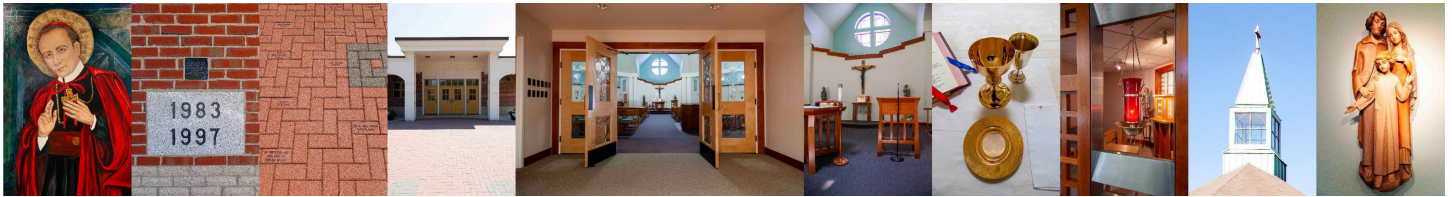


SAINT JOHN NEUMANN PARISH
708 Milford Rd (Rte 101A), Merrimack, NH 03054 — SJNNH.ORG



July 2, 2023
13th SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME
Fifth 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.

BENEDICT OF NORCIA

Seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be given you besides. —Mt 6:33

The excerpt below is from Pope Benedict's XVI's (d. 2022) General Audience of 9 Apr 2008.

TODAY, I would like to speak about Benedict, the Founder of Western Monasticism and also the Patron of my Pontificate. I begin with words that St Gregory the Great wrote about St Benedict: "The man of God who shone on this earth among so many miracles was just as brilliant in the eloquent exposition of his teaching." The great Pope wrote these words in 592. The holy monk, who had died barely 50 years earlier, lived on in people's memories and especially in the flourishing religious Order he had founded. St Benedict of Norcia, with his life and his work, had a fundamental influence on the development of European civilization and culture. The most important source on Benedict's life is the second book of St Gregory the Great's

Dialogues. It is not a biography in the classical sense. In accordance with the ideas of his time, by giving the example of a real man—St Benedict, in this case—Gregory wished to illustrate the ascent to the peak of contemplation which can be achieved by



SAINT BENEDICT (d. 547)
by Giovanni Battista Piazzetta (d. 1770)



POPE BENEDICT XVI (d. 2022)



those who abandon themselves to God. He therefore gives us a model for human life in the climb towards the summit of perfection. St Gregory the Great also tells in this book of the Dialogues of many miracles worked by the Saint, and here too he does not merely wish to recount something curious but rather to show how God, by admonishing, helping and even punishing, intervenes in the practical situations of man's life. Gregory's aim was to demonstrate that God is not a distant hypothesis placed at the origin of the world but is present in the life of man, of every man.

This perspective of the "biographer" is also explained in light of the general context of his time: straddling the fifth and sixth centuries, "the world was overturned by a tremendous crisis of values and institutions caused by the collapse of the Roman Empire, the invasion of new peoples and the decay of morals". But in this terrible situation, here, in this very city of Rome, Gregory presented St Benedict as a "luminous star" in order to point the way out of the "black night of history" (cf. John Paul II, 18 May 1979). In fact, the Saint's work and particularly his *Rule* were to prove heralds of an authentic spiritual leaven which, in the course of the centuries, far beyond the boundaries of his country and time, changed the face of Europe following the fall of the political unity created by the Roman Empire, inspiring a new spiritual and cultural unity, that of the Christian faith shared by the peoples of the Continent. This is how the reality we call "Europe" came into being.

St Benedict was born around the year 480. As St Gregory said, he came from the province of Norcia. His well-to-do parents sent him to study in Rome. However, he did not stay long in the Eternal City. As a fully plausible explanation, Gregory mentions that the young Benedict was put off by the dissolute lifestyle of many of his fellow students and did not wish to make the same mistakes. He wanted only to please God (II Dialogues, Prol. 1). Thus, even before he finished his studies, Benedict left Rome and withdrew to the solitude of the mountains east of Rome. After a short stay in the village of Enfide [today, Affile], where for a time he lived with a "religious community" of monks, he became a hermit in the neighboring locality of Subiaco. He lived there completely alone for three years in a cave which has been the heart of a Benedictine Monastery called the "Sacro Speco" [Holy Grotto] since the early Middle Ages. The period in Subiaco, a time of solitude with God, was a time of maturation for Benedict. It was here that he bore and overcame the three fundamental temptations of every human being: the temptation of self-affirmation and the desire to put oneself at the centre, the temptation of sensuality and, lastly, the temptation of anger and revenge. In fact, Benedict was convinced that only after overcoming these temptations would he be able to say a useful word to others about their own situations of neediness. Thus, having tranquilized his soul, he could be in full control of the drive of his ego and thus create peace around him. Only then did he decide to found his first monasteries in the Valley of the Anio, near Subiaco.

In the year 529, Benedict left Subiaco and settled in Monte Cassino. According to Gregory the Great, Benedict's exodus from the remote Valley of the Anio to Monte Cassino has a symbolic character: a hidden monastic life has

its own *raison d'être* but a monastery also has its public purpose in the life of the Church and of society, and it must give visibility to the faith as a force of life. Indeed, when Benedict's earthly life ended on 21 March 547, he bequeathed with his *Rule* and the Benedictine family he founded a heritage that bore fruit in the passing centuries and is still bearing fruit throughout the world.

Throughout the second book of his Dialogues, Gregory shows us how St Benedict's life was steeped in an atmosphere of prayer, the foundation of his existence. Without prayer there is no experience of God. Yet Benedict's spirituality was not an interiority removed from reality. In the anxiety and confusion of his day, he lived under God's gaze and in this very way never lost sight of the duties of daily life and of man with his practical needs. Seeing God, he understood the reality of man and his mission. In his *Rule* he describes monastic life as "a school for the service of the Lord" (Prol. 45) and advises his monks, "let nothing be preferred to the Work of God" [that is, the Liturgy] (43, 3). However, Benedict states that in the first place prayer is an act of listening (Prol. 9-11), which must then be expressed in action. "The Lord is waiting every day for us to respond to his holy admonitions by our deeds" (Prol. 35). Thus, the monk's life becomes a fruitful symbiosis between action and contemplation, "so that God may be glorified in all things" (57, 9). In contrast with a facile and egocentric self-fulfilment, today often exalted, the first and indispensable commitment of a disciple of St Benedict is the sincere search for God (58, 7) on the path mapped out by the humble and obedient Christ (5, 13), whose love he must put before all else (4, 21; 72, 11), and in this way, in the service of the other, he becomes a man of service and peace. In the exercise of obedience practiced by faith inspired by love (5, 2), the monk achieves humility (5, 1), to which the *Rule* dedicates an entire chapter (7). In this way, man conforms ever more to Christ and attains true self-fulfilment as a creature in the image and likeness of God.

Benedict describes the *Rule* he wrote as "minimal, just an initial outline" (cf. 73, 8); in fact, however, he offers useful guidelines not only for monks but for all who seek guidance on their journey toward God. For its moderation, humanity and sober discernment between the essential and the secondary in spiritual life, his *Rule* has retained its illuminating power even to today.

By proclaiming St Benedict Patron of Europe on 24 October 1964, Paul VI intended to recognize the marvelous work the Saint achieved with his *Rule* for the formation of the civilization and culture of Europe. Having recently emerged from a century that was deeply wounded by two World Wars and the collapse of the great ideologies, now revealed as tragic utopias, Europe today is in search of its own identity. Of course, in order to create new and lasting unity, political, economic and juridical instruments are important, but it is also necessary to awaken an ethical and spiritual renewal which draws on the Christian roots of the Continent, otherwise a new Europe cannot be built.

A popular legend claims that the *Rule* of Saint Benedict contains the following passage:

"If any pilgrim monk come from distant parts, with a wish to dwell as a guest in the monastery, and will be content with the customs which he finds in the place, and do not perchance by his lavishness disturb the monastery, but is simply content with what he finds: he shall be received, for as long a time as he desires. If, indeed, he would find fault with anything, or expose it, reasonably, and with the humility of charity, the Abbot shall discuss it prudently lest perchance God has sent him for this very thing. But if he have been found gossipy and contumacious in the time of his sojourn as guest, not only ought he not to be joined to the body of the monastery, but also it shall be said to him, honestly, that he must depart. If he does not go, let two stout monks, in the name of God, explain the matter to him."

OFFERING

THANK YOU for your generosity!

Early submission didn't allow us to post the offering in the Sunday Bulletin this weekend, but it is posted on the BB opposite the front office.

WEEKLY CALENDAR

Jul 2 SUNDAY — 13th Week of Ordinary Time

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

Jul 3, MONDAY — PLEASE NOTE: The parish offices are closed this week, July 3-7. NO DAILY MASS THIS WEEK.

12:15 PM | *No Daily Mass

Jul 4, TUESDAY — Federal Holiday

7:00 PM | Scouts Meeting

Jul 5, WEDNESDAY

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 | *No Daily Mass

Jul 6, THURSDAY

9:00 AM | Day Away
10:00 AM | Thursday Women's Group
12:15 PM | *No Daily Mass

Jul 7, FRIDAY — Day of Penance

10:00 AM | Food Pantry
12:15 PM | *No Daily Mass

Jul 8, FIRST SATURDAY

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

Jul 1 (Sat), 5:30 PM Vincent & Kathleen Schiff (req. by John & Mary Mann); Diane Bonenfant (req. by Ellie Boucher)
Jul 2 (Sun), 8:00 AM Pat Davis (req. by Tom Davis)
Jul 2, 10:00 AM Lowell Ittel (req. by the Doug Davidson Family)
Jul 2, 6:00 PM Joseph Ryan (req. by Fred & Ruthann Prifty)

***No daily Mass this week, July 3-7**

Jul 8 (Sat), 5:30 PM St John Neumann Parishioners
Jul 9 (Sun), 8:00 AM Holy Souls
Jul 9, 10:00 AM Larry Hardy (req. by Judy Hardy)
Jul 9, 6:00 PM Holy Souls

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 are closed this week, July 3-7.
NO DAILY MASS THIS WEEK.**

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
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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>

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!

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>

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, 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

ONLINEgiving

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>

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SJN Staff

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CAROL HOPFENSPIRGER & EVELYN VERBECK

Outreach & Food Pantry
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KATHY HOPKINS

Day Away (Thursday)
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PARISH COUNCIL

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parishcouncil@sjnnh.org

FINANCE COMMITTEE

Bob Fregault (Chairman)

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

Grand Knight
kofc@sjnnh.org

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