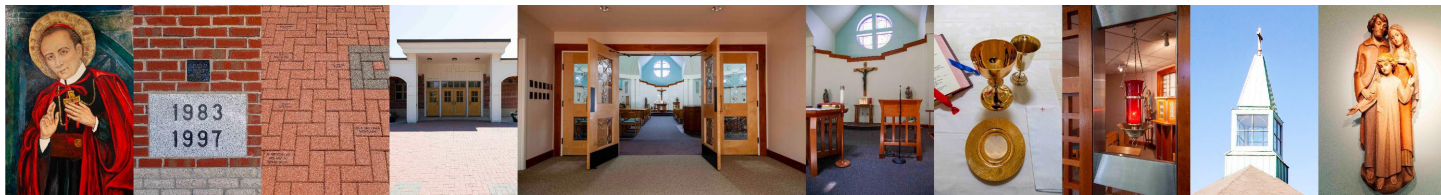


SAINT JOHN NEUMANN PARISH
708 Milford Rd (Rte 101A), Merrimack, NH 03054 — SJNNH.ORG



1st SUNDAY OF LENT
February 26, 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.

EITHER FIGHT OR DIE

Do not suppose that I have come to bring peace to the earth. I did not come to bring peace, but a sword. —Mt 10:34

The first excerpt below is from St Faustina's (d. 1938) Diary in which she encouraged everyone to prepare for the inevitable spiritual battles that will rage for our souls. She offers three words of advice that will greatly help us win the war: TRUST, PREPARE, PRAY [from Diary, Notebook I, 145-146]. The second excerpt, by way of example, is from The Life and Legends of Saint Francis of Assisi by Father Candide Chalippe, O.F.M., first published in 1727. And the third excerpt is from Dom Lorenzo Scupoli's (d. 1610) The Spiritual Combat, one of the most influential works on the spiritual life over the past 400 years. Father Scupoli's purpose is stated in Chapter One: "To guide a soul to the summit of spiritual perfection." Perfection is to know and love God. It is to despise/master all of our evil inclinations that we may be able/free to submit and abandon ourselves entirely to God out of love for Him.



JACOB WRESTLING WITH THE ANGEL [detail]
by Alexander Louis Leloir (d. 1884)

Fight the good fight of the faith; take hold of the eternal life, to which you were called and for which you made the good confession in the presence of many witnesses. —1 Tim 2:12

TRUST. "[The soul who has received much light and many inspirations] knows that to be faithful it will often have to face various difficulties, but it trusts in God and, thanks to this trust, it reaches that point to which God is calling it. Difficulties do not terrify it ... just as a



warrior who is constantly in battle is not terrified by the roar of the canon. Far from being frightened, it listens to determine from which side the enemy is launching his attack, in order to defeat him." N.B. It is no coincidence that Jesus had the inscription at the bottom of the Divine Mercy image say, "Jezu, ufam Tobie" [Pol., Jesus, I Trust in Thee].

PREPARE. "In time of peace, as well, the soul continues making efforts, just as in time of battle. It must exercise itself, and do so with energy; otherwise it has no chance of attaining victory. I regard the time of peace as a time of preparation for victory. The soul must be ever watchful; watchfulness and again, watchfulness."

PRAY. "A soul arms itself by prayer for all kinds of combat. In whatever state the soul may be, it ought to pray. A soul which is pure and beautiful must pray, or else it will lose its beauty; a soul which is striving after this purity must pray, or else it will never attain it; a soul which is newly converted must pray, or else it will fall again; a sinful soul, plunged in sins, must pray so that it might rise again. There is no soul which is not bound to pray, for every single grace comes to the soul through prayer."

AS soon as he [St Francis of Assisi] felt the smallest temptation, or if he only foresaw it, he took every precaution for resisting it. At the beginning of his conversion he frequently threw himself in the depth of winter, into freezing water, in order to subdue his domestic enemy, and to preserve his robe of innocence without stain, asserting that it is far less painful to a spiritual man to suffer the rigor of the severest cold, than to feel interiorly the slightest attack upon his purity.

THE first thing to do when you awake is to open the windows of your soul. Consider yourself as on the field of battle, facing the enemy and bound by the iron-clad law—EITHER FIGHT OR DIE.

Imagine the enemy before you, that particular vice or disorderly passion that you are trying to conquer—imagine this hideous opponent is about to overwhelm you. At the same time, picture at your right Jesus Christ, your Invincible Leader, accompanied by the Blessed Virgin, Saint Joseph, whole companies of angels and saints, and particularly by the glorious Archangel Michael. At your left is Lucifer and his troops, ready to support the passion or vice you are fighting and resolved to do anything to cause your defeat.

Imagine your guardian angel thus spurring you

on: "Today you must fight to conquer your enemy and anyone who tries to ruin you. Be courageous. Do not be afraid or cowardly. Christ your Captain is here with all the power of Heaven to protect you from the enemy, and to see that they never conquer you, either by brute power, or by trickery. Hold your ground! Do violence to yourself, no matter how painful it is. Call out for the help of Jesus and Mary and all the Saints. If you do this, you will be victorious."

It does not matter how weak you are—how strong the enemy may seem, either in number or in power. Do not be discouraged. The help you have from heaven is more powerful than all that hell can send to destroy the grace of God in your soul. God, the Creator and the Redeemer, is Almighty and more desirous of your salvation than the devil can be of your destruction.

Fight courageously, then, and do not neglect to mortify yourself. Continual war on your inordinate inclinations and vicious habits will gain the victory, acquire the kingdom of Heaven, and unite your soul to God forever.

Begin to fight immediately in the name of the Lord, armed with distrust of yourself, with confidence in God, in prayer, and with the correct use of the faculties of your soul. With these weapons, attack the enemy, that predominant passion you want to conquer, either by courageous resistance, repeated acts of the contrary virtue, or any means that heaven gives you to drive it out of your heart. Do not rest until it is conquered. Your endurance will be rewarded by the Supreme Judge, Who, with the entire Church triumphant, has witnessed your behavior.

To repeat—you must not become tired of this war. Everyone must serve and please God. It is impossible to avoid this fight. If anyone flees, he is exposed to being wounded and even destroyed. By revolting against God and indulging in a life of sensuality with the world the difficulties are not lessened, because both body and soul suffer greatly when given to luxury and ambition.

There is a great lack of vision in one who does not avoid a great deal of trouble in this life, followed by endless agony in the next, and yet shirks small difficulties which will soon end in an eternity of happiness and the never ending enjoyment of God.

LAST WEEK'S OFFERING

Posted on parish bulletin board.

THANK YOU for your generosity!

WEEKLY CALENDAR

Feb 26, SUNDAY — 1st Week of Lent

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

Feb 27, MONDAY

12:15 PM | Daily Mass

Feb 28, TUESDAY

7:00 PM | Scouts Meeting

Mar 1, WEDNESDAY

9:30 AM | Knitting Group (meets every other Wednesday)
10:00 AM | Faith Sharing
10:30 AM | "JESUS: The Way, the Truth, and the Life"
12:15 PM | Daily Mass
7:00 PM | "JESUS: The Way, the Truth, and the Life"

Mar 2, THURSDAY

10:00 AM | Thursday Women's Group
10:30 AM | OREMUS: Learn the Essentials of a Fruitful Prayer Life
12:15 PM | Daily Mass
7:00 PM | OREMUS: Learn the Essentials of a Fruitful Prayer Life

Mar 3, FIRST FRIDAY — Day of Abstinence

10:00 AM | Food Pantry
12:15 PM | DAILY MASS w/ Stations (Short Form), followed by Adoration
6:00 PM | STATIONS OF THE CROSS (Long Form), followed by Evening Prayer and Adoration
6:00 PM | CONFESSION (until 8:00 PM)

Mar 4, SATURDAY

8:30 AM | Men's Group
8:30 AM | First Saturday Rosary
9:00 AM | First Saturday Mass followed by 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

DEANERY PENANCE SERVICE

Immaculate Conception Church
(216 E Dunstable Rd, Nashua)
on 19 Mar (Sun) at 2:00 PM

MASS INTENTIONS

Feb 25 (Sat), 5:30 PM Alex Bonenfant (req. by mère)
Feb 26 (Sun), 8:00 AM Pat Davis (req. by Elaine Syseskey)
Feb 26 10:00 PM Leigh & Abram Dancy - LIVING INTENTION (req. by John & Mary Mann)
Feb 26, 6:00 PM Jack Nelson (req. by Mary Nelson)
Feb 27 (Mon), 12:15 PM Mary Carbonneau - LIVING INTENTION (req. by John &

Mar 1 (Wed), 4:30 PM Mary Mann
The Medeiros Family (req. by Emily Medeiros)
Mar 2 (Thu), 12:15 PM Pat Davis - 1st Anniv. (req. by Tom Davis)
Mar 3 (Fri), 12:15 PM John Michaud - Anniv. (req. by family)
Mar 4 (Sat), 5:30 PM Richard Boucher (req. by the Boucher Family)
Feb 26 (Sun), 8:00 AM Pat Davis (req. by Tom Davis)
Feb 26, 10:00 AM Raymond L'Heureux
Feb 26, 6:00 PM Leon Kennison (req. by Mary Nelson); Jim Shand - LIVING INTENTION (req. by Mary Nelson)

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

JESUS: THE WAY, THE TRUTH, AND THE LIFE

Wednesdays, 10:30 AM —or— 7:00 PM

The marvelous treasures of the Catholic Faith—the Eucharist, Mary, the saints, and the Creed—are all centered on a single figure: JESUS CHRIST. While many of us know a lot about him already, how well can we say that we really know him? Jesus: the Way, the Truth, and the Life is a new look at Jesus—who he is, what he is really like, what he taught, and what he did for our salvation. Beginning 1 March we will offer a 10-week study on Wednesdays at 10:30 AM and again at 7:00 PM. For more information contact: Cheri' (candersen@sjnnh.org).

OREMUS

Thursdays, 10:30 AM —or— 7:00 PM

OREMUS is an 8-part video series. It teaches you the essentials of an effective and fruitful prayer life. You will learn the essentials of a fruitful prayer life. In the words of St Gregory of Nyssa, "*By prayer we can be with God.*" Begins Thursday, Feb 23 and continues every Thursday at either 10:30 AM or 7:00 PM. POC: Fr. Robert Glasgow.

THURSDAY MORNING WOMEN'S GROUP

We meet Thursday mornings at 10:00 AM 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).

PARISH ♪ MUSIC ♪ MINISTRY

SEASONAL CHOIR rehearsals (for the Holy Thursday and Easter Vigil Masses) begin on Tuesday evenings at 7:00 PM, February 28th.

RICE BOWLS

"When love ceases to act, it ceases to exist" (Pope St Gregory the Great, d. 604).

RICE BOWLS are available in the foyer. Each Lent, Catholic families across the country are invited to unite through prayer, fasting and almsgiving. Your Lenten alms have the power to make the world a better place for all. Money raised supports the work of Catholic Relief Services. For more information on Catholic Relief Services, go to: CRS.ORG.

PARISH PRAYER LINE

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:

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, Olivia, Nathan, Debra & family, Teresa & family, Irene & family, Billy, Ashley, Rob & family, Barney, Pat, Mary, Bridget, Diane, for the finding of lost items, Turkey & Syria as they deal with earthquake destruction, our country, and all of our parishioners and their needs.

"You don't know how to pray? Put yourself in the presence of God, and as soon as you have said, 'Lord, I don't know how to pray!' you can be sure you've already begun." —St Josemaría Escrivá (d. 1975)

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-DONATION>.

<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

Children (K-5) and Family Ministry

cbryson@sjnnh.org | (603) 880-4689 x114

CHERI ANDERSEN

Youth (6-12) and Adult Ministry

candersen@sjnnh.org

(603) 880-4689 x111

CAROL YETTO

Music Ministry

CAROL HOPFENSPIRGER and EVELYN VERBECK

Outreach & Food Pantry

outreach@sjnnh.org | (603) 880-4689 x116

DIANE BONENFANT

Sacristan

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

kofo@sjnnh.org