

SAINT JOHN NEUMANN PARISH

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



4th SUNDAY OF EASTER May 8, 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.

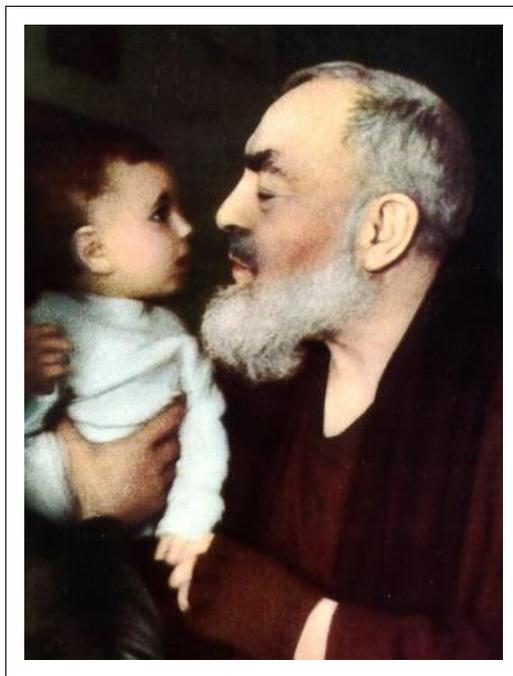
RITE OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION

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

UNDER THE CROSS

The Spirit itself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, then heirs, heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ, if only we suffer with him so that we may also be glorified with him. —Rom 8:16-17

The first excerpt below is from Pope St John Paul II's homily of 2 May 1999 on the occasion of Padre Pio of Pietrelcina's (d. 1968) canonization. Padre Pio bore the STIGMATA for fifty years. The Holy Father's theme: "Calvary Is the Hill of the Saints". The second excerpt is from Thomas of Celano's (d. 1270) first Life of Saint Francis which had been commissioned by Pope Gregory XI in 1228. In 1224, and two years before his death, St Francis of Assisi received the STIGMATA. This was the first recorded STIGMATA in all of Christian history. STIGMATA are marks/wounds that correspond to the crucifixion wounds of Jesus. The term has its origin in St Paul's letter to the Galatians (6:17): "I bear on my body the marks of Jesus."



Saint Padre Pio of Pietrelcina (d. 1968)

THE face of Padre Pio reflected the light of the Resurrection. His body, marked by the "STIGMATA", showed forth the intimate bond between death and resurrection which characterizes the paschal mystery. St. Pio of



Pietrelcina shared in the Passion with a special intensity [i.e., the STIGMATA]: the unique gifts which were given to him, and the interior and mystical sufferings which accompanied them, allowed him constantly to participate in the Lord's agonies, never wavering in his sense that "Calvary is the hill of the saints". No less painful, and perhaps even more distressing from a human point of view, were the trials which he had to endure as a result, it might be said, of his incomparable charisms. It happens at times in the history of holiness that, by God's special permission, the one chosen is misunderstood. In that case, obedience becomes for him a crucible of purification, a path of gradual assimilation to Christ, a strengthening of true holiness. In this regard, Blsd Pio wrote to one of his superiors: "I strive only to obey you, the good God having made known to me the one thing most acceptable to him and the one way for me to hope for salvation and to sing of victory" (Letter I, p. 807). When the "storm" broke upon him, he took as his rule of life the exhortation of the First Letter of Peter, that we have just heard: "Come to Christ, a living stone" (cf. 1 Pet 2:4). He himself thus became a "living stone" for the building of that spiritual house which is the Church. For this we today give thanks to the Lord. "You too are living stones, built into a spiritual house" (1 Pet 2:5). How fitting are these words if we apply them to the extraordinary ecclesial experience which grew up around the new blessed! So many people, meeting him directly or indirectly, rediscovered their faith; inspired by his example, "prayer groups" sprang up in every corner of the world. To all who flocked to him he held up the ideal of holiness, repeating to them: "It seems that Jesus has no interest outside of sanctifying your soul" (Letter II, p. 155). If God's Providence willed that he should be active without ever leaving his convent, as though he were "planted" at the foot of the Cross, this is not without significance.

One day the Divine Master had to console him, at a moment of particular trial, by telling him that "it is under the Cross that one learns to love" (Letter I, p. 339).

The Cross of Christ is truly the outstanding school of love; indeed, the very "well-spring" of love. Purified by suffering, the love of this faithful disciple drew hearts to Christ and to his demanding Gospel of salvation.

TWO years before Francis gave his soul back to heaven, while he was staying in a hermitage called "Alverna" after the place where it was located, he saw in a vision from God a man with six wings like a seraph, standing above him with hands extended and feet together, affixed to a cross. Two wings were raised over his head, two were extended in flight, and two hid his entire body.

When the blessed servant of God saw these things he was filled with wonder, but he did not know what the vision meant. He rejoiced greatly in the benign and gracious expression with which he saw himself regarded by the seraph, whose

beauty was indescribable; yet he was alarmed by the fact that the seraph was affixed to the cross and was suffering terribly. Thus Francis rose, one might say, sad and happy, joy and grief alternating in him. He wondered anxiously what this vision could mean, and his soul was uneasy as it searched for understanding. And as his understanding sought in vain for an explanation and his heart was filled with perplexity at the great novelty of this vision, the marks of nails began to appear in his hands and feet, just as he had seen them slightly earlier in the crucified man above him.

His hands and feet seemed to be pierced by nails, with the heads of the nails appearing in the palms of his hands and on the upper sides of his feet, the points appearing on the other side. The marks were round on the palm of each hand but elongated on the other side, and small pieces of flesh jutting out from the rest took on the appearance of the nail-ends, bent and driven back. In the same way the marks of nails were impressed on his feet and projected beyond the rest of the flesh. Moreover, his right side had a large wound as if it had been pierced with a spear, and it often bled so that his tunic and trousers were soaked with his sacred blood.

Alas, how few were worthy of viewing the wound in the side of this crucified servant of the crucified Lord. How fortunate was Elias, who was worthy of seeing it while the holy man lived, but no less fortunate was Rufinus, who touched the wound with his own hands. For once, when the aforesaid brother Rufinus put his hand on the holy man's chest in order to rub him, his hand fell to his right side, as often occurs, and he happened to touch that precious wound. The holy man of God suffered great anguish from that touch and, pushing the hand away, he cried out to the Lord to forgive him. He carefully hid the wound from outsiders and cautiously concealed it from those near him, so that even his most devoted followers and those who were constantly at his side knew nothing of it for a long time. And although the servant and friend of the most high saw himself adorned with many costly pearls as if with precious gems, and marvelously decked out beyond the glory and honor of other men, he did not become vain or seek to please anyone through desire for personal glory, but, lest human favor should steal away the grace given to him, he attempted to hide it in every way possible.

WEEKLY CALENDAR

May 8, SUNDAY — 4th WEEK OF EASTER

8:00 AM | Sunday Mass
10:00 AM | Sunday Mass
6:00 PM | Sunday Mass
7:00 PM | Adoration

May 9, MONDAY

12:15 PM | Daily Mass

May 10, TUESDAY

7:00 PM | Scouts Meeting

May 11, WEDNESDAY

9:30 AM | Knitting Group (meets every other Wednesday)
10:00 AM | Faith Sharing
12:15 PM | Daily Mass

May 12, THURSDAY

10:00 AM | Women's Bible Study
12:15 PM | Daily Mass

May 13, FIRST FRIDAY

10:00 AM | Food Pantry
12:15 PM | Daily Mass w/ Adoration

May 14, FIRST 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 | Sunday Anticipatory Mass

MASS INTENTIONS

May 7 (Sat), 5:30 PM | Michael Lyle (req. by Virginia Holland)
May 8 (Sun), 8:00 AM | Thomas D'Agostino, Steven Marewsko & Mark Maresco (req. by Pete Maresco)
May 8, 10:00 AM | Julia Bilow (req. by family)
May 8, 6:00 PM | SJN Parishioners
May 9, 12:15 PM | M. Karen Dill (req. by John & Mary Mann)

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).

ANNOUNCEMENTS

LIVING ROSARY

15 May following the 10:00 AM Mass

In celebration of the month of Mary, all are welcome to join us on Sunday, May 15th following the 10:00 AM Mass to recite the Rosary. We will meet just

outside the front door, weather permitting, to pray the Rosary together.

NEW HAMPSHIRE CATHOLIC APPEAL

New diocesan initiative beginning mid-May 2022

The first annual NEW HAMPSHIRE CATHOLIC APPEAL (NHCA) is a new initiative designed to strengthen our ministries for the Church in New Hampshire. It will reduce the number of annual second collections at parishes. The Appeal will take place over two weekends mid-May at Mass. The purpose of the NHCA is to support the care for our retired and elderly priests, education of seminarians and vocations, Catholic education, evangelization through Parable magazine, Catholic Charities NH and more. Everyone in our parish will receive more information in the mail soon. Please keep the Church in New Hampshire in your prayers that we may grow together and carry our faith into the future. For more information:

<https://www.catholicnh.org/nhca>

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

Council 10896

2022 SCHOLARSHIP



The Knights of Columbus Council 10896 are offering a \$1,000.00 scholarship this year to a current High School Senior, a parishioner of St John Neumann Parish, who will pursue a college education.

The APPLICATION can be found on the St John Neumann Parish website, SJNNH.ORG. Click on <Christian Service> then <Knights of Columbus> then <Documents>.

Please read the application instructions carefully. Application must be submitted by email to the Scholarship Committee Chairman, Tom Davis by May 22, 2022. No exceptions. Please contact Mr. Tom Davis at (603) 759-2464 if you have any questions. The scholarship will be awarded at the 10:00 AM SJN Graduation Mass, June 5, 2022.

YARN MINISTRY UPDATE

The YARN MINISTRY is alive and busy! We support the Linus Project, chemo caps for the Radiation Center of Greater Nashua, infant caps for Southern New Hampshire Medical Center, St

Joseph's Hospital, and the Merrimack Community Hospice House among others. Our ministry has provided warmth and love to the community for 20+ years. We've lost a few members over those years, and new members are always welcome! Also, our supply closet is pretty empty. DONATIONS ARE NEEDED! "Pounder Skeins" are for prayer shawls. DONATIONS may be left in the coatroom in the bin marked "Yarn". Thank you for your continued support over the years!

FIND THE PARISH ONLINE

To subscribe to "SJN Parish News" via FLOCKNOTES go to:

<https://SJNMERRIMACK.flocknote.com>

—or text—

"SJNMERRIMACK" to 84576

[message and data rates may apply]

To find the parish on social media:

FACEBOOK

<https://www.facebook.com/St John Neumann-Merrimack>

INSTAGRAM

<https://instagram.com/sjnmerrimack/>

TO WATCH MASS ONLINE

Our Sunday 10:00 AM Mass is streamed to our YOUTUBE.COM channel: SJN Merrimack NH Mass

Our parish FACEBOOK address has changed. It is now: St John Neumann-Merrimack

— AMAZON SMILE —

Please consider supporting our St John Neumann FOOD PANTRY whenever you purchase items through AMAZON.COM. 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.

—PLEASE NOTE—

For the parish to provide an end-of-year STATEMENT OF DONATION, you must use ENVELOPES

(or at least write your envelope number on your check). We have no other way to track donations.

SJN Staff

CLAIRE BRYSON
Children's Ministry (K-5th Grade)
(603) 880-4689 x114
cbryson@sjnh.org

CHERI ANDERSEN
Youth Ministry (6th-12th Grade)
(603) 880-4689 x111
candersen@sjnh.org

TERI SCHMITT
Religious Education Secretary
tschmitt@sjnh.org

DIANE BONENFANT
Sacristan

CAROL YETTO
Music Ministry
SJNMusic@myfairpoint.net

CAROL HOPFENSPIRGER and EVELYN VERBECK
Outreach & Food Pantry
(603) 880-4689 x116

KATHY HOPKINS
Day Away (Thursday)
(603) 880-4689
dayaway@sjnh.org

PASTORAL COUNCIL
Steve De Beradinis (President)

FINANCE COMMITTEE
Bob Fregault (Chairman)

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