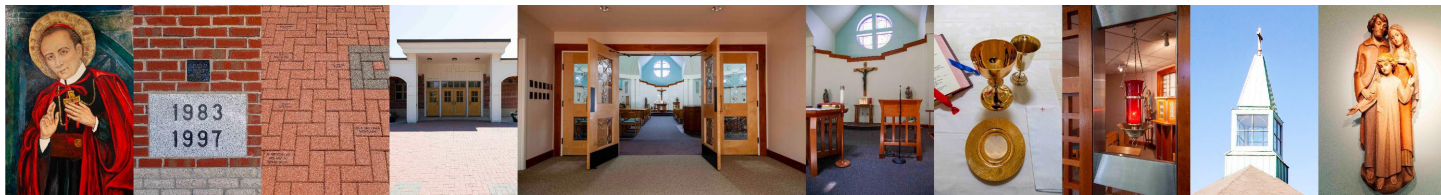


**SAINT JOHN NEUMANN PARISH**  
708 Milford Rd (Rte 101A), Merrimack, NH 03054 — SJNNH.ORG



7th SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME  
February 20, 2022

**Fr. Robert Glasgow**  
Pastor  
Chaplain (LTC) USA, Ret.  
880-4689 x113, [pastor@sjnnh.org](mailto:pastor@sjnnh.org)

**Eileen Buckley**  
Business Manager / Parish Secretary  
880-4689 x110, [office@sjnnh.org](mailto:office@sjnnh.org)

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**MASS SCHEDULE**

Saturday (Anticipatory) ..... 5:30 PM  
Sunday ..... 8:00 AM  
Sunday ..... 10:00 AM  
Sunday (Labor Day thru Memorial Day) ... 6:00 PM  
Daily (Mon, Wed-Fri) ..... 12:15 PM

**CONFESSION**

Saturday ..... 4:00 PM - 5:00 PM  
And before/after daily Mass, or by appointment.

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**BAPTISM**

Parents must attend a Parent Baptism Class before the baptism of their child. The class is offered the first Sunday of each month following the 10:00 AM Mass.

**MARRIAGE**

Please contact the office at least six months prior to the wedding date. The diocese requires Marriage Prep.

**VISITS TO THE HOMEBOUND AND SICK,  
ANOINTING OF THE SICK**

Please call the office to request home or hospital visitation.

**RITE OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION**

RCIA is the process of formation offered to those who seek to become Catholic. For information, please call the office.

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**CONSTANT BATTLE**

Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up. —Gal 6:9

The following excerpts are from Pope Francis' Apostolic Exhortation Gaudete et Exsultate (Lt., On the Call to Holiness In Today's World, 19 Mar 2018).



ARREST OF CHRIST  
by Duccio di Buoninsegna (d. 1319)

**THE Christian life is a constant battle.** We need strength and courage to withstand the temptations of the devil and to proclaim the Gospel. This battle is sweet, for it allows us to rejoice each time the Lord triumphs in our lives.

**COMBAT AND VIGILANCE** | We are not dealing merely with a battle against the world and a worldly mentality that would deceive us and leave us dull and mediocre, lacking in enthusiasm and joy. Nor can this battle be reduced to the struggle against our human weaknesses and proclivities (be they laziness, lust, envy, jealousy or any others). It is also a constant struggle against the devil, the prince of evil. Jesus himself celebrates our victories. He rejoiced when his disciples made progress in preaching the Gospel and overcoming the opposition of the evil one: "I saw Satan fall like lightning from heaven" (Lk 10:18).

**MORE THAN A MYTH** | We will not admit the existence of the devil if we insist on regarding life by empirical standards alone, without a supernatural understanding. It is precisely the conviction that this malign power is present in our midst that enables us to understand how evil can at times have so much destructive force. True enough, the biblical authors had limited conceptual resources for expressing certain realities, and in Jesus' time epilepsy, for example, could easily be confused with demonic possession. Yet this should not lead us to an oversimplification



Hence, we should not think of the devil as a myth, a representation, a symbol, a figure of speech or an idea. This mistake would lead us to let down our guard, to grow careless and end up more vulnerable. The devil does not need to possess us. He poisons us with the venom of hatred, desolation, envy and vice. When we let down our guard, he takes ad-vantage of it to destroy our lives, our families and our communities. "Like a roaring lion, he prowls around, looking for someone to devour" (1 Pet 5:8).

Along this journey, the cultivation of all that is good, progress in the spiritual life and growth in love are the best counterbalance to evil. Those who choose to remain neutral, who are satisfied with little, who renounce the ideal of giving themselves generously to the Lord, will never hold out. Even less if they fall into defeatism, for "if we start without confidence, we have already lost half the battle and we bury our talents ... Christian triumph is always a cross, yet a cross which is at the same time a victorious banner, borne with aggressive tenderness against the assaults of evil".

Spiritual corruption is worse than the fall of a sinner,

**DISCERNMENT** | How can we know if something comes from the Holy Spirit or if it stems from the spirit of the world or the spirit of the devil? The only way is through discernment, which calls for something more than intelligence or common sense. It is a gift which we must implore. If we ask with confidence that the Holy Spirit grant us this gift, and then seek to develop it through prayer, reflection, reading and good counsel, then surely we will grow in this spiritual endowment.

This is all the more important when some novelty presents itself in our lives. Then we have to decide whether it is new wine brought by God or an illusion created by the spirit of this world or the spirit of the devil. At other times, the opposite can happen, when the forces of evil induce us not to change, to leave things as they are, to opt for a rigid resistance to change. Yet that would be to block the working of the Spirit. We are free, with the freedom of Christ. Still, he asks us to examine what is within us—our desires, anxieties, fears and questions—and what takes place all around us—"the signs of the times"—and thus to recognize the paths that lead to complete freedom. "Test everything; hold fast to what is good" (1 Thess 5:21).

7:00 PM | Scout Meeting

### 23 Feb, WEDNESDAY

9:30 AM | Knitting Group (meets every other Wednesday)

10:00 AM | Faith Sharing

12:15 PM | Daily Mass

### 24 Feb, THURSDAY

12:15 PM | Daily Mass

### 25 Feb, FRIDAY (Day of Penance)

10:00 AM | Food Pantry

12:15 PM | Daily Mass and Adoration

### 26 Feb, SATURDAY

8:30 AM | Men's Group

9:00 AM | Divine Mercy Cenacle (1st & 3rd Sat)

9:30 AM | Widow's Group (2nd Sat of month)

4:00 PM | Confession

5:30 PM | 5:30 Mass

### MASS INTENTIONS

Feb 19 (Sat), 5:30 PM	Joseph DuBois (req. by Sandra Towne)
Feb 20 (Sun), 8:00 AM	SJN Parishioners
Feb 20, 10:00 AM	Erica Garasky (req. by Yarn Ministry members)
Feb 21 (Mon), 12:15 PM	Holy Souls
Feb 23 (Wed), 12:15 PM	Peter Champagne (req. by Bernie & Sue Coker)
Feb 25 (Fri), 12:15 PM	Julia Bilow (req. by family)

The Code of Canon Law confirms the practice of offering Mass(es for particular intentions is ancient: "The Christian faithful who give an offering to apply the Mass for their intention contribute to the good of the Church and by that offering share its concern to support its ministers and works" (945 §2).

**\*The SANCTUARY LIGHT burns this week in memory of Peter Champagne. May his soul and the souls of all the faithful departed rest in peace.**

### LAST WEEK

6th Sunday Ordinary Time (13 Feb '22): \$5,245.00

Thank you for your generosity!

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

thank  
you

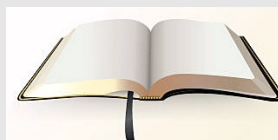
THANKS once again to everyone who helped with the Parish's 40th Anniversary Celebration this past week!

## WOMEN'S Bible Study



**LENTEN STUDY:** The Thursday morning Women's Group will be reading and discussing RESTORE: a Guided Lent Journal for Prayer and Meditation by Sister Miriam James Heidland during the Lenten Season this year. *We welcome women in the parish to join with us on Thursday morning at 10:00 AM.* For more information, please contact Claire Bryson at [cbryson@sjnnh.org](mailto:cbryson@sjnnh.org) to sign up.

### BIBLE IN A YEAR



Join Fr. Mike Schmitz beginning January 1, 2022 whose 365 daily **BIBLE IN A YEAR** podcasts will guide

you through the Bible (each episode is about 20-25 minutes). There is no cost, although Ascension Press offers materials in support of the Bible study. For more information:

[ascensionpress.com/bibleinayear](http://ascensionpress.com/bibleinayear)

To receive the reading list:

[ascensionpress.com/pages/biy-registration](http://ascensionpress.com/pages/biy-registration)

Tune in and live your daily life through the lens of God's word!

### **NO GREATER LOVE**

**A Biblical Walk Through Christ's Passion  
Starts 9 March**

This 5-part series walks step-by-step with Jesus from the Garden of Gethsemane to Calvary Hill. Filmed on location in the Holy Land, best-selling author Edward Sri guide the viewers through the last hours of Jesus' life, and along the way, unpacks the biblical background of these events (Old Testament prophecies, messianic expectations, biblical symbolism, and historical context) in order to shed light on the mystery of Christ's suffering and death.

Join us >> The Bible Study starts Wednesday, **MARCH 9.** We'll offer a **MORNING** session at 10:00 AM and an **EVENING** session at 7:00 PM each Wednesday.

### **YOUTH PASSION PLAY**

Calling all youth in Grades 6-12 to join in this year's Passion Play! If enough are interested, weekly rehearsals will be 11:00 AM-to-Noon beginning Feb 6th. Contact our parish Youth Minister, Cheri Andersen at [youth@sjnnh.org](mailto:youth@sjnnh.org) for more information or to sign up.

### **25th ANNUAL FAST**

The 25th annual St John Neumann FAST FOR SOCIAL ACTION will be held on the weekend of March 25-26.

**The FAST FOR SOCIAL ACTION has several purposes:**

- To collect money for 5 local non-profit agencies.
- To make our parishioners—particularly our teens—aware of the needs in the local area.
- To foster community and friendship among our teens.

**We are looking for people, 6th Grade through Adults:**

- To fast the 30 hours with us.
- People to sponsor the participants,
- People to provide other support for the event.

### **PARISH VISITATION PROGRAM**

Then the righteous will answer him and say, "Lord ... when did we see you ill or in prison, and visit you?" And the king will say to them in reply, "Amen, I say to you, whatever you did for one of these least brothers of mine, you did for me." —Mt 25:37-40

A number of people in the parish have expressed a willingness to visit elderly and homebound parishioners, many of whom would very much welcome a visit! If you are interested in helping with a PARISH VISITATION PROGRAM, please contact: Teri Schmitt at [tschmitt@sjnnh.org](mailto:tschmitt@sjnnh.org).

### **HOLY HOUR**

FRIDAY, follows the 12:15 PM daily Mass  
—and—

SUNDAY, follows the 6:00 PM Mass

In the words of Pope St Paul VI (d. 1987), "Visits to the Blessed Sacrament are a proof of gratitude, an expression of love, and a duty of adoration toward Christ our Lord" (Pope St Paul VI, d. 1987).

## TO RECEIVE PARISH NEWS

Visit > <https://SJNMERRIMACK.flocknote.com>  
Text > "SJNMERRIMACK" to 84576 (message  
and data rates may apply)

### — AMAZON SMILE —

Please consider supporting our St John  
Neumann FOOD PANTRY whenever you  
purchase items through AMAZON.COM.  
This past quarter (Jul-Sep) we received  
\$81.93 from the AmazonSmile Foundation.  
To participate, go to:

<https://smile.amazon.com/ch/02-0370038>

and add "Saint John Neumann Parish" as  
your charity of choice. 0.5% of every  
purchase is donated by Amazon.com to the  
SJN FOOD PANTRY.

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### SJN Staff

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Sacristan

CAROL YETTO

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CAROL HOPFENSPIRGER and EVELYN VERBECK

Outreach & Food Pantry

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KATHY HOPKINS

Day Away (Thursday)

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[dayaway@sjnnh.org](mailto:dayaway@sjnnh.org)

PASTORAL COUNCIL

Steve De Beradinis (President)

FINANCE COMMITTEE

Bob Fregault (Chairman)

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

Leo Bobek, Grand Knight

[lbobek63@gmail.com](mailto:lbobek63@gmail.com)