

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 ONE

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

**All:** Amen

Dear Lord, we thank You for giving us Pope St. John XXIII as an example of holiness. Help us to imitate the love of You he showed from the time of his childhood. Pope St. John XXIII, few details are known about your early life with your family. But you must have grown up in a holy environment since you were eager to serve God from the time you were young. Please bring my petitions before God Whom you served so eagerly! You were enrolled in the Secular Franciscan Order during your mid-teens. After this, you continued serving God and His Church for the rest of your life.

Pray for me, that I may be as eager to serve God as you were.  
Pray that I may do all I can to devote my life to God.  
Please also pray for (*mention your personal or family intentions here*).

**Reading from Scripture: Nehemiah ("Nee-uh My-uh") 8:2-4a, 5-6, 8-10**

*This was the first reading from the Mass of blessing of our church. Nehemiah chapter 8 describes how, after returning from exile and rebuilding Jerusalem's walls, the Israelites gathered as one community and listened to Ezra the scribe publicly read and explain the Law of Moses. This moment marked a profound spiritual renewal, as the people reconnected with their faith and embraced a renewed covenant with God.*

**Reader:** A Reading from the book of the prophet Nehemiah

Ezra the priest brought the law before the assembly,  
which consisted of men, women,  
and those children old enough to understand.  
Standing at one end of the open place that was before the Water Gate,  
he read out of the book from daybreak till midday,  
in the presence of the men, the women,  
and those children old enough to understand;  
and all the people listened attentively to the book of the law.  
Ezra the scribe stood on a wooden platform  
that had been made for the occasion.  
He opened the scroll  
so that all the people might see it  
— for he was standing higher up than any of the people —;  
and, as he opened it, all the people rose.  
Ezra blessed the LORD, the great God,  
and all the people, their hands raised high, answered,  
"Amen, amen!"

Then they bowed down and prostrated themselves before the LORD,  
their faces to the ground.

Ezra read plainly from the book of the law of God,  
interpreting it so that all could understand what was read.

Then Nehemiah, that is, His Excellency, and Ezra the priest-scribe  
and the Levites who were instructing the people  
said to all the people:

"Today is holy to the LORD your God.

Do not be sad, and do not weep"—

for all the people were weeping as they heard the words of the law.

He said further: "Go, eat rich foods and drink sweet drinks,  
and allot portions to those who had nothing prepared;

for today is holy to our LORD.

Do not be saddened this day,

for rejoicing in the LORD must be your strength!"

**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.