

St. John XXIII Catholic Church
celebrates a

Novena of Pope Saint John XXIII

requesting his intercession and expressing gratitude for 25 years of his patronage

DAY EIGHT

Presider: ✠In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit...

All: Amen

All: Dear Lord, we thank You for giving us Pope St. John XXIII as an example of holiness. Help us to imitate the virtue he showed in continuing to serve You faithfully despite his sufferings from cancer. Pope St. John XXIII, you contracted terminal stomach cancer near the end of your life. You must have suffered greatly, but you continued serving God and His Church. Please continue bringing my petitions before God Whom you served! Even as your death approached, you offered to help negotiate peace in the Cold War. You did all you could to serve God despite your many sufferings. Pray for me, that I may never allow sufferings to deter me from serving God. Pray that I may always do all I can to carry out God's will, no matter how difficult it might be. (If at home, mention your personal or family intentions here: "Please pray also for..."). We ask this through Christ, Our Lord,
Amen

Reader:

A reading from the Gospel of Saint Luke

After Jesus left the synagogue, he entered the house of Simon. Simon's mother-in-law was afflicted with a severe fever, and they interceded with him about her. He stood over her, rebuked the fever, and it left her. She got up immediately and waited on them.

At sunset, all who had people sick with various diseases brought them to him. He laid his hands on each of them and cured them. And demons also came out from many, shouting, "You are the Son of God." But he rebuked them and did not allow them to speak because they knew that he was the Christ.

At daybreak, Jesus left and went to a deserted place. The crowds went looking for him, and when they came to him, they tried to prevent him from leaving them. But he said to them, "To the other towns also I must proclaim the good news of the Kingdom of God, because for this purpose I have been sent." And he was preaching in the synagogues of Judea.

Reader: The Word of the Lord...

All: Thanks be to God.

Reflection

St. John XXIII's experience with illness, especially during his final years suffering from stomach cancer, resonates deeply with this Gospel, the Gospel for our celebration on Wednesday. In the Gospel passage, healing is not only about restoring health but also restoring a person to service and community. Likewise, St. John XXIII, even in his suffering, continued to serve the Church with humility and faith. He saw his illness as a way to unite himself with Christ and to witness to God's compassion, much like Jesus' direct and loving response to those who suffered. Both examples show that, illness can become an opportunity for deeper faith, hope, and service—transforming pain into a powerful act of love and participation in Christ's healing mission.

Petitions

For the faithful of the Archdiocese of Dubuque, that through our Journey in Faith process, we will discern how best to support our parishes, our priests, and one another for generations to come, we pray to the Lord ...

...Lord, hear our prayer.

That through the Journey in Faith process, the Church of the Archdiocese of Dubuque will be alive in the Spirit, courageous in witness, and united in mission, we pray to the Lord...

...Lord, hear our prayer.

For our parish, that God will bless our 25th anniversary celebration with a joy-filled spirit of community and family, we pray to the Lord...

...Lord, hear our prayer.

For Archbishop Zinkula (*"zink-yoo-luh"*), that responding to the call of the Holy Spirit, the input he receives will help him to form us as missionary disciples, we pray to the Lord...

...Lord, hear our prayer.

Our Father...

Closing Prayer

Presider: Lord Jesus,

You accompanied your disciples on the way to Emmaus.

As we journey in faith, we trust in your Spirit

to open our eyes, to set our hearts on fire, and to transform our parishes.

Make yourself known to us through breaking open word and bread,

that we may travel together on mission;

to grow disciples, cultivate leaders, and unify parishes,

with our journey ending in You, who live and reign forever and ever. Amen.

All: Amen.

Presider: Pope St. John XXIII...

All: ...pray for us!

Presider: May Almighty God bless us ✠, protect us from all evil, and bring us to everlasting life.

All: Amen.