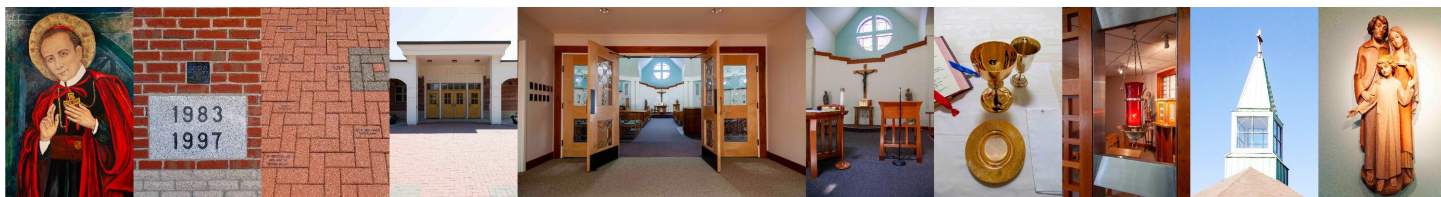


SAINT JOHN NEUMANN PARISH
708 Milford Rd (Rte 101A), Merrimack, NH 03054 — SJNNH.ORG



6th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
February 12, 2023

Very Rev. Robert Glasgow, V.F.
Chaplain (LTC) USA (Ret.)
(603) 880-4689 x113, pastor@sjnnh.org

Deacon Brian Lester
deacon@sjnnh.org

Teri Schmitt
Office Manager
(603) 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.

ON CHRISTIAN LIFE

Beloved, do not imitate evil but imitate good. Whoever does what is good is of God; whoever does what is evil has never seen God. —1 John 1:11

The excerpt below is from the opening chapter of Thomas à Kempis' Imitation of Christ, the most widely read Catholic devotional treatise on the life of faith since its publication ca. 1425.

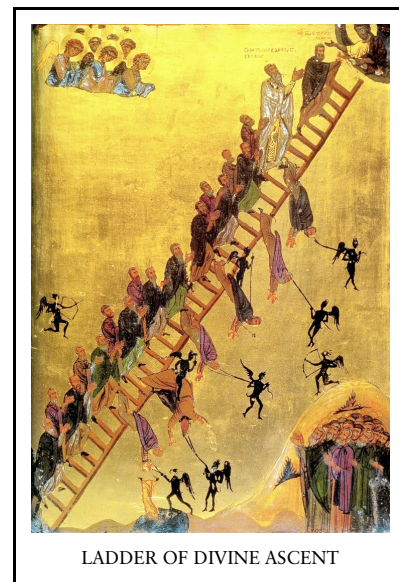
IMITATING CHRIST.

"He who follows Me, walks not in darkness," says the Lord (1 John 8:12). By these words of Christ we are advised to imitate His life and habits, if we wish to be truly enlightened and free from all blindness of heart. Let our chief effort, therefore, be to study the life of Jesus Christ.

The teaching of Christ is more excellent than all the advice of the saints, and he who has His spirit will find in it a hidden manna. Now, there are many who hear the Gospel often but care little for it because they have not the spirit of Christ. Yet whoever wishes to understand fully the words of Christ must try to pattern his whole life on that of Christ.

What good does it do to speak learnedly about the Trinity if, lacking humility, you displease the Trinity? Indeed it is not learning that makes a man holy and just, but a virtuous life makes him pleasing to God. I would rather feel contrition than know how to define it. For what would it profit us to know the whole Bible by heart and the principles of all the philosophers if we live without grace and the love of God? Vanity of vanities and all is vanity, except to love God and serve Him alone.

This is the greatest wisdom—to seek the kingdom of heaven through contempt of the world. It is vanity, therefore, to seek and trust in riches that perish. It is vanity also to court honor and to be puffed up with pride.



It is vanity to follow the lusts of the body and to desire things for which severe punishment later must come. It is vanity to wish for long life and to care little about a well-spent life. It is vanity to be concerned with the present only and not to make provision for things to come. It is vanity to love what passes quickly and not to look ahead where eternal joy abides.

Often recall the proverb: "The eye is not satisfied with seeing nor the ear filled with hearing" (Eccl 1:8). Try, moreover, to turn your heart from the love of things visible and bring yourself to things invisible. For they who follow their own evil passions stain their consciences and lose the grace of God.

HAVING A HUMBLE OPINION OF SELF. Every man naturally desires knowledge; but what good is knowledge without fear of God? Indeed a humble rustic who serves God is better than a proud intellectual who neglects his soul to study the course of the stars. He who knows himself well becomes mean in his own eyes and is not happy when praised by men.

If I knew all things in the world and had not charity, what would it profit me before God Who will judge me by my deeds?

Shun too great a desire for knowledge, for in it there is much fretting and delusion. Intellectuals like to appear learned and to be called wise. Yet there are many things the knowledge of which does little or no good to the soul, and he who concerns himself about other things than those which lead to salvation is very unwise.

Many words do not satisfy the soul; but a good life eases the mind and a clean conscience inspires great trust in God.

The more you know and the better you understand, the more severely will you be judged, unless your life is also the more holy. Do not be proud, therefore, because of your learning or skill. Rather, fear because of the talent given you. If you think you know many things and understand them well enough, realize at the same time that there is much you do not know. Hence, do not affect wisdom, but admit your ignorance. Why prefer yourself to anyone else when many are more learned, more cultured than you?

If you wish to learn and appreciate something worth while, then love to be unknown and considered as nothing. Truly to know and despise self is the best and most perfect counsel. To think of oneself as nothing, and always to think well and highly of others is the best and most perfect wisdom. Wherefore, if you see another sin openly or commit a serious crime, do not consider yourself better, for you do not know how long you can remain in good estate. All men are frail, but you must admit that none is more frail than yourself.

THE DOCTRINE OF TRUTH. Happy is he to whom truth manifests itself, not in signs and words that fade, but as it actually is. Our opinions, our senses often deceive us and we discern very little.

What good is much discussion of involved and obscure matters when our ignorance of them will not be held against us on Judgment Day? Neglect of things which are profitable and necessary and undue concern with those

which are irrelevant and harmful, are great folly.

We have eyes and do not see.

What, therefore, have we to do with questions of philosophy? He to whom the Eternal Word speaks is free from theorizing. For from this Word are all things and of Him all things speak—the Beginning Who also speaks to us. Without this Word no man understands or judges aright. He to whom it becomes everything, who traces all things to it and who sees all things in it, may ease his heart and remain at peace with God.

O God, You Who are the truth, make me one with You in love everlasting. I am often wearied by the many things I hear and read, but in You is all that I long for. Let the learned be still, let all creatures be silent before You; You alone speak to me.

The more recollected a man is, and the more simple of heart he becomes, the easier he understands sublime things, for he receives the light of knowledge from above. The pure, simple, and steadfast spirit is not distracted by many labors, for he does them all for the honor of God. And since he enjoys interior peace he seeks no selfish end in anything. What, indeed, gives more trouble and affliction than uncontrolled desires of the heart?

A good and devout man arranges in his mind the things he has to do, not according to the whims of evil inclination but according to the dictates of right reason. Who is forced to struggle more than he who tries to master himself? This ought to be our purpose, then: to conquer self, to become stronger each day, to advance in virtue.

Every perfection in this life has some imperfection mixed with it and no learning of ours is without some darkness. Humble knowledge of self is a surer path to God than the ardent pursuit of learning. Not that learning is to be considered evil, or knowledge, which is good in itself and so ordained by God; but a clean conscience and virtuous life ought always to be preferred. Many often err and accomplish little or nothing because they try to become learned rather than to live well.

If men used as much care in uprooting vices and implanting virtues as they do in discussing problems, there would not be so much evil and scandal in the world, or such laxity in religious organizations. On the day of judgment, surely, we shall not be asked what we have read but what we have done; not how well we have spoken but how well we have lived.

Tell me, where now are all the masters and teachers whom you knew so well in life and who were famous for their learning? Others have already taken their places and I know not whether they ever think of their predecessors. During life they seemed to be something; now they are seldom remembered. How quickly the glory of the world passes away! If only their lives had kept pace with their learning, then their study and reading would have been worth while.

How many there are who perish because of vain worldly knowledge and too little care for serving God. They became vain in their own conceits because they chose to be great rather than humble.

He is truly great who has great charity. He is truly great who is little in his own eyes and makes nothing of the

highest honor. He is truly wise who looks upon all earthly things as folly that he may gain Christ. He who does God's will and renounces his own is truly very learned.

PRUDENCE IN ACTION. Do not yield to every impulse and suggestion but consider things carefully and patiently in the light of God's will. For very often, sad to say, we are so weak that we believe and speak evil of others rather than good. Perfect men, however, do not readily believe every talebearer, because they know that human frailty is prone to evil and is likely to appear in speech.

Not to act rashly or to cling obstinately to one's opinion, not to believe everything people say or to spread abroad the gossip one has heard, is great wisdom.

Take counsel with a wise and conscientious man. Seek the advice of your betters in preference to following your own inclinations.

A good life makes a man wise according to God and gives him experience in many things, for the more humble he is and the more subject to God, the wiser and the more at peace he will be in all things.

LAST WEEK

5 Feb '23 - \$7,767.00
Catholic Schools - \$698.00
Capital Improvements - \$1,051.00

THANK YOU for your generosity!

WEEKLY CALENDAR

Feb 12, SUNDAY — 6th Week of Ordinary Time

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

Feb 13, MONDAY

12:15 PM | Daily Mass

Feb 14, TUESDAY — SS. Cyril and Methodius

8:00 AM | Red Cross
7:00 PM | Scouts Meeting

Feb 15, 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

Feb 16, THURSDAY

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

Feb 17, FRIDAY

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

Feb 18, 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)
5:30 PM | Mass

MASS INTENTIONS

Feb 11 (Sat), 5:30 PM	John & Lorraine Berube (req. by Mark & Joanna Kenna)
Feb 12 (Sun), 8:00 AM	Aunt Tillie Kozden (by niece Pat)
Feb 12, 10:00 PM	The Lantaigna Family - Jim, Althine, Jim & Jerry
Feb 12, 6:00 PM	Scott Miner (req. by Arvid & Bonnie Skogsholm)
Feb 13 (Mon), 12:15 PM	Holy Souls
Feb 18 (Sat), 5:30 PM	Daniel & Sue (req. by Mémère); Micheala McLaughlin (req. by the Rauscher Family)
Feb 19 (Sun), 8:00 AM	George Ritz (req. by family)
Feb 19, 10:00 AM	Theresa Dowling - 10th Anniv. (req. by family)

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

PARISH MUSIC MINISTRY

The parish Music Ministry is looking for Singers, Pianists, and Guitarists! Carol Yetto, our Director of Music Ministry, is looking for cantors to lead the singing during Mass. A love of music and the willingness to share your talents is all it takes! If you're interested in helping, please contact Carol at cyyetto3358@gmail.com or (603) 880-4689.

In addition, the SEASONAL CHOIR will be starting to rehearse for Holy Thursday and Easter Vigil masses on Tuesday evenings at 7:00 PM beginning on February 28th. Come join the choir and enjoy the beautiful music!

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS COUNCIL #10896



Several of our Knights will be participating in the PENGUIN PLUNGE FUNDRAISER to benefit the NH Special Olympics. Participants raise funds by jumping into the icy waters of Hampton Beach on Feb 12. For more information and/or to make a donation, please go to:

fundraising.sonh.org/fundraisers/knights/penguin-plunge

Thank you and "warm wishes" to the Knights!

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>](http://ascensionpress.org).

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, Gary, Tom & Jackie, Jane & Aslynn, Anne & Mary Lou, Bill, Steve, Tom, Amy, Kathy, Eddy & AnnMarie, Laura, "M", Ray, Sue, Paul, Mary, Jackie, Dorraine, Marium, Dave, Eiley, Mary, Marty, Lukas, Robin's grandson, Erin, Bill, for the finding of lost items, expectant mothers, hospital workers, those with COVID/flu/RSV, those with balance issues, our country, and all of our parishioners and their needs.

THE BIBLE IN A YEAR
& THE CATECHISM IN A YEAR
daily podcasts w/ Fr. Mike Schmitz
ascensionpress.com

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

cyetto3358@gmail.com

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)

parishcouncil@sjnnh.org

FINANCE COMMITTEE

Bob Fregault (Chairman)

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

Leo Bobek, Grand Knight

kofc@sjnnh.org