

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 NINE

**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 devotion to You he showed in his lifetime of service to Your Church. Pope St. John XXIII, you began on the path to holiness and service to God at a young age. You continued to faithfully serve God and His Church for the rest of your life. Please continue to bring my petitions before the throne of God with such faithfulness! You served the Church in many roles throughout your life, and you did a lot of good during your short time as Pope. Because of your ministry, we better understand our call to build the Kingdom of God. Pray for me, that I may always be an eager servant of God's Church. Pray that I may always be willing to serve God in whatever ways He calls me to.

(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

*Lk 24:13-35*

That very day, the first day of the week, two of Jesus' disciples were going to a village seven miles from Jerusalem called Emmaus, and they were conversing about all the things that had occurred.

And it happened that while they were conversing and debating, Jesus himself drew near and walked with them, but their eyes were prevented from recognizing him.

He asked them, "What are you discussing as you walk along?" They stopped, looking downcast. One of them, named Cleopas, said to him in reply, "Are you the only visitor to Jerusalem who does not know of the things that have taken place there in these days?" And he replied to them, "What sort of things?"

They said to him, "The things that happened to Jesus the Nazarene, who was a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people, how our chief priests and rulers both handed him over to a sentence of death and crucified him. But we were hoping that he would be the one to redeem Israel; and besides all this, it is now the third day since this took place.

Some women from our group, however, have astounded us: they were at the tomb early in the morning and did not find his body; they came back and reported that they had indeed seen a vision of angels who announced that he was alive.

Then some of those with us went to the tomb and found things just as the women had described, but him they did not see."

And he said to them, "Oh, how foolish you are! How slow of heart to believe all that the prophets spoke! Was it not necessary that the Christ should suffer these things and enter into his glory?" Then beginning with Moses and all the prophets, he interpreted to them what referred to him in all the Scriptures.

As they approached the village to which they were going, he gave the impression that he was going on farther. But they urged him, "Stay with us, for it is nearly evening and the day is almost over." So he went in to stay with them. And it happened that, while he was with them at table, he took bread, said the blessing, broke it, and gave it to them. With that their eyes were opened and they recognized him, but he vanished from their sight.

Then they said to each other, "Were not our hearts burning within us while he spoke to us on the way and opened the Scriptures to us?" So they set out at once and returned to Jerusalem where they found gathered together the eleven and those with them who were saying, "The Lord has truly been raised and has appeared to Simon!"

Then the two recounted what had taken place on the way and how he was made known to them in the breaking of bread.

**Reader:** The Word of the Lord...  
**All:** Thanks be to God.

### **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 25<sup>th</sup> 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.