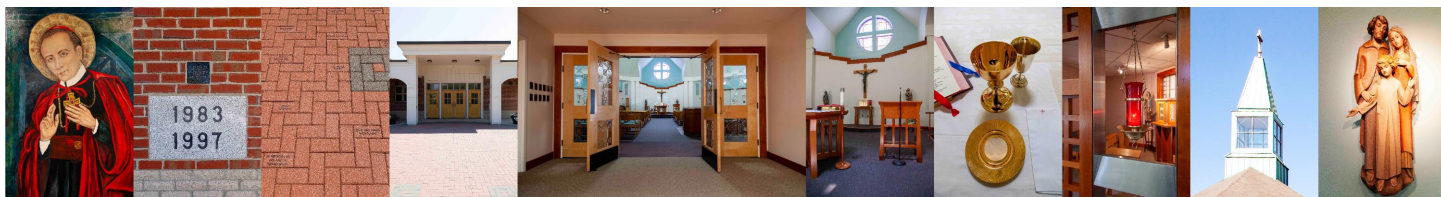


SAINT JOHN NEUMANN PARISH

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



3rd SUNDAY OF EASTER
April 23, 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 JUDGMENT

Before a man are life and death, and whichever he chooses will be given to him. —Sir 15:17

The first excerpt below is from St Catherine of Genoa's (d. 1510) treatise On Purgatory. The second is from St Catherine of Siena's (d. 1380) The Dialogue of Divine Providence. The two excerpts contrast the fate of souls who accept the gift/grace of salvation and those who reject it.

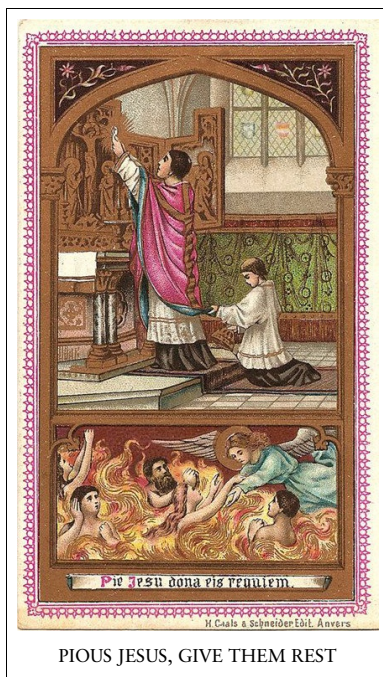
What is the joy of the souls in Purgatory.

A comparison to shew how they see God ever more and more.

The difficulty of speaking of this state.

I BELIEVE no happiness can be found worthy to be compared with that of a soul in Purgatory except that of the saints in Paradise; and day by day this happiness grows as God flows into these souls, more and more as the hindrance to His entrance is consumed. Sin's rust is the hindrance, and the fire burns the rust away so that more and more the soul opens itself up to the divine inflowing. A thing which is covered cannot respond to the sun's rays, not because of any defect in the sun, which is shining all the time, but because the cover is an obstacle; if the cover be burnt away, this thing is open to the sun; more and more as the cover is consumed does it respond to the rays of the sun.

It is in this way that rust, which is sin, covers souls, and in Purgatory is burnt away by fire; the more it is consumed, the more do the souls respond to God, the true sun. As the rust lessens and the soul is opened up to the divine ray, happiness grows; until the time be accomplished the one wanes and the other waxes. Pain however does not lessen but only the time for which pain is endured. As



PIOUS JESUS, GIVE THEM REST



for will: never can the souls say these pains are pains, so contented are they with God's ordaining with which, in pure charity, their will is united.

But, on the other hand, they endure a pain so extreme that no tongue can be found to tell it, nor could the mind understand its least pang if God by special grace did not shew so much. Which least pang God of His grace shewed to this Soul, but with her tongue she cannot say what it is. This sight which the Lord revealed to me has never since left my mind and I will tell what I can of it. They will understand whose mind God deigns to open.

Separation from God is the chief punishment of Purgatory.
Wherein Purgatory differs from Hell.

All the pains of Purgatory arise from original or actual sin. God created the soul pure, simple and clean of all stain of sin, with a certain beatific instinct towards Himself whence original sin, which the soul finds in itself, draws it away, and when actual is added to original sin the soul is drawn yet further away. The further it departs from its beatific instinct, the more malignant it becomes because it corresponds less to God.

There can be no good save by participation in God, who meets the needs of irrational creatures as He wills and has ordained, never failing them, and answers to a rational soul in the measure in which He finds it cleansed of sin's hindrance. When therefore a soul has come near to the pure and clear state in which it was created, its beatific instinct discovers itself and grows unceasingly, so impetuously and with such fierce charity (drawing it to its last end) that any hindrance seems to this soul a thing past bearing. The more it sees, the more extreme is its pain.

Because the souls in Purgatory are without the guilt of sin, there is no hindrance between them and God except their pain, which holds them back so that they cannot reach perfection. Clearly they see the grievousness of every least hindrance in their way, and see too that their instinct is hindered by a necessity of justice: thence is born a raging fire, like that of Hell save that guilt is lacking to it. Guilt it is which makes the will of the damned in Hell malignant, on whom God does not bestow His goodness and who remain therefore in desperate ill will, opposed to the will of God.

Of the state of the souls in Hell and of the difference
between them and those in Purgatory.

Reflections on those who are careless of their salvation.

Hence it is manifest that there is perversity of will, contrary to the will of God, where the guilt is known and ill will persists, and that the guilt of those who have passed with ill will from this life to Hell is not remitted, nor can be since they may no longer change the will with which they have passed out of this life, in which passage the soul is made stable in good or evil in accordance with its deliberate will. As it is written, "Ubi te invenero" [Lt., "where I find you"], that is, at the hour of death, with the will to sin or dissatisfaction with sin or repentance for sin, "Ibi te judicabo" [Lt., "I will judge you there"]. Of which judgment there is afterwards no remission, as I will shew: After death free will can never return, for the will is fixed as it was at

the moment of death. Because the souls in Hell were found at the moment of death to have in them the will to sin, they bear the guilt throughout eternity, suffering not indeed the pains they merit but such pains as they endure, and these without end. But the souls in Purgatory bear only pain, for their guilt was wiped away at the moment of their death when they were found to be ill content with their sins and repentant for their offences against divine goodness. Therefore their pain is finite and its time ever lessening, as has been said.

O misery beyond all other misery, the greater that human blindness takes it not into account!

The pain of the damned is not infinite in quantity because the dear goodness of God sheds the ray of His mercy even in Hell. For man dead in sin merits infinite pain for an infinite time, but God's mercy has allotted infinity to him only in time and has determined the quantity of his pain; in justice God could have given him more pain.

O how dangerous is sin committed in malice! Hardly does a man repent him thereof, and without repentance he will bear its guilt for as long as he perseveres, that is for as long as he wills a sin committed or wills to sin again.

HOW THE DAMNED CANNOT DESIRE ANY GOOD

"AND their hatred is so great that they cannot will or desire any good, but they continually blaspheme Me. And do you know why they cannot desire good? Because the life of man ended, free-will is bound. Wherefore they cannot merit, having lost, as they have, the time to do so. If they finish their life, dying in hatred with the guilt of mortal sin, their souls, by divine justice, remain forever bound with the bonds of hatred, and forever obstinate in that evil, in which, therefore, being gnawed by themselves, their pains always increase, especially the pains of those who have been the cause of damnation to others, as that rich man, who was damned, demonstrated to you when he begged the favor that Lazarus might go to his brothers, who were in the world, to tell them of his pains. This, certainly, he did not do out of love or compassion for his brothers, for he was deprived of love and could not desire good, either for My honor or their salvation, because, as I have already told you, the damned souls cannot do any good to their neighbor, and they blaspheme Me, because their life ended in hatred of Me and of virtue. But why then did he do it? He did it because he was the eldest, and had nourished them up in the same miseries in which he had lived, so that he was the cause of their damnation, and he saw pain increased to himself, on account of their damnation when they should arrive in torment together with him, to be gnawed forever by hatred, because in hatred they finished their lives."

WEEKLY CALENDAR

Apr 23, SUNDAY — 3rd Week of Easter Season

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

Apr 24, MONDAY

12:15 PM | Daily Mass

Apr 25, TUESDAY

7:00 PM | Scouts Meeting

Apr 26, 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 27, THURSDAY

9:00 AM | Day Away
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

Apr 28, FRIDAY — Day of Penance

10:00 AM | Food Pantry
12:15 PM | Daily Mass, followed by Adoration

Apr 29, 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

Apr 22 (Sat), 5:30 PM	Robert Monnes (req. by Yarn Ministry)
Apr 23 (Sun), 8:00 AM	Eugene Mooney (req. by Mark & Margaret Roy)
Apr 23 10:00 AM	Gertrude Roy Belanger (req. by the Lester Family); Peter Lorman (5th Anniv., req. by Donna Lorman)
Apr 23, 6:00 PM	Fr. Robert Whitney - LIVING INTENTION (req. by the Connelly Family)
Apr 24 (Mon), 12:15 PM	Mass of Thanksgiving (req. by John & Mary Mann)
Apr 26 (Wed), 12:15 PM	Donald Ross, Sr. (req. by Mark & Margaret Roy)
Apr 27 (Thu), 12:15 PM	Dick Hinch (req. by Mark & Margaret Roy)
Apr 28 (Fri), 12:15 PM	Medeiros Family (req. by Emily Medeiros)
Apr 29 (Sat), 7:45 PM	John Connelly (req. by Eleanor Boucher)
Apr 30 (Sun), 8:00 AM	Suzanne Varner (req. by John & Mary Mann)
Apr 30, 10:00 AM	Catherine Chiasson (req. by Sandra Towne)
Apr 30, 6:00 PM	Michael Lafleur (req. by Anne Mowbray)

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

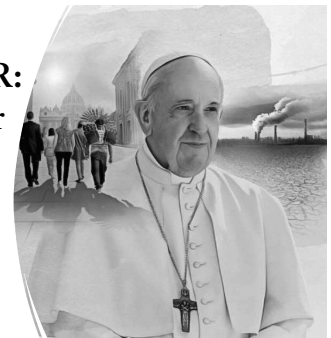
— PLEASE NOTE —

SCHEDULE CHANGE: The decision was made, a change from previous years, to continue the **SUNDAY 6:00 PM MASS** throughout the summer months (Memorial Day through Labor Day).

Screening of

THE LETTER: A Message for Our Earth

w/ Potluck Dinner
May 13
6:30-8:30 PM
Parish Hall



Join us for a potluck dinner and screening of **THE LETTER: A MESSAGE FOR OUR EARTH**, a documentary which explores Pope Francis' encyclical **LAUDATO SI'**. The encyclical, a development of Catholic Social Teaching, expresses the Holy Father's concern for the environment, the proper care and stewardship of our common home and its resources.

Please bring a dish to share if you can. Open to all, not just parishioners. Sign-up after Mass or contact marybeth.raven@gmail.com (so we know how many tables and chairs to set up).

IN MEMORIAM

One additional donation for **EASTER FLOWERS** was made in memory of "Uncle Fred".



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

WIDOWS GROUP

We meet the second Saturday of the month in room #3 (Parish Hall) at 9:30 AM. For more information, contact Tricia Morz at (603) 494-2517. We are here:

- To provide emotional, spiritual, and practical support to men and women who have lost a spouse or significant other.
- To Directly offer education and other services to the widowed and their families during the grieving period following this catastrophic loss.
- To connect survivors to essential resources conducive to positive growth.

Saint Francis School CHARITY GOLF TOURNAMENT

Please join us for the 2nd Annual Saint Francis Charity Golf Tournament held at Stonebridge Country Club in Goffstown, NH at 9:00 AM on June 20 (Tuesday). *All proceeds will benefit Catholic Education.* To learn more and to register, please call (603) 424-3312 or visit:

www.StFrancisSchoolNH.org

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:

Cecily, Herbert, Diane, Fred & Izzy, Meredith, Hamesh & Zelda, Unele, Andrea, Patty's Father, Edward, Lois, Patty, Kyle, Sarah, Vivian, River, Lula, Normand, Russell, Elizabeth, Mary, Shelagh, Doreen, Pope Francis, Amy, Valerie, Charlotte, Helen, Joan, the soul of Theresa, Seth, Patty's father, Joe, Liz's father, the soul of MaryAnne, pregnant mothers, our children who have stepped away from the faith, mental wellness, those seeking a better job & life for their families, the under-employed and the unemployed, Ukraine, our country, and all of our parishioners and their needs.

OFFERING

16 Apr '23 (2nd Sunday of Easter) - \$8,927.00
Capital Improvement - \$2,200.00

THANK YOU for your generosity!

NOTE: If early submission doesn't allow us to post the offering in the Sunday Bulletin, it is always posted on the bulletin board opposite the front office.

PARISH *online*

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

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

cyetto3358@gmail.com

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