

SAINT JOHN NEUMANN PARISH

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



3rd SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
January 22, 2023

Rev. Robert Glasgow
Chaplain (LTC) USA (Ret.)
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Deacon Brian Lester
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Teri Schmitt
Office Manager
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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.

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.

ON PERSEVERANCE

But the one who perseveres to the end will be saved. —Mt 24:13



DANIEL IN THE LIONS DEN
by Briton Rivière (d. 1920)

2 Corinthians 4:7-18

TREASURE IN EARTHEN VESSELS | 7 But we hold this treasure in earthen vessels, that the surpassing power may be of God and not from us. 8 We are afflicted in every way, but not constrained; perplexed, but not driven to despair; 9 persecuted, but not abandoned; struck down, but not destroyed; 10 always carrying about in the body the dying of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may also be manifested in our body. 11 For we who live are constantly being given up to death for the sake of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may be manifested in our mortal flesh. 12 So death is at work in us, but life in you. 13 Since, then, we have the same spirit of faith, according to what is written, "I believed, therefore I spoke," we too believe and therefore speak, 14 knowing that the one who raised the Lord Jesus will raise us also with Jesus and place us with you in his presence. 15 Everything indeed is for you, so that the grace bestowed in abundance on more and more people may cause the thanksgiving to overflow for the glory of God. 16 Therefore, we are not discouraged; rather, although our outer self is wasting away, our inner self is being renewed day by day. 17 For this momentary light affliction is producing for us an eternal weight of glory beyond all comparison, 18 as we look not to what is seen but to what is unseen; for what is seen is transitory, but what is unseen is eternal.



In the excerpt above, Paul is speaking of himself, but he assumes both his faith and his attitude will be shared by all Christians. Our interior/hidden self is being renewed day by day by God's grace, but this is only recognized by faith. The second excerpt is from Divine Intimacy by Fr. Gabriel of St Mary Magdalen (d. 1953). He too stresses the necessity of perseverance in the life of faith. The Catechism (#162) says this: It is not enough to begin, we must continue. Faith is an entirely free gift that God makes to man—but we can lose this gift:

"Wage the good warfare, holding faith and a good conscience. By rejecting conscience, certain persons have made shipwreck of their faith" (1 Tim 1:18-19).

To live, grow and persevere in the faith until the end we must nourish it with the word of God; we must beg the Lord to increase our faith (see Mk 9:24; Lk 17:5; 22:32); it must be "working through charity," abounding in hope, and rooted in the faith of the Church (see Gal 5:6; Rom 15:13; and Jas 2:14-26).

TO become a saint, it is not enough to be courageous and patient and to practice the other virtues for a few days or a few months, or even for a few years. We must PERSEVERE in these dispositions to the end of our life, never yielding to fatigue, discouragement, or laxity. This is the crucial point for, as St Thomas says, "to apply oneself for a long time to a difficult task—and virtue is almost always difficult— constitutes a special difficulty;" and it is only by overcoming this difficulty that we shall be able to reach perfection. We are not angels, we are human beings. The angel, a pure spirit, is stable by nature; if he makes a resolution, he holds to it; but this is not the case with us. We, being composed of spirit and matter, must suffer the consequences of the instability and fluctuations of the latter. As stability is characteristic of spirit, so instability is characteristic of matter; hence it becomes so difficult for us to be perfectly constant in the good. Although we have formed good resolutions in our mind, we always feel handicapped by the weakness of the sensible part of our nature which rebels against the weariness of sustained effort, and seeks to free itself from it, or at least to reduce it to a minimum. Our bodies are subject to fatigue; our minds are disturbed by emotions which are always fluctuating. That which at one moment fills us with enthusiasm may, at the next, become distasteful and annoying to such a point that we think we can no longer endure it. This is our state while on earth and no one can escape it. However, God calls us all to sanctity, and since sanctity requires a continual practice of virtue, He, who never asks the impossible, has provided a remedy for the instability of our nature by giving us the virtue of

PERSEVERANCE, the special object of which is the sustaining of our efforts. Though fickle by nature, we can by the help of grace become steadfast.

There are two types of PERSEVERANCE. The first is so perfect that it never wavers, it is always inflexible, maintained even in the most difficult and unexpected circumstances. This is the PERSEVERANCE of heroic virtue, of souls who have reached the state of transforming union, who habitually live under the influence of the Holy Spirit. It is the beautiful goal to which we can and should aspire, though we cannot attain to it by the practice of virtue alone; only the continual intervention of the gifts of the Holy Spirit can completely overcome the instability of our nature. The second type is the PERSEVERANCE practiced by fervent or even perfect souls who do not as yet enjoy the habitual motions of the Holy Spirit, and whose PERSEVERANCE, therefore, shows some fluctuations, more or less slight, according to the degree of perfection of the soul. In this case perseverance does not consist in remaining perfectly stable in good, but rather in constantly beginning again as soon as any failure is recognized. Sometimes just a momentary inattention, an unexpected happening, a little weariness or emotion, is enough to make us commit some fault that we had sincerely resolved to avoid at any cost, and here we have failed again! This, however, is no reason for being discouraged or sad; rather it is a motive for humbling ourselves, for recognizing our weakness and begging more insistently for God's help to rise at once and begin again. Because our human nature is so unstable, our PERSEVERANCE will usually consist in continually beginning again. This is the PERSEVERANCE to which we should all attain, because it depends on our good will, in the sense that God has infused this virtue in our soul, giving us at every moment sufficient grace to practice it. It is not in our power to free ourselves from this instability of our nature, and therefore we cannot avoid every slackening in virtue, every negligence, weakness, or fault; but it is within our power to correct ourselves as soon as we perceive that we have failed. This is the kind of PERSEVERANCE that God demands of us, and when we practice it faithfully, and are always prompt in rising after each fall, He will crown our efforts by granting us the supreme grace of final PERSEVERANCE.

WEEKLY CALENDAR

- Jan 22, SUNDAY — 3rd Week of Ordinary Time
8:00 AM | Mass
10:00 AM | Mass
6:00 PM | Mass
7:00 PM | Adoration
- Jan 23, MONDAY — Day of Prayer for the Legal Protection of Unborn Children
12:15 PM | No Daily Mass
- Jan 24, TUESDAY — St Francis de Sale, Bishop
7:00 PM | Scouts Meeting
- Jan 25, WEDNESDAY — Conversion of St Paul, Apostle
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 | "Unlocking the Mystery of the Bible"
- Jan 26, THURSDAY — SS. Timothy and Titus, Bishops
10:00 AM | Thursday Women's Group
12:15 PM | Daily Mass
- Jan 27, FRIDAY
10:00 AM | Food Pantry
12:15 PM | Daily Mass w/ Adoration
- Jan 28, SATURDAY — St Thomas Aquinas, Priest
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 21 (Sat), 5:30 PM Elfriede Rauscher (req. by Loretta Keaney)
- Jan 22 (Sun), 8:00 AM Deceased clergy of the diocese
Jan 22, 10:00 PM For our Kindergarten thru 5th Grade Catechists: Sue, Laura, Jenni, Ellen, Louise, Christine, Elizabeth, Sarah, Agatha, and Deacon John (req. by their students)
- Jan 22, 6:00 PM St John Neumann Parishioners
- Jan 23 (Mon), 12:15 PM Fr. Robert Whitney - LIVING INTENTION (req. by the Connelly Family)
- Jan 25 (Wed), 12:15 PM Paul Dion & Family - LIVING INTENTION (req. by Jerry & Sheila Burnett)
- Jan 26 (Thu), 12:15 PM Rita Brands (req. by Mark & Margaret Roy)
- Jan 27 (Fri), 12:15 PM Peter Mooney (req. by Mark & Margaret Roy)
- Jan 28 (Sat), 5:30 PM Rosemary Lupo (req. by Christine Swisher)
- Jan 29 (Sun), 8:00 AM Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI
Jan 29, 10:00 AM Alane Grant (req. by Leslie & Robert Sheehan)
- Jan 29, 6:00 PM 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

DAILY MASS 31 Jan (Tue) w/ Bishop Peter Libasci

BP. PETER LIBASCI will be with us January 31 to celebrate the 12:15 PM daily Mass and install Fr. Glasgow as Dean of the SOUHEGAN DEANERY (a 3-year appointment). This is in addition to his duties as pastor of St John Neumann Parish. EVERYONE IS WELCOME TO ATTEND.

FYI, The Dean exercises the functions described in Canons 553–555 of the Code of Canon Law, and other applicable canons and the general law of the Church, giving special attention to the following areas of pastoral concern:

1. He is to assist in the fraternal support of the clergy of the Deanery especially those in any trouble or need.
2. He is to assist the pastors and parishes of the Deanery by:
 - Fostering good liturgical practice in accord with the law of the Church and diocesan regulations;
 - Assuring that good administrative practices enable the communities of faith to practice good stewardship in all areas of parish life;
 - Promoting the continuing formation of the clergy.
3. He is to assist the Bishop in coordinating the parish visitation described in canons 396–398 of the Code of Canon Law, substituting for him when necessary.

THURSDAY MORNING WOMEN'S GROUP

This group of women meets Thursday mornings at 10am to grow deeper in faith through friendship, conversation, and shared reading. We are currently reading and discussing Dwell: A Study of the Eucharist, a study by Blessed Is She. Our current selection will run through March 9th. For more information or to join, please contact Claire (cbryson@sjnnh.org).

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. For more information on the course, go to ascensionpress.org.

RECOMMENDED PODCASTS

"THE CATECHISM IN A YEAR"

w/ Fr. Mike Schmitz
ascensionpress.com

"THE BIBLE IN A YEAR"

w/ Fr. Mike Schmitz
ascensionpress.com

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. 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", Daubman Family, Melissa & her nephew, Lenard, Joan, Clay, Ebi & his family, Roberta, Lesley, Brenda, expectant mothers, hospital workers, those with COVID/flu/RSV, those with balance issues, our country, and all of our parishioners and their needs.

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

The diocese is offering a number of employment opportunities. For more information, go to: www.catholicnh.org/about/stay-informed/bulletin/

TAX NOTICE

CONTRIBUTIONS REQUEST CARDS are located alongside the bulletins in lobby. Your financial support of the parish has been very much appreciated!

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

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DIANE BONENFANT

Sacristan

KATHY HOPKINS

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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
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