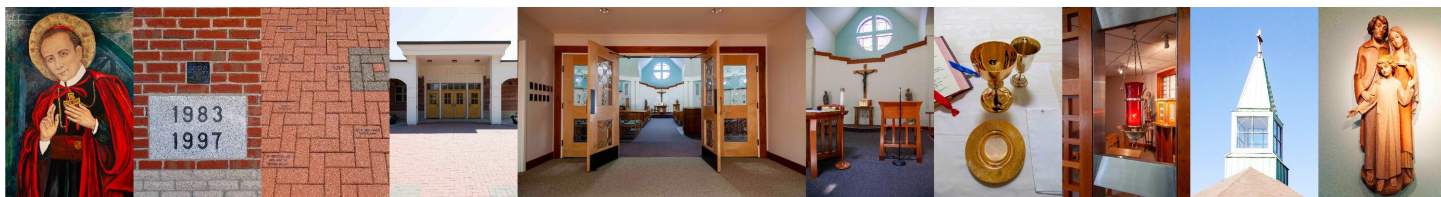


SAINT JOHN NEUMANN PARISH
708 Milford Rd (Rte 101A), Merrimack, NH 03054 — SJNNH.ORG



3rd SUNDAY OF LENT
March 12, 2023

Rev. Robert Glasgow
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 PRAYER

Look to the LORD and his strength; seek his face always. —1 Chron 16:11

The excerpts below are from a treatise on prayer by St Alphonsus Liguori (d. 1787) entitled How to Pray at All Times. He speaks of the necessity to lift our hearts and minds to God in prayer during difficult times [In Your Trials], but most especially after having committed sin [After a Fault]!

IN YOUR TRIALS. When you are afflicted with sickness, persecution, temptation, or any other trouble, turn at once to God and ask His help. It is enough for you to lay your affliction before Him—to go to Him and say: 'Behold, O Lord, for I am in distress' (Lam 1:20). He will not fail to comfort you, or at least to give you strength to suffer the trial with patience, and in this case it will prove a greater good than if He had freed you altogether from it. Tell Him of all the things that make you fear, or make you sad, and say to Him: 'My God, in You are all my hopes. I offer this cross to You. I resign myself to Your will. Take pity on me and either deliver me from my trial or give me strength to endure it.' He will remember immediately the promise which He made in the Gospel, of consoling and comforting all those who have recourse to Him in tribulation: 'Come to Me all you that labor and are burdened and I will refresh you (Mt 11:28).

He will not be displeased if you seek comfort from your friends in the hour of trial; but He wishes you to have recourse principally to Him. At least, therefore, when you have had recourse to creatures and they have not been able to console your heart, go to your Creator and say to Him: 'Lord, men have only words; they cannot afford me consolation. I no longer desire to be consoled by them. You alone are my hope; You alone my only love. By You alone do I desire to be comforted and the consolation I ask for, is to do on this occasion what is most pleasing to You. Behold, I am ready to endure this trial for the whole of my life, and for all eternity, if such be Your will. Only help me.'

Do not be afraid of offending Him if you sometimes gently complain, saying: 'Why, Lord, have You retired afar off? (Ps 10:1). 'Lord, You know that I love You, and that I desire nothing but Your love. Have pity on me and help me. Do not abandon me.'

If desolation should continue for a long



time and grievously afflict you, unite your voice to the voice of your afflicted Jesus and say: 'My God, my God, why have You forsaken me?' (Mt 28:46). Let the thought humble you that having offended God, you do not deserve His consolations. At the same time, remember that He permits every thing for your good, and do not lose confidence: 'All things work together unto good to them that love God' (Rom 8:28). Say with courage, even when you feel most troubled and disconsolate: 'The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear?' (Ps 27:1). Lord, You will guide me, You will save me; In You do I trust. In You, O Lord, have I hoped; let me never be confounded (Eccl 2:11). Reflect that God loves you more than you can love yourself. Why, then, should you be afraid? David brought comfort to his heart saying: 'The Lord is careful for me' (Ps 40:17). Let such be your sentiments, too, when you pray; and speak in this manner to God: 'Lord, I cast myself into Your arms; and I desire to think only of loving and pleasing You. Behold me ready to do what You ask of me. You do not only will my good, but You are "careful" for it. To You, then, I leave the care of my salvation. In You I rest, and will rest for evermore, since You will that in You I should place all my hopes': 'In peace, in the self-same I will sleep and I will rest; for You, O Lord, singularly have settled me in hope' (Ps 4:8).

'Think of the Lord in goodness' (Wis 1:1). In these words, the inspired writer exhorts us to have more confidence in the divine mercy than dread of the divine justice. For God is incomparably more inclined to bestow favours upon us than to chastise us, as Saint James says: 'Mercy exalts itself above judgment' (2:13). For this reason, Saint Peter exhorts us in all our fears—whether for our temporal or eternal interests—to abandon ourselves entirely to the goodness of God, who has the interests of our salvation at heart: 'Casting all your care upon Him, for He has care of you' (1 Pet 5:7).

The royal prophet, David, has the same message of hope when he gives to God the beautiful title of our God and the God who is willing to save us: 'Our God is the God of salvation' (Ps 68:20). This means, as St Robert Bellarmine explains it, that it is the will of God, not to condemn, but to save all. He threatens with His displeasure those who despise Him; but He promises mercy to those who fear Him: in the words of the canticle of our Blessed Lady: 'His mercy is from generation to generation to them that fear Him.'

I place before you, devout reader, all these passages from the sacred scriptures, so that if you are ever troubled by the doubt as to whether you will be saved or no—whether you are of the number of the predestined or no—you may take courage at the thought that you know from God's Word that He desires to save you, if only you are resolved to serve and love Him as He asks of you.

AFTER A FAULT. Another mark of confidence highly pleasing to our most loving God is this: that when you have committed any fault, you are not ashamed to go at once to Him and

seek His pardon. Consider that God is so willing to pardon sinners that He laments their perdition, when they depart far from Him and live dead to His grace. Therefore, does he lovingly call them, saying: 'Why will you die, O house of Israel? Return all of you, and live' (Ezek 18:31). He promises to receive a soul that has forsaken Him, if only it returns to His arms: 'Turn to Me ... and I will turn to you' (Zech 1:3). Would that sinners only knew how mercifully our Savior awaits them in order to pardon them: 'The Lord waits that He may have mercy upon you' (Isa 30:18).

Would that sinners realised the desire on the part of God, not, indeed, to chastise them, but to see them converted and to embrace and press them to His Heart: 'As I live, says the Lord God, I desire not the death of the wicked, but that the wicked turn from his way and live' (Ezek 33:11).

He has even still more consoling words: 'Come and accuse Me, says the Lord; if your sins be as scarlet, they shall be made as white as snow' (Isa 1:18). In other words. He says: 'Sinners, repent of having offended Me and then come to Me. If I do not pardon you, accuse Me of being unfaithful to My promises; but, no, I will keep My word. If you come to Me and repent, though your soul be dyed deep crimson with crime, by My grace it shall be made white as snow.' Almighty God promises even to forget the sinner's wrong-doing if only he repents: 'I will not remember all his iniquities' (Ezek 18:22). As soon, then, as you fall into any fault, raise your eyes to God, make an act of love, and humbly confessing your fault, place unwavering confidence in God, saying to Him: 'Lord, behold, he whom You love is sick' (John 11:3). The heart which You love is sick—is wounded. 'Heal my soul, for I have sinned against You' (Ps 41:4). 'You seek penitent sinners. Behold one at Your feet, seeking You. The evil is committed—what must I do? You will not have me lose confidence; even after the sin which I have committed. You desire my good, and I again love You. Yes, my God I love You with all my heart. I am sorry for my sin. and will never more offend You.' 'You are a God, sweet, and mild, and plenteous in mercy' (Ps 86:5). 'Pardon me. Let me hear from You what You did say to Magdalen: "Your sins are forgiven you" (Luke 7:48); and give me strength for the future to be faithful to You.'

Then, in order not to be discouraged, cast your eyes upon Jesus Christ crucified; offer to the Eternal Father his merits, and confidently hope for pardon; since to pardon you he spared not his own Son. Say to him with confidence: 'Look on the face of Your Christ; Your Anointed One' (Ps 84:9). God, have regard to Your Son who has died for me and for His sake grant me pardon.'

Attend, especially, devout soul, to what is

commonly taught by masters of the spiritual life, who recommend you to have recourse immediately to God after you have fallen, although you should repeat the fall a hundred times in the day. Having done this, do not be disturbed. If you remain discouraged and troubled because of the fault committed, you will scarcely speak to God; your confidence will grow less your desire to love God will grow cold and you will make little or no advance in the way of the Lord. On the other hand, by having immediate recourse to God, asking His pardon and promising amendment for the future, your very faults will help you to advance in divine love. Between friends who sincerely love one another, it sometimes happens that when one offends the other and then humbles himself and asks pardon, their friendship becomes stronger than ever. Do you act in like manner with regard to God: let your faults only strengthen the bonds of love, which unite you to Him.

WEEKLY CALENDAR

Mar 12, SUNDAY — 3rd Week of Lent

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

Mar 13, MONDAY

12:15 PM | Daily Mass

Mar 14, TUESDAY

7:00 PM | Scouts Meeting

Mar 15, 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 16, 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 17, 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 18, SATURDAY

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

MASS INTENTIONS

Mar 11 (Sat), 5:30 PM Kayleigh Bonenfant (req. by Mémère)
Mar 12 (Sun), 8:00 AM Sarah Duzan (req. by Mary Nelson)
Mar 12, 10:00 AM Little Larry, Nana & Rainy (req. by Judy Hardy)
Mar 12, 6:00 PM Jack Nelson (req. by Mary Nelson)
Mar 13 (Mon), 12:15 PM Jamie Vivieros - LIVING INTENTION (req. by Mary Nelson)
Mar 15 (Wed), 12:15 PM Dylan Girard - LIVING INTENTION (req. by Ida)
Mar 17 (Fri), 12:15 PM Ed Foran (req. by Mary Nelson)
Mar 18 (Sat), 5:30 PM Pat Ally (req. by the Boucher Family)
Mar 19 (Sun), 8:00 AM Joseph DuBois (req. by Sandra Towne)
Mar 19, 10:00 AM Sally Clifford - LIVING INTENTION (req. by Pat Hughes)
Mar 19, 10:00 AM Mary Grandmaison, Michael Nelson - 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

DEANERY PENANCE SERVICE
Next Sunday (19 Mar), 2:00-4:00 PM
Immaculate Conception Parish
216 E Dunstable Rd, Nashua

PARISH MUSIC MINISTRY

SEASONAL CHOIR rehearsals (for the Holy Thursday and Easter Vigil Masses) continue Tuesday evenings at 7:00 PM.

JESUS: THE WAY, THE TRUTH, AND THE LIFE
Wednesdays, 10:30 AM —or— 7:00 PM

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.

OREMUS

Thursdays, 10:30 AM—or— 7:00 PM

Oremus is an 8-part video series with the goal of teaching the essentials of a fruitful prayer life.

THURSDAY MORNING WOMEN'S GROUP

We meet Thursday mornings at 10:00 AM to grow deeper in faith through friendship, conversation, and shared reading. For more information or to join, please contact Claire <cbryson@sjnnh.org>.

SAINT CHRISTOPHER ACADEMY

Upper Campus (Middle School) OPEN HOUSE
15 Mar (Wed), 6:00-7:30 PM

St Christopher Academy will hold an OPEN HOUSE for prospective students in Grades 6 to 8 at its UPPER CAMPUS (6 Bartlett Ave, Nashua) on 15 March, a Wednesday, from 6:00-7:30 PM. Middle School students at Saint Chris thrive in a focused environment that emphasizes outstanding academics built on a strong Catholic moral and spiritual foundation. To learn more about Saint Chris, visit <SaintChrisAcademy.org> or contact Enrollment Coordinator, Lorrice Bedard at (603) 882-7442, ext. 310.

THE LETTER - A MESSAGE FOR OUR EARTH

Please join us on March 22 (6:00-8:00 PM) at the RED RIVER THEATRES (11 South Main St, Concord) for this brilliant and moving documentary which focuses on Pope Francis' 24 May 2015 encyclical 'LAUDATO SI' on care for our common home. A panel discussion follows.

PRAYER LINE MINISTRY

To add someone to the prayer line, please contact Teri at the parish office: (603) 880-4689, tschmitt@sjnnh.org. Please pray for:

Olivia, Nathan, Debra & family, Teresa & family, Irene & family, Billy, Ashley, Rob & family, Barney, Pat, Mary, Bridget, Diane, Renee, Joe, Leslie, Lorraine, April, Jamie, Joe, Gary, Bill & Rita, Terri, Jim, Dorraine, Ashley, and for a mother and two children with the gene for blindness.

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)

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>

SJN Staff

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CAROL HOPFENSPIRGER and EVELYN VERBECK

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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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