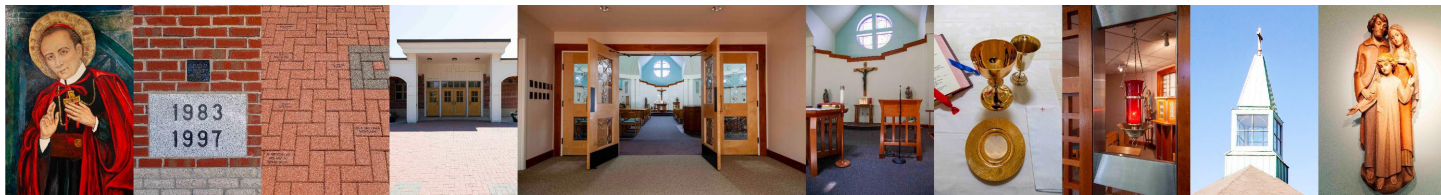


SAINT JOHN NEUMANN PARISH
708 Milford Rd (Rte 101A), Merrimack, NH 03054 — SJNNH.ORG



PASSION [alt., PALM] SUNDAY
April 2, 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

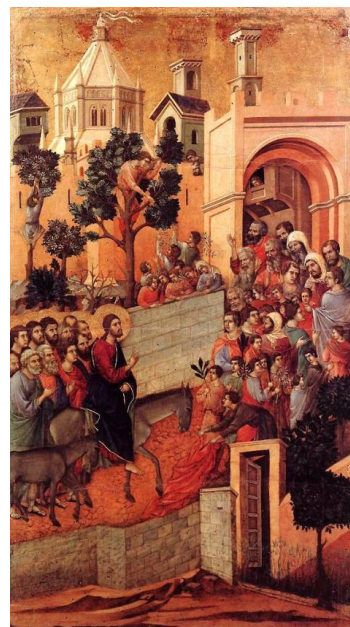
RCIA is the process of formation offered to those who seek to become Catholic. For information, please call the office.

THE CROSS

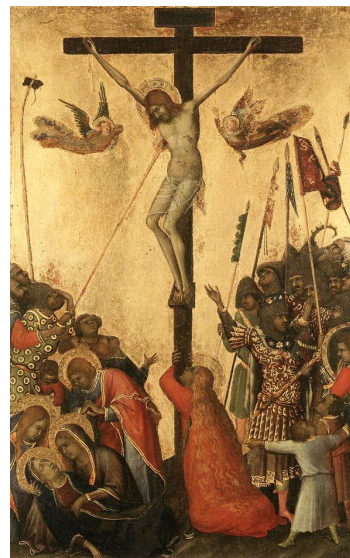
The Son of Man must suffer greatly and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes, and be killed, and rise after three days.
—Mark 8:32-32

The first excerpt below is from a homily by St John Chrysostom (d. 407) on the Holy Cross. The Cross not only released us from the evil that possessed us, but it is the source of countless blessings. The second excerpt is St Thomas Aquinas' (d. 1274) explanation of the twofold reason Christ suffered and died for us; namely, as a remedy for sin and to exemplify every virtue.

LET us consider of what great blessings for us Christ's Cross has become the cause. For though the Lord's Cross sounds sad and bitter, it is in reality full of joy and radiance. For the Cross is the salvation of the Church; the Cross is the boast of those who hope in it; the Cross is reconciliation of enemies to God and conversion of sinners to Christ. For through the Cross we have been delivered from enmity, and through the Cross we have been joined in friendship to God. Through the Cross we have been freed from the tyranny of the devil, and through the Cross



ENTRY INTO JERUSALEM
by Duccio (d. 1319)



THE CRUCIFIXION
by Simone Martini (d. 1344)

we have been delivered from death and destruction. 'When the Cross was not proclaimed, we were held fast by death; now the Cross is proclaimed, and we have. come to despise death, as though it did not exist, while we have come to long for everlasting life. 'When the Cross was not proclaimed, we were strangers to paradise; but when the Cross appeared, at once a thief was found worthy of paradise. From such darkness the human race has crossed over to infinite light; from death it has been called to everlasting life, from corruption it has been renewed for incorruption. For the eyes of the heart are no longer covered by the darkness that comes through ignorance, but through the Cross they are flooded with the light of knowledge. The ears of the deaf are no longer shut by unbelief, for the deaf have heard the word of the Lord, and the blind have recovered their sight to see the glory of God. These are the gifts we are given through the Cross. What blessing has not been achieved for us through the Cross?

The Cross is proclaimed, and faith in God is confessed and truth prevails in the whole inhabited world. The Cross is proclaimed, and martyrs are revealed and confession of Christ prevails. The Cross is proclaimed, and the resurrection is revealed, life is made manifest, the kingdom of heaven is assured. The Cross has become the cause of all these things, and through the Cross we have been taught to sing. What then is more precious than the Cross? What more profitable for our souls? So let us not be ashamed to name the Cross, but let us confess it with total confidence.

Christ is hung upon the Cross, and the devil has become a corpse. Christ has been stretched on the Cross, and a standard of salvation has been given to the world. Christ has been nailed to the Cross, and every soul has been released from bonds. Christ has been fixed to the Cross, and all creation has been set free from the slavery of corruption. Christ has breathed his last on the Cross, and a new marvel has been shown to the world; for the sun's light is darkened. This what a prophetic saying cries out, "And it shall come to pass in that day, says the Lord, that the sun will set at midday, and the light will become dark in the daytime, and I will change all your feasts into grief and all your songs into laments" (Amos 8:9). Do you see, beloved, how great a mystery the prophetic saying holds? For here the deeds of both are intimated: I mean of the Jews, who are under the law, and of the nations, who are outside the law, who both practice iniquity. For those who feast according to the law will grieve as they celebrate their feasts, and instead of songs, they make lamentations over Jerusalem. For Jerusalem will no longer hold solemn rites, and no feast will be celebrated in it. While pagan nations will mourn, making confession for their sins, and mourning is cause of blessedness. For scripture says, "Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted" (Matthew 5:4). They will mourn, then, over their empty feasts and lawless songs that they performed for the unclean demons. Take note then today how a pagan, repenting for the evil things he has done, laments and says with the prophet, "We have erred and strayed in our shame, and our sins have covered us, for we have been filled with our impiety. We have acknowledged the iniquities of our fathers". So then let us too lament and mourn for the evils that have been laid to

our charge; let us cling to the Cross, placing all our hopes on the Cross, so that taught through the Cross, fixing our thought on heaven, being brought close to Christ our Savior, we may be found worthy to be near God in the kingdom of heaven, in Christ our Lord himself, to whom be glory and might to the ages of ages. Amen.

WHY did the Son of God have to suffer for us?

There was a great need, and it can be considered in a twofold way: in the first place, as a remedy for sin, and secondly, as an example of how to act.

It is a remedy, for, in the face of all the evils which we incur on account of our sins, we have found relief through the passion of Christ. Yet, it is no less an example, for the passion of Christ completely suffices to fashion our lives. Whoever wishes to live perfectly should do nothing but disdain what Christ disdained on the cross and desire what he desired, for the cross exemplifies every virtue.

If you seek the example of love: Greater love than this no man has, than to lay down his life for his friends. Such a man was Christ on the cross. And if he gave his life for us, then it should not be difficult to bear whatever hardships arise for his sake.

If you seek patience, you will find no better example than the cross. Great patience occurs in two ways: either when one patiently suffers much, or when one suffers things which one is able to avoid and yet does not avoid. Christ endured much on the cross, and did so patiently, because when he suffered he did not threaten; he was led like a sheep to the slaughter and he did not open his mouth. Therefore Christ's patience on the cross was great. In patience let us run for the prize set before us, looking upon Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith who, for the joy set before him, bore his cross and despised the shame.

If you seek an example of humility, look upon the crucified one, for God wished to be judged by Pontius Pilate and to die.

If you seek an example of obedience, follow him who became obedient to the Father even unto death. For just as by the disobedience of one man, namely, Adam, many were made sinners, so by the obedience of one man, many were made righteous.

If you seek an example of despising earthly things, follow him who is the King of kings and the Lord of lords, in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge. Upon the cross he was stripped, mocked, spat upon, struck, crowned with thorns, and given only vinegar and gall to drink.

Do not be attached, therefore, to clothing and riches, because they divided my garments among themselves. Nor to honors, for he experienced harsh words and scourgings. Nor to greatness of rank, for weaving a crown of thorns they placed it

on my head. Nor to anything delightful, for in my thirst they gave me vinegar to drink.

WEEKLY CALENDAR

Apr 2, SUNDAY — HOLY WEEK

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

Apr 3, MONDAY

10:00 AM | CONFESSION (until 12:00 PM)
12:15 PM | Daily Mass
1:00 PM | CONFESSION (until 3:00 PM)
6:00 PM | CONFESSION (until 8:00 PM)

Apr 4, TUESDAY

7:00 PM | Scouts Meeting

Apr 5, 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"

Apr 6, HOLY THURSDAY

10:00 AM | Thursday Women's Group
*NOTE | 10:30 AM and 7:00 PM - OREMUS (class #4) continues next week
7:00 PM | MASS OF THE LORD'S SUPPER followed by Adoration

Apr 7, GOOD FRIDAY — Day of Fast and Abstinence

10:00 AM | Food Pantry
3:00 PM | STATIONS OF THE CROSS
7:00 PM | COMMEMORATION OF THE LORD'S PASSION

Apr 8, HOLY SATURDAY

7:45 PM | EASTER VIGIL

Apr 9, EASTER SUNDAY

8:00 AM | Mass
10:00 AM | Mass, followed by Easter Egg Hunt
6:00 PM | Mass

MASS INTENTIONS

Apr 1 (Sat), 5:30 PM | Jeanne Strouse (req. by the Boucher Family)
Apr 2 (Sun), 8:00 AM | Pat Davis (req. by Tom Davis)
Apr 2, 10:00 AM | Leslie Sheehan (req. by Robert Sheehan)
Apr 2, 6:00 PM | Ed Merchant (req. by Mary Nelson)
Apr 5 (Wed), 12:15 PM | Eugene Mooney (req. by Mark & Margaret Roy)
Apr 6 (Thu), 12:15 PM | Rita Brands (req. by Mark &

Apr 8 (Sat), 7:45 PM | Margaret Roy)
Rick Boucher (req. by the Boucher Family)
Apr 9 (Sun), 8:00 AM | Eugene Mooney (req. by Mark & Margaret Roy)
Apr 9, 10:00 AM | Laurence Richard (req. by JoAnn Markward & Alice Lewis)

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

HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE

CONFESSION

Monday of Holy Week

3 Apr

10 AM-12 PM, 1-3 and 6-8 PM

HOLY THURSDAY

Evening Mass of the Lord's Supper followed by Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

6 Apr, 7:00 PM

GOOD FRIDAY

Stations of the Cross

7 Apr, 3:00 PM

—and—

Commemoration of the Lord's Passion

7 Apr, 7:00 PM

HOLY SATURDAY

Easter Vigil

8 Apr, 7:45 PM

EASTER SUNDAY

9 Apr

8:00 AM, 10:00 AM and 6:00 PM

*Children's EASTER EGG HUNT follows the 10:00 AM Mass

IN MEMORIAM

Donations for EASTER FLOWER were made in memory of:

Ann Wellman, William Wellman, Charles Vanecek, Helena Vanecek, John Siebert, Edwin & Julia Lemire, Donald Vanecek, Mark Clark, Elfriede Rauscher, Michaela McLaughlin, Virginia Early, Mr. & Mrs. Herman Hetzler, Mr. & Mrs. Richard Wadleigh, Annette Marie Koman, Irene & Vic

Fournier, Jennie Pinelle, George A. Ritz, Deceased
Members of the Maresco Family, Deceased
Members of the Ammirati Family, Carol Rich,
Raymond L'Heureux, Mr. & Mrs. Max Miosek,
Mr. & Mrs. Joe Wezalis, Edith Krhoun, Claudia
King, Camilla Neveu, Estelle Neveu, Eric Faucher,
Deb Cyr, Simon Mardek, the Faucher Family, The
Mardek Family, Margaret Elizabeth Watson,
Elizabeth Ann Hannan, Little Larry, Larry
Boudreau, Mary Boudreau, Rainy Lill, Mary
McComack, Richard D. Mihaly, Richard K. Allen,
Kelly Family, Henry Ledezma, Cyra Valdez, Victor
Fuentes, Eudocia Nunez, Dimas Ramirez, Rose
Carolyn McGovern, James F. McGovern, Sr., Elsie
Moorehead, Lurena Lemery, Raymond Lemery,
Michael Mercier, Thomas Mercier, Ted Zagwyn,
Beatrice Lampin



V. Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord.
R/. *And let perpetual light shine upon them.*
May their souls and the souls of all the faithful
departed, through the mercy of God, rest in
peace. Amen.

Saint John Neumann YARN MINISTRY

We are small but mighty! We continue to craft
Prayer Shawls going to Hospice House and St
Joseph's Hospital. Chemo Caps are given to the
Radiation Center in Nashua as well as the Cancer
Center at St Joseph's Hospital. Our mission has
expanded to supporting the Linus Project and year-
round scarfs for the military. *Our ministry has been
providing warmth and love to our community for
over 20 years!*

We are always in need to DONATIONS and NEW
MEMBERS ARE ALWAYS WELCOME! Thank
you for your continued support!

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, Dale, Cecily,

Herbert, Diane, Fred & Izzy, Meredith, Hamesh & Zelda, Unele, Andrea, Patty's Father, Edward, Lois, Patty, Kyle, Sarah, Vivian, River, Lula, Normand, mental wellness, those seeking a better job & life for their families, the under-employed and the unemployed, mother & 2 children with the gene for blindness, for the finding of lost items, Ukraine, Turkey & Syria as they deal with earthquake destruction, our country, and all of our parishioners and their needs.

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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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
kofo@sjnnh.org