



ST. JOHN XXIII

Catholic Church

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

September 7, 2025

Twenty-Third Sunday in Ordinary Time

Never Forget

UNITED
WE STAND
ONE NATION
UNDER
GOD

IN HONOR AND REMEMBRANCE

ROBERT J. HAMILTON MICHAEL K. HEALEY THOMAS J. BLACK CULLEN III
ST. CARLO MICHAEL NEVILL WHELAN BRIAN FERRY STARK
LADDER 61 CHARLES WILLIAM GARBARINI JODER & VINCENT C
JOHN PATRICK BURNSIDE JOHN R. FISCHER JAMES M
TOPHER J. PICKFORD PAUL RICHARD MARTIN ENGINE 21

St. John XXIII Catholic Parish in Fort Myers, Inc. a Florida non-profit corporation

September 7, 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
deaconjg@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, SEPTEMBER 8

- 8:00 AM † Mary Oliva by The Brightman Family

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 9

- 8:00 AM †/♥ Vitticore & Luenella Families
by Linda & Ron Vitticore

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 10

- 8:00 AM † Jim & Diane Wittenauer by Barry & Pam

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 11 - NEVER FORGET

- 8:00 AM † Laura Merante by JoAnn Gair Wilson

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 12

- 8:00 AM † Don Taylor by Frank Cretella

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 13

- 8:00 AM † Don Warrell & Rich Gralewski by Carol Warrell
- 4:00 PM ♥ Parishioners of St. John XXIII

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 14

- 7:15 AM † John Kanche by John & Edna Acquavella
- 9:15 AM † Marcelo & Natalia Factora by The Family
- 11:15 AM † Sean Scott Dougherty by his Family
- 1:30 PM ♥ Parishioners of St. John XXIII - Spanish Mass
- 5:00 PM † Simon - Vietnamese Mass

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

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

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

SEPTEMBER 14, 2025 - SUNDAY READINGS

- 1ST READING NUMBERS 21:4B-9
- PSALM PSALM 78:1BC-2, 34-35, 36-37, 38
- 2ND READING PHILIPPIANS 2:6-11
- GOSPEL JOHN 3:13-17

Betsy Engelbrecht
e-prayer

Our e-prayer group email address:

eprayer.stjohn23@gmail.com

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

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franniedre@johnxxiii.net
239-561-7499

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239-561-7499

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239-561-2245

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239-561-2245

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239-561-2245

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239-561-2245

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239-561-2245

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musicdirector@johnxxiii.net
239-561-2245

Youth Ministry

Kelly Evers

kelly@johnxxiii.net
239-561-3022

Thrift Store Manager

Clayton Goodridge

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

PLC Coordinator

Ivette Janoschka

ivette@johnxxiii.net
239-561-2245

The Cross at Ground Zero: A Symbol of Hope

by: **Sally Jenkins - The Washington Post**

The shape was oddly identifiable in the blasted wreckage of the World Trade Center, standing upright amid beams bent like fork tines and jagged, pagan-seeming tridents. A very grief-exhausted excavator named Frank Silecchia found it on September 13, 2001, two days after the terrorist attacks. A few days later, he spoke to a Franciscan priest named Father Brian Jordan, who was blessing remains at Ground Zero.

"Father, you want to see God's House?" he asked. "Look over there."

Father Brian peered through the fields of shredded metal. "What am I looking for?" he asked. Silecchia replied, "Just keep looking, Father, and see what you see." "Oh my God," Father Brian said. "I see it."

As Father Brian stared, other rescue workers gathered around him. There was a long moment of silence as he beheld what he considered to be a sign. Against seeming insuperable odds, a 17-foot-long crossbeam, weighing at least two tons, was thrust at a vertical angle in the hellish wasteland. Like a cross.

Ever since the two jets had slammed into the twin towers on September 11, leaving 2,753 dead, Father Brian had been asked by countless New Yorkers, "Why did God do this?" He would reply tartly, in his Brooklyn-born accent: "It had nuttin' to do with God. This was the actions of men who abused their free will." Now here was God explaining Himself. It was a revelation, proof that "God had not abandoned Ground Zero," even as the awful excavations continued.

Silecchia said worriedly, "Father, they might put this in some dump heap." "Frankie, no," Father Brian said. "No, they will not."

Instead, as the 24th anniversary of the attacks nears, the "World Trade Cross" continues to be a symbol of hope. Shortly after its discovery, Father Brian persuaded city officials to allow a crew of volunteer union laborers to lift it out of the wreckage by crane and mount it on a concrete pedestal. They placed it in a quiet part of the site, on Church Street, where on Oct. 3, 2001, Father Brian blessed it with the prayer of St. Bonaventure. "May it ever compass Thee, seek Thee, find Thee, run to Thee . . ." When he finished, the crane operators sounded their horns, a choral blast.

Each week, Father Brian held services there. He became the chaplain of the hard hats. Whenever crews working to find the dead needed a blessing or a prayer or absolution, Father Brian would offer it. Sometimes victims' families came to pray. The congregations grew from 25 or 35 to 200 and 300.

Men cut replicas of the cross out of ruined steel and carried them in their pockets. Even Rich Sheirer, then New York's director of the Office of Emergency Management and a self-described "short, round Jewish guy," appreciated the cross. "Intellectually, you knew it's just two pieces of steel, but you saw the impact it had on so many people, and you also knew it was more than steel," he says. Sheirer has a picture of it standing in the wreckage, as well as a small steel cutout given to him for a keepsake by the September 11th Families' Association.

Father Brian says: "We had all walks of faith touched by this cross. It was a matter of human solidarity and fellowship that brought us all together during this time of tragedy."

Today, the Cross proudly sits on display at the One World Observatory and 9/11 Memorial and Museum in New York City as a symbol of hope.



IN MEMORIAM



Marie Boutwell

October 18, 1969 - August 7, 2025

Saturday, September 13

FUNERAL MASS: 10:00AM

St. Cecilia Catholic Community

5632 Sunrise Drive, Ft. Myers, FL 33919

BURIAL: 2:00PM

St. John XXIII Memorial Garden

13060 Palomino Lane, Ft. Myers, FL 33912

It is with a heavy heart that we announce the passing of St. John XXIII Administrative Assistant, Marie Boutwell.

Marie worked in the parish office from 2022-2024, where she organized many weddings and funerals for our parishioners.

She was a kind, loving and faith-filled child of God. We pray for her husband, Tom and her immediate family.

We are blessed to have known her beautiful soul and we are grateful that she is now in the loving arms of God.

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
Celeste Kane
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
Bob McQueary
Kevin Walsh
Anthony Donatelli Jr.
Michael Alicanti
Meghan Hemmer
Mary Ann Owen
Chuck Nieset
Glen Beatty
Marilyn Dittich
Jackie Ryall
Anthony Prichinello
Ted Veenhuis
Carol Quid
Cooper Family
Robert Irving
William & Laraine Horan

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



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!

Louis Cooper
Kevin Natella
Robert Van Arnum
Bill Acini



Tabernacle Candle

In Memory of: **Carmella Paolino**
Requested by: **Rose & Anthony**



Adoration Chapel

In Memory of: **Josh Widick**
Requested by: **Clare Mannion**





Weekly Calendar

PLC = PARISH LIFE CENTER



Monday, September 8

- Rosary - 7:15am/Daily Mass: Chapel - 8am
- Men's Gospel Forum: PLC/St. Martha & St. Mary - 7am
- Adoration Chapel open 8:30am - 6pm
- Pilgrim Confession: 11:15am/Pilgrim Mass: 12pm - Chapel
- Craftie Ladies: PLC/St. Martha & St. Mary - 1pm
- KofC Monthly Meeting: PLC/Martha/Mary/Bern - 7pm
- Walking w/ Purpose Bible Study: PLC/St. Christina - 7pm
- Auditions for Musicial Revue: Main Hall - 7:30pm

Tuesday, September 9

- Rosary - 7:15am/Daily Mass: Chapel - 8am
- Adoration Chapel open 8:30am - 6pm
- Opening the Word: Zoom/PLC - 9am
- Walking w/ Purpose Bible Study: PLC/St. Christina - 10am
- Bereavement: PLC/St. Michael - 1:30pm
- Pilgrim Confession: 5:15pm/Pilgrim Mass: 6pm - Chapel
- Pilgrim Adoration & Benediction: Chapel - 6:30pm
- Hispanic Charismatic Prayer Group: Chapel - 7pm
- AA Meeting: PLC/St. Martha & St. Mary - 7pm

Wednesday, September 10

- Rosary - 7:15am/Daily Mass: Chapel - 8am
- Adoration Chapel open 8:30am - 3:45pm
- Walking w/ Purpose Bible Study: ZOOM - 9am
- Pastoral Staff Meeting: Office Conference Room - 10am
- Pilgrim Confession: 11:15am/Pilgrim Mass: 12pm - Chapel
- Blaze (MS Girls): Parish Office Conference Room - 6pm
- Faith Formation Session 1: PLC/Classrooms - 4:15pm
- Faith Formation Session 2: Main Hall/Classrooms - 6:15pm
- Middle School Youth Group: Narthex - 6:15pm
- Sisters of Strength: Parish Office Conference Room - 7:30pm

Thursday, September 11 - NEVER FORGET

- Rosary - 7:15am/Daily Mass: Chapel - 8am
- Adoration Chapel open 8:30am-6pm
- Pilgrim Confession: 11:15am/Pilgrim Mass: 12pm - Chapel
- Gospel Encounter: PLC/St. Michael - 1pm
- Journey to Hope: PLC/St. Therese - 6pm
- Rooted - Ages 18-35: PLC/St. Martha/St. Mary - 6:30pm
- Adult Choir Rehearsal: Chapel - 6:30pm
- Walking w/ Purpose Bible Study: ZOOM - 7pm

Friday, September 12

- Rosary - 7:15am/Daily Mass: Chapel - 8am
- Adoration Chapel open 8:30am - 6pm with Overnight Adoration from 6pm-8am
- Pilgrim Confession: 11:15am/Pilgrim Mass: 12pm - Chapel
- Vietnamese Choir Rehearsal: Chapel - 8pm

Saturday, September 13

- Rosary - 7am/Daily Mass: Chapel - 8am
- Confessions after 8am Mass
- Adoration Chapel open 8:30am - 3:30pm
- KofC Food Drive: Parking Lot - 10am-1pm
- Vigil Mass: Main Hall - 4pm
- Anniversary Blessings after the 4pm Mass

Sunday, September 14

- 7:15am, **NOTE: 9:15am* Livestreamed** & 11:15am
- Anniversary Blessings during Masses
- Pre-School Bible Class: St. Susanna - 9:15am
- OCIA: PLC/St. Christina/St. Elizabeth - 10:30am
- Adult Choir Rehearsal: Chapel - 10:30am
- Spanish Mass: Main Hall - 1:30pm
- Vietnamese Mass: Chapel - 5pm
- Confirmation Year 1/Baptismal Retreat: Main Hall - 5pm
- Vietnamese Prayer Group: Rosary Chapel - 6:30pm

WELCOME

New Parishioners

- | | |
|-------------------|-----------------------------|
| • Martha Deller | • Kate & Chris Belden |
| • Paige Arey | • Ardjan & Marsela Bardhi |
| • Nathaly Velasco | • Richard & Khanh Bair |
| • Aaron Fernandez | • Jamie & Alejandra Padilla |
| • Hoa Quach | • Jerry & Angelina Marty |

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, November 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

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 |

PRAYER TO

Remember 9-11



Oh God, We remember those who lost their lives in New York, Washington D.C., and Pennsylvania. We are mindful of the sacrifice of public servants who demonstrated the greatest love of all by laying down their lives for friends. We commit their souls to your eternal care and celebrate their gifts to a fallen humanity. As foundations we once thought secure have been shaken, we are reminded of the illusion of security. In commemorating this tragedy, we give you thanks for your presence in our time of need and we seek to worship you in Spirit and in truth, our guide and our guardian. Amen.



*St. John XXIII Memorial Stone
in the St. Patrick's Patio Garden*



Join Us **SEPTEMBER 11** *In the Memorial Garden*

Thursday, September 11 is the 24th anniversary of the terrorist attacks upon our nation. In New York City, over 3,000 innocent people brutally lost their lives. 72 police officers and 343 firefighters courageously ran into the Twin Towers buildings to save civilians trapped in the inferno. While 9/11 is remembered as a vicious attack, it also honors the ultimate sacrifice these police officers and firefighters made to save thousands at the expense of their own lives.

Please join us **September 11 immediately following the 8:00am Mass** for a short observance in the Memorial Garden.





History Showcase

Memorial Garden / 9-11 Sculpture

by: **Maureen Dombrowski**

St. John XXIII parish continues to add to its rich history with the recent installation of a 9/11 sculpture erected in our Memorial Garden on May 11, 2022. This artwork, designed by Chris Scala, contains remains gathered from the grounds near the Twin Towers and reminds us to "Never Forget." The remains were preserved and donated by parishioner, Adam Hall, who was living near the site in 2001. He says it is "cathartic for me to share my story" and to honor the memory of those who lost their lives in that tragedy. A formal dedication of the memorial, organized by the late Mike Sullivan, took place on September 11, 2022.

The history of our Memorial Garden dates to its formal dedication on April 9, 2006. This sacred space is in the northwest section of our parish grounds near our outside Stations of the Cross. Those interested in burying the ashes of loved ones may contact the parish office to select a site. Fr. Bob Tabbert commented that people often select a numbered site that is of personal significance or a site near a favorite station of the cross. Others select a plot near a statue of a beloved saint such as the Blessed Virgin Mary, St. Joseph, or St. Francis of Assisi. Our late parishioner Linda Sayres, chose her final resting place so she would be overlooking her home in Danforth Lakes.

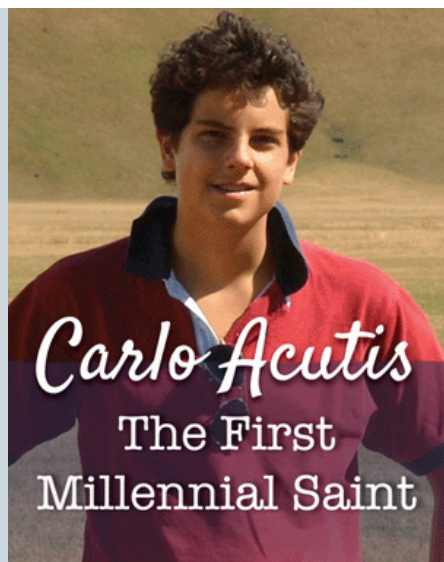
The Memorial Garden serves as a site of special prayer services on Memorial Day, September 11, All Souls Day, and Veterans Day. Flags are placed next to the stones of veterans on Memorial Day and Veterans Day.

Our late founding pastor, Fr. Charles Sullivan, gave special thanks to Henry Camosse for his generous contribution to make the Memorial Garden possible. He also thanked Robert S. Walsh landscaping for their work on the Memorial Garden and the Our Lady of Guadalupe grotto dedicated on the same day.

The grotto, located next to our Adoration Chapel, pays special homage to the Patroness of the Americas and is a reminder of the contributions and dedication of our parish's Hispanic population. Fr. Sullivan credited Our Lady of Guadalupe for protecting our church building from the ravages of Hurricane Charlie when it was under construction in 2004.

The grotto, memorial garden, and outside stations of the cross serve as quiet sacred spaces for reflection and meditation. We are grateful for the benches and statue of St. Francis donated by Bernie and Jean Downey.



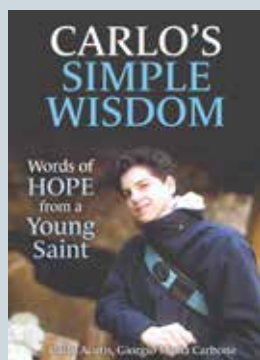


On **September 7**, blessed **CARLO ACUTIS** will be canonized as the first millennial saint, giving the Church a powerful new patron for our times. His joyful witness speaks to young people, families, and all who seek holiness in daily life. Now is the perfect time to share his story with resources that inspire devotion and invite the faithful to follow his example. To learn more about his life and/or order material from OSV, please visit:

www.orderosv.com/Search?q=carlos+acutis



<https://www.orderosv.com/>



ST. JOHN XXIII Catholic Church

Contact: **John Renfroe** | musicdirector@johnxxiii.net

There is a place for YOU
Come Join Us!



The next audition date for Music Ministry's upcoming musical revue, **Voices of America** will take place:

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 8
7:30PM in the Main Hall





Coordinator of Youth Ministries 561-3022 xt 107
Contact: Kelly Evers | 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 - PLC/St. Martha & St. Mary

ROOTED YOUNG FAMILIES

(children welcome)

MEETS THE First Thursday
OF EACH MONTH
7pm - PLC/St. Susanna



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 **Sunday, September 14 at 5pm**
- **Second Year Study** - Parent and child meeting will take place on **Sunday, 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.

For more information, please contact:

Leslie Robertson at (239) 560-5617

Welcome to Participate!

Reflection QUESTIONS

All parishioners are invited 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:

9/7 - Bible Overview & Navigation/Use

What part of the Bible has most shaped your faith journey?

9/14 - The Mass

As Catholics, we believe that the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass is the highest form of worship. In two paragraphs or more, explain why you believe this to be true.

9/21 - Your Spiritual Life and Prayer Life

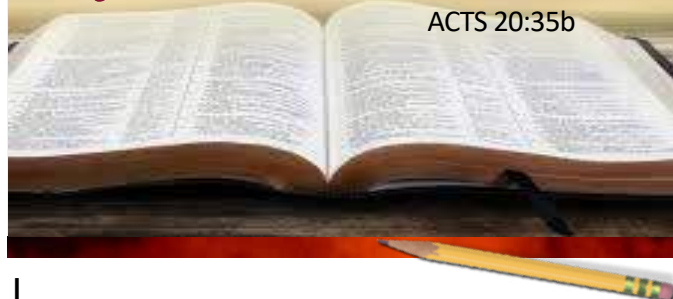
What habit, practice, or prayer has most helped you grow spiritually?

9/27 - Catholic Prayer and Practices

What intrigues, confuses, or concerns you about the Catholic approaches to prayer?

It is more blessed to give than to receive.

ACTS 20:35b



All Are Welcome

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 14

In the Main Hall - 9:15am Mass

MASS WITH CONTEMPORARY MUSIC



*All ages are welcome to praise the Lord at our next monthly **Contemporary Mass on Sunday, September 14 at 9:15am in the Parish Life Center Main Hall.***

PLEASE NOTE: This Mass will take place every 2nd Sunday of the month.

Music will be uplifting praise and worship songs played by our modern ensemble and accessible through your smart phone (see QR code below).

*If you would like to be involved as a musician or singer, please contact **Gaby Frei** at gabriela@gabrielafrei.com or **John Renfroe** at musicdirector@johnxxiii.net*





ST. JOHN XXIII
Catholic Church

Weekly Financials



	8-31-25	9-01-24	Difference
Offertory	\$27,147.62	\$25,319.95	\$1,827.67
Building Fund	\$964.00	\$954.00	\$10.00
Total	\$28,111.62	\$26,273.95	\$1,837.67
Mass Attendance	2407	1757	
Registered Families	3822	3630	

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	\$523,444.56
Payments	\$483,128.14

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



REMINDERS FROM THE

Bookkeeping

DEPARTMENT

Envelopes:

Please use your envelopes whenever possible. If using pink or green envelopes located at the back door and welcome center in the Narthex, include your envelope number. All registered parishioners are provided an envelope number. Otherwise, please fill in the envelope completely with your name and address. To keep cost down, please notify us of any address changes or if you don't need them.

Credit Card Donations:

Please remember to update the parish office with any changes to your card. Please call the office at 239-561-4451 if your card has expired or been compromised. This will allow your donations to continue without interruption.

Checks:

Please use only **BLACK** or **BLUE** ink when writing checks. **PINK**, **PURPLE**, **RED**, etc. does not scan well when deposited.

CFA: (Catholic Faith Appeal)

The large **WHITE** envelopes in the pews are for the Catholic Faith Appeal. Please make checks payable to the CFA.



*Thank you for helping us save time
and keep our records accurate.*

Journey TO hope

NEXT MEETING: SEPTEMBER 11 • 6pm

**PARISH LIFE CENTER
St. Therese Classroom**

Journey to Hope Family Support Group will meet on **Thursday, September 11 at 6:00pm** 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



**SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 13
10AM-1PM**

PLEASE CHECK EXPIRATION DATES

Craftie Ladies MINI FAIR

**SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 20
4:00pm - 6:00pm**

PLC/ST. MARTHA & ST. MARY

**SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 21
Approximately 30 minutes prior to
Mass and 1 hour after each Mass
PLC/ST. MARTHA & ST. MARY**

The Mini Fall Sale will take place the weekend of September 20-21 in the PLC, St. Martha & St. Mary. Due to Masses, Saturday hours are 4-6pm. On Sunday, approximately 30 minutes prior to Mass and 1 hour after each Mass. Please note the raffles will take place after the 1:30pm Mass.

Chance to Win a Basket!

- **Ladies Golf**
- **BBQ**
- **Welcome to my Guestroom**
- **Ladies Delite**
- **Read and Relax**

Get 1 FREE Raffle Ticket!

Bring a NEW bottle of baby wash or kid's shampoo and receive 1 FREE raffle ticket!

PLEASE NOTE:

Sample bottles accepted but do not count for free raffle ticket. Limit 2 free raffle tickets per person.



ST. JOHN XXIII
Catholic Church

MEN'S RETREAT 2025

*The Men's Retreat will
be a day of spiritual
renewal to help men
grow centered on the
gift of the Eucharist.*



THE EUCHARIST: SOURCE AND SUMMIT



**COST
\$15**

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 4, 2025

9:30am to 5:00pm - PLC FLEX ROOMS
with Mass together in the PLC at 4:00pm

- The cost is \$15 per person and required prior to the retreat.
- Continental breakfast, lunch, snacks and drinks provided.
- To ensure enough food, please register by September 26.
- Presentations, Table Discussions, Confession, Adoration and Great Fellowship.
- The completed registration form and fee may be turned into the office or placed in an envelope in the collection basket.

MEN'S RETREAT 2025



THE EUCHARIST: SOURCE AND SUMMIT

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 4, 2025
9:30am to 5:00pm - PLC FLEX ROOMS

Cost \$15 - Register by September 26

Drop off in the collection basket or at the parish office.

FULL NAME: _____

EMAIL: _____ PHONE: _____

PAYMENT IS REQUIRED PRIOR TO THE RETREAT: ☐ CHECK ☐ CASH

For more information email: Mike Reese at mjreese@ptd.net



33
DAYS to
EUCCHARISTIC
GLORY

BOOK STUDY

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 25

9:00am - Main Hall

Join Us!

Mike Reese will lead the 90 minute Book Study Session on **Thursday, September 25** at **9:00am** in the Parish Life Center.

The Book Club discussion and sharing on **33 Days to Eucharistic Glory** by author, **Matthew Kelly**.

Please Note: This is the book given out to the parish at Easter.

This isn't just
another book.

IT IS AN INVITATION TO
PARTICIPATE IN A
SACRED JOURNEY—

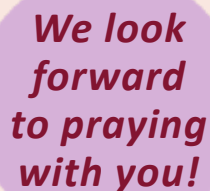
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Pilgrimage*



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Users are able to pray alongside Fr. Mike, Sr. Miriam, Mark Wahlberg, Jonathan Roumie and many more.

The app also offers mental health and sleep content, audiobooks, and sacred music.

ALL PARISHIONERS, subscribers and those on the free version, are invited to be a part of St. John XXIII page in the app. There, you will be able to create a profile, share prayer requests, and take part in prayer challenges together.

TO JOIN, visit:

hallow.com/parish and search (using your zip code is fastest), and follow the prompts. You'll be given a special trial which gives access to all the app's premium content. If you'd like to forgo and remain on the free version, simply hit "Skip" and you will have access to our parish page.

ISSUES with app access? contact:
parishsupport@hallow.app

Fifth Annual
Charity Golf Tournament
Saturday, October 11, 2025

The *Club* at
GATEWAY

12091 Gateway Greens Drive, Fort Myers, FL 33913

- **REGISTRATION: 7AM - 8:30AM**
Coffee & Donuts Provided
- **SHOTGUN START: 8:30AM**
- **LUNCH & AWARDS:**
Following the Tournament
- **FORMAT: 4 Person Scramble**

LUNCH & GOLF: \$135
LUNCH ONLY: \$30



SCAN the QR
code for more
information or
register at:

KC23.org/golf

To Sponsor, Contact:

Larry Evener

219-314-8695

LarryEvener@yahoo.com



DEADLINE: October 3, 2025



Chance to Win
A FREE 2025 MERCEDES C-300
(Hole-in-one prize #7)

Attend the Fifth Annual Charity Golf Outing
that supports 10+ local charities! Hosted by
St. John XXIII Knights of Columbus #13624

The Club at GATEWAY is voted "Best of Fort
Myers" for the last four years!

For More Information

phone: **(703) 969-8202**

email: **spmsteve@yahoo.com**

website: **www.KC23.org/golf**

PRAYER FOR SAFETY

During Hurricane Season

THROUGH NOVEMBER 30

Oh God, Master of this passing world, hear the humble voices of your children. The Sea of Galilee obeyed Your order and returned to its former quietude.

You are still the Master of land and sea. We live in the shadow of a danger over which we have no control: the Gulf, like a provoked and angry giant, can awake from its seeming lethargy, overstep its conventional boundaries, invade our land, and spread chaos and disaster.

During this hurricane season we turn to You, Oh loving Father. Spare us from past tragedies whose memories are still so vivid and whose wounds seem to refuse to heal with passing of time.

Oh Virgin, Star of the Sea, Our beloved Mother, we ask You to plead with Your Son on our behalf, so that spared from the calamities common to this area and animated with a true spirit of gratitude, we will walk in the footsteps of Your Divine Son to reach the heavenly Jerusalem, where a stormless eternity awaits us.

Amen.

Catholic Community HAPPENINGS

Pope's Prayer Intentions for September: We pray for our relationship with all of creation. We are inspired by Saint Francis and hope that we might experience our interdependence with all creatures who are loved by God and worthy of love and respect. To join monthly intentions, visit: 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 for the monthly schedule of Novena of Masses for Life.

Together in Holiness Early Bird Discount: Please register by September 8 to receive special pricing. Couple: \$54, Individual: \$35. The Catholic Marriage Enrichment Conference will be held Saturday, October 18 from 9:00 am to 4:30pm at The Church of Resurrection in Fort Myers. To register, visit: forlifeandfamily.org/form-page-th25-vnfl/ For more information contact Nancy Ariza, Conference Coordinator at (281) 906-1546 or email nancy@forlifeandfamily.org

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 or call 239-772-3922 for more information. Visit our website: www.standrewscs.org

Catholic Singles Potluck & Social Event: Join us at St. John the Evangelist Parish, Rome Room, on Saturday, September 13 from 6-10 for Catholic fellowship, ages 25-55. For more information, visit: catholicfellowshiparoundnaples.wordpress.com/singles-ministry

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 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, September 26.

Nourish House Calls for Caregivers: We offer support, encouragement, prayer and EXACTLY what you need, right now! Every Tuesday Morning: 11am ET, 10am CT, 9am MT, 8am PT AND Monthly on the 2nd Thursday Evening: 8pm ET, 7pm CT, 6pm MT, 5pm PT The nourishment you NEED during your caregiving days! Join us on Zoom a few minutes before our start time at <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/689619997#success>

Suicide & Crisis Lifeline: Providing 24/7 service for those in emotional distress. Simply call 988



NOVEMBER 7-9, 2025

11th Annual Women's Retreat

For more information contact either:

MARY KAZOR
(239) 233-1675
mary.kazor@gmail.com

CATHY ROBERTSTAD
(262) 719-0690
crobertstad@yahoo.com

Hope as an Anchor

PLACE: Our Lady of Perpetual Help Retreat Center

3989 S. Moon Drive • Venice, FL 34292 (944) 486-0233

DATE: Arrival: Friday, November 7, 2025

Check-in: 3:00pm Welcome Introductions: 4:00pm Dinner: 5:00pm Retreat Begins: 6:30pm

Departure: Sunday, November 9, 2025 by 12:00 Noon

COST: \$360.00 per person (Includes all meals) - All Rooms Double Occupancy

PROGRAM: There will be time for private and communal prayer, brief presentations, quiet reflections, Mass, sharing joyful song and fellowship. An email containing specific details will be sent out prior to the retreat.

PLEASE NOTE: Walking is necessary between buildings at the retreat center.

11th Annual Women's Retreat - Registration Form

NAME _____ Phone (____) _____ - _____

EMAIL _____ May we share on the roster? ___Yes___No

Address: _____ City/State/Zip _____

Age: _____ 20-35 _____ 36-50 _____ 51-66 _____ 66 and up

Special Needs, Requests or Roommate Preference: _____

Dietary Restrictions PLEASE NOTE Additional \$45 Cost Per Person: ___Gluten Free___Dairy Free___Vegetarian

T-Shirt Size: ___S___M___L___XL___XXL

SPACES ARE LIMITED. PLEASE RETURN THIS REGISTRATION FORM AND FULL PAYMENT.

REGISTRATION DEADLINE: OCTOBER 1, 2025

**PLEASE MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO ST. JOHN XXIII AND RETURN
TO PARISH OFFICE OR DROP IN CHURCH COLLECTION BASKET**

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY:

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