunteer opportunities.



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.

## THE *Journey* BEGINS

**SUNDAY, AUGUST 10**

**10:15am following the 9:15am Mass**

PLC/St. Martha/Mary/St. Bernadette

*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 next session reflections:***

### ***8/10 - What is Faith?***

"Faith is a gift of God, a moment of grace given to those seeking the truth. Our response to grace can begin a living relationship with our creator..." Please describe that moment that began the search that brought you here today.

### ***8/17 - Holy Trinity***

How does a closer study of the Trinity impact your prayer life as you build a closer relationship with Jesus Christ?





ST. JOHN XXIII  
YOUTH COUNCIL

**PRAISE & WORSHIP**

# YOUTH CONCERT *and Adoration Night*

**FAMILIES WELCOME**

**SUNDAY, AUGUST 24**

*6:30pm - Main Hall*

*snacks and 50/50 raffle tickets will be available for purchase*



**ALL PROCEEDS WILL BENEFIT YOUTH MINISTRY**



# YOU Can ELIMINATE Capital Gains Tax by DONATING Stock!



St. John XXIII Catholic Church is a qualified charity eligible to receive donations of stock. When appreciated stock (or another asset) that you have held for more than a year is transferred directly to charity — there is no capital gains tax due on the sale!

Gifts of stock are processed through the Diocese of Venice at no cost to the parish and can be restricted for offertory, debt reduction, capital projects, CFA, or building our parish endowment.

To make a stock gift, contact **Holly Atkins** in our Parish office at **(239) 561-2245**



ST. JOHN XXIII  
Catholic Church

## Weekly Financials



	8-03-25	8-04-24	Difference
Offertory	\$32,542.58	\$30,082.15	<b>\$2,460.43</b>
Building Fund	\$1,043.00	\$1,188.00	<b>(\$145.00)</b>
Total	\$33,585.58	\$31,270.15	<b>\$2,315.43</b>
Mass Attendance	2454	1758	
Registered Families	3809	3608	

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

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

### 2025 Catholic Faith Appeal

2025 Goal	\$512,000.00
Pledge	\$499,789.56
Payments	<b>\$440,612.11</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)**



# Journey TO hope

**NEXT MEETING: AUGUST 14 • 6pm**

## **PARISH LIFE CENTER St. Therese Classroom**

Journey to Hope Family Support Group will meet on **Thursday, AUGUST 14 at 6pm in the Parish Life Center, St. Therese Room.** Family members and friends seeking education and support for the best ways to help their loved one with a mental health condition can find direction and hope.

*If you would like more information, please email Joanne Halt at [joanne.halt@gmail.com](mailto:joanne.halt@gmail.com)*

## *Craftie Ladies* **CHARITY DONATIONS NEEDED**

The Craftie Ladies are collecting new or gently used towels, body wash, soap and kid's shampoo for a charity. Donations can be dropped off in the designated box in the Parish Life Center.



## JOIN THE MISSION *Mary* MOVEMENT



Mission Mary Movement is a prayer initiative that encourages everyone to become a missionary, or rather, a "MissionMARY", even if you never leave your home. It is very simple. Just PRAY and TELL. You pray for someone, then tell them. The goal is to encourage everyone to pray for each other. It doesn't matter if the person you pray for is Catholic, Christian, or even atheist. It could be a friend, a relative, an acquaintance, or even a foe. This is God's list – not yours.

### *There are Three Steps:*

- 1. IDENTIFY:** Make a list of names of people you know. Ask God for guidance on who goes on the list. You may be surprised to find some people you don't particularly care for coming into your mind. Don't fight it. Add them to the list. Once you have your list, put each name on a slip of paper and put it in a hat – or use a list randomizer so that you don't know who you are praying for until you draw the name.
- 2. PRAY:** Pick a new name each day and pray for that person's intentions. You can say a rosary or some other prayer. Whatever moves you.
- 3. TELL:** Contact the person you prayed for and let them know that you prayed for their intentions that day. It is important that you pray for their intentions, not just the person, because it makes the recipient think of what they are asking God for at that moment. It then becomes a conversation between them and God.

### *Join Us:*

You can also join the MissionMaryMovement Facebook page:

**<https://www.facebook.com/groups/2150162642086415>**

Start your own list and add who you prayed for each day. **#MissionMaryMovement**







## COLLECTING ESSENTIAL ITEMS



St. John XXIII Outreach Ministry will be collecting essential items for Pinecrest Elementary School in Immokalee which gives great care and attention to children in poverty. This is a labor of love which we are proud to support.

Please drop off the following items or monetary donations to support about 800 impoverished children.

- **WATER BOTTLES** (to ensure hydration)
- **UMBRELLAS** (to protect them when walking to and from school)

# Thank You

*We appreciate your generosity caring for those less fortunate.*

*All donations may be left in a box located in the Parish Life Center.*



**SATURDAY, AUGUST 16**  
**10AM-1PM**



**PLEASE CHECK EXPIRATION DATES**



## CHANGE OF DATE NOTICE:

Due to the roof repairs, **monthly BINGO** will take place on **Tuesday, August 26** rather than August 12 as previously scheduled. Please inform your bingo friends of the change. The **AUGUST BINGO** will benefit the young students at Pinecrest School in Immokalee.

**TUESDAY, AUGUST 26**  
**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.

# HELPING KIDS COPE WITH

BACK  
to  
SCHOOL

ANXIETY

by: **John Piacentini, PhD - Catholic News**

Going back to school can be such a stressful time for kids and their families. Starting a new school year can make kids nervous, especially if there will be changes from the previous year, like a new school, new teachers, or new classmates.

When kids feel anxious about going back, it's important to talk with them about the transition. Find a time to talk when your child is relatively calm. (Avoid times like when your child is upset or getting ready for school.)

## THINGS YOU CAN SAY:

"Let's think of some ways I can help make going back to school easier for you." Start by suggesting a few simple things, like packing a special snack or walking your child to the classroom on the first few days. But make it clear that staying home from school just because your child wants to isn't an option.

"What do you like about school?" Talk about good memories from previous school years. Highlight these positive moments and use them as a reminder that school can be rewarding and fun.

"Is there anything in particular about this school year that's worrying you?" Is your child anxious about keeping up? Getting along with teachers? Making friends? Getting bullied? These are common fears among kids, especially if they've struggled in school in the past. Talking about your child's specific concerns can help you find specific solutions.

If your child throws a tantrum about going back to school, try to stay calm and avoid

getting angry or upset. This can be really hard to do. But keep in mind that tantrums are an attention-seeking behavior. So do your best to ignore the tantrum, and praise your child when you see calmer behavior. Then ask when would be a good time to talk about why your child was upset. The best way to cope with back to school anxiety is by easing the transition.

## STEPS YOU CAN TAKE:

You can project a sense of confidence and understanding. It may seem like a small thing. But when kids know that you know what they're going through, it can make a big difference: "I see that you're anxious about the new school year. But I believe in you and will help you get through it."

Practice morning and evening routines. That includes school wake-up times, bedtimes, and mealtimes.

Plan extra time to get out the door in the morning. This is especially important during the first few days of school. This will give you extra time to deal with tantrums or other avoidance tactics without your child being late for class. Having extra time can also reduce your stress, which makes you better equipped to help your child.

Get everything in order ahead of time. Gather needed school supplies well before the first day of school, and work on organizing your child's backpack. Get to know the class schedule. You can even go to school together before the first day and find your child's classrooms and (for older kids) locker.





# BACK to SCHOOL

## CONTINUED



Give your child choices. Letting kids choose what clothes to wear or breakfast to have can provide a sense of control and excitement about school. You can pick out a few options, then let your child choose a favorite.

Reach out to others for support. Try to set up a playdate for your child and a classmate before school starts. It's a good opportunity for you, too. Talking to other families about their own back-to-school struggles and successes is a good reminder that you're not alone.

It's very common for kids to worry and feel anxious about going back to school. But it's also possible that other things could be concerning your child.

### QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER:

- Has anything else happened recently that could be contributing to the anxiety? This could include the loss or illness of a family member or a fight with a close friend.
- Is your child getting enough sleep and eating well?
- Does your child get stomachaches before school?
- Does your child have trouble separating from you at other times, like with a babysitter?
- Has your child been throwing tantrums for other reasons?

Talking to your child and taking steps to ease concerns can smooth the transition back to school. But if these strategies don't help and the tantrums continue or get worse, keep an eye on what you're seeing. You can use an anxiety log to take notes. The notes will come in handy if you decide to reach out to someone, like a health care professional, for help.



## BACK TO SCHOOL

### BLESSING

*God of knowledge and wisdom, bless all students young and old, as they begin a new school year.*

*Help them discover and develop the gifts you have given. As they grow in knowledge, help them to also grow in kindness and compassion, learning respect for themselves and others.*

*We ask your blessing on parents and all those who care for students. Strengthen them to surround our students with encouragement, support and love.*

*Remind us that wherever they go, that You are always with them. Fill them with the joy of learning so that they may be better equipped to be your servants.*

*Amen*



## Catholic Community HAPPENINGS

**Pope's August Prayer Intentions:** Let us pray that societies where coexistence seems more difficult might not succumb to the temptation of confrontation for ethnic, political, religious or ideological reasons. To join monthly intentions, visit: [www.popesprayerusa.net/popes-intentions/](http://www.popesprayerusa.net/popes-intentions/)

**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.

**Natural Family Planning Introductory Session:** Learn about Natural Family Planning with a free introductory session. The Diocese of Venice supports the Creighton Model Fertility Care System, and free online training sessions are being offered by the St. Gianna Center for Women's Health & Fertility Care on Thursday, August 14, Saturday, September 20, and Tuesday, October 21. Choose one that fits your schedule! The sessions are free, but registration is required. Register at [bit.ly/SGIntroSession](http://bit.ly/SGIntroSession) For more information, visit [stgiannacenter.com](http://stgiannacenter.com) or contact Jim Gontis at [gontis@dioceseofvenice](mailto:gontis@dioceseofvenice) 941-486-4754

**Support After Abortion:** Are you or someone you know struggling because of a past abortion? You are not alone! Know that healing retreats and support are available for anyone who has experienced an abortion, including mothers, fathers and other family members who have been hurt. To learn more, call or text **941-412-5860** or email [project.rachel@diocese](mailto:project.rachel@diocese) in either English or Spanish. All contacts are confidential.

**Witnessing Faith:** Join Bishop Frank J. Dewane for his monthly radio program on Relevant Radio on 106.7 FM and 1410 AM in Fort Myers and 93.3 FM and 1660 AM in Naples. "Witnessing Faith with Bishop Dewane" can be heard at **8:30am on Friday, August 25.**

**St. Andrew Annual Golf Tournament:** All are welcome to join us Saturday, September 13 for our annual Golf Tournament at Palmetto Pine Country Club. \$125 per golfer, \$500 team of four and sponsorships available. Register now at [standrewscs.org/sacs-golf](http://standrewscs.org/sacs-golf) or call **239-772-3922** for more information. Visit our website: [www.standrewscs.org](http://www.standrewscs.org)

**Free Rosary Repair:** Send your broken rosaries in a padded envelope to **Betty and Dick Holden, Free Rosary Repair Service**, 7930 Estero Blvd., Unit 502, Fort Myers Beach, FL 33931. Rosaries will be repaired and returned within the week of receipt. Donations of old rosaries are also accepted which will be repaired and sent to missions. Include a note indicating repair or donation. For more details, please call **(239) 463-3993** or **(860) 595-6370**

**Florida Catholic:** Receive the free, weekly e-edition of the Florida Catholic delivered directly to your inbox every Friday! Sign up at: <https://dioceseofvenice.org/news/>

# WHAT? NO Diapers?

## How do ABORTIONS and DIAPERS relate?

The most common reason given for why abortion is considered for someone facing an unplanned pregnancy is "financial". During the early days of the pandemic, that became nearly the only reason we heard as we met with those facing such a circumstance.

Diapers represent an essential need and one of the largest practical, ongoing expenses new parents face with a newborn baby. Walking the diaper aisle will shock you when you consider the impact of this cost for new parents.

## Verity can HELP!

We provide our parents with a supply of diapers periodically to ease the financial burden.

Our supplies are very low in the following sizes:

- Newborn
- Larger sizes: 4 - 5 - 6

**You can help, and there are a few options:**

1. Buy diapers and drop them off at Verity.
2. Purchase a gift card to Walmart or Target and mail it or drop it off at Verity. We will do the shopping for you!
3. Order diapers on Amazon or other online retailer and have them delivered to Verity.

We thank you and our mommies and daddies thank you!



**Verity Pregnancy & Medical Resource Center**  
8890 Salrose Lane, Suite 104, Fort Myers, FL 33912  
**(239) 433-1929** Email: [Becky@VerityPMC.com](mailto:Becky@VerityPMC.com)





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**For more information contact:**

**NANCY ARIZA, Conference Coordinator  
(281) 906-1546 or nancy@forlifeandfamily.org**

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