

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 TWO

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 devotion to You he showed by choosing to serve You as a priest. Pope St. John XXIII, you felt called to serve God in a wholehearted way from the time you were a youth. You entered the Secular Franciscan Order, and you began studying for the priesthood.

Please bring my petitions before God Whom you longed to serve!
After you graduated with a doctorate degree in theology, you were ordained a priest. Then, you continued faithfully serving God and His Church for the rest of your life. Pray for me, that I may be eager to serve God in whatever ways God calls me to serve Him. Pray that I may be eager to devote my life to God.
Please also pray for (mention your personal or family intentions here).

Reading from Scripture (from the Mass of dedication of our church): *The words of 1 Peter 2:4-9 call us to recognize that each member of the parish is a "living stone," chosen and precious, being built into a spiritual house. Just as the passage reminds us of our identity as a royal priesthood and a holy nation, parish life is enriched when everyone offers their unique gifts in service of God and the community. In coming together, supporting one another, and proclaiming God's marvelous light, the parish truly becomes a vibrant and welcoming spiritual home for all.*

Reader:

A reading from the first Letter of Peter

Beloved:

Come to him, a living stone, rejected by human beings
but chosen and precious in the sight of God,
and, like living stones,
let yourselves be built into a spiritual house
to be a holy priesthood to offer spiritual sacrifices
acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.

For it says in Scripture:

*Behold, I am laying a stone in Zion,
a cornerstone, chosen and precious,
and whoever believes in it shall not be put to shame.*

Therefore, its value is for you who have faith, but for those without faith:

*The stone that the builders rejected
has become the cornerstone, and
A stone that will make people stumble,
and a rock that will make them fall.*
They stumble by disobeying the word, as is their destiny.

You are "a chosen race, a royal priesthood,
a holy nation, a people of his own,
so that you may announce the praises" of him
who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light.

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.