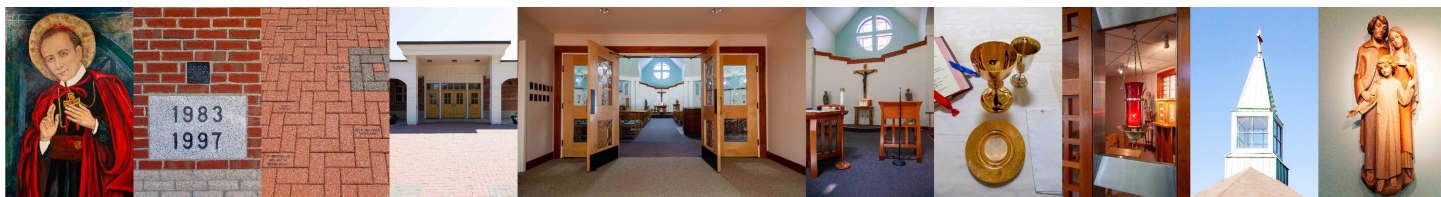


**SAINT JOHN NEUMANN PARISH**  
708 Milford Rd (Rte 101A), Merrimack, NH 03054 — SJNNH.ORG



28th SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME  
October 9, 2022

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

**Deacon Brian Lester**  
[deacon@sjnnh.org](mailto:deacon@sjnnh.org)

**Teri Schmitt**  
Office Manager  
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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**ON GRATITUDE**

In all circumstances give thanks, for this is the will of God for you in Christ Jesus. —1 Thes 5:18

St Augustine (d. 430) taught, with reference to Romans 8:28, that "For the ones who love God, all things work for good, even sin!" Only a person who has faith is able to be grateful for everything. "If you return evil for good, evil will not depart from your house" (Prov 17:13). We need only faith for all of life's failures and everyday difficulties to bear fruit. By way of example, the two excerpts below are from the lives of St Bernadette Soubirous [to whom the Blessed Virgin Mary appeared at Lourdes in 1858] and famed WWI fighter ace, Captain Eddie Rickenbacker (d. 1973).



**IN St Bernadette's own words:**

- For the poverty in which my mother and father lived, for the failure of the mill, all the hard times, for the awful sheep, for constant tiredness, thank you, my God!
- Thank you, my God, for the prosecutor and the police commissioner, for the policemen, and for the harsh words of Father Peyramale!
- For the days in which you came, Mary, for the ones in which you did not come, I will never be able to thank you ... only in Paradise.
- For the slap in the face, for the ridicule, the insults, and for those who suspected me



for wanting to gain something from it, thank you, my Lady.

- For my spelling, which I never learned, for the memory that I never had, for my ignorance and for my stupidity, thank you.
- For the fact that my mother died so far away, for the pain I felt when my father instead of hugging his little Bernadette called me, “Sister Marie-Bernard”, I thank you, Jesus.
- I thank you for the heart you gave me, so delicate and sensitive, which you filled with bitterness.
- For the fact that Mother Josephine proclaimed that I was good for nothing, thank you. For the sarcasm of the Mother Superior: her harsh voice, her injustices, her irony and for the bread of humiliation, thank you.
- Thank you that I was the privileged one when it came to be reprimanded, so that my sisters said, "How lucky it is not to be Bernadette."
- Thank you for the fact that it is me, who was the Bernadette threatened with imprisonment because she had seen you, Holy Virgin; regarded by people as a rare animal; that Bernadette so wretched, that upon seeing her, it was said, "Is that it?"
- For this miserable body which you gave me, for this burning and suffocating illness, for my decaying tissues, for my de-calcified bones, for my sweats, for my fever, for my dullness and for my acute pains, thank you, my God.
- And for this soul which you have given me, for the desert of inner dryness, for your night and the lightening, for your silences and your thunders, for everything.
- For you—when you were present and when you were not—thank you, Jesus.

IT happens every Friday evening, almost without fail, when the sun resembles a giant orange and is starting to dip into the blue ocean. Old Ed comes strolling along the beach to his favorite pier. Clutched in his bony hand is a bucket of shrimp.

Ed walks out to the end of the pier, where it seems he almost has the world to himself. The glow of the sun is a golden bronze now. Everybody's gone, except for a few joggers on the beach. Standing out on the end of the pier, Ed is alone with his thoughts ... and his bucket of shrimp.

Before long, however, he is no longer alone. Up in the sky a thousand white dots come screeching and squawking, winging their way toward that lanky frame standing there on the end of the pier. Soon, dozens of seagulls have enveloped him, their wings fluttering and flapping wildly.

Ed stands there tossing shrimp to the hungry birds. As he does, if you listen closely, you can hear him say with a smile, "Thank you. Thank you."

In a few short minutes the bucket is empty. But Ed doesn't leave. He stands there lost in thought, as though transported to another time and place. Invariably, one of the gulls lands on his sea-bleached, weather-beaten hat—an old military hat he's been wearing for years.

When he finally turns around and begins to walk back toward the beach, a few of the birds hop along the pier with him until he gets to the stairs, and then they, too, fly away and old Ed quietly makes his way down to the end of the beach and on home.

If you were sitting there on the pier with your fishing line in the water, Ed might seem like "a funny old duck," as my dad used to say. Or, "a guy that's a sandwich shy of a picnic," as my kids might say. To onlookers, he's just another old codger, lost in his own weird world, feeding the seagulls with a bucket full of shrimp.

To the onlooker, rituals can look either very strange or very empty. They can seem altogether unimportant ... maybe even a lot of nonsense. Old folks often do strange things, at least in the eyes of Boomers and Busters. Most of them would probably write Old Ed off, down there in Florida.

That's too bad. They'd do well to know him better. His full name: Eddie Rickenbacker. He was a famous hero back in World War II. On one of his flying missions across the Pacific, he and his seven-member crew went down. Miraculously, all of the men survived, crawled out of their plane, and climbed into a life raft.

Captain Rickenbacker and his crew floated for days on the rough waters of the Pacific. They fought the sun. They fought sharks. Most of all, they fought hunger. By the eighth day their rations ran out. No food. No water. They were hundreds of miles from land and no one knew where they were.

They needed a miracle. That afternoon they had a simple devotional service and prayed for a miracle.

They tried to nap. Eddie leaned back and pulled his military cap over his nose. Time dragged. All he could hear was the slap of the waves against the raft.

Suddenly, Eddie felt something land on the top of his cap. It was a seagull!

Old Ed would later describe how he sat perfectly still, planning his next move. With a flash of his hand and a squawk from the gull, he managed to grab it and wring its neck. He tore the feathers off, and he and his starving crew made a meal—a very slight meal for eight men—of it. Then they used the intestines for bait. With it, they caught fish, which gave them food and more bait ... and the cycle continued. With that simple survival technique, they were able to endure the rigors of the sea until they were found and rescued [after 24 days at sea].

Eddie Rickenbacker lived many years beyond that ordeal, but he never forgot the sacrifice of that first

lifesaving seagull. And he never stopped saying, "Thank you." That's why almost every Friday night he would walk to the end of the pier with a bucket full of shrimp and a heart full of gratitude.

Max Lucado, *In The Eye of the Storm* (Nashville, TN: Thomas Nelson, 2012), pp. 221, 225-226.

### WEEKLY CALENDAR

**Oct 9, SUNDAY** — 28th Week of Ordinary Time

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

**Oct 10, MONDAY**

12:15 PM | Daily Mass

**Oct 11, TUESDAY** — St Francis of Assisi

7:00 PM | Scouts Meeting

**Oct 12, WEDNESDAY**

9:30 AM | Knitting Group (meets every other Wednesday)  
10:00 AM | Faith Sharing  
10:30 AM | "Presence: The Mystery of the Eucharist" (3rd of 4 classes, offered 3x each week)  
12:15 PM | Daily Mass  
6:30 PM | "Presence: The Mystery of the Eucharist"

**Oct 13, THURSDAY**

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

**Oct 14, FRIDAY** — Our Lady of the Rosary

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

**Oct 15, 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 | Anticipatory Sunday Mass  
7:00 PM | "Presence: The Mystery of the Eucharist" preceded by shared dinner

### LAST WEEK

Sep 25 (26th Sunday Ordinary Time) — \$5,975.00

**THANK YOU for your generosity!**

### MASS INTENTIONS

Oct 8 (Sat), 5:30 PM | Caleb Flores (req. by Ethnea Daniels)  
Oct 9 (Sun), 8:00 AM | Joanne Normandie  
Oct 9, 10:00 AM | Renee Lan (req. by Sue & Jennie)  
Oct 9, 6:00 PM | St John Neumann Parishioners  
Oct 15 (Sat), 5:30 PM | Maurice Gagne (req. by Linda Ray)  
Oct 16 (Sun), 8:00 AM | Julia Bilow (req. by family)  
Oct 16, 10:00 AM | St John Neumann Parishioners

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

#### **40 DAYS FOR LIFE**

#### **Fall '22 Manchester Campaign**

From Sep 28-thru-Nov 6 you're invited to join other Christians in more than 60 countries and 600 cities around the world for 40 DAYS FOR LIFE: 40 days of prayer, fasting, and outreach for an end to abortion. To sign up for vigil hours by creating an account on the website, or just contact Manchester Leader, Norm Thibault, at 603-289-0574. For ADDITIONAL INFO, visit our website:

[40daysforlife.com/manchester](http://40daysforlife.com/manchester)

#### CONTEMPORARY ENSEMBLE

The CONTEMPORARY ENSEMBLE is always looking for new members. If you play an instrument, or love to sing, please consider joining us. We rehearse Monday nights, and sing at Mass typically two Sunday evening Masses, as well as Christmas and Easter. For more information, please reach out to Heather at [heathermb769@gmail.com](mailto:heathermb769@gmail.com), or at (609) 930-2543. **COME AND JOIN US!**

#### THURSDAY MORNING WOMEN'S GROUP

This group of women meets Thursday mornings at 10:00 AM to grow deeper in faith through friendship, conversation, and shared reading. Our next session will begin on Oct 13 and continue through January. We'll be reading and discussing DWELL: A STUDY ON THE EUCHARIST. This is a study by BLESSED IS SHE. For more information about this 15-session study, visit: <https://blessedishe.net/product/dwell-blessed-conversations-eucharist/>. If you are interested in joining us, we would be delighted to welcome you! Please contact Claire Bryson at [cbryson@sjnnh.org](mailto:cbryson@sjnnh.org).

#### OPPORTUNITY TO SERVE AS

#### **Day Away Volunteer Lunch Assistant**

St John Neumann (SJN) Day Away is seeking friendly VOLUNTEERS to assist with assembling boxed (or bagged) lunches that consist of fresh

fruit, a prepared salad, a protein (e.g, sandwich, wrap or cup of hot soup), a snack, a beverage, and dessert. All food and supplies are provided by **Day Away**. LUNCH ASSISTANTS will be working in the parish kitchen and assisting with serving lunch. All LUNCH ASSISTANTS are welcomed to eat lunch prior to providing a simple cleanup. Our LUNCH ASSISTANTS prefer to work as a team with a minimum of two lunch assistants at a time.

ORIENTATION to the N.H. state food handling and storage regulations is provided along with guidance on proper use of the individual sinks for hand washing, food prep and dishwashing.

SPECIAL ATTIRE: Includes a wide hair band or scarf to pull hair back and off the collar. Gloves (vinyl or nitrile) are provided & required to be worn while handling/preparing food. Surgical mask (during COVID) is required of all food establishment workers when around food to be served to others.

#### TIME COMMITMENT:

- 1 or 2 Thursdays each month (NOTE: Some months have a 5th Thursday to be covered)
- 11:00 AM until 1:00 PM

For more information, email Kathy Hopkins, RN, Director of SJN Day Away or call 603-880-4689.

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#### PRAYER LINE MINISTRY

To add someone to the prayer line, please contact Teri at the parish office: (603) 880-4689, [tschmitt@sjnnh.org](mailto:tschmitt@sjnnh.org). To preserve the confidentiality we ask that you only provide the first name and last initial. Please pray for:

Priscille, Diane, Paul, George, Kevin, Patrick, Kim, Joe, Deneen, Eric, Phyllis, Jim, Natalie, Tammy, Cheryl, Rob, Julia, Allan, Jamie, David, Claudette, Steve, Gina, Mike, Ray, Thomasina, Milli, the people affected by Hurricane Ian (especially Cindy, Bob, Tucker (service dog), Pam, Patty's nieces, Annmarie, and Brian and his family), and all of our parishioners and their needs.

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#### GARDEN CLEANUP

CJ Bourn will be heading the effort to clean up the gardens at the entrance to church property on Sunday, Oct 9 from 1:00-3:00 PM. If anyone would like to take a plant(s) home for their own garden, they're free to do so! They must come to collect! We hope to spread the joy and energy of that garden to many other gardens in doing so!

## SAINT GIANNA'S PLACE

ST. GIANNA'S is a home for women in crisis pregnancies located in Hudson, NH. Their doors have been open for three years, and they've been able to offer a loving, supportive home to 20+ women and many babies during this time! **They will hold their ANNUAL BABY BOTTLE CAMPAIGN Oct 1-thru-Oct 23.** Our financial support is greatly appreciated, and helps to defray the costs day-to-day operations and educational programs offered to the young mothers. **If you would like to help, simply take home a BABY BOTTLE, fill it with your donation, and return it to the bin in the church lobby. Thank you!**

### ONLINE *giving*

St John Neumann Parish offers ONLINE GIVING for families to easily give one-time as well as recurring donations. You can make a secure donation via Electronic Check or Debit/Credit Card by visiting the parish website <SJNNH.ORG> and scrolling to the bottom of the homepage and clicking on <ONLINE-DOANATION>.

<https://sjnnh.org/online-donation>

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### SJN Staff

#### CLAIRE BRYSON

Children (K-5) and Family Ministry  
cbryson@sjnnh.org | (603) 880-4689 x114

#### CHERI ANDERSEN

Youth (6-12) and Adult Ministry  
(603) 880-4689 x111

#### DIANE BONENFANT

Sacristan

#### CAROL YETTO

Music Ministry  
cyetto3358@gmail

#### CAROL HOPFENSPIRGER and EVELYN VERBECK

Outreach & Food Pantry  
outreach@sjnnh.org | (603) 880-4689 x116

#### KATHY HOPKINS

Day Away (Thursday)  
dayaway@sjnnh.org | (603) 880-4689

#### PARISH COUNCIL

Keith Faucher (President)  
parishcouncil@sjnnh.org

#### FINANCE COMMITTEE

Bob Fregault (Chairman)

#### KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

Leo Bobek, Grand Knight  
kofc@sjnnh.org