

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



July 9, 2023  
14th SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME  
*Sixth Sunday after Pentecost*

**Very Rev. Robert Glasgow, V.F.**  
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**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.

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**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.

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**ON PRAYER**

Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you. —Jas 4:8

The first excerpt below is from Tertullian's (d. 220, priest) 2nd c. treatise De Oratione [Lt., On Prayer] in which he says prayer replaces the sacrifices of old and makes us priests who are worshipers of God in spirit and in truth. The Catechism (1997), quoting St Thomas Aquinas (d. 1274) says the rightness of our life in Christ depends on the rightness of our prayer. In his Catechetical Instructions St Thomas lists five qualities required of all efficacious prayer: namely, our prayer must be 1) Confident, 2) Suitable, 3) Ordered, 4) Devout, and 5) Humble.



SAINT PETER  
by Simone Martini (d. 1344), Left  
El Greco (d. 1614), Right

SINCE God asks for prayer offered in spirit and in truth, how can he deny anything to this kind of prayer? How great is the evidence of its power, as we read and hear and believe.

Of old, prayer was able to rescue from fire and beasts and hunger, even before it received its perfection from Christ. How much greater then is the power of Christian prayer. No longer does prayer bring an angel of comfort to the heart of a fiery furnace, or close up the mouths of lions, or transport to the hungry food from the fields. No longer does it remove all sense of pain by the



grace it wins for others. But it gives the armor of patience to those who suffer, who feel pain, who are distressed. It strengthens the power of grace, so that faith may know what is gaining from the Lord, and understand what it is suffering for the name of God.

In the past prayer was able to bring down punishment, rout armies, withhold the blessing of rain. Now, however, the prayer of the just turns aside the whole anger of God, keeps vigil for its enemies, pleads for persecutors. Is it any wonder that it can call down water from heaven when it could obtain fire from heaven as well? Prayer is the one thing that can conquer God. But Christ has willed that it should work no evil, and has given it all power over good.

Its only art is to call back the souls of the dead from the very journey into death, to give strength to the weak, to heal the sick, to exorcise the possessed, to open prison cells, to free the innocent from their chains. Prayer cleanses from sin, drives away temptations, stamps out persecutions, comforts the fainthearted, gives new strength to the courageous, brings travelers safely home, calms the waves, confounds robbers, feeds the poor, overrules the rich, lifts up the fallen, supports those who are falling, sustains those who stand firm.

What more need be said on the duty of prayer? Even the Lord himself prayed. To him be honor and power for ever and ever. Amen.

AMONG all other prayers, the Lord's Prayer holds the chief place. It has five excellent qualities which are required in all prayer. A prayer must be confident, ordered, suitable, devout, and humble.

1. Prayer must be **CONFIDENT**: "Let us, therefore, go with confidence to the throne of grace" (Heb 4:16). It must not be wanting in faith, as it is said: "But let him ask in faith, nothing wavering" (Jas 1:6). That this is a most trustworthy prayer is reasonable, since it was formed by Him who is our Advocate and the most wise Petitioner for us: "In whom are hid all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge;" (Col 2:3) and of whom it is said: "For we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the just one" (1 John 2:1). Hence, St Cyprian says: "Since we have Christ as our Advocate with the Father for our sins, when we pray on account of our faults, we use the very words of our Advocate." Furthermore, this prayer is even more worthy of confidence in that He who taught us how to pray, graciously hears our prayer together with the Father, as it is said in the Psalm: "He shall cry to Me, and I will hear him" (Ps 91:15). Thus writes St Cyprian: "It is a friendly, familiar, and devout prayer to ask of the Lord in His own words." And so no one goes away from this prayer without fruit. St Augustine says that through it our venial sins are remitted.

2. Moreover, our prayer must be **SUITABLE**, so that a person asks of God in prayer what is good for him. St John Damascene says: "Prayer is the asking of what is right and fitting from God." Many times our prayer is not heard because we seek that which is not good for us: "You ask and you do not receive, because you ask amiss" (Jas 4:3). To know, indeed, what one ought to pray for is most difficult; for it is not easy to know what one ought to desire. Those things which we rightly seek in prayer are rightly desired; hence the Apostle says: "For we know not what we should pray for as we ought" (Rom 8:26). Christ Himself is our Teacher; it is He who teaches us what we ought to pray for, and it was to Him that the disciples said: "Lord, teach us to pray" (Luke 11:1). Those things, therefore, which He has taught us to pray for, we most properly ask for. "Whatsoever words we use in prayer," says St Augustine, "we cannot but utter that which is contained in our Lord's Prayer, if we pray in a suitable and worthy manner."
3. Our prayer ought also to be **ORDERED** as our desires should be ordered, for prayer is but the expression of desire. Now, it is the correct order that we prefer spiritual to bodily things, and heavenly things to those merely earthly. This is according to what is written: "Seek ye first Therefore the kingdom of God and His justice, and all these things shall be added unto you" (Mt 6:33). Here Our Lord shows that heavenly things must be sought first, and then things material.
4. Our prayer must be **DEVOUT**, because a rich measure of piety makes the sacrifice of prayer acceptable to God: "In Thy name I will lift up my hands. Let my soul be filled with marrow and fatness" (Ps 63:5). Many times because of the length of our prayers our devotion grows cool; hence Our Lord taught us to avoid wordiness in our prayers: "When you are praying, speak not much" (Mt 6:7). And St Augustine says: "Let much talking be absent from prayer; but as long as fervor continues, let prayer likewise go on." For this reason the Lord made His Prayer short. Devotion in prayer rises from charity which is our love of God and neighbor, both of which are evident in this prayer. Our love for God is seen in that we call God "our Father;" and our love for our neighbor when we say: "Our Father ... forgive us our trespasses," and this leads us to love of neighbor.
5. Prayer ought to be **HUMBLE**: "He hath had regard for the prayer of the humble" (Ps 102:18). This is seen in the parable of the Pharisee and the Publican (Luke 18:9-15), and also in the words of Judith: "The prayer of the humble and the meek hath always pleased Thee" (Jud 9:16). This same humility is observed in this prayer, for true humility is had when a person does not presume upon his own powers, but from the divine strength expects all that he asks for.

## 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 9 SUNDAY** — 14th 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 10, MONDAY.**

12:15 PM | Daily Mass

**Jul 11, TUESDAY** — St Benedict, Abbot

7:00 PM | Scouts Meeting

**Jul 12, 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 | Daily Mass

**Jul 13, THURSDAY**

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

**Jul 14, FRIDAY** — St Kateri Tekakwitha, Virgin

10:00 AM | Food Pantry  
12:15 PM | Daily Mass

**Jul 15, 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 8 (Sat), 5:30 PM	St John Neumann Parishioners
Jul 9 (Sun), 10:00 AM	Larry Hardy (req. by Judy Hardy)
Jul 10 (Mon), 12:15 PM	Tom McMilan (req. by Franklin Johnston)
Jul 12 (Wed), 12:15 PM	Bobby Medeiros - LIVING INTENTION (req. by Emily Medeiros)
Jul 13 (Thu), 12:15 PM	Bobby Medeiros - LIVING INTENTION (req. by Emily Medeiros)
Jul 14 (Fri), 12:15 PM	Bobby Medeiros - LIVING INTENTION (req. by Emily Medeiros)
Jul 16 (Sun), 8:00 AM	Nelson Smith (req. by the Doug Davidson Family)

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

### 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>

### NEW HAMPSHIRE CATHOLIC APPEAL 2023

*Thanks to everyone who has donated to this year's 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!

### PRAYER LINE MINISTRY

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

### **HELP YOUR MARRIAGE**

#### **Stress in Your Marriage?**

RETROUVAILLE is a program for married couples facing difficult challenges in their relationship. It is a program for couples who want help. Those considering separation or those who are already separated/divorced are encouraged to consider the RETROUVAILLE. *There is always hope of reviving your relationship!* It is a marriage program that helps couples restore their marriage and rebuild a loving relationship. It is a Christian marriage program, Catholic in origin. It is a practical program to improve communication, build stronger marriages, and help couples reconnect.

For more information or to register for the upcoming New England program beginning with a weekend on August 12-14, 2022 VISIT the website at [www.HelpOurMarriage.org](http://www.HelpOurMarriage.org), or CALL (800) 470-2230, or EMAIL us at <[3023r@helpourmarriage.org](mailto:3023r@helpourmarriage.org)>.

### **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>



You shop. Amazon gives.

Please consider supporting our St John Neumann FOOD PANTRY whenever you purchase items through AMAZON.COM. To participate, go to:

<https://smile.amazon.com/ch/02-0370038>

and add "Saint John Neumann Parish" as your charity of choice. 0.5% of every purchase is donated by Amazon.com to the SJN FOOD PANTRY.

### 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

Keith Faucher (President)

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FINANCE COMMITTEE

Bob Fregault (Chairman)

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

Grand Knight

[kofc@sjnnh.org](mailto:kofc@sjnnh.org)