

St. Augustine Yacht Club, Inc.

442 Ocean Vista Avenue, St. Augustine, Florida 32080

Tel (904) 824-9725 • Fax (904) 824-7744

Greetings from the St. Augustine Yacht Club.

It is time again for the annual Blessing of the Fleet, part of our rich maritime heritage in St. Augustine (since 1946). On Palm Sunday, April 2nd, The Most Reverend Eric T. Pohlmeier, Bishop of the Diocese of St. Augustine, or his delegate will offer the traditional blessing from the docks of the St. Augustine City Marina to all who pass before him.

This flyer announces this event and gives important information on the Rules of Procedure for participants. Please help us get this information to those you know in our historic waterfront community who might like to participate in this annual event. If you need any additional information, please call this Events Waterfront Host, The St. Augustine Yacht Club at 904-824-9725 or visit www.staugustineyachtclub.com (Blessing of the Fleet) for additional details.

We hope to see you at the *Blessing of the Fleet* on April 2, 2023.

David Patrick

Commodore

CALL FOR VESSELS

St. Augustine's Blessing of the Fleet

NOON - PALM SUNDAY - April 2, 2023 - MATANZAS BAY

Vessels, both pleasure and commercial craft are invited to participate in the ancient and traditional Blessing of the Fleet on Matanzas Bay in St. Augustine, Florida.

The festive tradition has its roots in the hopes of those who went to sea for a bountiful shrimp season when St. Augustine's harbor was filled with fleets of commercial trawlers. Today the tradition continues as those who fish, both commercially and for sport, seek blessings on their vessels for an abundant catch and all those who take to the waterways who seek safety upon the water and a safe return home.

THE BLESSING

May the peace and blessing of the Almighty God the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit descend upon these ships and upon all who shall be in them and remain forever.

(Offered by the Clergy of the Cathedral Basilica of St. Augustine.)

RULES OF PROCEDURE

- All boats must be powered.
- Boats will assemble in organized groups no later than 12:00 p.m. (Noon) in the Matanzas River south of the Bridge of Lions. Boats not affiliated with clubs or organizations should join a group of boats, anchor and wait for radio instructions.
- Boats equipped with a marine VHF radio will monitor Channel 68 and wait for instructions. There must be no transmissions on this channel except in the case of an emergency. Boats without radios will stand by boats so equipped to receive verbal information from those skippers.
- The Blessing of the Fleet will be led by an official vessel followed by (a) trawlers and commercial fishing craft, (b) all other craft.
- Boat speed should be set to maintain a close and safe distance from other boats.
- Boats will proceed north toward the Bridge of Lions, then make a wide turn to port to pass directly abreast the end of the Municipal Marina.
No wake rules must be observed during the pass by the Municipal Marina.
- After passing the Municipal Marina, boats will continue south. No boat is permitted to go north or through the Bridge of Lions until the completion of the entire ceremony.
- FWC traffic control boats will be in the area and will assist if requested.

Remember, this is a solemn occasion, so please

- Avoid loud engine noise, music, raised voices or unseemly conduct.
- Beverage containers must be out of sight and trash must not be thrown into the water.
- While passing the Municipal Marina and receiving the Blessing, men should remove hats and all on board should wear shirts or suitable coverings.

Special Note: Due to the new dock, the approach pattern is now altered so that vessels will go around the end of the outer dock and turn south to pass along the fuel dock.

BLESSING OF THE FLEET PARADE ROUTE



Tides for Sunday, April 2

St. Augustine Municipal Marina

High: 6:45 am

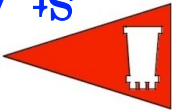
Low: 1:09 pm

Vessels will be moving with the tide approaching the Bridge of Lions and then moving against the incoming tide as they pass the marina.

Note: Be aware of current set toward face dock when passing.

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Blessing of the Fleet