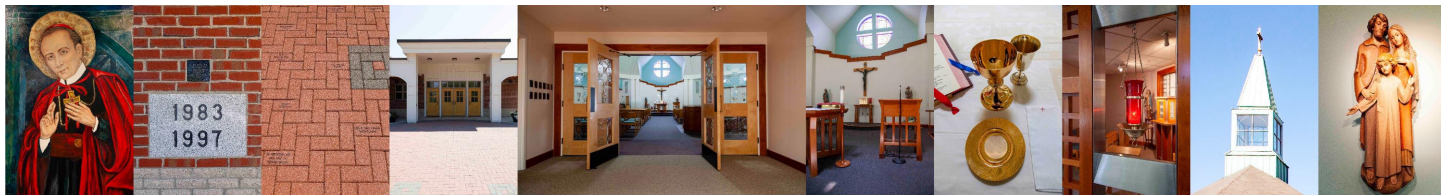


SAINT JOHN NEUMANN PARISH
708 Milford Rd (Rte 101A), Merrimack, NH 03054 — SJNNH.ORG



June 25, 2023
12th SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME
Fourth Sunday after Pentecost

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.

CONSTANT BATTLE

But far be it from me to boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by which the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world.
—Gal 6:14

The excerpt below is from Pope Francis' 19 Mar 2018 Apostolic Exhortation, "ON THE CALL TO HOLINESS IN TODAY'S WORLD". Beginning at para. 158, the Holy Father says the cross is laid on every Christian. It meets us at the beginning of our communion with Christ. It is that dying of the old man which is the result of his encounter with Christ. In the words of St Rose of Lima (d. 1617), "Apart from the cross there is no other ladder by which we may get to heaven."



BETRAYAL AND ARREST OF CHRIST
by Duccio di Buoninsegna (d. 1319)

The Christian life is a constant battle. We need strength and courage to withstand the temptations of the devil and to proclaim the Gospel. This battle is sweet, for it allows us to rejoice each time the Lord triumphs in our lives.

COMBAT AND VIGILANCE

We are not dealing merely with a battle against the world and a worldly mentality that would deceive us and leave us dull and mediocre, lacking in enthusiasm and joy. Nor can this battle be reduced to the struggle against our human weaknesses and proclivities (be they laziness, lust, envy, jealousy or any others). It is also a constant struggle against the devil, the prince of evil. Jesus himself celebrates our victories. He rejoiced when his disciples made progress in preaching the Gospel and overcoming the opposition of the evil one: "I saw Satan fall like lightning from heaven" (Luke 10:18).

MORE THAN A MYTH

We will not admit the existence of the devil



if we insist on regarding life by empirical standards alone, without a supernatural understanding. It is precisely the conviction that this malign power is present in our midst that enables us to understand how evil can at times have so much destructive force. True enough, the biblical authors had limited conceptual resources for expressing certain realities, and in Jesus' time epilepsy, for example, could easily be confused with demonic possession. Yet this should not lead us to an oversimplification that would conclude that all the cases related in the Gospel had to do with psychological disorders and hence that the devil does not exist or is not at work. He is present in the very first pages of the Scriptures, which end with God's victory over the devil. Indeed, in leaving us the Our Father, Jesus wanted us to conclude by asking the Father to "deliver us from evil". That final word does not refer to evil in the abstract; a more exact translation would be "the evil one". It indicates a personal being who assails us. Jesus taught us to ask daily for deliverance from him, lest his power prevail over us.

Hence, we should not think of the devil as a myth, a representation, a symbol, a figure of speech or an idea. This mistake would lead us to let down our guard, to grow careless and end up more vulnerable. The devil does not need to possess us. He poisons us with the venom of hatred, desolation, envy and vice. When we let down our guard, he takes ad-vantage of it to destroy our lives, our families and our communities. "Like a roaring lion, he prowls around, looking for someone to devour" (1 Pet 5:8).

ALERT AND TRUSTFUL

God's word invites us clearly to "stand against the wiles of the devil" (Eph 6:11) and to "quench all the flaming darts of the evil one" (Eph 6:16). These expressions are not melodramatic, precisely because our path towards holiness is a constant battle. Those who do not realize this will be prey to failure or mediocrity. For this spiritual combat, we can count on the powerful weapons that the Lord has given us: faith-filled prayer, meditation on the word of God, the celebration of Mass, Eucharistic adoration, sacramental Reconciliation, works of charity, community life, missionary outreach. If we become careless, the false promises of evil will easily seduce us. As the sainted Cura Brochero observed: "What good is it when Lucifer promises you freedom and showers you with all his benefits, if those benefits are false, deceptive and poisonous?"

Along this journey, the cultivation of all that is good, progress in the spiritual life and growth in love are the best counterbalance to evil. Those who choose to remain neutral, who are satisfied with little, who renounce the ideal of giving themselves generously to the Lord, will never hold out. Even less if they fall into defeatism, for "if we start without confidence, we have already lost half the battle and we bury our talents ... Christian triumph is always a cross, yet a cross which is at the same time a victorious banner, borne with aggressive tenderness against the assaults of evil".

SPIRITUAL CORRUPTION

The path of holiness is a source of peace and joy, given to us by the Spirit. At the same time, it demands that we keep

"our lamps lit" (Luke 12:35) and be attentive. "Abstain from every form of evil" (1 Thes 5:22). "Keep awake" (Mt 24:42; Mark 13:35). "Let us not fall asleep" (1 Thes 5:6). Those who think they commit no grievous sins against God's law can fall into a state of dull lethargy. Since they see nothing serious to reproach themselves with, they fail to realize that their spiritual life has gradually turned lukewarm. They end up weakened and corrupted.

Spiritual corruption is worse than the fall of a sinner, for it is a comfortable and self-satisfied form of blindness. Everything then appears acceptable: deception, slander, egotism and other subtle forms of self-centeredness, for "even Satan disguises himself as an angel of light" (2 Cor 11:14). So Solomon ended his days, whereas David, who sinned greatly, was able to make up for disgrace. Jesus warned us against this self-deception that easily leads to corruption. He spoke of a person freed from the devil who, convinced that his life was now in order, ended up being possessed by seven other evil spirits (cf. Luke 11:24-26). Another biblical text puts it bluntly: "The dog turns back to his own vomit" (2 Pet 2:22; cf. Prov 26:11).

DISCERNMENT

How can we know if something comes from the Holy Spirit or if it stems from the spirit of the world or the spirit of the devil? The only way is through discernment, which calls for something more than intelligence or common sense. It is a gift which we must implore. If we ask with confidence that the Holy Spirit grant us this gift, and then seek to develop it through prayer, reflection, reading and good counsel, then surely we will grow in this spiritual endowment.

AN URGENT NEED

The gift of discernment has become all the more necessary today, since contemporary life offers immense possibilities for action and distraction, and the world presents all of them as valid and good. All of us, but especially the young, are immersed in a culture of zapping. We can navigate simultaneously on two or more screens and interact at the same time with two or three virtual scenarios. Without the wisdom of discernment, we can easily become prey to every passing trend.

This is all the more important when some novelty presents itself in our lives. Then we have to decide whether it is new wine brought by God or an illusion created by the spirit of this world or the spirit of the devil. At other times, the opposite can happen, when the forces of evil induce us not to change, to leave things as they are, to opt for a rigid resistance to change. Yet that would be to block the working of the Spirit. We are free, with the freedom of Christ. Still, he asks us to examine what is within us—our desires, anxieties, fears and questions—and what takes place all around us—"the signs of the times"—and thus to recognize the paths that lead to complete freedom. "Test everything; hold fast to what is good" (1 Thes 5:21).

OFFERING

11th Sunday Ordinary Time (18 Jun '23) — \$10,467.00

THANK YOU for your generosity!

The offering is posted on the BB opposite the front office.

WEEKLY CALENDAR

Jun 25 SUNDAY — 12th Week of Ordinary Time

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

Jun 26, MONDAY

9:00 AM | VIEWING, Diane Bonenfant
11:00 AM | FUNERAL MASS
12:15 PM | Daily Mass

Jun 27, TUESDAY

7:00 PM | Scouts Meeting

Jun 28, WEDNESDAY — St Irenaeus

9:30 AM | Knitting Group (meets every other Wednesday)
10:00 AM | Ladies Faith Sharing Group
10:30 AM | "The Eucharist in Scripture" Video Series
12:15 PM | Daily Mass

Jun 29, THURSDAY — SS. Peter and Paul

9:00 AM | Day Away
10:00 AM | Thursday Women's Group
12:15 PM | Daily Mass

Jun 30, FRIDAY — Day of Penance

10:00 AM | Food Pantry
12:15 PM | Daily Mass, followed by Eucharistic Adoration (until 1:45 PM)

Jul 1, FIRST SATURDAY

8:30 AM | First Saturday Rosary
9:00 AM | First Saturday Mass
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

Jun 24 (Sat), 5:30 PM Marie Bozzuto (req. by John & Karen Bozzuto)
Jun 25 (Sun), 8:00 AM Paul Philp (req. by Bob & Denise Fregault)
Jun 25, 10:00 AM George & Eva Dishong (req. by Linda Bonczar)
Jun 26 (Mon), 12:15 PM Franklin & Katherine Johnson - 50th Anniv. (req. by Franklin Johnston)
Jun 28 (Wed), 12:15 PM Zachary Martin (req. by Deacon John Martin); Ricky Medeiros - LIVING INTENTION (req. by Emily Medeiros)
Jun 29 (Thu), 12:15 PM Ruth Ryan (req. by Fred & Ruthann Prifty); Ricky Medeiros - LIVING INTENTION (req. by Emily Medeiros)
Jun 30 (Fri), 12:15 PM Ricky Medeiros - LIVING

INTENTION (req. by Emily Medeiros)

Jul 1 (Sat), 5:30 PM Vincent & Kathleen Schiff (req. by John & Mary Mann)
Jul 2 (Sun), 8:00 AM Pat Davis (req. by Tom Davis)
Jul 2, 10:00 AM Joseph Ryan (req. by Fred & Ruthann Prifty)

***No daily Mass July 3-7**

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 —

The parish offices will be closed next week, July 3-7. NO DAILY MASS NEXT WEEK.

NEW HAMPSHIRE CATHOLIC APPEAL 2023

Thanks to everyone who has donated to this years' NEW HAMPSHIRE CATHOLIC APPEAL (NHCA)! On behalf of Bishop Libasci, please consider doing donating if you haven't already done so. The NHCA is an initiative begun last year to help the Diocese expand essential services and ministries across New Hampshire. The Diocese has set our PARISH GOAL at \$48,000, essentially a tithe (10%) of our yearly revenue.



TO MAKE A GIFT:

Return the GIFT ENVELOPE distributed at Mass, or the one you may receive in the mail. Or, DONATE ONLINE at the NHCA website:

<https://www.catholicnh.org/nhca>

FOOD PANTRY

The St John Neumann Food Pantry is in need of CANNED GOODS. There is a limit at this time on the amount we can purchase from the Food Bank, so any donation would be appreciated!

SAINT GIANNA'S PLACE Volunteer Opportunities

Saint Gianna's Place is a home for women in unexpected pregnancies located in Southern NH. There are many VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES for Catholic women: teaching weekly classes, cleaning, babysitting, transportation, substitute

help, office help, providing dinner, and more. To learn more, visit their website:

www.StGiannasPlace.org

TOTUS TUUS

For those entering
GRADES 1-6
July 24-28 (Mon-Fri)
9:00 AM to 3:00 PM

For those entering
GRADES 7-12
July 23-27 (Sun-Thu)
6:30-8:30 PM

Cost \$20

This Summer, the parish will host TOTUS TUUS, a Summer Catechetical Program, conducted by a team of four college-age teachers (2 men, 2 women) for youth entering Grades 1-6 and 7-12. The team will conduct a 5-day Catechetical Program similar to Vacation Bible School. The week will be filled with faith, fun, and friendship. There are messy games and crazy skits. Team members will provide an authentic Christian witness to the youth.

The mission of TOTUS TUUS is to inspire a true longing for holiness, the love of God. Translated from the Latin, TOTUS TUUS means "Totally Yours". It was Pope St John Paul's papal motto, and it signified his desire to give himself entirely to Jesus through Mary, the supreme model of faith and the love of God.

For more information or TO REGISTER, go to:

<https://sjnnh.org/totus-tuus-registration>

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:

Diane and her family, Rose, Chad, Hannah, Courtney, Thomas, Roberta, Helen, Sarah's daughter, Charlotte, Pat & family, Denise, Charlene, Tom, Guido, Hannah, Paula, Allen, Sue, Susan, Dan, Dean, Bob, Nate, Jan & Bill, Thomas, Joe, Michael, Sue, Fr. John Grace, Richard, Lorraine, Daryl, David, Bruce, Sue, Ahmed, Joe, Judy, the unborn, our children who have stepped away from the faith, vocations, our parents (especially those who are ailing), our country, and all of our parishioners and their needs.

SAINT CHRISTOPHER ACADEMY

St Christopher Academy is currently interviewing for NEW TEACHERS to fill open positions for Fall of 2023 on both the Lower Campus (Grades PreK-

5) and the Upper Campus (Grades 6-8)! For more information, visit the school website:

SaintChrisAcademy.org/apps/pages/Employment

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://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

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CHERI ANDERSEN

Youth (6-12) and Adult Ministry

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(603) 880-4689 x111

CAROL YETTO

Music Ministry

cyetto3358@gmail.com

CAROL HOPFENSPIRGER & EVELYN VERBECK

Outreach & Food Pantry

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

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

Grand Knight

kofc@sjnnh.org