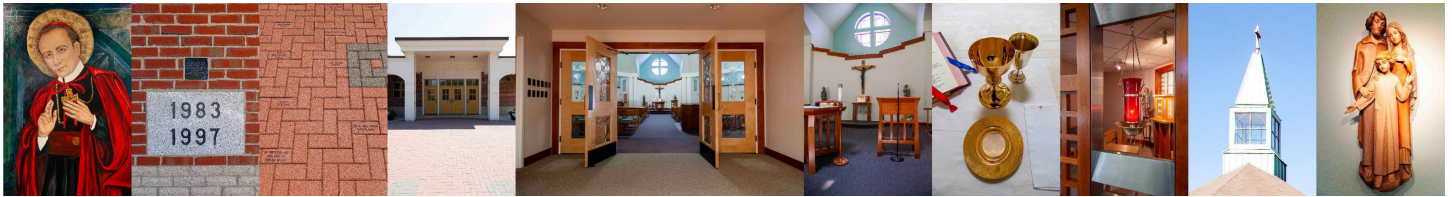


SAINT JOHN NEUMANN PARISH
708 Milford Rd (Rte 101A), Merrimack, NH 03054 — SJNNH.ORG



July 23, 2023
16th SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME
Eighth 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 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 OBEDIENCE

In fact, this is love for God: to keep his commands. And his commands are not burdensome. —1 John 5:3

The excerpt below is from the third chapter of Saint John Climacus' (d. 469) treatise, The Ladder of Divine Ascent.

The treatise, using the imagery of Jacob's Ladder (see Gen 28:10-19), describes the means by which we overcome our vices and raise our body/soul to God. Each chapter describes a particular virtue, a step/rung of the ladder, that we must strive to acquire by a lively faith. It is our bearing much fruit that glorifies God and secures our salvation: "*If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing*" (John 15:5).



LADDER OF DIVINE ASCENT

-
1. OUR treatise now appropriately touches upon warriors and athletes of Christ. As the flower precedes the fruit, so exiles either of body or will always precedes OBEDIENCE. For with the help of these two virtues, the holy soul steadily ascends to heaven as upon golden wings. And perhaps it was about this that he who had received the Holy Spirit sang: Who will give me wings like a dove? And I will fly by activity, and be at rest by contemplation and humility.
 2. But let us not fail, if you agree, to describe clearly in our treatise the weapons of these brave warriors: how they hold the shield of faith in God and



their trainer, and with it they ward off, so to speak, every thought of unbelief and vacillation; how they constantly raise the drawn sword of the Spirit and slay every wish of their own that approaches them; how, clad in the iron armor of meekness and patience, they avert every insult and injury and missile. And for a helmet of salvation they have their superior's protection through prayer. And they do not stand with their feet together, for one is stretched out in service and the other is immovable in prayer.

3. OBEDIENCE is absolute renunciation of our own life, clearly expressed in our bodily actions. Or, conversely, OBEDIENCE is the mortification of the limbs while the mind remains alive. OBEDIENCE is unquestioning movement, voluntary death, simple life, carefree danger, spontaneous defense by God, fearlessness of death, a safe voyage, a sleeper's progress. OBEDIENCE is the tomb of the will and the resurrection of humility. A corpse does not argue or reason as to what is good or what seems to be bad. For he who has devoutly put the soul of the novice to death will answer for everything. OBEDIENCE is an abandonment of discernment in a wealth of discernment.
4. The beginning of the mortification both of the soul's desire and of the bodily members involves much hard work. The middle sometimes means much hard work and is sometimes painless. But the end is insensibility and insusceptibility to toil and pain. Only when he sees himself doing his own will does this blessed living corpse feel sorry and sick at heart; and he fears the responsibility of using his own judgment.
5. You who have decided to strip for the arena of this spiritual confession, you who wish to take on your neck the yoke of Christ, you who are therefore trying to lay your own burden on Another's shoulders, you who are hastening to sign a pledge that you are voluntarily surrendering yourself to slavery, and in return want freedom written to your account, you who are being supported by the hands of others as you swim across this great sea—you should know that you have decided to travel by a short but rough way, from which there is only one deflection, and it is called singularity. But he who has renounced this entirely, even in things that seem to be good and spiritual and pleasing to God, has reached the end before setting out on his journey. For OBEDIENCE is distrust of oneself in everything, however good it may be, right up to the end of one's life.
6. When motives of humility and real longing for salvation decide us to bend our neck and entrust ourselves to another in the Lord, before entering upon this life, if there is any vice and pride in us, we ought first to question and examine, and even, so to speak, test our helmsman, so as not to mistake the sailor for the pilot, a sick man for a doctor, a passionate for a dispassionate man, the sea for a harbor, and so bring about the speedy shipwreck of our soul. But when once we have entered the arena of religion and

OBEDIENCE we must no longer judge our good manager in any way at all, even though we may perhaps see in him some slight failings, since he is only human. Otherwise, by sitting in judgment we shall get no profit from our subjection.

7. It is absolutely indispensable for those of us who wish to retain undoubting faith in our superiors to write their good deeds indelibly in our hearts and constantly remember them, so that when the demons sow among us distrust towards them, we may be able to silence them by what is preserved in our memory. For the more faith flourishes in the heart, the more alacrity the body has in service. But he who has stumbled on distrust has already fallen; for all that does not spring from faith, is sin. The moment any thought of judging or condemning your superior occurs to you, leap away from it as from fornication. Whatever you do, give that snake no licence, no place, no entry, no power; but say to that serpent: 'Listen, deceiver, I have no authority to judge of my superior, but he has been appointed to sit in judgment on me. It is not I who am to be his judge, but he is deputed to be mine.'
8. The Fathers have laid down that psalmody is a weapon, and prayer is a wall, and honest tears are a bath; but blessed OBEDIENCE in their judgment is confession of faith, without which no one subject to passions will see the Lord.
9. He who submits himself, passes sentence on himself. If his OBEDIENCE for the Lord's sake is perfect, even if it does not seem perfect, he will escape judgment. But if he does his own will in some things, then although he considers himself obedient, he lays the burden on his own shoulders. It is good if the superior does not give up reproving him; but if he is silent, then I do not know what to say. Those who submit themselves in the Lord in simplicity run the good race without provoking the bile of the demons against themselves by their inquisitiveness.
10. First of all, let us make our confession to our good judge, and to him alone. But if he orders, then to all. Wounds displayed in public will not grow worse, but will be healed.

WEEKLY CALENDAR

Jul 23 SUNDAY — 16th 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 24, MONDAY.

12:15 PM | Daily Mass

Jul 25, TUESDAY

7:00 PM | Scouts Meeting

Jul 26, WEDNESDAY

9:30 AM | Knitting Group (meets every other

Wednesday)
 10:00 AM | Ladies Faith Sharing Group
 12:15 PM | Daily Mass

Jul 27, THURSDAY

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

Jul 28, FRIDAY

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

Jul 29, 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

OFFERING

16 July '23 (15th Sunday Ordinary Time): \$10,115.00
 THANK YOU for your generosity!

MASS INTENTIONS

Jul 22 (Sat), 5:30 PM Zachary & Rachel Gannon (req. by the Beek Family)
 Jul 23 (Sun), 8:00 AM Diane Bonenfant (req. by Joan Mooney)
 Jul 23, 10:00 AM Fr. Robert Whitney (req. by the Connelly Family)
 Jul 24 (Mon), 12:15 PM Maria Cosco (req. by Denis Odesse)
 Jul 26 (Wed), 12:15 PM Al Porcaro (req. by Mark & Margaret Roy)
 Jul 28 (Fri), 12:15 PM The Medeiros Family (req. by Emily Medeiros)
 Jul 29 (Sat), 5:30 PM Rick Boucher (req. by the Boucher Family)
 Jul 30 (Sun), 8:00 AM Marsha Miller (req. by Joan Mooney)
 Jul 30, 10:00 AM Dr. Boris Naprta (req. by Alice & Sam Emma)

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

QUO VADIS DAYS

"The moment I realized that God existed, I knew that I could not do otherwise than to live for him alone." —Blsd. Charles Foucauld (d. 1916)

You are invited to attend our **QUO VADIS OVERNIGHT CAMP** to spend time with other young men your age looking at the Lord's call in your life while having lots of fun.

QUO VADIS DAYS CAMP led by priests and seminarians of the diocese and includes a variety of

games, prayer, other activities and opportunities to grow in friendship with the Lord and with each other. **QUO VADIS DAYS CAMP** will be held July 31-August 4 at Magdalen College (Warner, NH). To REGISTER, visit:

liveinblackandwhite.com

SUMMER CAMP

TOTUS TUUS is *this week!*

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>

PROMISE & FULFILLMENT:

The Transforming Power of God's Word

This 3-part video series looks at different aspects of Sacred Scripture: Mercy, Love and Prayer. Scripture—especially the Old Testament—can be a mystery even to faithful Catholics. But when we understand the big picture of the Bible, it sheds light on some of the most fundamental Catholic practices like Confession, the Mass, and prayer. **NO HOMEWORK, NO COST.** Wednesday mornings at 10:30 AM:

July 12/19: Lord, Have Mercy
 Aug 2/16: First Comes Love
 Aug 23/30: The Family Prayer

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!

NATURAL FAMILY PLANNING

Natural Family Planning is just what it sounds like, a 100% natural way for spouses to plan the size of their family. It is an extremely effective method for achieving, or temporarily avoiding, pregnancy, depending on the couple's situation and intent. To learn more or to find an instructor near you, please visit:

CatholicNH.org/NFP

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](https://www.catholicnh.org/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:

Bob, Nate, Jan & Bill, Thomas, Joe, Michael, Sue, Fr. John Grace, Richard, Lorraine, Daryl, David, Bruce, Sue, Ahmed, Joe, Judy, Cynthia, Jim & family, Mike & family, Dedra, Alexandra, Amy, Linda, Safia, Zachery, Nancy, Sue, Kathy & Johanna, Owen, Doreen, Caitlin, Joann, Gloria, Michael, Linda, Sam, Theresa, Joey, Ray, Bob's family, Christine, Cynthia & Jim, a personal intention, safety on the roads, the unborn, division in our country, family and friends who have stepped away from the faith, vocations, our country, and all of our parishioners and their needs.

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 & 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