

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

September 14, 2025

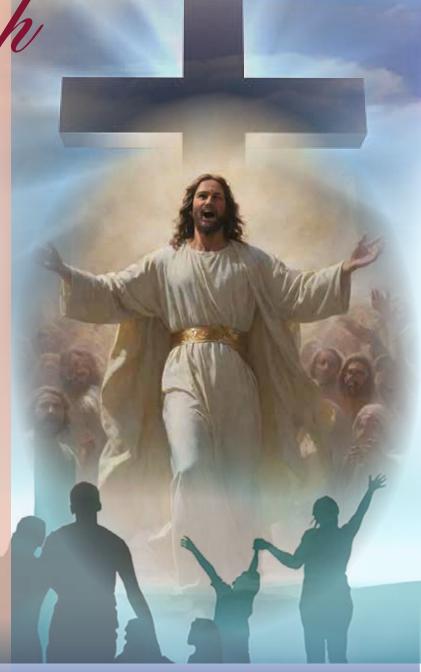
The Exaltation of the Holy Cross

Triumph OF THE

Cross

"Thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ."

- 1 Corinthians 15:57



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**

RECEIVING THE SACRAMENT:

You are encouraged to receive the Sacrament of the Sick before being admitted to a facility.

FORT MYERS:

239-561-2245

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 15

8:00 AM † Ralph Jamieson by Jim & Barbara Lange

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 16

8:00 AM † Maria & Joseph Veenhuis by The Veenhuis Family

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 17

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

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 18

8:00 AM † Frank Landgraff by Adrian & Pat Humbert

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 19

8:00 AM † Sharon Rieger by George & Mary Clarke

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 20

- 8:00 AM † Michael B. Zorovich by The Reitz Family
- 4:00 PM † Josephine Cabai by Arlene & Larry Schuetz

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 21

- 7:15 AM ♥ Parishioners of St. John XXIII
- 9:15 AM † Michael Shackelton by James Shiban
- 11:15 AM † John Chandley by Larry Bauer
- 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 21, 2025 - SUNDAY READINGS

- 1ST READING
- **PSALM**
- 2ND READING
- GOSPEL
- AMOS 8:4-7
- PSALM 113:1-2, 4-6, 7-8 1 TIMOTHY 2:1-8

LUKE 16:1-13

2nd Sunday of Every Month at the 9:15am Mass





QR CODE

FOR THE MUSIC

Pastoral Team

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holly@johnxxiii.net 239-561-2245

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239-561-2245

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239-561-2245

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Ft. Myers, FL 33908 **PLC Coordinator Ivette Janoschka**

ivette@johnxxiii.net 239-561-2245

Triumph OF THE Cross

by William James - Catholic Exchange

The Exaltation of the Holy Cross Sunday, September 14, 2025

On the Feast of the Exaltation of the Cross (or Triumph of the Cross) we honor the Holy Cross by which Christ redeemed the world. The public veneration of the Cross of Christ originated in the fourth century, according to early accounts. The miraculous discovery of the cross on September 14, 326, by Saint Helen, mother of Constantine, while she was on a pilgrimage to Jerusalem, is the origin of the tradition of celebrating the Feast of the Exaltation of the Cross on this date. Constantine later built the Church of the Holy Sepulchre on the site of her discovery of the cross. On this same pilgrimage she ordered two other churches built: one in Bethlehem near the Grotto of the Nativity, the other on the Mount of the Ascension, near Jerusalem.

Christians "exalt" (raise on high) the Cross of Christ as the instrument of our salvation. Adoration of the Cross is, thus, adoration of Jesus Christ, the God Man, who suffered and died on this Roman instrument of torture for our redemption from sin and death. The cross represents the One Sacrifice by which Jesus, obedient even unto death, accomplished our salvation. The cross is a symbolic summary of the Passion, Crucifixion and Resurrection of Christ — all in one image.

The Cross — because of what it represents — is the most potent and universal symbol of the Christian faith. It has inspired both liturgical and private devotions: for example, the Sign of the Cross, which is an invocation of the Holy Trinity; the "little" Sign of the Cross on head, lips, and heart at the reading of the Gospel; praying the Stations (or Way) of the Cross; and the Veneration of the Cross by the faithful on Good Friday by kissing the feet of the image of Our Savior crucified.

Placing a crucifix (the cross with an image of Christ's body upon it) in churches and homes, in classrooms of Catholic schools and in other Catholic institutions, or wearing this image on our persons, is a constant reminder — and witness — of Christ's ultimate triumph, His victory over sin and death through His suffering and dying on the Cross.

We remember Our Lord's words, "He who does not take up his cross and follow me is not worthy of me. He who finds his life will lose it, and he who loses his life for my sake shall find it" (Mt 10:38,39). Meditating on these words we unite ourselves — our souls and bodies — with His obedience and His sacrifice; and we rejoice in this inestimable gift through which we have the hope of salvation and the glory of everlasting life.

IN MEMORIAM

Paul Buldak

Monday, September 15

FUNERAL MASS: 10:30AM

Our Lady of the Rosary Chapel

NO VISITATION • NO BURIAL

IN MEMORIAM

Roman Serafin

Friday, September 19

FUNERAL MASS: 11:00AM
Our Lady of the Rosary Chapel

VISITATION/NARTHEX: 10:30AM
NO BURIAL

IN MEMORIAM

Bernard Altmann

Friday, September 19

FUNERAL MASS: 2:00PM

Our Lady of the Rosary Chapel

VISITATION/NARTHEX: 1:30PM BURIAL/MEMORIAL GARDEN: 3:00PM

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 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 Dittrich Jackie Ryall **Anthony Prichinello Ted Veenhuis Carol Quid Cooper Family Robert Irving** William & Laraine Horan Sara Amparito del Aguila **George Flaherty**

These names are kept in the bulletin for one month. If you would like continual prayer, please add your name to

the prayer book in the Narthex.

The best way to ensure your loved ones are consistently prayed for within our greater e-prayer community, email

eprayer.stjohn23@gmail.com

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!

Bernard Altmann William Edgar Philipp



In Memory of: Michael L. Dylik
Requested by: Paola Dylik & Family

Adoration Chapel

In Memory of: Marie Boutwell
Requested by: Craig & Sue Edwards

Eucharist Host

In Memory of: **Edward Rybczyk**

Requested by: John & Barbara Rybczyk











Weekly Calendar

PLC = PARISH LIFE CENTER



Monday, September 15

- 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
- Women's Guild: PLC/St. Martha & St. Mary-6:45pm
- Walking w/ Purpose: PLC/St. Christina 7pm

Tuesday, September 16

- Rosary 7:15am/Daily Mass: Chapel 8am
- Adoration Chapel open 8:30am 6pm
- Opening the Word: Zoom/PLC 9am
- Walking w/ Purpose: PLC/Multiple Classrooms 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 17

- 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 18

- Rosary 7:15am/Daily Mass: Chapel 8am
- Adoration Chapel open 8:30am-6pm
- Pilgrim Confession: 11:15am/Pilgrim Mass: 12pm Chapel
- Hand Bell Choir Practice: Narthex 5:30pm 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 19

- 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 20

- Rosary 7am/Daily Mass: Chapel 8am
- Confessions after 8am Mass
- Adoration Chapel open 8:30am 3:30pm
- Spanish Baptism Class: PLC/St. Elizabeth 9am
- Fall Mini Craft Fair: PLC/Martha/Mary
- Vigil Mass: Main Hall 4pm

Sunday, September 21

- 7:15am, NOTE: 9:15am* Livestreamed & 11:15am
- Fall Mini Craft Fair: PLC/Martha/Mary
- Pre-School Bible Class: St. Susanna 9:15am
- High School Social Gospel: PLC/ Therese 10:10am
- OCIA: PLC/St. Christina/St. Elizabeth 10:30am
- Adult Choir Rehearsal: Chapel 10:30am
- Spanish Mass: Main Hall 1:30pm
- Carmelite Meeting: PLC/St. Therese 1:30pm
- Vietnamese Mass: Chapel 5pm

WELCOME

arishioners

- Karen Kavanagh
- Jenna Palmer
- Jorge & Julyssa Pena
- **Robert Settles**
- Jennifer Stannard
- Carol Malinowski-DiRenzo
- **Ronald & Ann Marie Ceurvels**
- John Lozano & Liliana Acevedo
- Joseph & Janice Castiglione
- Cynthia Hernandez Lopez

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

Eric Sanchez, US Air Force

Lt. Col. Mike Garry, US Army, 82nd ABN Sgt. Eric Lyons, USMC Capt. Nicholas Meunier, US Army Robert Trenton Morell, Medic Specialist US Army Michael Thomas Morell, US Navy SPC 4 Judy Martinez, 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 Zachary Gagis, Lt. Cdr, USN Andrew Duffy, USSF A1C Mark Greenwald, USAF Col. Jeffrey Greenwald, USMC Sarah Lambert, USAF 1st Lt. Jarod Pankau USAF 1st Lt. Curi Pankau USAF Charles Connolly, US Navy PFC Abner Casiano, US Army Ranger **Ensign Aaron Humphrey** Lieutenant Adam Blevins USAF Lt. Colonel Ken Hussey Lt. Com. Zachary Gagis

A LETTER FROM Bishop Dewane GAZA COLLECTION

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

As the violent conflict in Gaza continues, a grave humanitarian crisis is unfolding, with many Christians and innocent people struggling to survive. With this devastating situation in mind, I write to you in appeal for our brothers and sisters in need in the midst of these destructive events.

The Holy Father, Pope Leo XIV, has expressed his concern with the situation, saying, "I am following with great concern the dire humanitarian situation in Gaza, where the civilian population is suffering from severe hunger and remains exposed to violence and death." Our Catholic Faith calls each of us to care for those in need, and, at this time in particular, for those who are suffering in the wake of this ongoing tragedy.

Recognizing the need of those who have been so severely impacted by the conflict in the region, the President of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops has asked Dioceses throughout the country to take up a special collection to assist with humanitarian aid in Gaza. Within the Diocese of Venice, the collection will be taken *next weekend:* September 20-21, 2025.

Your generosity and your prayers for the people of Gaza are deeply appreciated. May Almighty God bless you and your families. Please continue to pray for peace throughout the world, particularly in the middle east.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

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

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

We have selected 9 locations around our campus to be prayer sites so that visitors to our parish community can truly make a pilgrimage. We are so excited to share this news with you and to begin preparing for this incredible honor for our parish community. More details will be shared as we are able to finalize plans.

- 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



General Announcements

- Join the Hallow App: visit hallow.com/parish and search (using your zip code is fastest), and follow the prompts.
- Like our Facebook Page: For all the latest happenings, search "St. John XXIII Catholic Church" and "like" our page.
- Our Weekly Newsletter: Visit https://www.johnxxiii. net/e-newsletter-sign-up/ and enter your email address.
- St. John XXIII Flocknote: Sign up for parish updates at StJohnXXIIICommunity.flocknote.com
- Follow us on Instagram: St. John XXIII is now on Instagram https://www.instagram.com/stjohnxxiiichurch/
- St. John XXIII Catholic Church Mass Times: Stay up to date and visit: http://johnxxiii.net/info/new-mass-schedule/
- Text to Give: Text the dollar amount to 239-356-6529 to donate to our Offertory Fund and it will be processed.
- Online Giving: We appreciate your donations to keep our parish running. You can enroll online through the St. John XXIII website at: https://johnxxiii.net/giving
- Free FORMED Account: Discover all the best Catholic content in one place! Go to formed.org and click on "register". Create your FREE account by entering our parish code and your email address. Our Parish Code is 1823ee
- Low Gluten Hosts: If you are interested in receiving low gluten hosts at Mass, please see a Sacristan to make a request.
- St. Luke Adoration Chapel: Due to the Jubilee, please note: Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday 8:30am-6pm, Wednesdays 8:30am-3:45pm, Saturday 8:30am-3:30pm. Friday Overnight Adoration will continue indefinitely from 6pm-8am. Adorers will need a code to get in after 6pm. For information on The Adoration Chapel Ministry please visit: johnxxiii.net/adoration-chapel-ministry/ or email: stjohnxxiiiadorationchapel@gmail.com
- St. John XXIII Thrift Store: Hours are Monday-Friday 10am-5pm and Saturday 10am-4pm. 15200 S. Tamiami Trail #110, Ft. Myers. For more information email thrift@johnxxiii.net or visit www. bpjthrift.com
- Keep Our Database Current: Have you moved, changed email addresses, dropped a landline or changed your cell number? Please email martha@johnxxiii.net with any changes or additions to your contact information.
- The Gift of Holy Water: We keep Holy Water in a container in the Narthex. It is in the left corner as you enter the front doors. You are welcome to bring your own container. If you need a container, we have some available in the Sacristy and you would need to ask a Sacristan to get one for you.
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Craftie Ladies



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!

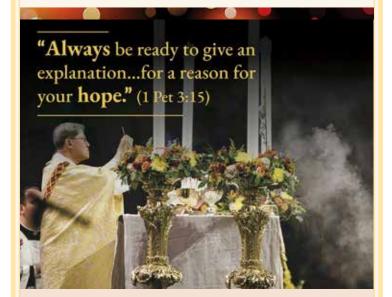
PLEASE NOTE:

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





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



CATECHETICAL SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 21

This is a wonderful opportunity to reflect on the role that each person plays, by virtue of Baptism, in handing on the faith and being a witness to the Gospel. This year, the Church will celebrate Catechetical Sunday on **September 21**. This year's theme is:

"Always be ready to give an explanation... for a reason for your hope" - 1 Peter 3:15

Celebrate Those Who Share Faith:

The Ministry of the Word includes the mission of Evangelization and Catechesis. Catechesis means "to echo." Believers who embrace the Gospel of Jesus Christ as the best news ever proclaimed are eager to "echo" the Good News everywhere. Have you shared your enthusiasm for the Catholic Church with someone recently?

Honor Our Catechesis & Teachers:

The U.S. Bishops have designated today as Catechetical Sunday to honor all those who share in the evangelizing and teaching mission of the Church. At St. John XXIII Parish, we are so grateful for the dedicated ministry of these persons who have accepted the call to catechize other adults, youth and children in our Faith Formation Processes and our Catholic schools.

THE Sacraments

BAPTISM: Congratulations on your decision to baptize your child! At St. John XXIII, we are happy to help your family prepare for the celebration. Baptisms are offered after the preparation process is completed by the parents and are scheduled only after the preparation process is completed by the parents. Please do not make arrangements for family members until you have actually received a date. Contact **Frannie** at **239-561-2245** for more information or to begin the process.

FIRST COMMUNION: (also called First Eucharist and First Reconciliation) Children in first grade or above, who have expressed a desire and willingness and are attending Mass, are welcome to begin the two year process of preparing for these Sacraments. The first year consists of regular attendance at Faith Formation classes or through a Diocesan Catholic school. (Either St. Francis Xavier or St. Andrew) The second year continues those classes, but also adds in direct Sacramental Preparation (Reconciliation and Communion) sessions. For more information or to begin the process, please contact Frannie at 239-561-7499. Parents who home school their children must contact the office during Year I.

CONFIRMATION PREPARATION: Celebrating the Sacrament of Confirmation is a two year process that begins at the start of 9th Grade and is celebrated in the Fall of 11th grade. (Older teens are certainly welcome!). Each year consists of Faith Formation through the parish Youth Group or a Diocesan Catholic school (Bishop Verot) as well as scheduled Confirmation classes and a retreat. Please note: Students from Bishop Verot must register and attend the preparation classes at the beginning of 9th grade. If you are entering the 9th grade or would like more information on our program, contact Kelly Evers at 239-561-3022 to begin the process.

MARRIAGE PREPARATION: Congratulations on your decision to enter the beautiful sacrament of marriage! The heart of Marriage Preparation in the Catholic Church is the realization that "your wedding is one day but your marriage lasts a lifetime." Couples wishing to be married will need to contact us at least six months prior to the desired date. A venue should not be booked prior to first meeting with a priest and getting a confirmation from the parish office. The engaged couple will complete the Witness to Love program alongside a mentor couple, fill out the required forms, provide updated Baptismal Certificate(s) and attend a Diocesan retreat. For more information or to begin the process, please contact Viviana in the parish office at 239-561-2245



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://StJohnXXIII Community.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: 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

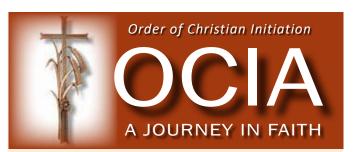
Faith in Action Team (F.I.A.T.)

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.





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:

9/14 - 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?



ACTS 20:35b





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.







\$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 26Drop 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



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 \$524,049.56 **Payments** \$484,108.14

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:

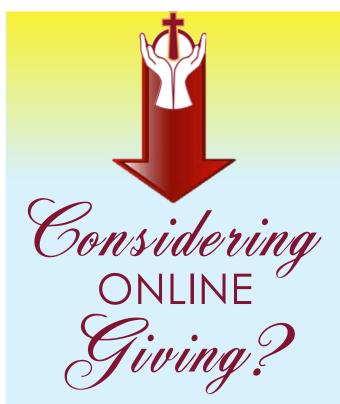
"I bequeath the greater of \$ % of the residue of my estate to Bishop Frank J. Dewane, (or his successor), Roman Catholic Bishop of the Diocese of Venice in Florida, a corporation sole, whose principal office is located at 1000 Pinebrook Rd., Venice, FL 34285, For the benefit of St. John XXIII Catholic 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

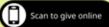




You can use online giving for many choices such as your regular offertory, the poor box, and the Catholic Faith Appeal! Online giving eliminates the frustration of waiting for the post office to deliver your weekly/monthly donation envelopes, wondering if your envelopes got lost in the mail or having to find out where they are. It also helps save on postage and eliminates check writing, it helps the planet by saving the trees used for making paper checks, it eliminates the need for you to reach for your cash at Mass when the collection basket comes around and it ensures the safety of your donation to its intended destination. With the exception of families who have children going to Catholic school and need to use their envelopes, please consider switching to online giving so you can spend more time praying and less time wondering if your donation made it to the right place.

Please consider an online gift by using our QR code!





www.johnxxiii.net/giving



BOOK STUDY

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 25

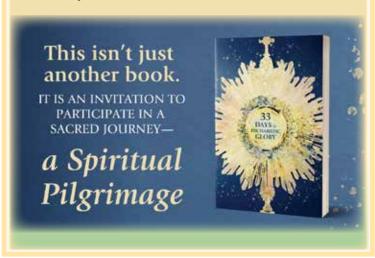
9:00am - Main Hall

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.



RESPECT LIFE

40 DAYS FOR LIFE.



Fall Campaign September 24 - November 2

Help SAVE LIVES in Fort Myers! www.40DaysforLife.com/FortMyers

Kick-off Event

WENESDAY, SEPTEMBER 24 - 6PM

Join us as we start the Fall 40 Days for Life Campaign!

All are welcome **Wednesday, September 24** at 6:00pm on the sidewalk of Planned Parenthood, located at 6418 Commerce Park Drive, Fort Myers.

This event will be highlighted by national pro-life speaker and author, **Terry Beatley**.

No RSVP required. Call a friend and join us to be inspired and to pray for the mothers and children of our community to end abortion in Lee County. **Rain or Shine, We WILL Be There!**

DIAPER DONATIONS:

Support our Diaper Drive for Pro-Life Pregnancy Centers by bringing donation sizes: 3-4-5-6.

CONTACT US:

The Respect Life Ministry is open to all who are interested in learning about LIFE issues from conception to natural death. If you would like to be kept up to date please join our email list at: respectlifejohn23@gmail.com

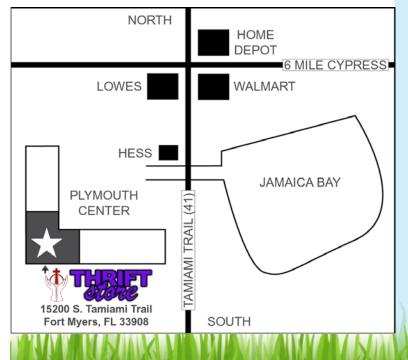
respect · love · protect



Join our Ministry!

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

MONDAY-FRIDAY 10AM - 5PM SATURDAY - 10AM - 4PM www. bpjthrift.com



Are you looking for a meaningful way to give back and make a difference in our community? The St. John XXIII Thrift Store supports Catholic education by turning donated goods into tuition assistance, and we can't do it without the help of caring, committed volunteers!

We have a variety of volunteer roles to fit your interests and schedule:

- CASHIERS: Be the friendly face at checkout, assisting customers with purchases while spreading kindness and cheer.
- DONATION PROCESSING: Help to sort and prepare donated clothing, linens, and accessories so they're ready for new life on our sales floor. Or organize and price treasures like kitchenware, home décor, and unique household finds.
- ONLINE SALES: Photograph, list, and manage specialty items online. Share our mission by creating fun, eye-catching posts that connect with our community.
- BOOK SPECIALISTS: Sort, organize, and shelve donated books with care. Assist with pricing and research to uncover hidden gems.
- CLEANERS: Keep our store neat and welcoming for everyone by assisting with light cleaning and upkeep.
- **ELECTRONIC TESTERS:** Test and check donated electronics to ensure quality and safety before they reach the shelves.
- TRUCK/MOVER ASSISTANTS: Help with loading and unloading donations with care and teamwork while arranging furniture to help the store looks its best!

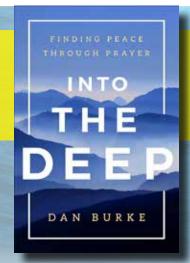
Whatever your skills or interests, we have a place for you. Come be part of something special and help us turn generosity into a lasting impact for local families.

for more information:

To learn more, call us at (239) 433-4097 or email: thrift@johnxxiii.net

STOP IN AND VISIT OUR STORE

15200 S. Tamiami Trail, Fort Myers, FL 33908



Into the Deep: Finding Peace Through Prayer VIDEO SERIES SESSIONS

"For me, prayer is a surge of the heart; it is a simple look turned toward heaven, it is a cry of recognition and of love, embracing both trials and joy." - St. Therese of Lisieux

Registration Sign-Up DEADLINE: October 10

Do you desire a prayer life? What is prayer, exactly? What sets authentic Christian prayer apart from the many "spiritual" practices promoted today? How does one pray? Is prayer even necessary?

These questions—and many more—are answered in the video series by Dan Burke, <u>Into the Deep:</u> <u>Finding Peace Through Prayer</u>.

- Session 1: Your "Yes": The Doorway to Authentic Prayer
- Session 2: Clearing the Confusion
- Session 3: Mental Prayer: Part 1
- Session 4: Mental Prayer: Part 2 & Prayer, Conversion, and Witness

Join us for this video series as we prepare for the season of Advent. We will gather in the Parish Life Center Flex Rooms, St. Michael/St. Bernadette. Tuesday Evenings and Thursday Mornings. **Both evening and morning presentations are available on the following days:**

TUESDAY EVENINGS (6PM - 8PM)

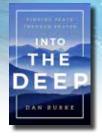
10/28, 11/4, 11/11, 11/18

THURSDAY MORNINGS (9AM - 11AM)

10/30, 11/6, 11/13, 11/20

Come learn about this beautiful gift of prayer from God in the Jubilee Year of Hope! "Lord, teach us to pray." - Luke 11:1

For more information contact: Peggy Kepple at (734) 223-8151 or peggykepple@yahoo.com



Into the Deep: Finding Peace Through Prayer VIDEO SERIES SESSIONS

Registration Sign-Up DEADLINE: October 10

NAME:		
EMAIL ADDRESS:		

\$6.00 PAYMENT for the BOOK is DUE at the FIRST CLASS



COLLECTING Toiletries

St. John XXIII Outreach Ministry is collecting toiletries 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 full size toiletries or monetary donations to support 600 children in need.

- Bars of Soap
- Body Wash
- Shampoo
- Chapstick
- Toothbrushes
- Toothpaste
- Deodorant
- Combs

GIRLS:

- Hair Ties or Hair Clips
- Hair Brush

BOYS:

Body Spray



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.

Fifth Annual Charity Golf Tournament

Saturday, October 11, 2025



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

Catholic Community

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/

Prayer for Safety During Hurricane Season: Hurricane Season continues until November 30. All are encouraged to pray for protection from the storms that can and have threatened Southwest Florida. The devastation, as witnessed by Hurricane Ian, reinforces the fact that we need to pray for God's protection and care during these next months.

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 15 to receive special pricing. Couple: \$54, Individual: \$35. The Catholic Marriage Enrichment Conference will be held Saturday, October 18 from 9:00am 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

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.

Bishop Verot Golf Tournament: Join Bishop Verot Catholic High School at San Carlos Golf Course for the 2025 BV Golf Tournament on Saturday, October 25 for a shotgun start at 8:30am. Your participation will help raise funds for Bishop Verot athletics and make a difference in the lives of our student athletes. \$500 per foursome. For more information contact Bryan.Marotta@bvhs.org or call (239) 274-6729

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.

Safe Environment Training: The Diocese of Venice requires that all employees and those volunteers who work with children and/or vulnerable adults be fingerprinted and trained in Safe Environment prior to beginning employment or volunteering. For further details please visit https://dioceseofvenice.org/ offices/programs/safeenvironment/



St. Martin DePortes is urgently in need of a Property Casualty Insurance Coordinator. It is not a day to day role but it must be filled because policy renewals are on the horizon and the person who has so admirably managed this activity is no longer able to continue for health reasons. Below is a comprehensive job description. A person with the appropriate background will recognize that this is not a day to day role, but an important one that will have short spans of timely essential attention.

DETAILS:

- Property Casualty Insurance Coordinator between SMDP Officers, the Board of Directors and the Insurance Companies, Agent(s) and/or Representatives. Must be familiar with insurable exposures and available insurance coverages to support responsible SMDP personnel in decision making for Insurance coverages for SMDP.
- Needs to be comfortable communicating with Insurance representatives in order to complete coverage applications, to provide support to SMDP Personnel in exploring insurance markets, to understand information needed to meet underwriting and engineering requirements, to be able to provide details and specifics of insurance bids to the Board of Directors as they make decisions regarding coverage.
- Be familiar with Property-Casualty policies, able to communicate changes in exposures to Insurance markets, able to gather necessary information of exposures to be principal contact for SMDP and the Insurance markets.
- Must be able to keep track of policy coverage dates, exposure changes in order to protect corporate exposures and assets, coordinate renewal coverages and pricing as well as serving as claims guidance in case of losses. Must be responsible for premiums being paid also.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Contact Leslie Robertson at (239) 560-5617 or email cdr609@aol.com



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?	YesNo
Address:				City/State/Zip	
Age:			_ 51-66	_ 66 and up	
Special Need	ds, Requests or Ro	ommate Preference):		
Dietary Rest	rictions PLEASE N	OTE Additional \$45	Cost Per Person	:Gluten FreeDairy Free _	Vegetarian
T-Shirt Size:	SM	LXLXXL			

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:			
Paid \$	Date	CK#	Cash











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For further information, please call the parish office.



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