

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 THREE

**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 virtue he showed in his service to You as a military chaplain. Pope St. John XXIII, you were drafted into the Italian army as a young man during World War I. Since you had already been ordained a priest, you selflessly served as a chaplain and stretcher-bearer throughout the rest of the war. Please continue to bring my petitions before the throne of God! After the war, you continued your faithful service to God. You worked in many roles of service to the Church until you eventually became Pope. Pray for me, that I may never weary of serving God. Pray that I may be as eager to serve God as you were. Please also pray for (*mention your personal or family intentions here*).

**Reading from Scripture (from the Mass of dedication of our church):** *In Matthew 16:13-19, Jesus entrusts Peter with the keys to the Kingdom, establishing him as the foundation of the Church. This passage resonates deeply with the ministry of St. John XXIII parish, where the faithful are gathered as a living community built upon the rock of faith handed down from the apostles. Just as Peter was called to shepherd and guide, a parish continues this apostolic mission by nurturing faith, offering the sacraments, and fostering a sense of unity among believers. The parish becomes a local embodiment of Christ's Church, inviting all to share in the mission, to proclaim the Gospel, and to build a spiritual home rooted in the confession that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of the living God.*

**Reader:**

A reading from the Gospel of St. Matthew

When Jesus went into the region of Caesarea Philippi he asked his disciples,  
"Who do people say that the Son of Man is?"  
They replied, "Some say John the Baptist, others Elijah, still others Jeremiah or one of the prophets."  
He said to them, "But who do you say that I am?"  
Simon Peter said in reply,  
"You are the Christ, the Son of the living God."  
Jesus said to him in reply, "Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah. For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my heavenly Father.

And so I say to you, you are Peter,  
and upon this rock I will build my Church,  
and the gates of the netherworld shall not prevail against it.  
I will give you the keys to the Kingdom of heaven.  
Whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven;  
and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven.”

**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.