

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 SIX

*(Abbreviated as a prelude to the weekend Mass.)*

**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 working for Church unity during his papacy.

Pope St. John XXIII, many thought that you would do little for the Church during your brief time as Pope. But worked to serve the Church faithfully and to do as much as you could for the Church.

Please bring my petitions before God with such faithfulness!

You saw the lack of unity in the Church during your papacy.

You worked to unite the faithful through upholding Church teachings and through the calling of the Second Vatican Council.

Pray for me, that I may always be eager to serve the Church in whatever ways I am able.

Pray that I may be as faithful a servant of God as you were.

*(If at home, mention your personal or family intentions here: "Please pray also for...").*

We ask this through Christ, Our Lord,  
Amen

**Reading from Mater et Magistra:** *Pope John XXIII begins his letter "Mater et Magistra" by affirming the Church's concern for the social order and the well-being of all people. He notes the ongoing need for the Church to guide the faithful in responding to changing social realities. The Good Pope emphasizes the importance of continuing the Church's mission in addressing social issues in light of new circumstances. This particularly helpful to reflect on this Saturday, a day often dedicated to Mary, as Pope John XXIII lifts her up as a model of discipleship for Mother Church. It is also helpful to consider as we are embarking on the Journey in Faith initiative as an Archdiocese.*

**Reader:**

From Mater et Magistra: an encyclical of Pope John XXIII

Mother and Teacher of all nations—such is the Catholic Church  
in the mind of her Founder, Jesus Christ;

to hold the world in an embrace of love,

that people, in every age, should find in her their own completeness in a higher order of living, and  
their ultimate salvation.

She is "the pillar and ground of the truth." To her was entrusted by her holy Founder the twofold task of giving life to her children and of teaching them and guiding them—both as individuals and as nations—with maternal care. Great is their dignity, a dignity which she has always guarded most zealously and held in the highest esteem.

Christianity is the meeting-point of earth and heaven. It lays claim to the whole person, body and soul, intellect and will, inducing him to raise his mind above the changing conditions of this earthly existence and reach upwards for the eternal life of heaven, where one day he will find his unfailing happiness and peace.

**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.

*Before the Mass, we continue with the usual practice of offering the Rosary of the Blessed Virgin Mary.*