

ST. JOHN XXIII PARISH

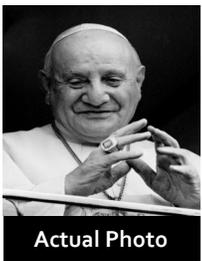
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ST. JOHN XXIII STATUE

July 19, 2020

Dear Parish family,

I hope this letter finds you and your family well, and that you know of my prayers for your safety. It was in 2008, that the St. Bonaventure and St. William faith communities joined forces to become our present Parish. When we joined together, the Parish name was new, and appropriately, a picture of St. John XXIII was prominently displayed on our Altar. We've come a long way since that time. Our Parish has also continually evolved and molded together. I'm confident that our Parish is poised to continue to grow stronger. Now that we are twelve years together, our Trustees and Finance Council believed that it was time to move from a picture to a permanent Statue of our patronal Saint, St. John XXIII.



In choosing an artist, we retained Mark Carroll, the sculptor that was hired to create our St. Bonaventure Statue years ago. At the time, he resided in East Aurora. He has since moved to the Phoenix, Arizona area and painstakingly researched every detail of St. John XXIII, right down to his vestments. He was meticulous in creating our four foot tall Basswood masterpiece. You can find the entire progression photo gallery of our Statue on his website, <https://thesculpturestudio.com/popeJohnXXIII.html>. I encourage you to check it out, and a link is also placed on our website, www.stjohn23.com.

Like any new member of the Parish, it needs to be welcomed. Our original intent was to fundraise for the Statue during the Lenten Season. The suspension of Masses due to Coronavirus prohibited that ability. Although we now own the Statue, we still are paying for it. If you are able, please join in with a Memorial Contribution in memory of loved ones for the purchase of the Statue. Every time we gather for Mass, we join with the Communion of Saints, including St. John XXIII, in giving thanks for all blessings and prayers before the Altar of the Lord. Statue donations help strengthen our Parish, and your loved ones are remembered. Please partner with your Parish in this endeavor. I'm sure you've noticed that overall Parish contributions are slightly down this year, and this Memorial Drive will help continue improving the Parish. Please help me help you.

Any contribution is appreciated, but I ask that you be as generous as possible. If you could even make an extraordinary donation, it would be greatly appreciated. All contributions are welcome, and the funds received will be set aside in an account for this Memorial Drive and -- dollar for dollar -- will be used in the project. **Please write on an envelope marked "St. John XXIII Statue," return through the collection or Rectory Office, and it will be specially earmarked.** Our plan is to formally dedicate the Statue on St. John XXIII's feast day of Sunday, October 11th (the 58th Anniversary of the opening of the Second Vatican Council).

Please know of my prayers for you and your family, as well as for our Parish.

In Jesus through Mary,

Rev. John E. Stanton
Pastor

ST. JOHN XXIII STATUE — MEMORIALS

Enclosed is my Memorial Contribution to help purchase the St. John XXIII Statue.

Name _____

In Loving Memory of _____

Amount _____