



BLESSED POPE JOHN XXIII CATHOLIC CHURCH

13060 Palomino Lane Fort Myers, FL 33912 239-561-2245

fax: 239-561-3713 www.johnxxiii.net e-mail: info@johnxxiii.net

December 25th, 2011

MASS SCHEDULE

Daily Masses:

Monday-Saturday, 8:00 am
Rosary-7:30 am (Mon.-Sat.)
Divine Mercy after 8 am Mass

Weekend Masses:

Saturday Mass, 4:00 pm
Vietnamese Mass 8:00 pm
Sunday, 7:15 am, 9:15 am,
11:15 am
Spanish Mass: 1:15 pm first
Sunday each month

Reconciliation:

Saturday after 8:00 am Mass

First Friday Adoration:

Friday 8:30-9:00 am

Pastor

Rev. Robert Tabbert
FrBob@johnxxiii.net

Parochial Vicars

Rev. Marcin Koziola
MKoziola@johnxxiii.net

Rev. Bernardine Dang CMC
FrBernie@johnxxiii.net

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS:

Monday-Friday,
8:00 am-4:00 pm

*The Parish Office is now open
during the lunch hour.*

**Check out Page 3
for an preview and
explanation of the
new BPJ website.
It's live NOW at**

www.johnxxiii.net

Connect today!

The Christmas Prayer of Blessed Pope John XXIII



*O sweet Child of Bethlehem,
grant that we may share with all our hearts
in this profound mystery of Christmas.
Put into the hearts of men and women this peace
for which they sometimes seek so desperately
and which you alone can give to them.
Help them to know one another better,
and to live as brothers and sisters,
children of the same Father.
Reveal to them also your beauty, holiness and purity.
Awaken in their hearts
love and gratitude for your infinite goodness.
Join them all together in your love.
And give us your heavenly peace. Amen.*

**From all of us at Blessed
Pope John XXIII, we want to
wish you and your families a
Merry Christmas and a new
year filled with blessings,
health and an ever-deepening
relationship with Christ.**

OUR CREDO

No matter what your present status in the Catholic Church;

No matter what your current family or marital situation;

No matter what your past or present religious affiliation;

No matter what your personal history, age, background, race or color;

No matter what your self-image or esteem;

You are invited, welcomed, accepted, loved and respected at Blessed Pope John XXIII Catholic Church!

December 25th, 2011

Pastoral Team

Business Manager
Holly Atkins
holly@johnxxiii.net

Communications Director/Webmaster
Damian Hanley
damian@johnxxiii.net

Maintenance Supervisor
Rob Erp

Dir. of Faith Formation
Chris Biel
chrisdre@johnxxiii.net
239-561-7499

Music Director
Barbara Mendillo
pianomaam@comcast.net
941-639-0027

Youth Minister
Christie Collins
christie@johnxxiii.net
239-561-3022

Bookkeeper
Ana Thompson
ana@johnxxiii.net

Thrift Store Manager
Cynthia Conzatti
bpjthrift@embarqmail.com
239-433-4097

Coordinator of Parishioner Engagement
Jennifer Engelman
jennifer@johnxxiii.net

Part-Time

Office Assistant
Ivette Janoschka
ivettej@johnxxiii.net

Receptionist
MaryAnn Deas
maryann@johnxxiii.net

Faith Formation Asst.
Brenda Gregory
brenda@johnxxiii.net

Admin. Assistant
Barbara Lange
blange@johnxxiii.net

Choir Director
Todd Peterson
todd@johnxxiii.net

Mission Statement

The mission of Blessed Pope John XXIII Catholic Church is to engage our Parish Community in living out the message of Christ, nurturing spiritual growth and personal fulfillment on our journey to become responsible stewards of God's gifts.

MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday, December 24th
4:00 - 6:00 - 9:00 - 11:00 PM For the Parishioners of Blessed Pope John XXIII

Sunday, December 25th
7:15 - 9:15 - 11:15 AM For the Parishioners of Blessed Pope John XXIII

Monday, December 26th
8:00 AM + Mary Panettieri by Joseph Petta

Tuesday, December 27th
8:00 AM + Lisa Coole by Bill & Nancy Coole

Wednesday, December 28th
8:00 AM + Catherine & Jerry Tolisano by Vincent Tolisano

Thursday, December 29th
8:00 AM + Kay Engelman by Steve & Jennifer Engelman

Friday, December 30th
8:00 AM Living and Deceased members of The Griffin, Shanahan, Ferriter & Cronin Families by Pat

Saturday, December 31st
8:00 AM + Dennis Agnew by Nancy Agnew
4:00 PM + John & June Martinko by Pat & Dave Goldberg

Sunday, January 1st
7:15 AM + Laura Horton by the BPJ Pastoral Team & Thrift Store
9:15 AM + Philip Kort by Lene & Sherry Nicolaus
11:15 AM + Florence Marshall by Cora & Don Davies

Please note that beginning Dec 1 the 2012 Mass Book will be open for the months of January thru September.

PARISH CALENDAR

■ Saturday December 24
Prayer Walk abortion clinic 9:15 am
Children's Liturgy 4:00 pm
Christmas Liturgies 6:00 & 9:00 pm
Vietnamese Mass 11:00 pm

■ Sunday December 25
Christmas Day - Regular Masses
7:15, 9:15 & 11:15 am
No RCIA
No HSYG

■ Monday December 26
Men's Gospel Forum 7:00 am
Children's Choir 5:15-6:00 pm
Choir 6:30-8:30 pm

■ Tuesday December 27
Bereavement & Beyond 1:00-3:00 pm
Cub Scouts 5:30-6:30 pm
Rosary in Spanish 6:00 pm
Boy Scouts 7:00-8:15 pm

■ Wednesday December 28
No Faith Formation
No EDGE

■ Thursday December 29

■ Friday December 30

■ Saturday December 31
Prayer Walk abortion clinic 9:15 am
Vigil Mass Octave of Christmas 4:00 pm
Vietnamese Mass 8:00 pm

■ Sunday January 1
Spanish Mass 1:15 pm
No HSYG



**MINISTER SCHEDULE
JAN 31ST & DEC 1ST**

Saturday, 4:00 PM
LECTORS: D. Koch, E. Eddy, T. Matjya
ALTAR SERVER: T. Matjya, A. Glassey, L. Disuanco

Sunday, 7:15 AM
LECTORS: V. Knipping, L. Izral, C. Beswick
ALTAR SERVER: Open to Volunteers

Sunday, 9:15 AM
LECTORS: B. Stolarik, M. O'Toole, C. Lazo
ALTAR SERVER: D. Crane, G. Reitz, J. Kerekes

Sunday, 11:15 AM
LECTORS: P. Mattras, A. Benvie, T. Wells
ALTAR SERVER: J. Gaeta, B. Gaeta, T. Gaeta

Advent & Christmas Schedule

New Year's Eve Masses
Saturday, December 31st @
4:00 & 8:00 pm (Vietnamese)

Feast of Mary Mother of God
Sunday, January 1st @ 7:15,
9:15 & 11:15 am & 1:15 (Spn)

DECEMBER 25TH: CRISIS AT CHRISTMAS

The Gospel today gives us some background for the Christmas feast that we need to take to heart. It speaks to us of a crisis at Christmas.

We tend to sentimentalize the Christmas story as we think of the “baby Jesus in the manger.” It is not absolutely wrong to be sentimental about Christmas but we also have to be prayerfully sober about how difficult that first Christmas was and the heroic virtue required of Mary and Joseph in order to cooperate with God in its coming to pass. All men are called to belong to the new People of God. This People, therefore, while remain-

ing one and only one, is to be spread throughout the whole world and to all ages in order that the design of God’s will may be fulfilled: he made human nature one in the beginning and has decreed that all his children who were scattered should be finally gathered together as one... The character of universality which adorns the People of God is a gift from the Lord Himself whereby the Catholic Church ceaselessly and efficaciously seeks for the return of all humanity and all its goods, under Christ the Head in the unity of His Spirit.

New Year, New Website

www.JohnXXIII.net has be redesigned and is better than ever!

The screenshot shows the website interface for Blessed Pope John XXIII Catholic Church. The header includes the church's name and a navigation menu with links for HOME, MINISTRIES, INFO, YOUTH MINISTRY, EDUCATION, DONATE, and CONTACT. A prominent banner features a woman's face with the text "Committed to Social Justice? Find out more..." and a call to action for the eNewsletter. Below the banner, there are sections for "Welcome to Blessed Pope John XXIII", "Sponsors", "Upcoming Events" (listing dates like DEC 19, 20, and 26), and "Recent Video Features". Social media icons for Facebook and Vimeo are visible in the bottom right corner. Annotations with arrows point to specific features: "One-Click Bulletin Downloads" points to the top right; "Easy E-Newsletter Access" points to the newsletter sign-up form; "Parishioner Advertising Opportunities" points to the sponsor section; and "Social Media Connections" points to the social media icons.

Multimedia Library

And more!

- Conditional logic forms
- Expanded calendar
- Priest blog
- Easy signup for events
- Catholic News Feeds
- Stunning Photo Galleries
- Ministry info
- And more great resources!

The Red Box

Middle School **EDGE**

Wednesdays 6:00-7:15 pm All are welcome!

This week: **No EDGE Christmas Break**

Next Week: **TBD Social**

FACEBOOK (Blessed Pope **EDGE**), **TWITTER**@bpj23_YM,

WEB johnxxiii.net/youthministry.html

Check out the website for cool new updates and information about upcoming events!

High School **Youth Group**

Sunday nights 6:30-8:00 pm All are welcome!

This week: **No HSYG Christmas Break**

Next Sunday: **No HSYG Christmas Break**

FACEBOOK (Blessed Pope **Youth Group**), **TWITTER**@bpj23_YM,

WEB johnxxiii.net/youthministry.html

Confirmation Our Confirmation information is updated online; please visit

www.johnxxiii.net/youthministry/confirmation.html

YOUTH MINISTRY **WISH LIST**

These things are always needed. Would you consider dropping some off? Stick-on nametags, individually packaged snacks, drinks (juice, soda, and water).



Christie Collins - Youth Minister

239-561-3022 office | 864-735-7572 cell

Christie@johnxxiii.net

General Announcements

- **Save the Date** January 14th 9:00am-12:00pm, **for all of our Volunteers**, a morning of Reflection. "Celebrating the Spirit of Pope John XXIII"
- **Always Our Children** will not meet in December. The next meeting will be held January 17th, the third Tuesday of the month. Call Paula at 561-5720 for more information.
- **Beef O'Bonus! Our promotion with Beef O'Brady's continues!** On Saturdays and Sundays, if you mention you are from Blessed Pope John XXIII, the Beef O'Brady's at Fiddlesticks will donate 20% of your check back to Blessed Pope John! Help us out & eat great food simultaneously.
- **The next Safe Environment Training** will be held here on January 5th from 6:00-8:00 pm OR on January 7th from 8:30-11:30 am. All volunteers must attend one session if you've not already done so. Contact the Parish Office
- We appreciate all donations to the Thrift Store! **Please be sure to take the donations directly to the Thrift Store**, as our truck operates on volunteer power. We have many other collections taking place at Blessed Pope, so unidentified donations left in the narthex compound confusion.
- Just a friendly reminder to **prepare for the Blessed Sacrament** upon arriving for Mass (in both the narthex and sanctuary). Please refrain from excessive social interaction until after Mass. Thank you!
- As our Parishioners from the north begin to arrive, please be considerate and **park in the designated parking spots before Mass**. Thank you.
- **Hermano y hermana, María con un sí consciente aceptó el proyecto de Dios, introduciendo a Jesús en la historia de salvación. Dios no va a hacer nada en contra de tu voluntad, El está esperando tu sí para entrar de lleno en tu vida y salvarte.**



Lunch with Santa Photos coming soon

NUESTRO CREDO

No interesa cual es tu actual situación en la Iglesia Católica.

No interesa cual es tu actual situación familiar o marital.

No interesa cual es tu actual o pasada afiliación religiosa.

No interesa cual es tu historia personal, edad, experiencia, raza o color.

Tu estas invitado, bienvenido, aceptado, amado y respetado en la Iglesia Católica Blessed Pope John XXIII.

Te invitamos a participar en las misas en español que se celebran el primer domingo de cada mes.

This week in **Faith Formation**

contact **Chris Biel** | 561-7499 | chrisdre@johnxxiii.net

Faith Formation will be on Christmas Break until Wednesday, January 11th. On behalf of the staff at Blessed Pope John XXIII and the Faith Formation Department, we wish you and your family a Very Merry and Blessed Christmas and New Year!

A Biblical Walk Through the Mass

Back by popular demand! Blessed Pope John XXIII will be running another session of a study program for all adults called A Biblical Walk Through the Mass. If you've ever wondered why we say what we say and do what we do during the Liturgy, this is the study for you! You will go deep into the Scriptural roots of the Mass, and see the beauty and riches unfold before your eyes like never before. This five-part program takes participants on an exciting tour of the liturgy. Based on the revised translation of the Mass which began this Advent, 2011, it explores the biblical roots of the words and gestures we experience in Mass and explains their profound significance

The Sessions begin Tuesday January 10 from 9:30-11:00 and run for 5 weeks. The cost is \$20.00 and includes book and study guide. Registration forms are located on Page 12, at the welcome desk in the Narthex or in the main office.

Prepare for the **Sacraments**

Children's Liturgy of the Word

Children's Liturgy of the Word is a lectionary-based non-graded, catechetical program for children that takes place each Sunday during the 9:15 & 11:15 Mass. After the opening prayer, the children, along with their catechist, move to the Community Room to hear the Sunday readings at a level they will understand. Our lessons are designed for Children ages 4 to 8. Children attending are expected to behave in an appropriate manner respectful to adults. The children return to the assembly at the offertory for the remainder of the Mass. There is no registration required for Children's Liturgy of the Word.

Baptism

Congratulations on your decision to baptize your child! At Blessed Pope John XXIII we are happy to help your family prepare for the celebration. In accordance with the guidelines put forth by the Diocese of Venice, the process includes a Welcome Interview, attendance at a scheduled Baptismal Preparation Session and the completion of all required forms. We recommend you begin the process before the birth of your child. Baptisms are offered for registered members of Blessed Pope John 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 Chris at 561-7499 for more information or to begin the process.

First Communion (First Eucharist) and First Reconciliation

Children in first grade or above, who have expressed a desire and willingness 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 indirect Sacramental Preparation (Reconciliation and Communion) sessions. While the schedule for the Sacrament Preparation Classes varies each year, one constant is that a parent is expected to attend and prepare with the child. Contact Chris at 561-7499 for more information or to begin the process.

Confirmation

Preparation to celebrate the Sacrament of Confirmation is also a two year process that now begins at the start of 9th Grade and is celebrated at the end of 10th grade. (Older teens are also 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. Contact Chris at 561-7499 for more information or to begin the process.

The Irrepressible Joy of Christmas

DONALD DEMARCO

The Christ Child comes at Christmas to replace our gloomy ego with his radiant joy.

“All who would win joy,” George Gordon Lord Byron once remarked, “must share it; happiness was born a twin.”

I am fond of this statement and have used it many times in class over the years to indicate the social dimension of the human person. The reason it is not good for man to be alone is because solitude is joyless.

Nevertheless, as the Christmas season approaches, I have two quibbles with Byron’s bon mot. First, I do not believe it is quite accurate to identify joy with happiness. “Joy” and “happiness” are not exactly synonyms. The latter can burn with a low flame and can provide a comfortable background for our lives. But joy burns with a bright flame. It is piercing, rhapsodic, momentous and in the forefront of our consciousness. It is the word that Pascal used repeatedly when he described the effect that his mystical experience had on him.



The Joyful Mysteries are properly named. There are no “Happy Mysteries.” McDonald’s serves Happy Meals, not “Joyful Meals.” A person may be “happy-go-lucky”; no one is “joyful-go-lucky.” After work there are “happy hours,” but not “joyful hours.” A virtuous life, as Aristotle averred, can bring us happiness; Christmas brings us joy.

Secondly, I am not sure that a person can “win” joy. We can become reasonably happy through our own prudent choices. But joy is not something we achieve by dint of our own efforts; it is a gift from above. Christmas brings the gift of joy, even to people who are already happy. It is, as

cont’d on page 7



PRAYERS LIST

Please remember in your prayers all of our parish family and friends who suffer physically, emotionally or spiritually, especially:

Joanna Dubos	Dylan Martinez
Paul Hollenback Jr. & Family	Elwood Totte
Donald Gilmore	Joe Moran
Steven Roosa	Lori Luna
Bennett Luechtefeld	Desiree Vinci
Carmela Elderkin	Angelo Mastrandrea
Maureen Gilmore	Hanna Gregorio
Carol Morales	Paul Konkowski
Tyler Fenniger	Dolores Waterman
Jacci Johnson	Elsie Tarbell
Bob Stevenson	Francis Guarrera
Mary DeFeo	Rich Wielinski
Joe Williams	Jim Harris
David Neumer	Sharon Wilson
Sebastian Boucher	Brenda Hart
Angeline Bennett	Callie Cheer
Robert Gould	Michael Gendron
Vincent Galati	Jack Creagan
Leonard Reagan	David & Susan Saunders
Hunter Haymore	Connor James Kent
Liane Shorten	The Duffy Family
Lloyd Kollasch	Bernie Sweeney
John Perillo	Lori Izral
Linda Sayres	Ron Szweda
Robert Watson	Liz Truax
Carol Young	Patrick Hackett
Ann Kibelbek	Josephine King
Charles Chouiniere	Nick Orlando
Hannah Grant	Dorothy Anne Ratz
Stephen Lane, Jr.	Marianne Honohan
Susan Madda	Jackson Greco
Gloria Ribas-Schultz	Adam Veil
David Jones	James Weir
Bridget Lawrence	Hilda Donahue
Anthony Colucci	Richard Ficarelli
Katie Farrell	Ed Coleman
Cheryl Kipp	Betty Reagan
Carol Counard	Michael McConnell
Nick Orlando	Dave Linde
Joseph Glowacki, Sr	Jean Davis
Will Wright	Donna Fernekes
Mike Barthel	Diane Wittenauer
Stacy Her	Nick Piccoli
Jack Cassidy	Jason Baumgardner
Maria Fields	William Mapie

Please contact the Parish office if you wish to have the name of someone listed for four weeks. As a courtesy please notify the office when the name can be removed or if you wish to continue for another four weeks.

Please Pray for those who have recently entered eternal life

Sr. Elaine Mahoney, principal of St. Francis Xavier School for many years, passed away at the Mother House in New York. A Memorial Mass for Sr. Elaine is January 4th at 6:30 pm at St. Francis Xavier Parish.

TABERNACLE CANDLE

This week in memory of
Al & Amelia Silvani
requested by their children

This candle may be sponsored for a living or deceased loved one. Contact the parish office to check on available weeks.

The Irrepressible Joy of Christmas

G. K. Chesterton called it, “that mysterious revelation that brought joy upon the earth.” This is why we feel gratitude whenever we feel joy. We know that joy is a gift and not an achievement.

“Joy to the world, the Lord is come!” These words from Handel’s Messiah imply that Christ comes into the world at Christmas as a bearer of joy. But his joy is offered to us, just as his peace is offered to “men of good will.” We experience the joy that is offered to us by accepting it in our hearts.

We witness, each December, a concerted attempt by merchants as well as neighbors to distort the core meaning of Christmas by using Advent as an opportunity to provide comfort, happiness, entertainment, acquisitions and pleasure. But these provisions do not bring joy, for, in comparison with the richness of joy, these bells, bows, boxes and baubles are, to coin an acronym, **CHEAP** Comfort, Happiness, Entertainment, Acquisitions, Pleasure. Christmas is a “holy” day, not merely another holiday.

The joy of Christmas is essentially spiritual. It is about man being reunited with God, as St. Paul says in 2 Corinthians 5:19: “God was in Christ reconciling the world to himself.” This generous act of God giving us his only begotten Son should inspire gratitude on our part. Chesterton, for whom Christmas was an occasion of great joy, has expressed the matter most ingeniously: “If my children wake up on Christmas morning and have someone to thank for putting candy in their stocking, have I no one to thank for putting two feet in mine?” Generosity should breed gratitude, as well as more generosity. If there is a handy formula for **JOY** it is to employ a counter-acronym to **CHEAP** Jesus first, Others second, Yourself third.

It is a joy, as well as a relief, to put Christ at the center of things. The individual ego cannot possibly be a source of joy. The last stanza of Chesterton’s ode to Christmas is simple and straightforward enough for a child to understand:

***The Christ Child stood on Mary’s knee.
His hair was like a crown.
And all the flowers looked up at him,
And all the stars looked down.***

This stanza is not simply a description of how flowers, stars and the Christ Child are positioned in relation to each other. It is a picturesque way of indicating how the whole universe pays homage to Christ, who is at the very center of reality.

The Christ Child comes at Christmas to replace our gloomy ego with his radiant joy. We should make the best of it and allow his joy to flame brightly in our hearts. A joyful Christmas to one and all!

Donald DeMarco is adjunct professor at Holy Apostles College & Seminary in Cromwell, Connecticut and Professor Emeritus at St. Jerome’s University in Waterloo Ontario. He also continues to work as a corresponding member of the Pontifical Academy for Life. Donald DeMarco has written hundreds of articles for various scholarly and popular journals, and is the author of twenty books.

PRAYERS FOR OUR HEROES

PFC Andrew Kanopkh,
Afghanistan - Son of Bobby
Kanopkh; Grandson of Helen
Crane

Leannah

LCPL Michael Zach
Nephew of Judy Grohs

A1C, Julie Kurdi, USAF,
Kuwait - Daughter of Laura
Fiore; niece of Vincent and
Donna Fiore

LCPL Cook USMC - Afghani-
stan - Son of Rosie & Martin
Cook

Master Sgt. David Neumer/Army Special Forces,
wounded in Afghanistan,
Cousin of Joanne Walsh.

PFC Michael P Hughes Af-
ghanistan - Nephew of Rosie
& Martin Cook

Sgt. Phil Dellibovi, Ba-gram, Afghanistan - Brother-
in-law of Cindy Costa

**Army First Lieutenant
Bradley D. Laux**, Afghani-
stan - Brother of Jason Laux

**Tech Sgt Jeffrey K. Green
, Air Force**, Mountain Home,
ID - Son of Margaret Evans

CW2 Ryan Ladd, US Army,
Afghanistan - Brother of
Betsy Engelbrecht & Laura
Brauch

**Staff Sgt. Chris Dominski,
NCOIC Air Defense**,
Aerospace Mgt. Team,
NYARNG 27th IBCT

LCPL Andrew Eldridge,
Afghanistan
Brother of Alice Eldridge

Staff Sgt. Shaun McBride,
Afghanistan

**Marine PFC Joseph Bur-
chill**, Afghanistan - Grand-
son of George and Frances
Malone

**Richard Tahaes, Special
Forces**, Iraq - Grandson of
Gerald & Lillian Snyder

1st Lt. Hsiang-Yu Chen,
Taiwan - Nephew of Nancy
Paladino

**1st Lt. Paige Hortman, US
Air Force**, Maguire AFB, NJ
Niece of Peter & Marilyn
Savalli

**Sgt. Dennis Cosgrove,
Jr.**, Texas - Son of Dennis &
Lenore Cosgrove

Rec. Ted Friederichs
Grandson of Nick & Pat
Piegaro

Michael Klem, Afghanistan
Son of Joan & Ken Klem

PFC Kathleen Hudepohl,
Fort Sill, OK - Granddaughter
of Ron & Cecilia Hudepohl

PFC Bryan Bard, Combat
Medic, Afghanistan - Grand-
son of Al & Barbara Olds

PFC Jared Gaudet, Fort-
Bragg, NC - Nephew of Rick
& June Katorincek

Marine PFC Kyle Brewer,
MCAS Beauford, SC - grand-
son of Dee and Al Melliere

2nd Lt. Andrew Duguay,
US Airforce, Laughlin AFB, TX
Grandson of Peter & Midge
Duguay

PFC Michael Hollacher,
Afghanistan - Grandnephew
to Diann & Bill Ford

Ryan Baity, USMC, Camp
Pendleton, California
Grandson of Dan & Judi
Weller

SPC Michael Jednak, US
Army Reserves, Iraq - Neph-
ew of Stuart and Duffy Tursky

**Master Sergeant Peter
Parison**, 101st Airborne
Nephew of Carmel & Mike

PFC Rachel Smeigh, Ft.
Sill, Oklahoma - Granddaugh-
ter of Don & Pat Giordano

PFC Kevin Brewington,
Afghanistan - friend of PFC
Michael Hollacher

Our Thanks to One & All!

On behalf of the Knights of Columbus, Council 13624, here at Blessed Pope John XXIII Catholic Parish, we thank everyone who purchased raffle tickets over the past several weekends. The monies from this raffle were used to purchase food and gift cards for needy families of our parish during this holiday season.



The winners of the various prizes were notified and arrangements were made for pick-up of prizes.

Again, thank you for helping to make Thanksgiving and Christmas better for the needy of our parish. God bless.

Mike Sullivan

Advocate



Marian Prayer Program

A new Knights of Columbus Marian Prayer program began Aug. 3, 2011 at the 129th Supreme Convention in Denver. This program features an image of Our Lady of Guadalupe, along with prayer books and prayer cards available in English, French, Spanish and Polish.

A highlight of the program will be a Guadalupe Celebration, to be held August 5, 2012 at the Los Angeles Coliseum.

At the end of the convention's Wednesday morning Mass, state deputies from each of the Order's 72 jurisdictions received specially prepared framed images of Our Lady of Guadalupe for use in the prayer program. The images have unique features: they were touched to the original tilma of St. Juan Diego, which bears the image of Our Lady of Guadalupe, and were blessed by Pope Benedict XVI in Rome. In addition, the frame for the image is sealed with soil from Mexico's Tepeyac hill, where Our Lady of Guadalupe appeared.

Welcome Newly Registered Parishioners!

**Can you believe it?
Blessed Pope John XXIII
welcomed 291
new families this
year! We are growing!
God is good!**

May the wind be always at your back, blowing you in the direction of our Parish.

All new parishioners and those interested in registering in our Parish are invited to attend the New Parishioner Orientation; **the next one is scheduled for January 22nd 2012 after the 11:15 Mass.** This is your opportunity to become informed and active members of the Parish and participate in our various ministries. Registering at Blessed Pope 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, one 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 in the support of the parish, or are unable to contribute at this time, please at least note your prayerful support on your envelope and place it in the weekly offertory basket. We will then be aware of your continued participation, and you will not be noted as "inactive" on our parish roster.

Save the Date!

*January 14th
9:00am-12:00pm
for all of our Volunteers
a morning of Reflection.
"Celebrating the Spirit of
Pope John XXIII"*

Taxes & Giving at Christmas and Year's End

Did you know that "charitable giving" is one of only a few tax provisions that was not greatly impacted by recent federal tax legislation? Many people enjoy using Christmas and year's end as a special time to give to their favorite Catholic institutions and also positively impact their federal and state income taxes. Christmas and year end giving provides many advantages to you, the donor.

All gifts made on or before December 31st are tax deductible for the year in which the gift was made.

- The knowledge that your gift is assisting a favorite Catholic institution and advancing the mission of the Catholic Church here on earth.
- Celebrating the joy of Christmas by giving in the true spirit of the season.
- A last reminder to make that special gift or increased gift that you've wanted to make during the year.
- If you are an itemizer, your gift will lessen your tax liability for the year in which your gift was made.
- If you are not an itemizer, your Christmas gift may be just the right decision to allow you to itemize and lower your tax bill (check with your tax advisor).
- "Carry Over Deduction" depending on your age, income and size of your gift, you may be able to "carry over" your charitable gift tax deduction to subsequent years.
- Most importantly, make a return to God of your blessings at Christmas and assist our Catholic institution attain its spiritual and programmatic goals: serving God's people and His Church here on earth.

"Christian stewardship begins with God at the center. When stewardship revolves around any other center, it is misconceived. The institution of the church is an inadequate substitute for the incarnate body of Christ. The church as institution is a means to the end of the church as the fellowship of all believers. Stewardship is servant-hood to God through the church, not to the church institution. Though this is a subtle distinction, it is significant."



OFFERTORY COLLECTION

December 11th, 2011

Offertory	25,573
Credit Card Contributions	50
EFT from Bank Accounts	115
Sub Total	\$25,738

Building Fund	2,860
Credit Card Contributions	5
EFT from Bank Accounts	10
Sub Total	\$2,875

Total **\$28,613**

<i>Registered</i>	
# of Families	2223
Per Person	\$12.87
Mass Attendance	3251

2011 CFA Goal	\$319,000
Pledged	\$515,477
As % of Goal	161.59%
% of Households	39.24%

Paid to Date **\$504,097**

Thank you for your continued generosity!

Bills	
Monthly Mortgage Payment	\$16,500
Waste Pro	\$140.00
Offertory Envelopes	1,046.50

Consider this!

Do you want Christ's work in our Parish to continue long after you leave this world? Please consider leaving our parish a gift by way of will or trust so that we can continue the saving work of Christ!

If you would like to name Blessed Pope John XXIII in your will, or to make a major gift, please contact the Parish Office at 561-2245. Blessings!

For our seasonal members who may have missed this...

Hello Parishioners of Blessed Pope John XXIII,

I am Rev. Bernardine Tan Minh Dang - a priest of the Congregation of the Mother Coredemptrix (CMC). I was born on January 21, 1964 in Vietnam. So I'll be 50 in three more years. I have six brothers, and two sisters. Two of them have passed away. My parents, Mr. Xuan van Dang and Mrs. Di thi Ta, and all my siblings (including five nephews and two nieces) live in California.

I left Vietnam and came to America in 1980, at the age of 16, to look for freedom - particularly freedom to pursue my vocation. After a year and a half living in California, I joined the CMC in the summer of 1982. I graduated from McAuley Catholic High School in 1984, entered the novitiate for two years, passed the "CMC's four year spiritual and character training" as a professed brother (yes!), completed four years of philosophy training at Conception Seminary College with the Benedictines in Conception, Missouri, and... after another four years of theology training at Notre Dame Seminary in New Orleans, Louisiana, finally... I was ordained to the priesthood in 2002. Yes, it took me 20 years to become a priest.

After my ordination, I was asked by my superior to help out in the kitchen as a chef for four and a half years. After they'd "had enough" of my food, he asked me to be the director of the CMC Candidacy. Needless to say, I'd not gone to culinary school. The CMC Candidacy lasted for a year and a half though. After that, I was sent to St. Elizabeth Ann Seton in Houston, Texas in 2008 for my first Parish ministry. Blessed Pope John XXIII will be my second. Aside from that, I love music, food and sports - and of course, celebrating the sacraments. I dedicate my life to pastoral ministry, and just pray that the hurricanes down here don't send me back to Missouri!

In Christ,

Fr. Bernie



The Dang Interview (from late July of this year)

Damian: Hi there, Father Dang. Thank you for the opportunity to get to know you a little better, if only over the phone at first.

Dang: Yes, it's a pleasure. I'm just in the midst of a busy weekend here in Missouri - the Marion Feast Day weekend. It's a huge event.

Damian: That's super. So you'll be here next weekend. What are your feelings about coming to Florida and specifically Blessed Pope John XXIII?

Dang: Oh, well, I'm excited and nervous at the same time. I don't know a single person in south Florida, so this will be a new adventure. But new adventures are something I'm used to.

Damian: So how long have you been a priest? How did that whole journey begin?

Dang: 9 years. I was ordained in 2002 in Missouri. In fact I just returned from Joplin where the tornado hit. I used to visit the hospital there - St. John's. I went back to help with the relief efforts and everything was completely leveled. It was all destroyed.

Damian: That's terrible, but it's good to know people are getting behind the cause. So, when did you know the priesthood was for you?

Dang: I was 4 or 5 years old. My mother was the one that planted the seed. She introduced me to the concept of being a priest. When I was asked what I wanted to be when I grow up, I always said 'a priest', just because it interested me. However, that question stayed with me throughout my childhood and in school.

I didn't know if my dream was going to become a reality, though. In 1975, when I was living in Vietnam, I enrolled in the seminary. Before I could even begin, the communists came in and shut them down. So I just spent the remainder of my time there in school and living life.

Damian: So then what? You're here now. Somehow you got across the ocean.

Dang: Haha, yes! My mom didn't give up. She found a way to get us out of the country. I left with my father and brother. It was a bold move.

Damian: How so?

Dang: The first time we tried to escape, we failed. But the second time, we left in the middle of the night. There was a large group of us on a small boat. We made it out to sea and then got on a larger boat. We had to pay off certain officials and other individuals. We had to pay in gold. We were eventually captured by pirates who took all of our belongings. They left us on a deserted island.

The Dang Interview con'd

Damian: Paying people in gold? Captured by pirates? So typical.

Dang: Haha, yes. We eventually got to a refugee camp where some American rescue people took care of us.

Damian: And you're telling me coming to Fort Myer is an adventure? How did you get from there to here?

Dang: Well, my uncle sponsored us to come to America. We ended up in California. That's what's great about Vietnamese people. We don't know what tomorrow holds. We just pray to God and go wherever he takes us.

Damian: So when you got to California, you became a priest?

Dang: It took a little longer than that. I lived with my uncle for one and a half years. Some priests from the Congregation of the Mother Coredemptrix showed up at my school on a vocations mission and I liked what they had to say. So I joined.

Damian: And the rest is history. So you went from a tiny town in Missouri, to your first parish assignment in Houston. That must have been quite the change for you. How did you assimilate to the cowboy culture?

Dang: Houston is a big city - very big. There were no cows, or cowboys for that matter, just traffic. and traffic jams. I told one of the priests at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton (in

Houston) 'this Parish is four times bigger than the city I just came from'. (laughs)

Damian: That sounds very Houstonian to me. Are you kidding?

Dang: No, seriously. Carthage, Missouri has 12,000 people. St. Elizabeth has 50,000.

Damian: Holy Toledo! Joel Osteen must be losing sleep over this. That must have been an intense experience for a priest. So how would you describe the priestly life?

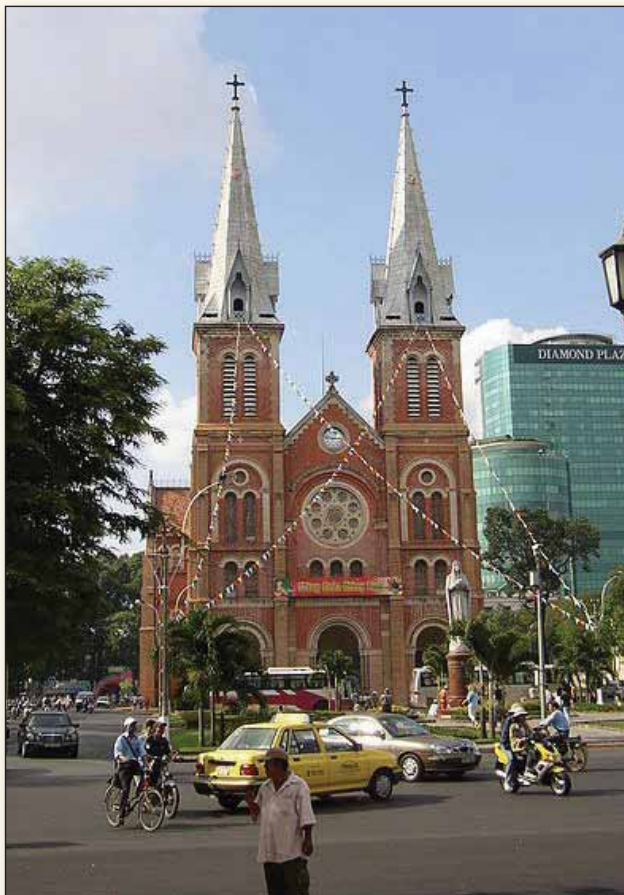
Dang: It's a life of sacrifice, but it's a blessed life. I've enjoyed every minute of it, from day one. I enjoy working with people, doesn't matter if they're in Houston or Missouri or Florida.

Damian: So in your letter, you mention that you love music, food and sports. Could you be more specific?

Dang: Well, I just love music in general, but I played soccer for 28 years until I blew out my knees. I also play basketball, racquetball, volleyball, or anything really. And food? I just love Vietnamese food. I can't live without rice... or Christ. Yes, I can't live without rice or Christ.

Damian: Well it's good to have you on our team. Thanks for your time.

Dang: See you all very soon. **(And now he is here!)**



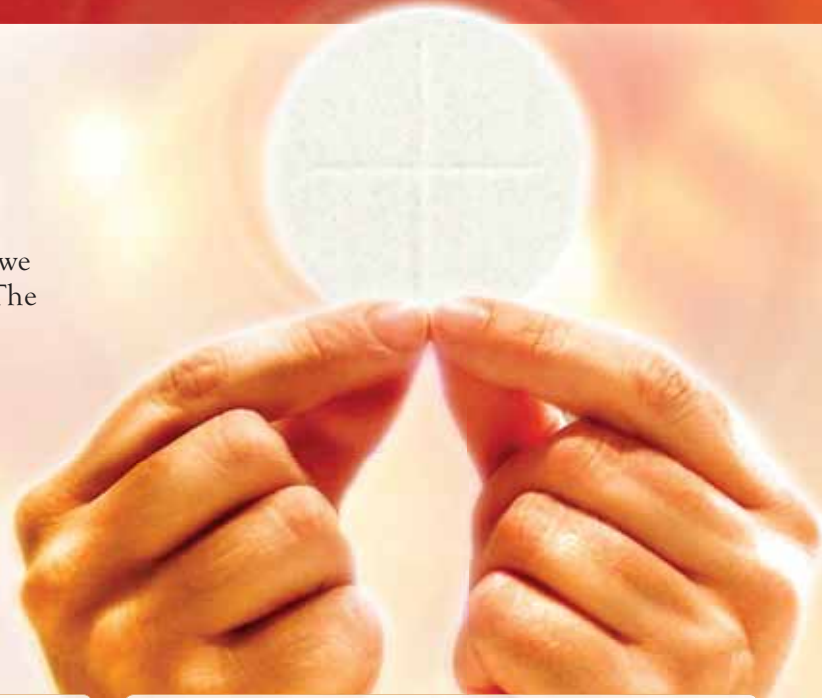
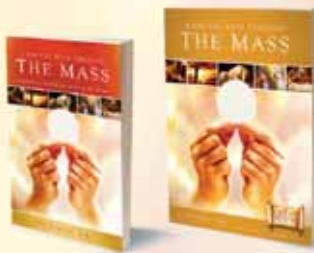
Notre Dame Cathedral in Ho Chi Min City

All the original building materials were imported from France. Tiles have been carved with the words Guichard Carvin, Marseille St André France (perhaps stating the locality where the tiles were produced). Some tiles are carved with the words "Wang-Tai Saigon". Many tiles have since been made in Saigon City to replace the tiles that were damaged by the war. There are 56 glass squares supplied by the Lorin firm of Chartres province in France. The cathedral foundation was designed to bear ten times the weight of the cathedral.

DISCOVER THE RICHES OF THE MASS

Our parish will be running a fascinating 5-part series on the Mass, entitled, *A Biblical Walk Through the Mass*.

In this study, you will come to know and understand the Mass like never before. You will discover the rich meanings behind why we say what we say and do during the Liturgy. The words and gestures of the Mass will be seen in a new light, leading you to a richer, more fruitful worship experience.



Dates/Times

Tuesday January 10: 9:30-11:00
 Tuesday January 17: 9:30-11:00
 Tuesday January 24: 9:30-11:00
 Tuesday January 31: 9:30-11:00
 Tuesday February 7: 9:30-11:00

Location

Parish Community Room

Registration

Please return registration form with payment to the main office or to the Religious Education office mail box located in the hallway of Church by January 5.

For More Information

Call Chris at 561-7499 or E-mail: chrisdre@johnxxiii.net

www.GuidetotheMass.com

A Biblical Walk Through the Mass Registration Form

5-part study. Each session will be approximately 1hr

Price **\$20**

of People Total

X _____ =\$ _____

Total = \$ _____

Make check payable to: Blessed Pope John XXIII
 And mail to:

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____

Zip _____ Phone _____

Email _____

The Terrifying Tim Tebow by Elizabeth Scalia

It says a great deal about the depths to which America's values have fallen that Tim Tebow—who, once upon a time, would have been the wholesome, women-and-mom-respecting, clean-playing, fresh-faced and faithful Hollywood ideal of a football hero—is the target of such deep derision from so many sources, and in an era of such vaunted “tolerance.”

Although it may seem too easy to some, I blame the baby-boomers—a generation so in love with deconstructing old standards (and so completely neurotic about being perceived as anti-establishment, smart, and most of all, cool) that it only can express full-on admiration for the anti-heroes. Were Tim Tebow using his on-camera time to swagger and preen and lecture the nation on green energy, greedy millionaires, and gun control, his Christ-fixation would not only be permitted, it would be held up as a gaudy rebuke to uncool Christians everywhere, and his pronouncements—as long as he kept his mouth shut on abortion and gay marriage—would never be challenged.

Just as green-grabbing, millionaire musicians are never asked why the masses should give up their meager comforts to save the planet, while they themselves are permitted to grow ever richer from their energy-hogging concert tours, Tebow could play a brightly-lighted night game every week and take a knee five times a yard to nothing but cheers, if only he embraced this year's anti-establishment, smart, and cool narrative.

That's unlikely to happen, partly because Tebow—like many more people of faith than the stereotypes will admit—seems largely uninterested in dictating to others how they must live their lives, but also because the prevailing bureaucratically correct narrative is so convoluted. Apparently it is fine to pursue one's potential, and even turn a profit, if one is writing autobiographies, doing a little insider trading, cheating on taxes, marrying well, being an athlete, being an artist, exploiting a job created just for oneself, running a federal entity into the ground, or taking a bonus from said grounded entity, as long as one holds the correct views or has curried the correct connections.

Absent those views and connections, one may still pursue one's potentialities. But the pursuit must be unselfish, co-operative, and not-for-profit if it is to remain above suspicion and go unmolested by a growing resentment—one being cultivated by the dream-deferrals that come with thwarted opportunity, nourished by the red meat of class-war rhetoric and readied-for-combat.

It's a puzzling thing, though. If unselfishness, co-operation, and bare profits were truly prized by the narrative builders, then monasteries would be heralded as authentic models of the doctrine of “fairness” and practical solutions to our socio-economic dolors; people would be encouraged to dedicate their educations, their talents, and their monies to help grow and sustain them. Ditto for parish outreaches, faith-based job-training programs and soup kitchens; church-administered

hospitals, substance abuse programs, and crisis pregnancy centers.

All of these entities pursue justice and fair distribution. All of them serve without seeking profit; they serve without requiring allegiance; they do not require that those they serve conform to their beliefs. All they ask, in return, is the same consideration—that they be permitted to be who and what they are, and not be required to conform to the beliefs of others.

Some believe that is asking too much.

The people who talk a good game about freedom and service and fairness—usually reserving their most ardent rhetoric for the \$30,000 per-table fundraisers—never seem willing to promote the monastic ideal though, and they don't refer to the soup kitchens and outreaches, the church-administered hospitals or training and recovery programs as models of anything except, sometimes, intolerance.

Perhaps they're afraid that if people became more familiar with (and supportive of) such programs, they would be less ready to look to government for direction, or social engineering, or class co-operation, or any sort of empowerment. Rather they would be finding it within their own communities; they would be actively working with others in building up the whole, rather than preferred portions—in pursuing potentialities both individual and collective.

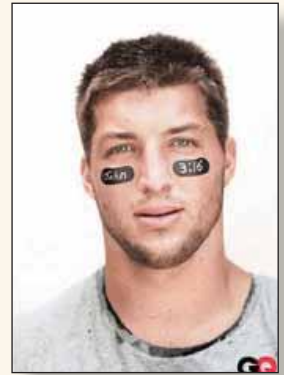
In such a case, the government of man would necessarily recede into the background, and what is divine might come to the fore.

That would be unacceptable to the people who still believe, by sheer force of fantastic conceit, that they are anti-establishment outsiders—courageous adversaries of conformity who still manage, somehow, to always be in lock step with the message of the day; the people who say all the “smart” things and automatically adopt all the “correct” positions, because they are so terrified of being excluded from that crowd of busy moralizers to whom they are accountable, as they would never deign to be accountable to a Creator.

Tim Tebow, in all of his corn-fed, God-glorifying, prison-preaching, hospital-building, tolerance-defining authenticity models a different way, a different mindset, one that conforms not to times or trends but to testaments and traditions.

How utterly terrifying he is.

Elizabeth Scalia is the Managing Editor of the Catholic Portal at Patheos and blogs as The anchoress.



Diocesan Happenings

Job Opportunity - Father Anglim Academy, a school for children with learning challenges, has a short term full-time contract position available in January, 2012 for a Licensed Speech & Language therapist. Caseload includes children with expressive/receptive language disorders, articulation issues, processing disorders and social thinking deficits. For more information contact Eileen at 239.337.4010 or send resume to emciltrot@fatheranglimacademy.org

2012 Tour of Italy - Join Fr. Dennis Cooney, Pastor of St. Raphael's Parish in Lehigh Acres on a "2012 Tour of Italy", June 17-27. Featuring: Rome (Papal Audience, Sistine Chapel, St. Peter's & more); Assisi (sts. Francis & Clare); San Giovanni Rotondo (St. Pio); St. Michael's Cave; Lanciano (Eucharistic Miracle); Loreto (The Holy House) & Morell. Price \$3495. Contact St. Raphael's Parish, 239-369-1831, for registration information.

Annual Catholic Charities Christmas Appeal - runs from Dec. 1, 2011 through Jan. 31, 2012. This vital appeal helps support Catholic Charities programs which provide the needy with food, financial assistance for their mortgage/rent, utilities, prescription needs and so much more.

The Fourth Annual Diocese of Venice Men's Conference will be held on Saturday, February 25, 2012 at Bishop Verot High School in Fort Myers. Details about the speakers and registration information will be forthcoming.

The Fourth Annual Diocese of Venice Women's Conference will be held on Saturday, March 10, 2012 at Bishop Verot High School in Fort Myers. Details about the speakers and registration information will be forthcoming.

HAPPILY MARRIED COUPLES: This Christmas, want to give a gift that keeps on giving? Register for the next Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend - it's the best gift you'll ever give to each other - and your marriage! The next Marriage Encounter weekend is Feb 10-12, 2012 in Ft Myers. For more info email swflwwme@yahoo.com ; or call (239) 495-1803 or visit wwme.org

Natural Family Planning - Do you want to strengthen your relationship with your spouse? You are invited to learn about Natural Family Planning. Not only is it a morally acceptable way to space children but it is also 99 percent effective! It can also help with infertility issues. There are three Saturday classes in the series: January 7, February 4, and March 3 from 2:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. at St Raphael Parish in Lehigh Acres. Scholarships are available. For more information, or to register for the class, go to ccli.org or call instructors Jeff and Lisa Stalnaker 239-303-9257.

