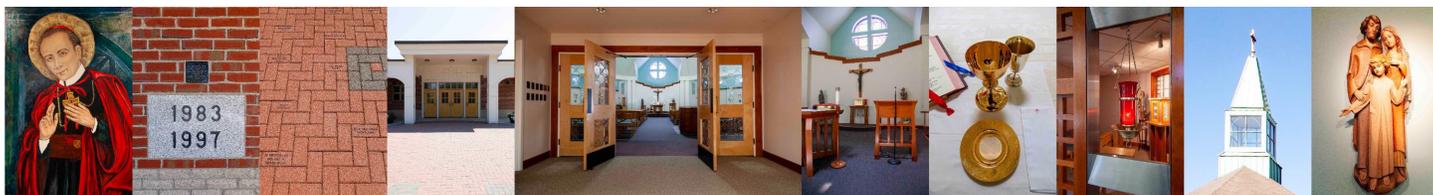


SAINT JOHN NEUMANN PARISH

708 Milford Rd (Rte 101A), Merrimack, NH 03054 — SJNNH.ORG



1st SUNDAY OF LENT
March 6, 2022

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

Eileen Buckley
Business Manager / Parish Secretary
880-4689 x110, office@sjnnh.org

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.

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.

FIGHT OR DIE

Fight the good fight of the faith. Take hold of the eternal life to which you were called when you made your good confession in the presence of many witnesses. —1 Tim 6:12

The first excerpt below is from Dom Lorenzo Scupoli's (d. 1610) The Spiritual Combat, one of the most influential works on the spiritual life over the past 400 years. St Francis de Sales (d. 1622), author of Introduction to the Devout Life, carried a copy in his pocket for 18 years and read a chapter each day and the entire work each month. Father Scupoli's purpose is stated in Chapter One: "To guide a soul to the summit of spiritual perfection." Perfection is knowing/loving God; it is despising and mastering all of our evil inclinations, that we may be able—i.e., to be free to—to submit and abandon ourselves entirely to God out of love for Him. The second excerpt, by way of example—that is, "in the spiritual life, we either fight or die"—, is from The Life and Legends of Saint Francis of Assisi by Father Candide Chalippe, O.F.M., first published in 1727. And the last excerpt is from St Faustina's (d. 1938) Diary in which she offers three words of advice on preparing for spiritual battles.



Be all the more eager to make your call and election firm, for, in doing so, you will never stumble. —2 Pet 1:10

THE first thing to do when you awake is to open the windows of your soul. Consider yourself as on the field of battle, facing the enemy and bound by the iron-clad law—either fight or die.

Imagine the enemy before you, that particular vice or disorderly passion that you are trying to conquer—imagine this hideous opponent is about to overwhelm you. At the same time, picture at your right Jesus Christ, your Invincible Leader, accompanied by the Blessed Virgin, Saint Joseph, whole companies of angels and saints, and particularly by the glorious Archangel Michael. At your left is Lucifer



and his troops, ready to support the passion or vice you are fighting and resolved to do anything to cause your defeat.

Imagine your guardian angel thus spurring you on: "Today you must fight to conquer your enemy and anyone who tries to ruin you. Be courageous. Do not be afraid or cowardly. Christ your Captain is here with all the power of Heaven to protect you from the enemy, and to see that they never conquer you, either by brute power, or by trickery. Hold your ground! Do violence to yourself, no matter how painful it is. Call out for the help of Jesus and Mary and all the Saints. If you do this, you will be victorious."

It does not matter how weak you are—how strong the enemy may seem, either in number or in power. Do not be discouraged. The help you have from heaven is more powerful than all that hell can send to destroy the grace of God in your soul. God, the Creator and the Redeemer, is Almighty and more desirous of your salvation than the devil can be of your destruction.

Fight courageously, then, and do not neglect to mortify yourself. Continual war on your inordinate inclinations and vicious habits will gain the victory, acquire the kingdom of Heaven, and unite your soul to God forever.

Begin to fight immediately in the name of the Lord, armed with distrust of yourself, with confidence in God, in prayer, and with the correct use of the faculties of your soul. With these weapons, attack the enemy, that predominant passion you want to conquer, either by courageous resistance, repeated acts of the contrary virtue, or any means that heaven gives you to drive it out of your heart. Do not rest until it is conquered. Your endurance will be rewarded by the Supreme Judge, Who, with the entire Church triumphant, has witnessed your behavior.

To repeat—you must not become tired of this war. Everyone must serve and please God. It is impossible to avoid this fight. If anyone flees, he is exposed to being wounded and even destroyed. By revolting against God and indulging in a life of sensuality with the world the difficulties are not lessened, because both body and soul suffer greatly when given to luxury and ambition.

There is a great lack of vision in one who does not avoid a great deal of trouble in this life, followed by endless agony in the next, and yet shirks small difficulties which will soon end in an eternity of happiness and the never ending enjoyment of God.

AS soon as he [St Francis of Assisi] felt the smallest temptation, or if he only foresaw it, he took every precaution for resisting it. At the beginning of his conversion he frequently threw himself in the depth of winter, into freezing water, in order to subdue his domestic enemy, and to preserve his robe of innocence without stain, asserting that it is far less painful to a spiritual man to suffer the rigor of the severest cold, than to feel interiorly the slightest attack upon his purity.



St Faustina (d. 1938) encouraged all to prepare for the spiritual battles that will rage for our souls. She gives three words of advice that will greatly help us to win the war: Trust, Prepare, Pray [from Diary, Notebook I, 145-146].

1. TRUST. "[The soul who has received much light and many inspirations] knows that to be faithful it will often have to face various difficulties, but it trusts in God and, thanks to this trust, it reaches that point to which God is calling it. Difficulties do not terrify it ... just as a warrior who is constantly in battle is not terrified by the roar of the canon. Far from being frightened, it listens to determine from which side the enemy is launching his attack, in order to defeat him." N.B. It is no coincidence that Jesus had the inscription at the bottom of the Divine Mercy image say, "Jezu, ufam Tobie" [Pol., Jesus, I Trust in Thee].
2. PREPARE. "In time of peace, as well, the soul continues making efforts, just as in time of battle. It must exercise itself, and do so with energy; otherwise it has no chance of attaining victory. I regard the time of peace as a time of preparation for victory. The soul must be ever watchful; watchfulness and again, watchfulness."
3. PRAY. "A soul arms itself by prayer for all kinds of combat. In whatever state the soul may be, it ought to pray. A soul which is pure and beautiful must pray, or else it will lose its beauty; a soul which is striving after this purity must pray, or else it will never attain it; a soul which is newly converted must pray, or else it will fall again; a sinful soul, plunged in sins, must pray so that it might rise again. There is no soul which is not bound to pray, for every single grace comes to the soul through prayer."

LAST WEEK

8th Sunday Ordinary Time (27 Feb '22): \$8,274.00

Thank you for your generosity!

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CONFIRMATION & FIRST HOLY COMMUNION March 11, 6:00 PM

Bp. Francis Christian will be with us this Friday (Mar 11) to celebrate the Confirmation Mass and to offer our 3rd Grade students their First Holy Communion. The parish will celebrate their First Holy Communion next Sunday as well at the 10:00 AM Mass.

WEEKLY CALENDAR

6 Mar, SUNDAY — 1st Week of Lent

8:00 AM | Mass
10:00 AM | Mass
4:30 PM | *Confession (until 5:30 PM)
6:00 PM | Mass
7:00 PM | Adoration

7 Mar, MONDAY

12:15 PM | Daily Mass

8 Mar, TUESDAY

7:00 PM | Scout Meeting

9 Mar, WEDNESDAY

9:30 AM | Knitting Group (meets every other Wednesday)
10:00 AM | Faith Sharing
10:00 AM | *"No Greater Love" Bible Study
12:15 PM | Daily Mass
7:00 PM | *"No Greater Love" Bible Study

10 Mar, THURSDAY

12:15 PM | Daily Mass

11 Mar, FRIDAY (day of abstinence)

10:00 AM | Food Pantry
12:15 PM | Daily Mass and Adoration
*No 6:00 PM Stations of the Cross
due to:
6:00 PM | CONFIRMATION & FIRST HOLY COMMUNION MASS w/ Bp. Christian
*Confession follows until 8:00 PM

12 Mar, 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 (until 5:00 PM)
5:30 PM | Mass

LENTEEN CONFESSION

Following daily Mass

—and—

Fridays

6:30-8:00 PM

—and—

Sundays

4:30-5:30 PM

—and—

April 4-8

6:00-8:00 PM

STATIONS OF THE CROSS

Fridays of Lent

6:00 PM Mar 18, 25, Apr 1

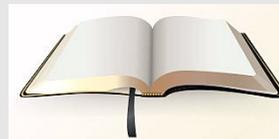
In-person and Streamed

MASS INTENTIONS

Mar 5 (Sat), 5:30 PM Richard Boucher (req. by Boucher Family)
Mar 6 (Sun), 8:00 AM Pat Davis (req. by John and Collette Olexa)
Mar 6 10:00 AM Peter Champagne (req. by Schmitt Family)
Mar 6, 6:00 PM SJN Parishioners
Mar 7 (Mon), 12:15 PM Joe Thomas (req. by Doreen Thomas)

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).

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). For more information:

ascensionpress.com/bibleinayear

To receive the reading list:

ascensionpress.com/pages/biy-registration

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

**40 DAYS FOR LIFE.**
THE BEGINNING OF THE END OF ABORTION.
Manchester Campaign — Spring '22

From March 2 thru April 10 (Ash Wednesday thru Palm Sunday), you're invited to join Christians around the world for 40 DAYS FOR

LIFE (40 days of prayer, fasting and outreach for an end to abortion). Please join us as prayerful, peaceful, non-confrontational witnesses to the sanctity of all human life during the 40-day vigil on the public sidewalk outside Planned Parenthood (24 Pennacook St, Manchester).

For more information, or to sign up for vigil hours, please visit our website at 40daysforlife.com/manchester. You can sign up by creating an account on the website, or, if you prefer, just contact the Manchester Leader (Norm Thibault at (603) 289-0574) and he'll do the sign-up steps for you.

NO GREATER LOVE

This 5-PART SERIES walks step-by-step with Jesus from the Garden of Gethsemane to Calvary Hill. **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.**

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@sjnh.org 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

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.

— 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.

SJN Staff

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PASTORAL COUNCIL
Steve De Beradinis (President)

FINANCE COMMITTEE
Bob Fregault (Chairman)

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS
Leo Bobek, Grand Knight
lbobek63@gmail.com