



ST. JOHN XXIII

Catholic Church

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

October 5, 2025

Twenty-Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time

RESPECT LIFE MONTH

October
2025

respectlife.org/celebrate

Building a culture that cherishes and protects every human life.

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

October 5, 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, OCTOBER 6

- 8:00 AM † Donald Laux by his wife, Susan

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 7

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

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 8

- 8:00 AM † Richard Kapfhammer by Colette DiMemmo

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 9

- 8:00 AM † Howard DeMartini by Lou & Jude Falango

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 10

- 8:00 AM † Dr. & Mrs. L.J. James by their daughter

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 11 - FEAST OF ST. JOHN XXIII

- 8:00 AM † William Becker by Lois
- 4:00 PM ♥ Legacy Society Donors

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 12 - MENTAL HEALTH SUNDAY

- 7:15 AM † Mark Hatfield by Paula Lattner
- 9:15 AM † William J. Becker, Jr. by Jim & Jonette Duvall
- 11:15 AM † Frances Barnas by Ken & Linda Barnas
- 1:30 PM ♥ Parishioners of St. John XXIII - Spanish Mass
- 5:00 PM † Micae & Phanxico - Vietnamese Mass

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

Mass Intentions for **JANUARY 1, 2026 THROUGH JUNE 30, 2026** are NOW
available 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.

OCTOBER 12, 2025 - SUNDAY READINGS

- 1ST READING 2 KINGS 5:14-17
- PSALM PSALM 98:1, 2-3, 3-4
- 2ND READING 2 TIMOTHY 2:8-13
- GOSPEL LUKE 17:11-19



The Feast of
ST. JOHN XXIII

Saturday, October 11, 2025

*"Concern yourself with not what
you tried and failed in, but with
what is still possible for you to do."*

- St. John XXIII

Pastoral Team

Business Manager

Holly Atkins
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239-561-2245

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Ft. Myers, FL 33908

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

MESSAGE FROM

The
St. John XXIII
Pastor

Fr. Jay



Dear Friends,

October is the month of several important memories and events:

- **October 2** is the birthday of **Mahatma Gandhi**, the symbol of **Non-Violence**
- **October 4** is the feast of **St. Francis of Assisi**, the Patron of **Peace**.
- **October 7** is the feast of Our Lady of the **Holy Rosary - The Tool of Grace**.
- **October 11** is the Feast of the Patron Saint of our parish - **Pope St. John XXIII** who opened the Vatican Council II that initiated a breath of fresh air into our Church.
- **October 12** is **Mental Health Sunday - promising our Love and Support for the Vulnerable**.
- **October 18** is the **Feast of St. Luke**, the Evangelist, who portrayed **Christ's Mercy and Healing**.
- **October 22** is the Feast of **Pope St. John Paul II** whom we saw as a **symbol of promoting Peace in the World**.
- **October** is the month of commemorating **Pro-Life Initiatives**.

In the context of increasing evils and violence against God's creation of humanity and nature, we as the faithful, are called to read and reflect all the readings of this weekend deeply. There is an outcry of violence in the first reading and promises that... 'the just one because of his faith, shall live'. In the second reading,God gave us... 'power and love and self-control. So do not be ashamed of your testimony to our Lord....take the words in **the faith** and love that are in Jesus Christ. The gospel starts with a plea of the Apostles, '**increase our faith**'.

While everything may seem negative, compromising, panicking and evil with increasing intolerance of individuals, institutions and nations, political confusion, destructions and devastations of countries due to war across the world, **God has chosen us to be different by increasing our faith**. When our faith increases, it demands us to work for humility and human dignity and fight against anything that disrupts unity as God's children. Again, look at the importance of the days mentioned above, reflect, pray and cooperate with our Lord to increase our faith!

I am happy to be back to our parish family and thank you for all your prayers!

God Bless,
Fr. Jay Raju

- **Reading 1: Habakkuk 1:2-3; 2:2-4**
- **Reading 2: 2 Timothy 1:6-8, 13-14**
- **Gospel: Luke 17:5-10**

IN MEMORIAM

William "Bill" Acini

Monday, October 6

FUNERAL MASS: 1:30pm

Our Lady of the Rosary Chapel

VISITATION/NARTHEX: 1PM

Burial to follow in the Memorial Garden

IN MEMORIAM

Christine Sullivan

Thursday, October 9

FUNERAL MASS: 10:30am

Our Lady of the Rosary Chapel

VISITATION/NARTHEX: 10:00AM

Burial to follow in the Memorial Garden

IN MEMORIAM

James E. Madden

Friday, October 10

FUNERAL MASS: 10:00am

Our Lady of the Rosary Chapel

VISITATION/NARTHEX: 9:30AM

NO BURIAL

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

Linda Bissett

Linda Anderson

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

Carol Quid

Cooper Family

Robert Irving

William & Laraine Horan

Sara Amparito del Aguila

George Flaherty

Rev. Stan Dombrowski OSFS

Jocelyn DaSilva

Carla Brown

Dr. James Rudolph

Laura Travaglio

Jan Rybczyk

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!

Brad Carpenter

Antonio DeSantis



Tabernacle Candle

In Honor of: **Charles Donches**

Requested by: **Diane Harlyvetch**



Eucharist Host

In Memory of: **Al Siperek**

Requested by: **Bonnie Rogers**





Weekly Calendar

PLC = PARISH LIFE CENTER



Monday, October 6

- 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
- Walking w/ Purpose: PLC/St. Christina - 7pm

Tuesday, October 7

- 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
- 1st Corinthians Bible Study: PLC Main Hall - 6pm
- Pilgrim Adoration & Benediction: Chapel - 6:30pm
- Hispanic Charismatic Prayer Group: Chapel - 7pm
- AA Meeting: PLC/St. Martha & St. Mary - 7pm

Wednesday, October 8

- 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
- Faith Formation Session 1: PLC/St. Michael - 4:15pm
- Children Choir Rehearsal: Chapel - 5:30pm
- Blaze (MS Girls): Parish Office Conference Room - 6pm
- Faith Formation Session 2: PLC/St. Michael - 6:15pm
- Middle School Youth Group: Narthex - 6:15pm
- Sisters of Strength: Parish Office Conference Room - 7:30pm

Thursday, October 9

- Rosary - 7:15am/Daily Mass: Chapel - 8am
- Adoration Chapel open 8:30am-6pm
- 1st Corinthians Bible Study: PLC Main Hall - 9am
- Pilgrim Confession: 11:15am/Pilgrim Mass: 12pm - Chapel
- Handbell Rehearsal: Narthex - 5:30pm
- 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, October 10

- Rosary - 7:15am/Daily Mass: Chapel - 8am
- Adoration Chapel open 8:30am - 6pm
with Overnight Adoration from 6pm-8am
- 2025 Rosary Congress: Adoration Chapel - 9am-7am
- Pilgrim Confession: 11:15am/Pilgrim Mass: 12pm - Chapel
- Vietnamese Choir Rehearsal: Chapel - 8pm

Saturday, October 11

- Rosary - 7am/Daily Mass: Chapel - 8am
- Confessions after 8am Mass
- Adoration Chapel open 8:30am - 3:30pm
- Rosary Rally: Memorial Garden - 12pm(noon)
- Vigil Mass: Main Hall - 4pm
- Anniversary Blessings during the 4pm Mass

Sunday, October 12 - Mental Health Sunday

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

WELCOME

New Parishioners

- Eddie Lopes & Erica Alves Costa Lopes
- Jonathan Jiminez & Erika Gonzalez
- Juan Carlos Pena & Maria Victoria Torres
- Jesus Rengifo & Kassandra Santos
- Alexander Lopez Guzman & Karina Santos

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 16, 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
Lt. Col. Bradley Laux
Capt. Jacob Mundo, US Army
SSGT Anthony Padula
Master SGT Peter Parison
Sgt. Justin Pingicer, Army
Lt. Col. Brady Sexton
Christian Troutner, US Navy
Alex Zizzo, US Navy Medic
PFC Jordan Feil, USA
Aaron Crump, USCG
Sgt. Nathaniel Broemmell
Lt. Com. Mark Buonomo
BG Scott C. Woodward
Ryan Silva, Army
2nd Lt. Greg Fry, USMC
Jared Broemmell, US Navy
2nd Lt. Edward Hudson
Tillinghast IV, Army
Jethro Ignacio, US Air Force
Eric Sanchez, US Air Force
Lt. Col. Mike Garry, US Army, 82nd ABN

Sgt. Eric Lyons, USMC
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 Gaggis, 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 Gaggis
1st Lt. Alyssa (Peters) Flores, US Army
Sgt. Julio Flores, USMC

RESPECT LIFE

40 DAYS FOR LIFE

Fall Campaign

www.40DaysforLife.com/FortMyers

VIGIL HOURS *Every Tuesday*

11:00AM - 3:00PM

40 Days for Life is an internationally coordinated campaign that aims to end abortion locally through prayer and fasting, community outreach, and a peaceful all-day vigil in front of abortion businesses. The 40 day fall campaign runs through November 2.

Vigil Location: PLANNED PARENTHOOD
6418 Commerce Park Drive, Ft. Myers, FL

Parishioners from St. John XXIII have been asked to help cover the hours every Tuesday, 11:00am to 3:00pm, a peak time for abortions at the clinic.

LIFE

*Our Sign
of Hope*



respect • love • protect

ADDITIONAL *Information*

Every October, the Church in the U.S. celebrates Respect Life Month. We invite you to join us in prayer and peaceful action!

RESPECT LIFE MONTH NOVENA:

www.respectlife.org/respect-life-month-novena

Join thousands of Catholics nationwide in prayer. Receive daily prayers by email or text message.

PROJECT RACHEL:

www.hopeafterabortion.com

Are you or someone you know in need of hope and healing after abortion? For women, men, and families, peace starts here.

For more information, contact:

Sylvia Jimenez

Diocese of Venice Project Rachel Coordinator
941-412-5860

project.rachel@dioceseofvenice.org

CONTACT US:

Please join our Respect Life Ministry!

For more information, contact:

Frances Lacson

312-810-0304

respectlifejohn23@gmail.com

"All human life, from the moment of conception and through all subsequent stages, is sacred, because human life is created in the image and likeness of God. Nothing surpasses the greatness or dignity of the human person."

- St. John Paul II

POPE'S PRAYER INTENTIONS

2025

OCTOBER:

**FOR COLLABORATION BETWEEN
DIFFERENT RELIGIOUS TRADITIONS**

Let us pray that believers in different religious traditions might try to work together to defend and promote peace, justice, and human fraternity.

For more information:

www.usccb.org/prayers/popes-monthly-intentions-2025



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 in the lobby of the Parish Life Center before or after all Masses next weekend: **Saturday, October 11 and Sunday, October 12.***

ST. JOHN XXIII

THRIFT store

Selling quality goods
for the good of others.

October



20% OFF SPECIALS

OCTOBER 1 - 11: Clothing & Footwear

OCTOBER 8 - 13: Glassware & Crystal

OCTOBER 15 - 20: Fine & Costume Jewelry

OCTOBER 22 - 31: Electronics & Cables

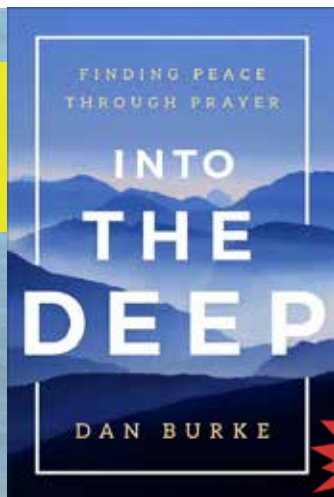
PLEASE NOTE: Excludes Firm-priced items, items in locked cases and items in curiosity cabinets. Specials cannot be combined with other sales, specials, or offers unless stated otherwise.

Store Hours: MONDAY-FRIDAY 10AM - 5PM
SATURDAY - 10AM - 4PM

Address: 15200 S. Tamiami Trail #110, Ft. Myers, FL

www.bpjthrift.com





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 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)

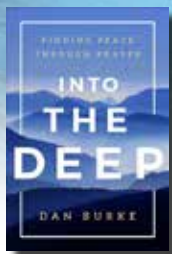
- 10/28, 11/4, 11/11, 11/18

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



Into the Deep: Finding Peace Through Prayer VIDEO SERIES SESSIONS

Registration DEADLINE: October 10

NAME: _____

EMAIL ADDRESS: _____

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



Vietnamese Community



LỄ TIẾNG VIỆT

Lễ Chúa Nhật: 5:00 PM

Lễ Trọng: Thông báo sau

Tôn Vinh CTTĐVN: Sau lễ Chúa Nhật cuối tháng

BÍ TÍCH

Rửa Tội, Xưng Tội, Rước Lễ Lần Đầu, Thêm Sức, An Táng:

Liên lạc văn phòng giáo xứ, hoặc quý Cha

Hôn Nhân: Liên lạc văn phòng giáo xứ, hoặc quý Cha ít nhất trước 6 tháng.

Giải tội: 30 phút trước thánh lễ - hoặc hẹn trước

Ghi Danh Nhập Giáo Xứ:

Rửa tội, Xưng tội-Rước Lễ lần đầu, Thêm sức, Hôn nhân cần ghi danh gia nhập giáo xứ. Đơn ghi danh ở cuối nhà thờ.

LINH MỤC

Cha Quản Nhiệm: Giacôbê Phạm Ngọc Bích

(Fr. Jimmy Phạm) 417-758-4798

frjimmy@johnxxiii.net

HỘI ĐỒNG MỤC VỤ

Chủ Tịch: Anh Khiêm Nguyễn 239-223-6733

Phó Chủ Tịch: Chị Thảo Lê 941-286-3354

Phó Nội Vụ: Anh Trác Bùi. 239-785-8711

Phó Ngoại Vụ: Anh Cường Cao 239-822-8620

Thủ Quỹ: Chị Trang Vũ 239-628-5834

GIÁO ĐIỂM

Vùng Lehigh: Chị Thảo Nguyễn 336-710-2968

Vùng Cape Coral: Chị Thủy Nguyễn 239-560-6018

Vùng Naples: Anh Đinh Nguyễn 484-213-0453

Vùng Fort Myers (Chưa có đại diện)

Vùng Punta Gorda (Chưa có đại diện)

HỘI ĐOÀN - BAN NGÀNH

Đoàn LMTT: Anh Toàn Bùi 239-297-6182

Ca Đoàn Cecilia: Anh Cường Cao 239-822-8620

Hội CBMCG: Chị Thủy Nguyễn 239-560-6018

Ban Phụng Vụ: Anh Khiêm Nguyễn 239-223-6733

Thừa Tác Viên Lời Chúa:

Trưởng Ban: Chị Thủy Trương 941-468-0199

Phó Ban: Chị Tuyền Trần 239-470-2435



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:

10/5 - The Saints/Mary

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

10/12 - Divine Revelation

God wants to reveal himself to your heart. How do you receive this revelation of love?

10/19 - Eschatology and Last Things

What remaining questions do you have about Heaven, Hell, Purgatory or the end times of existence?



A Journey Through The Catholic Faith





PRAYER TO ST. JOHN XXIII

Dear Pope John,

Your simplicity and meekness carried the scent of God and sparked in people's hearts the desire for goodness. You spoke often of the beauty of the family gathered around the table to share bread and faith. Pray for us that once again true families would live in our homes.

With outstretched hands you sowed hope, and you taught us to listen for God's footsteps as he prepares a new humanity; help us have a healthy optimism of defeating evil with good. You love the world with its light and darkness, and you believed that peace is possible. Help us be instruments of peace at home and in our communities.

With paternal gentleness you gave all children a caress: you moved the world and reminded us that hands have been given to us not for striking, but for embracing and drying tears.

Pray for us so that we do not limit ourselves to cursing the darkness but that we bring Jesus everywhere and always praying to Mary. Amen.

Celebrating the Feast of ST. JOHN XXIII

Saturday, October 11, 2025

ABOUT ST. JOHN XXIII

Although few people had as great an impact on the 20th century as Pope John XXIII, he avoided the limelight as much as possible. Indeed, one writer has noted that his "ordinariness" seems one of his most remarkable qualities.

The firstborn son of a farming family in Sotto il Monte, near Bergamo in northern Italy, Angelo Giuseppe Roncalli was always proud of his down-to-earth roots. In Bergamo's diocesan seminary, he joined the Secular Franciscan Order.

After his ordination in 1904, Fr. Roncalli returned to Rome for canon law studies. He soon worked as his bishop's secretary, Church history teacher in the seminary, and as publisher of the diocesan paper.

His service as a stretcher-bearer for the Italian army during World War I gave him a firsthand knowledge of war. In 1921, Fr. Roncalli was made national director in Italy of the Society for the Propagation of the Faith. He also found time to teach patristics at a seminary in the Eternal City.

In 1925, he became a papal diplomat, serving first in Bulgaria, then in Turkey, and finally in France. During World War II, he became well acquainted with Orthodox Church leaders. With the help of Germany's ambassador to Turkey, Archbishop Roncalli helped save an estimated 24,000 Jewish people.

Named a cardinal and appointed patriarch of Venice in 1953, he was finally a residential bishop. A month short of entering his 78th year, Cardinal Roncalli was elected pope, taking the name John after his father and the two patrons of Rome's cathedral, St. John Lateran. Pope John took his work very seriously but not himself. His wit soon became proverbial, and he began meeting with political and religious leaders from around the world. In 1962, he was deeply involved in efforts to resolve the Cuban missile crisis.

His most famous encyclicals were *Mother and Teacher* (1961) and *Peace on Earth* (1963). Pope John XXIII enlarged the membership in the College of Cardinals and made it more international. At his address at the opening of the Second Vatican Council, he criticized the "prophets of doom" who "in these modern times see nothing but prevarication and ruin." Pope John XXIII set a tone for the Council when he said, "The Church has always opposed... errors. Nowadays, however, the Spouse of Christ prefers to make use of the medicine of mercy rather than that of severity."

On his deathbed, Pope John said: "It is not that the gospel has changed; it is that we have begun to understand it better. Those who have lived as long as I have...were enabled to compare different cultures and traditions, and know that the moment has come to discern the signs of the times, to seize the opportunity and to look far ahead."

"Good Pope John" died on June 3, 1963. Saint John Paul II beatified him in 2000, and Pope Francis canonized him in 2014.



Book of Remembrance

The weekend of October 11-12, you will notice a large engraved leather book being carried to the altar in the entrance procession.

If so, you were a witness to history. The Legacy Society Donors Book of Remembrance debuted this weekend, listing the names of all donors, living and deceased, who are members of St. John XXIII's Legacy Society. These generous donors have demonstrated their deep commitment to our parish's future mission and ministries by remembering the parish in their estate plans and/or through other types of gifts.

Are you interested in having your name or the name of a loved one inscribed in the Book of Remembrance?

All Legacy Society Donors will be **remembered in perpetuity** with a Mass in their honor on the Feast Day of St. John XXIII. Also, The Book of Remembrance will be carried to the Memorial Garden on the Feast of All Souls when all deceased Legacy Society donors will be remembered in prayer.

There are many options to become a Legacy Society Donor to help secure the long-term viability and sustainability of St. John XXIII Catholic Church. Remembering the church in your will or trust, by naming the parish as a beneficiary of an insurance policy, financial account, or retirement account, or by establishing a charitable gift annuity are just a few possibilities. To request more information, please stop by the parish office and request the Legacy Society tri-fold brochure which explains many options in detail.

Among those listed by name in The Legacy Society Book of Remembrance are living and deceased parishioners who have designated bequests to the parish, those who gave \$10,000 or more that helped start the parish, and the top 100 donors to the parish.

St. John XXIII Catholic Church is indebted to Legacy Society Donors who help "keep the mission alive" by their generosity. They live **the definition of stewardship, "the grateful response of a Christian disciple who recognizes and receives God's gifts and shares these gifts out of love of God and neighbor."**



ST. JOHN XXIII
Catholic Church

Weekly Financials



	9-28-25	9-29-24	Difference
Offertory	\$23,023.72	\$25,509.27	(\$2,485.55)
Building Fund	\$1,402.00	\$1,627.00	(\$225.00)
Total	\$24,425.72	\$27,136.27	(\$2,710.55)
Mass Attendance	3024	2529	
Registered Families	3847	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	\$527,945.56
Payments	\$498,634.63

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






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TUESDAYS:

October 7, 14, 21 (6:00pm - 7:30pm)
Parish Life Center Main Hall

THURSDAYS:

October 9, 16, 23 (9:00am - 10:30am)
Parish Life Center Main Hall

Rosary RALLY



SATURDAY, OCTOBER 11

12:00PM NOON

in the Memorial Garden

Please join the members of the Women's Guild on **Saturday, October 11 at 12:00pm noon**, in the Memorial Garden. If needed, please bring water and a chair.

For any questions or more information, please call **Joann Bernstein at (502) 939-8659**

Women's Guild



OCTOBER 18 - 19

The Bake Sale will take place in the Parish Life Center Lobby (PLC) before and after Masses the weekend of October 18-19. Donations may be dropped off at the PLC from 1:00pm-4:00pm on Friday, October 17 or before all Masses.

Proceeds from the bake sale will go towards the Thanksgiving and Christmas baskets. Thank you for your continued kind generosity!

For more Information contact:

BARBARA ARTALE

baagrammy322@gmail.com





ST. JOHN XXIII Catholic Church

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

Join our Choirs!

The St. John XXIII Music Ministries has openings for all our choirs and are open for all ages!

CHILDREN'S CHOIR

Children's Choir rehearsals will begin Wednesday, October 8th from 5:30-6:15pm in the Rosary Chapel.

HANDBELL CHOIR

Handbell Choir rehearsals take place on Thursdays from 5:30-6:20pm in the Church Narthex.

ADULT CHOIR

The Adult Choir rehearsals take place on Thursdays from 6:30-8:00pm in the Rosary Chapel.

CONTEMPORARY CHOIR

Rehearsals will usually take place on the second Wednesday of the month beginning at 6:30pm in the Parish Life Center Main Hall.

CONTACTS: **John Renfro**
Gabby Frei (239) 281-2760

HISPANIC CHOIR

The Hispanic Choir rehearses on Sunday mornings at 11:00am in the Rosary Chapel.

CONTACT: **Greg Lopez (239) 471-6942**

VIETNAMESE CHORUS

The Vietnamese Choir take place Friday evenings at 8:00pm in the Rosary Chapel.

CONTACT: **Adam Nguyen (239) 223-6733**

INSTRUMENTALISTS

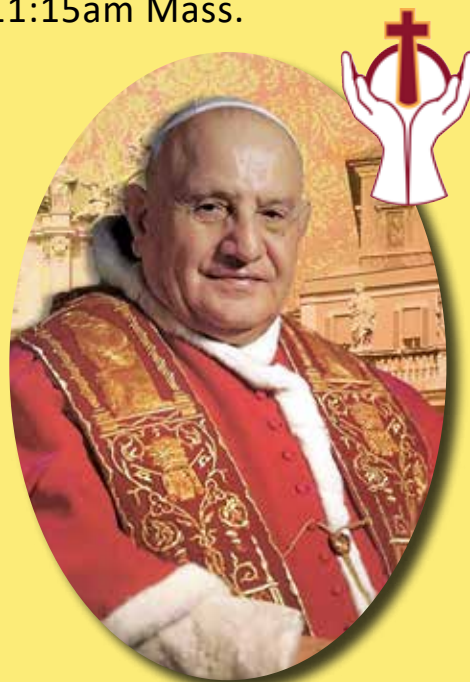
For advanced instrumentalist
CONTACT: **John Renfro**

MULTICULTURAL MASS



SUNDAY, OCTOBER 12
11:15AM MASS

In honor of **St. John XXIII**, all are invited to celebrate the Multicultural Mass next **Sunday, October 12** at the 11:15am Mass.



Please Note:

Our monthly 9:15am Mass with Contemporary Music is scheduled to take place on **Sunday, October 19.**

Journey TO

hope

A MINISTRY OF *Accompaniment*

What does a ministry of accompaniment look like? Our Journey to Hope Mental Health Ministry has accompanied family members of those with a mental health condition since 2013 by means of a monthly NAMI (National Alliance on Mental Illness) Family Support Group. We call our ministry Journey to Hope because families need hope and direction when a loved one has a mental health condition. We hear stories of: caretakers providing aid to loved ones with a chronic condition that renders them unable to perform life tasks most take for granted; parents worrying about their child self-medicating with substances and alcohol and the complications of recovery when these are used to self-soothe. We discuss: getting loved ones on social security disability, dealing with legal and medical systems which often seem to be working against the best interest of the one with a diagnosis, best practices for communication and problem-solving. Education about the brain helps all of us see this is a “no fault” illness. Just to be understood because someone has experienced the same journey helps. If a person is not open to a group then a private one on one is offered.

Our society has come a long way in recognizing warning signs, but not enough to prevent self-harm and early death. During October Respect Life Month, it is up to each one of us to stay current on mental health, to learn best practices for catching and treating psychiatric symptoms early. We can all help by learning more, staying in contact with those having these challenges, and listening with empathy to make it safe to discuss what's needed. Accompaniment means fighting stigma/negative judgement, giving practical assistance, prayer support, and help in connecting to professional services. Our next Journey to Hope Family Support Group will take place **Thursday, October 9 at 6pm in the Parish Life Center**. We encourage you to pray the Mental Health Novena and to learn more. **For information on our mental health accompaniment ministry, please email: joannehalt@gmail.com**



Message **FROM JOANNE HALT:**

“Mental Health Conditions affect one in five families. Please spread the word about the following parish prayer opportunities for mental health during October. The USCCB has designated **October 12** as Mental Health Sunday.

For more information, visit:

<https://www.usccb.org/mental-health-sunday>

Additionally, the Novena for Mental Health will take place **October 10-18, 2025**.

Join Us **MENTAL HEALTH SUNDAY:**

On **October 12 at the 9:15am Mass**, we would like a good representation of individuals who live the experience, along with caretakers and professionals such as doctors, nurses, EMT, law enforcement, therapists, mental health counselors/social workers, educators, who have served individuals and families with these challenges. **Fr. Jay will give a special blessing after his homily.**

Novena **FOR MENTAL HEALTH:**

The Novena for Mental Health takes place beginning on **World Mental Health Day, October 10 and ending on October 18**, the feast day of St. Luke.

All are welcome to register at:

www.usccb.org/mental-health-novena to receive daily emails on those dates or to use in the future. Let's use our prayer power to lift hurting people up to our Lord, like the friends who peeled away the roof to lower their friend to Jesus. Bless you for all you do for others.”

Use the QR code to register for daily emails of the Novena October 10-18, which can also be used year round.





SUGGESTIONS FOR PARISH ENGAGEMENT

Mental Health Sunday



The National Catholic Mental Health Campaign has designated that the Sunday that falls within the Novena for Mental Health time-frame (October 10 -18) as Mental Health Sunday. In 2025, that Sunday is **October 12, 2025**, the Twenty-Eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time. *For more information, visit:*

www.usccb.org/mental-health-novena

In preparation for Mental Health Sunday, Catholic communities and dioceses/eparchies may consider the following:

- Use the NCMHC as an impetus to promote existing local mental health initiatives/programs, or to launch a resource around mental health and wellness from a spiritual/pastoral perspective. This can also be an occasion for connecting to other national Catholic efforts in this area, such as the Association of Catholic Mental Health Ministers.
- All Catholics are invited to get the conversation going within the local community; the materials available from the USCCB (novena, videos, and resources) are designed to engage within a deeper dialogue on this issue.
- All are encouraged to promote the annual novena October 10 to 18 and throughout the parish community.

For more information visit: usccb.org/mentalhealth

- Since each day of the novena corresponds to a particular ministry or population (i.e., young people, families, racial justice, etc.), consider highlighting the connection between local efforts around those focus areas and mental health, or use it as an impetus to reinvigorate those areas in the community.
- In advance of Mental Health Sunday, all are encouraged to reflect on their particular intentions/petitions about how mental health issues are impacting them personally and the parish community.

ABOUT THE CAMPAIGN:

The National Catholic Mental Health Campaign (NCMHC) is a year-round initiative wherein the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) promotes in a nationwide effort to encourage all people of good will to respond to the ongoing mental health crisis across the country.

- The message of the NCMHC is simple: Everyone who needs help should receive help.
- The three primary goals are: (1) to raise awareness of the mental health crisis, (2) to combat stigma surrounding the topic of mental health, and (3) to advocate for all those impacted by the crisis.

Within the NCMHC, the U.S. bishops engage in a concerted effort to raise awareness of the issue beginning on World Mental Health Day (October 10) and continuing to the Catholic feast of Saint Luke, patron of health care (October 18).

The USCCB recommends each individual to promote a national novena between those dates. The daily texts can be found at:

www.usccb.org/mental-health



United States
Conference of
Catholic Bishops

usccb.org/mentalhealth

ANGEL TREE

2025 GIFT/FOOD REQUESTS

ANGEL TREES will be put up in the Parish Life Center on Friday, November 14, 2025

GIFT RETURN DEADLINE will be Friday, December 5, 2025

Please help our children, seniors, and veterans in need:

- Select an Angel Tag (ONLY if you can return the gift by December 5, 2025)
- Purchase the desired gift (suggested maximum cost of \$50)
- Return wrapped gift by December 5, 2025 (or sooner)

If you're not a shopper, you may wish to make a Monetary Donation:

- Make check payable to SJXXIII Church (note "Angel Tree" in the Memo Portion)
- Drop check in the offertory basket at Mass (or mail it to: St. John XXIII Church 13060 Palomino Lane, Fort Myers, FL 33912)

Or consider sponsoring a family:

Contact Stellamccaffrey@aol.com to request the size family you wish to sponsor.

Parish Families in need of help are invited to complete and return this request form below.

ELIGIBILITY: Registered Parishioner with Regular Mass Attendance

ST. JOHN XXIII - 2025 HOLIDAY FOOD and/or GIFT REQUEST FORM

DEADLINE for RECEIPT of FORM - OCTOBER 31, 2025

EMAIL TO: Stellamccaffrey@aol.com

Parent Name: (Last, First)		Phone #	E-mail:
Child's First Name	Age	Gender	SUGGESTED GIFT (If Clothing, state Size)

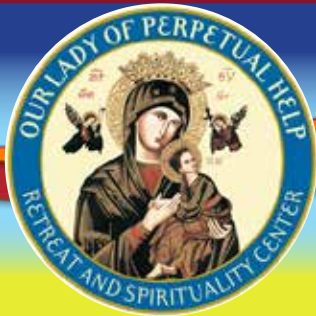
FOOD REQUEST (Please check ALL that apply):

_____ **Food - Thanksgiving** (Pick-up at Parish Life Center on **Monday, November 24, 2025** from 1-3pm)

_____ **Food - Christmas** (Pick-up at Parish Life Center on **Monday, December 22, 2025** from 1-3pm)

Total Number for FOOD _____

REQUESTS MUST BE RECEIVED BY OCTOBER 31, 2025



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 8, 2025

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

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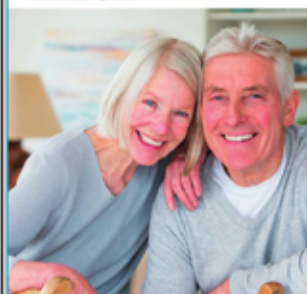
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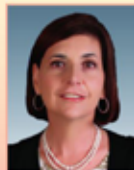
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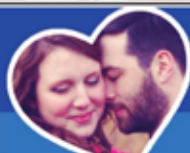
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