



# 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)

**September 21, 2025**

Twenty-Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time

# TEACHING *God's* WORD

*"Always be  
ready to give an  
explanation...  
for a reason for  
your hope."*

- 1 Peter 3:15



**September 21, 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 15**

- 8:00 AM † Paul Cook by Joanne Walsh

**TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 16**

- 8:00 AM † Elaine Dente by The Dente Family

**WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 17**

- 8:00 AM † Josephine Villa by Judy Cook

**THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 18**

- 8:00 AM † Joseph Bissell by Kathleen & Alan Bouchard

**FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 19**

- 8:00 AM † Caroline Elias by Sandra Bissell

**SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 20**

- 8:00 AM † Concetta Hauf by Christina Colvin
- 4:00 PM † John William Cabai by Arlene & Larry Schuetz

**SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 21**

- 7:15 AM † Michael Granchi by Helen & Bob Tuffy
- 9:15 AM ♥ Parishioners of St. John XXIII
- 11:15 AM † A.J. Cooper by his parents
- 1:30 PM ♥ Parishioners of St. John XXIII - Spanish Mass
- 5:00 PM † Paul & Maria - 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 28, 2025 - SUNDAY READINGS**

- 1ST READING AMOS 6:1A, 4-7
- PSALM PSALM 146:7, 8-9, 9-10
- 2ND READING 1 TIMOTHY 6:11-16
- GOSPEL LUKE 16:19-31

**IN MEMORIAM**

**A FUNERAL MASS will be held in the CHAPEL**  
**Saturday, September 27 at 11:00am**

*Colleen Glancy*

**NO VISITATION • 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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239-561-7499

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239-561-2245

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**John Renfro**  
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239-561-2245

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

**Thrift Store Manager**

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

**PLC Coordinator**

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

# CATECHETICAL SUNDAY

September 21, 2025

United States Conference of Catholic Bishops



## *History*

In 1935, the Vatican published *On the Better Care and Promotion of Catechetical Education*, a document that asks every country to acknowledge the importance of the Church's teaching ministry and to honor those who serve the Christian community as catechists. For the first few years after Catechetical Sunday was established, national catechetical congresses were held in conjunction with the celebration. Beginning in 1971, the USCCB's Department of Education began producing materials to help parishes celebrate the event at the local level. When the Committee on Catechesis, now named the Committee of Evangelization and Catechesis, was named by the Conference as a standing Committee, it continued to publish Catechetical Sunday materials each year. The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops has designated the third Sunday in September as Catechetical Sunday.

## *Meaning*

The word might be more familiar than you think. Many Catholics have used the word "catechism" for years, and they know it has something to do with the compendium of the Church's teachings. The root word, "catechesis," is from a Greek word meaning "to echo, or resound." Catechesis is the act of resounding or bringing the Church's teachings to the world. A catechist is one who teaches in the name of the Church.

## *Recognition*

Catechesis is a distinct and special ministry in the Church. As the Catechism of the Catholic Church makes clear, "Catechesis is intimately bound up with the whole of the Church's life . . . her inner growth and correspondence with God's plan depend essentially on catechesis". This ministry of teaching in the name of the Church has a profound dignity, which is why catechists are formally commissioned by the Church. It is only fitting that we set aside a day to highlight this ministry and invite the entire church community to think about our responsibility to share our faith with others.

Parents are truly the primary catechists of their children. They prepare the soil and plant the first seeds of faith. On Catechetical Sunday, we not only highlight the work of catechists in parishes and schools, but we also commend parents and guardians and encourage them to take seriously their role of making their Catholic households a place where faith is passed on to the next generation. This is why the rite of blessing of catechists used on Catechetical Sunday includes an optional blessing of parents and guardians.



## PRAYER FOR

# Teachers

Heavenly Father, we thank You for the gift of teachers, who dedicate themselves to nurturing young minds and shaping their future. Grant them wisdom to guide their students, patience to navigate daily challenges, and strength to persevere through difficult days. Fill their hearts with passion for their work and surround them with supportive administrators, parents, and colleagues. Lord, remind them of their high calling and the profound impact they have on generations to come. Help us, as a community, recognize their efforts and provide the support they need to thrive. May Your love be the guiding principle in their ministry, empowering them to make a difference every day. 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**  
**Ben Dryden**  
**Celeste Kane**  
**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**  
**Sara Amparito del Aguila**  
**George Flaherty**  
**Rev. Stan Dombrowski OSFS**

**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!

**Christine Sullivan**  
**Arturo Machado**



## Tabernacle Candle

In Memory of: **John Gorman**  
 Requested by: **The Sullivan Family**



## Memorial Flowers

In Memory of: **Michael Sullivan**  
 Requested by: **Stephen Sullivan**





## 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
- KofC 4th Degree Meeting: PLC/Martha/Mary- 7pm
- 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
- Bingo: Main Hall (Doors open at 5:30pm/Games 6:30pm)
- 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
- Sacrament Preparation Class: Main Hall - 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
- 33 Days Book Study: Main Hall/Flex Rooms - 9am
- Pilgrim Confession: 11:15am/Pilgrim Mass: 12pm - Chapel
- Gospel Encounter: PLC/St. Michael - 1pm
- Handbell 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
- Vigil Mass: Main Hall - 4pm
- Anointing of the Sick after the 4pm Mass
- Blood Pressure Checks after the 4pm Mass: PLC

### Sunday, September 21

- 7:15am, **NOTE: 9:15am\* Livestreamed** & 11:15am
- Anointing of the Sick after Masses
- Blood Pressure Checks after all Masses: PLC
- 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
- New Lector Training: Main Hall - 12:15pm
- Spanish Mass: Main Hall - 1:30pm
- Praise & Worship: Adoration Chapel - 4pm
- Vietnamese Mass: Chapel - 5pm

## WELCOME

### New Parishioners

- Jacqueline LoFranco
- Annie Bauer
- Refugio Yopez Nunez
- Hiep & Thuy Nguyen
- Michelle Durham
- Julissa Maciel González
- Ed & Molly Moran
- Jacob & Lauren Midura
- Matthew & Elisabeth Glass
- Mark & Rudelle Francis

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](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            |



# RESPECT LIFE

## 40 DAYS FOR LIFE



### *Fall Campaign*

**September 24 - November 2**

Help **SAVE LIVES** in Fort Myers!  
[www.40DaysforLife.com/FortMyers](http://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: 5-6 ONLY

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

*respect • love • protect*

**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—

*a Spiritual  
Pilgrimage*





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

REGISTER  
BY  
OCT. 1

**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 October 1.
- 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 October 1***

*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](mailto:mjreese@ptd.net)*



# Faith FORMATION

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

**"Always be ready to give an explanation...for a reason for your hope." (1 Pet 3:15)**



## 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.



ST. JOHN XXIII  
Catholic Church

## GETTING TO KNOW OUR PARISH TEAM



### *Getting to Know*

## FRANNIE CERNIGLIA

**Director of Religious Education**

Frannie Cerniglia is a dedicated member of the Parish Team. We thought you would be interested in getting to know him better!

### How long have you worked at St. John XXIII?

I have been a volunteer Catechist since 2006, but only began working here in May 2022.

### What do you want the parishioners to know about your role within the Church?

My role as Director, is to provide opportunities for the children of our parish to learn about God, our religion and to help form their faith. I also assist families in preparing for their children to receive the Sacraments of Baptism, First Reconciliation and First Holy Communion. In addition, I support the Youth Ministry team, led by Kelly Evers, The OCIA Team led by Deacon John & Leslie Robertson and the Adult Faith Formation Team led by Mike Reese.

### How does your faith reflect in your Parish work?

I think most people who know me would say that I am dedicated to being a disciple of Jesus. My faith and thirst to learn all that I can about God and the Catholic Religion, coupled with my passion for educating children is what initially led me to this ministry. And I believe it is what continues to drive me to share my faith with anyone I encounter, whether at our parish or anywhere in the community.

### How does your job benefit a parishioner?

I believe my role at our parish benefits our parishioners in that I am usually the first call when someone needs answers. Whether the questions pertain to children or faith formation or some other ministry; I am usually able to provide the information they are seeking or at least connect them with someone else at our parish who is able to assist them. My office hours are Sundays 8:30am to 12:30pm and Monday-Thursday 8:30am to 4:00pm. If I can ever be of assistance please do not hesitate to email me at [franniedre@johnxxiii.net](mailto:franniedre@johnxxiii.net) or call me at 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 - PLC/St. Martha & St. Mary

#### ROOTED YOUNG FAMILIES

(children welcome)

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



### Confirmation Program

*Please look for an email from Kelly Evers regarding updated information.*

- **First Year Study:** Class with take place **October 26.**  
Topic: **"Faith & Creed"**
- **Second Year Study:** Class with take place **October 26.**  
Topic: **"Choosing a Saint Name"**

### Gospel Talks for Teens

*The first gathering is September 21.*

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

*Youth Group is held on Wednesday evenings from 6:15pm to 7:30pm.*

**Dates include:** 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 (grade 7 to 12) who come together to plan activities and events for youths in the parish.

### 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:***

#### ***9/21 - Your Spiritual Life and Prayer Life***

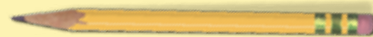
What habit, practice, or prayer has most helped you grow spiritually?

#### ***9/28 - Catholic Prayer and Practices***

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

#### ***10/5 - The Saints/Mary***

How would you explain/defend the Church's teachings on Mary and the Saints?



## *A Journey Through* *The Catholic Faith*



# Out & About

## Our Church Parish



**LEE COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE**



On August 28, Lieutenants Rawlins and Vaughn, along with K9 Deputy Byrd and his partner, K9 Bolt, met with the administrative members of St. XXIII Catholic Church in Fort Myers.

During the meeting, they discussed ongoing efforts to enhance our presence within and around the church, ensuring the safety of the congregation and youth classes.



**PRAISE & WORSHIP**

# YOUTH

## CONCERT

### *and Adoration Night*

On Sunday, August 24, over 350 people enjoyed The Veritas Band, led by George De Los Reyes from Camp Veritas. Veritas is a Catholic sleepaway camp held in Lake Placid Florida June 22 to June 26 2026. This is a powerful camp that has truly changed youth ministry for us. Kids who attend come back on fire for the faith!

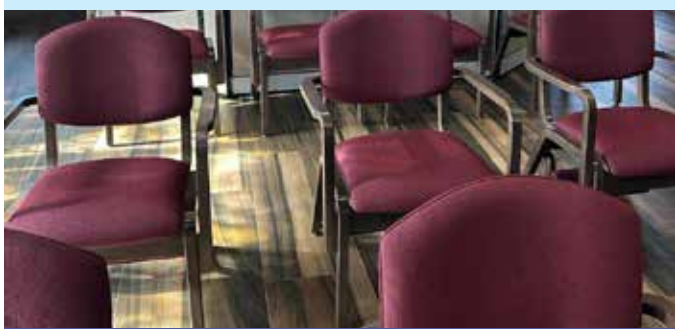




# Opportunities TO MEMORIALIZE A LOVED ONE

## New Adoration Chairs:

We recently added new chairs in the St. Luke Adoration Chapel. If you would like to memorialize a chair for a loved one, they are **\$500.00** each.



## New Kneelers:

We also installed kneelers in the Our Lady of the Rosary Chapel. If you would like to donate toward a kneeler, they are **\$300.00** each.



## Additional Information:

For inquiries, contact **Holly Atkins** in the parish office at **239-561-2245** or email **holly@johnxxiii.net**



ST. JOHN XXIII  
Catholic Church

## Weekly Financials



	9-14-25	9-15-24	Difference
Offertory	\$26,537.42	\$28,759.21	<b>(\$2,221.79)</b>
Building Fund	\$1,069.00	\$1,176.00	<b>(\$107.00)</b>
Total	\$27,606.42	\$29,935.21	<b>(\$2,328.79)</b>
Mass Attendance	2783	2540	
Registered Families	3832	3643	

*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	\$525,295.56
Payments	<b>\$489,575.96</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**







On Thursday, September 11, we commemorated the 9-11 attacks on our country in the Memorial Garden. We will NEVER FORGET!







# Requests

## FROM THE

# Women's Guild

As we prepare for our 2026, 19th Annual Fashion Show Fundraiser, we are in need of donated items for our gift baskets which will be raffled off at our event.

The proceeds from this event, fund our many charities that support disadvantaged children, the homeless, seniors, veterans, single mothers and the poor.

We ask for NEW items. NO Non perishable or clothing items please.

### ***Some possible items include:***

- Gift cards, gift certificates of any kind and any denomination
- Pet items
- Kitchen, bath, bed items
- Spa items such as shampoo, conditioner, bath soap, nail polish
- Glassware, statues, figurines
- Religious items
- Candles and candle holders
- Holiday items
- Coffee, tea, wine
- Snacks, cookies, candy, jellies, and jams
- Baby, toddler, and children's items
- Toys, games, puzzles, books, sports items
- Sauces, oils, vinegar
- Jewelry, perfume, cologne
- Home décor such as picture frames, decorative pillows, etc.
- Dry goods such as pasta, rice, etc.

All items may be dropped off at the Women's Guild table in the Parish Life Center before or after Mass on Saturday, October 11 and Sunday, October 12.

## Thank You

## MEN'S *Gospel* FORUM



### ***Welcoming MEN of ALL Ages!***

Gospel Forum provides men an opportunity to grow in their faith and deepen their relationship with Jesus Christ. This gathering of men is not a Bible study. The Sunday Scriptures are read aloud, followed by open and meaningful sharing on what the readings mean to us today, as men, and as members of our community. We learn scripture, we pray, we have fellowship, and we laugh a lot! Come as you are, wherever you are in life.

**Men's Gospel Forum meets every Monday morning in the PLC/St. Mary/St. Martha from 7:00am to 7:50am.**

### ***For more information contact:***

**MARK BIR: 239-910-2170**

**MIKE LANCELOT: 239-940-7580**



## **TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 23**

### **PARISH LIFE CENTER**

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

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

### **MUST BE 21 TO PLAY**

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



## 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.*

## Blood Pressure Checks

**NEXT WEEKEND:**  
**September 27-28**  
in the PLC



You may want to bring your digital blood pressure cuff to church this weekend and we can compare readings to evaluate the accuracy of the cuff you are using at home.

### *Want to Volunteer?*

Anyone who may be interested in assisting with blood pressure checks after Mass on the last weekend of every month, please call the Parish office at (239) 561-2245 and leave your name and phone number. One of our parish nurses will get back to you.

It is required you get fingerprinted and attend Safe Environment Training. We will provide you with information on the process.

We do provide the cuff and stethoscope. Join us as we perform a service to our parishioners that thus far has been very beneficial! Thank you.



**SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 28 - 4:00PM**  
St. Luke Adoration Chapel

Come join our Praise & Worship Ministry in the St. Luke Adoration Chapel on **Sunday, SEPTEMBER 28 at 4:00pm**, and sing a joyful song to the Lord in the presence of Jesus.

**ALL ARE WELCOME:** No choir experience necessary, just a loving prayerful heart.

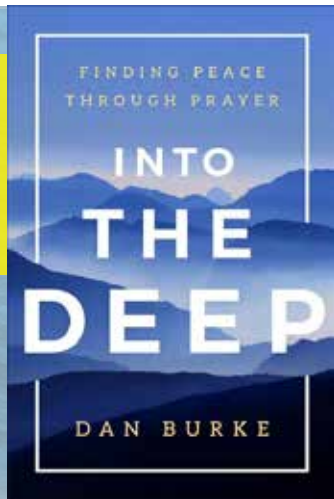
**For more information, contact:**

**Gaby Frei** at [gabriela@gabrielafrei.com](mailto:gabriela@gabrielafrei.com)

*We look forward to seeing you and praising the Lord together! Use this QR code to access the music.*







## 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, ***Into the Deep: Finding Peace Through Prayer.***

- **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)**

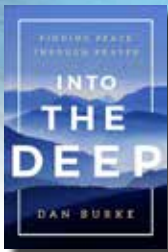
- 10/28, 11/4, 11/11, 11/18

### **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](mailto: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

## 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/](http://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](http://www.dioceseofvenice.org/respectlife) for the monthly schedule of Novena of Masses for Life.

**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.**

**Together in Holiness Conference:** 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. Fee: couple \$64, individual: \$40. To register, visit: [forlifeandfamily.org/form-page-th25-vnfl/](http://forlifeandfamily.org/form-page-th25-vnfl/) For more information contact Nancy Ariza, Conference Coordinator at **(281) 906-1546** or email [nancy@forlifeandfamily.org](mailto:nancy@forlifeandfamily.org)

**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](mailto: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](mailto:project.rachel@diocese) in either English or Spanish. All contacts are confidential.

**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**



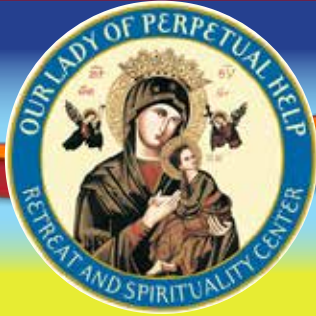
Untreated mental health conditions can lead to suicide. Too many people experience mental health related distress without the support and care they need. Stressors such as: loss of a job, financial stress, death of a loved one, divorce, substance abuse, trauma, chronic illness, legal troubles, or any cause for shame or rejection can be a trigger. Suicide is now the second leading cause of death in 15-24 year olds and the third leading cause of death for 10-24 year olds. Suicide is the second leading cause of death in veterans under age 45.

We put a lot of effort into knowing the signs of cancer so we can catch it at stage 1. What if we were that diligent about catching mental health disorders early? How many lives might be saved? Some of the warning signs for death by suicide include: hopelessness and anger/irritability; dramatic changes in mood, appetite or sleep patterns; and talking about death or suicide. Don't be afraid to ask your loved one or friend if they have thought about ending their emotional pain by going to sleep and never waking up (soft approach) or have thought about committing suicide (direct approach).

If the answer is yes, stay with them. Tell them you care about them, you don't want to lose them and you think that if they knew of other options for dealing with their pain, they would not consider doing this. Know your local resources and help the person receive professional care. Park Royal Hospital (9241 Park Royal Dr.) offers free walk in evaluations for mental health conditions 24/7. Our Lee County Mobile Crisis Unit (888-395-44320) is an option for in home assessment and referral to mental health services. The National Suicide and Crisis Lifeline is #988 and can offer support by phone until a referral to local resources is achieved. Be the courageous Good Samaritan who sees the need and helps a fellow traveler in life. Be Christ's disciple and spread hope: *"I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full."* - John 10:10



REGISTER  
BY  
OCT. 1



## 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**

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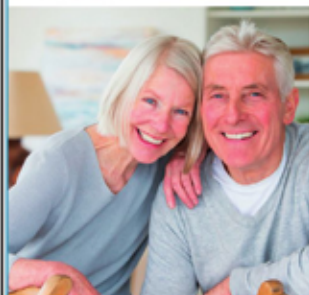
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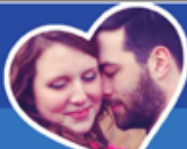
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