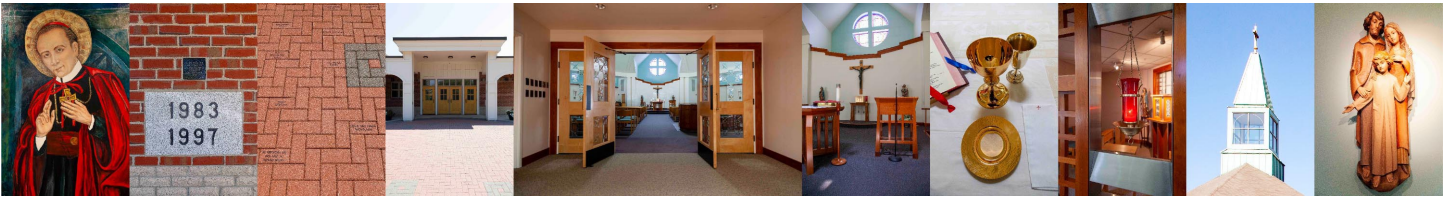


**SAINT JOHN NEUMANN PARISH**  
708 Milford Rd (Rte 101A), Merrimack, NH 03054 — SJNNH.ORG



2nd SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME  
January 15, 2023

**Rev. Robert Glasgow**  
Chaplain (LTC) USA (Ret.)  
(603) 880-4689 x113, [pastor@sjnnh.org](mailto:pastor@sjnnh.org)

**Deacon Brian Lester**  
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**Teri Schmitt**  
Office Manager  
(603) 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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**HUMANE VITAE**

"God created mankind in his image; in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them" (Gen 1:27).

The first excerpt below is from Pope Paul VI's 25 July 1968 encyclical *HUMANAE VITAE* [Lt., Of Human Life]. The Holy Father began by acknowledging "not everyone will easily accept this particular teaching". Indeed. The second excerpt is from the USCCB's (United States Conference of Catholic Bishops) Pro-Life Committee's 1993 statement commemorating the 25th anniversary of the encyclical.



SISTINE MADONNA [detail]  
by Raphael (d.1520)

IT is to be anticipated that perhaps not everyone will easily accept this particular teaching. There is too much clamorous outcry against the voice of the Church, and this is intensified by modern means of communication. But it comes as no surprise to the Church that she, no less than her divine Founder, is destined to be a "sign of contradiction." She does not, because of this, evade the duty imposed on her of proclaiming humbly but firmly the entire moral law, both natural and evangelical.

Since the Church did not make either of these laws, she cannot be their arbiter—only their guardian and interpreter. It could never be right for her to declare lawful what is in fact unlawful, since that, by its very nature, is always opposed to the true good of man.

In preserving intact the whole moral law of marriage, the Church is convinced that she is contributing to the creation of a truly human civilization. She urges man not to betray his personal responsibilities by putting all his faith in technical expedients. In this way she defends

the dignity of husband and wife. This course of action shows that the Church, loyal to the example and teaching of the divine Savior, is sincere and unselfish in her regard for men whom she strives to help even now during this earthly pilgrimage "to share God's life as sons of the living God, the Father of all men".

THIS is why, in the face of growing opposition to the Church's teaching about human sexuality, Pope Paul VI issued *Humanae Vitae* 25 years ago. He understood then, as the Church understands today, the responsibility to keep God's revelation as part of the equation in viewing human sexuality. It is not just instinct, human desire, or need which must be considered in human sexual activity. One must understand human life and the human spirit, which transcends biology and humanistic philosophy. Human sexual activity cannot be separated from the nature and dignity of human life and the process by which that life is transmitted.

And so this year we commemorate the 25th anniversary of *Humanae Vitae*, in which Pope Paul VI reaffirmed the Church's teaching on the sanctity of marriage and the responsible transmission of human life. Pope Paul based his encyclical on the natural law as illumined by divine revelation and consistently taught by the Church. Expanding on this teaching, especially as expressed in the Second Vatican Council's *Pastoral Constitution on the Church in the Modern World*, he presented a dignified and unified vision of marriage, sexuality, and family life. On this 25th anniversary, we wish to reaffirm the teaching of *Humanae Vitae* as the authentic and constant teaching of the magisterium.

**CONJUGAL LOVE.** In *Humanae Vitae*, Pope Paul [VI, d. 1978] recognized conjugal love as eminently human, but rooted in God's love for his people. He saw it as the dynamic element in every marriage, bringing permanence to the marriage and enabling the couple to make wise, generous, and responsible decisions about the spacing of births and the size of their family. *Humanae Vitae* provides a positive and dignified understanding of sexuality as a gift from God which ennobles, enriches, and reconciles married couples. Through sexual union, couples strengthen their marital relationship and participate in a special way in God's creation of new life. From this follows the profound meaning of a life of intimacy—that communion of two persons who must be open to each other in a mutual self-donation that reaches its apex in the loving union that bears fruit in children.

Sexuality, then, is not merely a matter of biology, nor is it simply a source of personal pleasure. Rather, it concerns, as Pope John Paul II reminds us in the apostolic exhortation, *Familiaris Consortio*, "the innermost being of the human person as such. It is realized in a truly human way only if it is an integral part of the love by which a man and woman commit themselves totally to one another until death" (FC 11). Spouses are called to celebrate their

conjugal love by becoming one flesh in the Lord, and to see their sexual intimacy in the context of God's creative role and the nature of marriage itself. By remaining open to life each time they come together in the conjugal embrace, by preserving "the two meanings of the conjugal act: the unitive meaning and the procreative meaning" (HV 12), married couples reverence the presence of God in their union. In truth, the Church teaches that there are two aspects of marital intercourse—the strengthening of interpersonal unity between the spouses, and the procreation of new life. These two goods are inseparable—not in the sense that both must be achieved in every act of conjugal intimacy, but in the sense that one may not deliberately act against either good in any act of conjugal intimacy.

**RESPONSIBLE PARENTHOOD.** Complementing its teaching on conjugal love, Paul VI reaffirmed the Church's tradition that responsible parenthood flows from the intimate communion that is at the heart of the meaning of marriage. Too often, childbearing is characterized as burdensome, risky, destructive of personal aspirations, and dangerous for a world thought by some to be already overpopulated. But in reality, married couples also experience a profound desire to share their life and love by cooperating with God in creating new life and building a family.

The teaching of *Humanae Vitae* reminds us that parenthood is a privilege as well as a responsibility. Couples are able to associate themselves in the deepest and closest way with God in the work of procreation. They are able, in John Paul II's words, "to serve life, to actualize in history the original blessing of the Creator—that of transmitting by procreation the divine image from person to person" (FC 28). Today it is especially important to remember that each child is a unique and unrepeatable person and a testimony to the love of his or her parents as well as a testimony to the love of God. Too often the personal joys of parenthood and the promise that children hold for the future are overlooked or denigrated. All who follow Christ must see each child as a creature of God endowed with inestimable dignity who is called to accomplish his or her human destiny and to take an active role in the Church's missionary vocation. Responsible parenthood, then, implies a positive openness to life. It is a decision that couples make mutually and prayerfully, confident that God's grace will complement their generosity. Couples should make decisions about spacing births and the size of their families free of coercion or pressure. Taking into account their mutual responsibilities to God, themselves, their family, and the society of which they are a part, in a correct hierarchy of values, a couple may responsibly decide to delay childbearing. Or a husband or wife may conclude that they are unable to have more children. In the formation of their consciences, however, the couple must be well-instructed in and guided "by objective standards ...that preserve the full sense of mutual self-giving and human procreation in the context of true love" (*Gaudium et Spes* 51 ).

We recognize the problems and difficulties couples face in making decisions about parenthood. Concerns about

economic stability, employment, health care, education of children, or fulfilling existing responsibilities must be taken into account; and these concerns may suggest the avoidance, at least for the time being, of another birth. But we also recognize that unsubstantiated claims about population growth and cultural attitudes that diminish the value of the child may induce fear of having more than one or two children. These pressures compromise the freedom of the couple. We recall the teaching of the Second Vatican Council that "children are really the supreme gift of marriage and contribute very substantially to the welfare of their parents" (GS 50). We also recognize that for some couples, despite their intense desire, childbearing does not occur. At the same time, "those merit special mention who with a gallant heart, and with wise and common deliberations, undertake to bring up suitably even a relatively large family" (GS 50).

### WEEKLY CALENDAR

Jan 15, SUNDAY — 2nd Week of Ordinary Time

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

Jan 16, MONDAY — SJN office closed due to the federal holiday

12:15 PM | \*No Daily Mass

Jan 17, TUESDAY — St Anthony, Abbott

7:00 PM | Scouts Meeting

Jan 18, WEDNESDAY

9:30 AM | Knitting Group (meets every other Wednesday)  
10:00 AM | Faith Sharing  
10:30 AM | "Unlocking the Mystery of the Bible"  
12:15 PM | Daily Mass  
7:00 PM | "Mary: A Biblical Walk with the Blessed Mother"

Jan 19, THURSDAY

10:00 AM | Thursday Women's Group  
12:15 PM | Daily Mass

Jan 20, FRIDAY

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

Jan 21, 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

### MASS INTENTIONS

Jan 14 (Sat), 5:30 PM Elfriede Rauscher (req. by Joan Luke)  
Jan 15 (Sun), 8:00 AM Patrick Powers (req. by Maureen Mooney)

Jan 15, 10:00 PM St John Neumann Parishioners  
Jan 15, 6:00 PM Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI  
Jan 20 (Fri), 12:15 PM Meg Schmitt (req. by Paul Schmitt)  
Jan 21 (Sat), 5:30 PM Elfriede Rauscher (req. by Loretta Keaney)  
Jan 22 (Sun), 8:00 AM St John Neumann Parishioners  
Jan 22, 10:00 AM LIVING INTENTION - For our Kindergarten thru 5th Grade  
Catechists: Sue, Laura, Jeanni, Ellen, Louise, Christine, Elizabeth, Sarah, Agatha, and Deacon John (req. by their students)  
Jan 22, 6:00 PM Deceased clergy of the diocese

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

### TAX NOTICE

If you would like a statement of your 2022 contributions to the parish, please fill out the CONTRIBUTIONS REQUEST CARD (located alongside the bulletins in the foyer) and place it in the collection basket. You can also request a statement by emailing us your:

- Name
- Address
- Phone #
- Envelope #

Statements will go out in February. Your financial support, especially during the past few months, has been very much appreciated!

### UNLOCKING THE MYSTERY OF THE BIBLE

A Quick Journey thru the Bible

"Unlocking the Mystery of the Bible" helps you get the "big picture" by showing how 14 narrative books of the Bible tell the complete story from Adam/Eve to Jesus Christ and the Church. Beginning Jan 4 and ending Feb 22 (Ash Wednesday) we will be offering this 8-week study each Wednesday at 10:30 AM. For more information, contact Cheri at [candersen@sjnnh.org](mailto:candersen@sjnnh.org). For more information on the course, go to [ascensionpress.org](http://ascensionpress.org).

### NATURAL FAMILY PLANNING

Natural Family Planning (NFP) is just what it sounds like: a 100% natural way for spouses to

plan the size of their family. It is an extremely effective method for achieving, or temporarily avoiding, pregnancy, depending on the couple's situation and intent. To learn more or to find an instructor near you, go to:

**CatholicNH.org/NFP**

### PRAYER MINISTRY

The parish has an active Prayer Line Ministry. To become involved in the ministry or to add someone to the prayer line, please contact Teri in the parish office at (603) 880-4689 or [tschmitt@sjnnh.org](mailto:tschmitt@sjnnh.org). To preserve the confidentiality of those on the prayer list, we ask that you only provide the individual's first name and last initial. PLEASE PRAY FOR:

Chris, Bill, Roberta, Teresa, Kyle, Jerry & his family, Sandy & her family, Lucien & his family, Leslie, the Fabiano family, Steve and his family, Theresa, Bob, Bill, Ann & John, Doug, Jess, Kim, Joe, David, "K", expectant mothers, hospital workers, those with COVID/flu/RSV, those with balance issues, our country, and all of our parishioners and their needs.

### CATECHISM-IN-A-YEAR PODCAST

Started 1 Jan 2023



If you have ever wanted to understand what it means to be Catholic and to allow the truths of the faith to shape your life? If so, Fr. Schmitt's podcast is for you! Read the entire Catechism of the Catholic Church in 365 days. The goal is to help you to understand the essentials of the Catholic Faith and why they matter. You'll see how Church teaching is rooted in both Sacred Scripture and Sacred Tradition. For more information, go to: [<ascensionpress.com>](http://ascensionpress.com)

### EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

The diocese is now offering a number of employment opportunities. For more information, go to:

[www.catholicnh.org/about/stay-informed/bulletin/](http://www.catholicnh.org/about/stay-informed/bulletin/)

## **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>

## **PARISH** *online*

Sunday Mass is live streamed at 10:00 AM on YOUTUBE.COM > Search for: "SJN Merrimack NH Mass"

For monthly parish updates, subscribe via FLOCKNOTES by going to:

<https://SJNMERRIMACK.flocknote.com>

— or texting —

"SJNMERRIMACK" to 84576

(message/data rates may apply)

INSTAGRAM: [instagram.com/sjnmerrimack](https://www.instagram.com/sjnmerrimack)

FACEBOOK (for daily Mass):

[facebook.com/St John Neumann-Merrimack](https://www.facebook.com/StJohnNeumannMerrimack)

### SJN Staff

CLAIRE BRYSON

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CHERI ANDERSEN

Youth (6-12) and Adult Ministry

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CAROL YETTO

Music Ministry

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CAROL HOPFENSPIRGER and EVELYN VERBECK

Outreach & Food Pantry

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DIANE BONENFANT

Sacristan

KATHY HOPKINS

Day Away (Thursday)

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PARISH COUNCIL

Keith Faucher (President)

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FINANCE COMMITTEE

Bob Fregault (Chairman)

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

Leo Bobek, Grand Knight

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