

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 FOUR

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

**All:** Amen

**Presider:** Dear Lord, we thank You for giving us Pope St. John XXIII as an example of holiness. Help us to imitate the devotion to You he showed in his service to You as leader of Your Church. Pope St. John XXIII, you were elected Pope late in your life. Many assumed that you would reign as Pope for only a short time and do little for the Church, but you were determined to do as much good as you could for the Church. Please bring my petitions before God Whose Church you served so faithfully! You worked to put positive changes into practice immediately during your papacy. You cared for those in need, worked to bring about reconciliation among all faiths, and called the Second Vatican Council. Pray for me, that I may be as willing a servant of God's Church as you were. Pray that I may be eager to put my gifts to use serving God. Please also pray for (mention your personal or family intentions here).

**All:** Amen

**Reading from Scripture (from the Mass of dedication of our church):** *Acts 6:1-7 describes how the apostles responded to the needs of their growing community by appointing seven trustworthy leaders to care for those being overlooked. For a Catholic parish, this passage teaches the importance of listening to the needs of all members, especially the vulnerable, and responding with fairness and compassion.*

**Reader:**

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

As the number of disciples continued to grow,  
the Hellenists complained against the Hebrews  
because their widows  
were being neglected in the daily distribution.  
So the Twelve called together the community of the disciples and said,  
"It is not right for us to neglect the word of God to serve at table.  
Brothers, select from among you seven reputable men,  
filled with the Spirit and wisdom,  
whom we shall appoint to this task,  
whereas we shall devote ourselves to prayer  
and to the ministry of the word."  
The proposal was acceptable to the whole community,  
so they chose Stephen, a man filled with faith and the Holy Spirit,  
also Philip, Prochorus, Nicanor, Timon, Parmenas,

and Nicholas of Antioch, a convert to Judaism.  
They presented these men to the apostles  
who prayed and laid hands on them.  
The word of God continued to spread,  
and the number of the disciples in Jerusalem increased greatly;  
even a large group of priests were becoming obedient to the faith.

**Reader:** The Word of the Lord...

**All:** Thanks be to God.

**Petitions** *(adapted from those from the dedication of John XXIII Church)*

Loving Father, like the farmer, prune your vineyard, protect it and increase its yield—until it extends before you throughout the whole world, we pray to the Lord...

...Lord, hear our prayer.

All-powerful sower, plant the word in your field—that it may bear a rich crop for your eternal harvest, we pray to the Lord...

...Lord, hear our prayer.

Eternal shepherd, raise up ministers of your Word and Sacraments—that they may lead your flock to green pastures and refreshing waters, we pray to the Lord...

...Lord, hear our prayer.

Loving Father, you have prepared a dwelling place for all who love you—open your house to all those who have died, we pray to the Lord...

...Lord, hear our prayer.

Our Father...

**Closing Prayer**

**Presider:** God our Father, from living stones, your chosen people, you built an eternal temple to your glory. Increase the spiritual gifts you have given to St. John XXIII church over 25 years, so that her faithful may continue to grow into the new and heavenly Jerusalem. We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, Who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever.

**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.