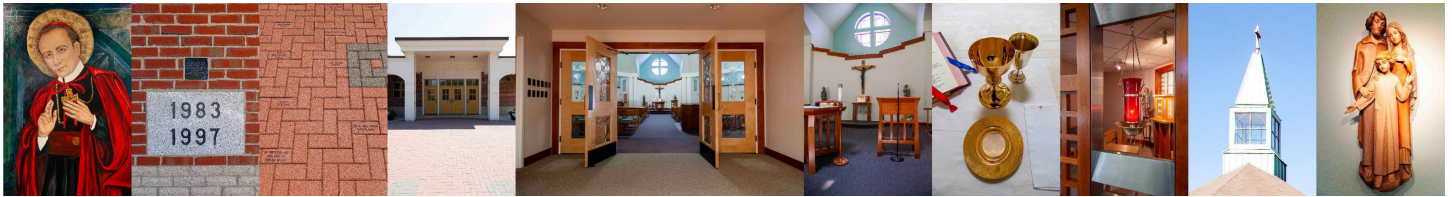


SAINT JOHN NEUMANN PARISH
708 Milford Rd (Rte 101A), Merrimack, NH 03054 — SJNNH.ORG



August 6, 2023
TRANSFIGURATION OF THE LORD
Tenth Sunday after Pentecost

Very Rev. Robert Glasgow, V.F.
Chaplain (LTC) USA (Ret.)
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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 PRAYER

Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer. —Rom 12:12

The excerpt below on the necessity of prayer is from St Francis de Sales' (d. 1622) *The Secrets of Sanctity*. Italics added.

The Necessity of Mental Prayer

PRAYER, the holy fathers tell us, is an elevation of our soul to God by the union of our mind with supreme truth and of our heart with supreme goodness. It is a respectful homage which we render to the divine grandeur and majesty by the submission of all our powers. St Chrysostom, in his beautiful homilies on prayer, says that prayer is to the soul what the nerves are to the body, walls to a city, arms to a soldier, wings to a bird, respiration to animals. *We judge a body to be dead, he says, when it no longer breathes, and we must believe a soul to be dead when it no longer prays.* To be sure, he speaks of prayer in general, inasmuch as it includes mental and vocal; but as mental prayer is the soul and the principal part of this exercise, if it is necessary to pray it is necessary to meditate, particularly as vocal prayer without it is not true prayer, but a vain and reprehensible occupation.

At the same time, it is not this kind of meditation that we are about to speak of here, but of purely mental prayer, which is undoubtedly preferable to vocal, except where the latter is of precept and of obligation. Certain celebrated doctors quoted by Suarez believed mental prayer to be necessary for all classes of persons, and that they could not be saved without it. This is going too far. *It is probable that they meant by meditation the elevation and the reflection necessary to receive the sacraments worthily, to conceive sorrow for our sins, to ask for extraordinary graces from God, and to produce, at times of precept, acts of faith, hope, and charity.*

However this may be, it cannot be denied that mental prayer is necessary to those who wish to lead, I do not say pious, but even Christian lives, whether they are beginners, or have already made considerable progress, or have attained perfection. *Beginners must acquire purity of heart by frequent confession and continual mortification; confession effaces sin and mortification destroys its principle; now both require the assistance of meditation.* A penitent must hate his sin, and to do so he



must understand its malice. How can he understand it without reflection, without consideration, without meditation? I do not speak of the examination of conscience he must make on the Commandments of God and of the Church, which is a manner of meditation as profitable as it is necessary.

Neither can we practice mortification without the assistance of mental prayer, for mortification is a thing that does violence to nature, and is very contrary to our inclinations; it tends to subdue and destroy nature; and as the natural instinct of all creatures is self-preservation, it is evident that if the soul does not rise above itself by means of prayer, it cannot conceive that holy hatred so necessary to enable it to deny itself what it loves and to embrace what it fears. *What we say of beginners applies also to those more advanced in the spiritual life; without prayer the first cannot cut off their vices, and the second cannot acquire virtue. It is in prayer that the soul discovers the beauty of virtue, is inflamed with love for it, and incited to practice it.* The great Cardinal [St] Bellarmine, as celebrated for his piety as his learning, says that it is prayer, so to speak, which gives life to all the other virtues and preserves them in the soul. It enlightens our faith by bringing us in contact with objects from which the senses tend to withdraw us and to which they blind us. It sustains our hope by giving us familiar access to God, and by uniting us with our principle. It causes us to recognize the vanity, inconstancy, and infidelity of creatures; inspires us with horror of the world, and inflames us with love for God by the knowledge and experience which it gives us of His goodness.

It gives us a knowledge of ourselves, which teaches us wise lessons of humility, makes us realize and appreciate our nothingness, and reveals to us the greatness and sanctity of God, before Whom our imaginary virtues have no existence, beauty, form, or measure. Finally it leads us into those sacred solitudes where the soul enjoys its God in the peace and repose of holy recollection. It conducts us, in spirit, to hell, where we behold the place which might have been ours; to the cemetery, to look upon our final resting-place on earth; to heaven, to behold the throne which is destined for us; to the valley of Jehoshaphat, to behold our Judge; to Bethlehem, to look upon our Savior; to Tabor, to behold our Love; to Calvary, to behold our Exemplar. A volume would hardly suffice to enumerate all the treasures of grace which the faithful soul finds in meditation, and the consolations in all its trials which it receives from God. No doubt there are persons who are unable to give a considerable portion of time each day to meditation, but *I am convinced that we can never attain Christian perfection unless we supply for meditation in some way, either by pious reading, or the instruction of confessors, or the teaching of sermons.* It is not necessary to demonstrate that the perfect must be souls given to prayer, since it is prayer which unites them to God, in which union their perfection consists. *Thus there never have been saints who were not devoted to prayer; it was their occupation and their consolation.* Their lives, we may say, were an unceasing prayer, as the Son of God commands; their every breath was a prayer, which makes me conclude with St Augustine that to live well we must pray well; just as to

pray well we must live well. This is a necessary condition of the prayer of which we are treating.

Necessary Dispositions for Prayer

Poverty is eloquent; to pray well we must know our misery. There is no advocate at the bar who pleads his cause better than the poor man seeking relief in his necessity from a rich patron. If we are cold in our prayer it is because we do not realize our misery or appreciate our need. And yet, just as there is no man without desires, there is no man without needs. The rich of this world are full of them; kings are more dependent than their subjects; they need more assistance than a poor workman; he is dependent only upon the labor of his own hands, but a sovereign is dependent upon all his subjects; which shows that exalted positions are only a form of brilliant servitude. It was David's appreciation of his misery which made his prayer so eloquent, so powerful, and so constant.

It is the same with the rest of mankind; as there is no one without needs there is no one who does not know how to pray and to recommend his necessities to God; but how many will you find who know how to converse with Him? When Moses had conversed with God he could no longer converse with men, and he prayed God to dispense him from bearing His orders to Pharaoh. But we find, on the contrary, many clever minds who converse brilliantly with men, but find it impossible to converse with God. Why is this? It is because their hearts are engaged in sin and filled with affection for creatures. "Where the heart is there is its treasure." We like to converse with those we love, hence it is not astonishing that one who has no love for God should do all he can to avoid His presence and His company. But when a soul is detached from all created things, it is impossible to express or conceive of the delight which it finds in prayer.

The apostles formerly said to the Son of God; "Lord, teach us to pray." Strange request! There is nothing more miserable than a man who does not recognize his wretchedness; he is full of needs and knows not how to reveal them. *Behold the effect of sin, which blinds our mind and debauches our will!* But what is still more deplorable is that there are many who recognize their misery, yet seek no relief; they feel their wretchedness and cannot declare it; they come before God and have nothing to say to Him. Their prayer is a continual distraction of mind and dissipation of heart. *To remedy an evil so common and so deplorable, we would facilitate for all souls the practice of prayer. We find innumerable precepts concerning prayer in books; the shortest way, in my opinion, is that of detachment and mortification. Prayer is a fire that is fed with the wood of the cross.* How can a heart, agitated by passions, a prey to all the desires of a sensual, avaricious, ambitious nature, remain at peace in the presence of God? Grace is a quality so pure and so delicate that it can have no intercourse with the senses. *Therefore to rise to heaven we must be detached from earth, and to unite ourselves with God in prayer we must separate ourselves, by mortification, from all creatures. How can we practice mortification if we do not know how to pray? you ask, for prayer is as necessary to mortification as mortification is*

to prayer. True, and for that reason they must never be separated; however painful or laborious we find prayer, we must never abandon it, inasmuch as this labor is very great mortification, and disposes the soul to receive great graces. *When we practice what we know, God teaches us what we do not know. Do what you can and God will do what you desire.* But to do what we can we must know what we ought to do. That is what we shall teach in the following chapters.

WEEKLY CALENDAR

Aug 6, SUNDAY — 18th Week of Ordinary Time

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

Aug 7, MONDAY

12:15 PM | Daily Mass

Aug 8, TUESDAY

7:00 PM | Scouts Meeting

Aug 9, WEDNESDAY

9:30 AM | Knitting Group (meets every other Wednesday)
10:00 AM | Ladies Faith Sharing Group
12:15 PM | Daily Mass

Aug 10, THURSDAY

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

Aug 11, FRIDAY

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

Aug 12, 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

30 July '23 (17th Sunday Ordinary Time): \$5,572.00

THANK YOU for your generosity!

Early submission doesn't always allow us to post the offering in the bulletin, but it is always posted on the BB opposite the front office.

MASS INTENTIONS

Aug 5 (Sat), 5:30 PM	Tom Vennard (req. by the Boucher Family)
Aug 6 (Sun), 8:00 AM	Pat Davis (req. by Tom Davis)
Aug 6, 10:00 M	Edward Towne & Earl Stimson (req. by Sandra Towne)
Aug 6, 10:00 AM	Janet Reilly (req. by Cecilia Stuopis)
Aug 9, 12:15 PM	Rose Higgins (req. by John & Mary Mann); Ian Medeiros -

	LIVING INTENTION (req. by Emily Medeiros)
Aug 10 (Thu), 12:15 PM	Ian Medeiros - LIVING INTENTION (req. by Emily Medeiros)
Aug 11 (Fri), 12:15 PM	Ian Medeiros - LIVING INTENTION (req. by Emily Medeiros)
Aug 12 (Sat), 5:30 PM	Marie Bozzuto (req. by Alice Lewis)
Aug 13 (Sun), 8:00 AM	Charlotte Joy Scalese (req. by Maureen Mooney)

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

TOTUS TUUS was a great success, ministering to 40 youth in the parish last week. **MANY THANKS TO ALL WHO CONTRIBUTED TO TOTUS TUUS!** from hosting the program leaders, providing lunches and dinners, bringing your children or supporting all involved with your prayers. We are already looking forward to bringing this program back next summer!

Holy Day of Obligation

ASSUMPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

15 Aug '23

14 Aug (Mon, Vigil)	5:30 PM
15 Aug (Tue, Holy Day)	12:15 PM
15 Aug	7:00 PM

"For which reason, after we have poured forth prayers of supplication again and again to God, and have invoked the light of the Spirit of Truth, for the glory of Almighty God who has lavished his special affection upon the Virgin Mary, for the honor of her Son, the immortal King of the Ages and the Victor over sin and death, for the increase of the glory of that same august Mother, and for the joy and exultation of the entire Church; by the authority of our Lord Jesus Christ, of the Blessed Apostles Peter and Paul, and by our own authority, **we pronounce, declare, and define it to be a divinely revealed dogma: that the Immaculate Mother of God, the ever Virgin Mary, having completed the course of her earthly life, was assumed body and soul into heavenly glory.**"
—Apostolic Constitution *Munificentissimus Deus* (1 Nov 1950, Pope Pius II)

NEW HAMPSHIRE CATHOLIC APPEAL 2023

I would like to thank all those who have donated to this year's [NEW HAMPSHIRE CATHOLIC APPEAL \(NHCA\)](#)! To date, 93 individuals/families have donated \$42,160 towards our parish goal of \$48K.

On behalf of Bishop Libasci, please consider 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>

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:

- Lord, Have Mercy (Jul 12 & 19)
- First Comes Love (Aug 2 & 16)
- Family PRAYER (Aug 23 & 30)

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; the friends and family of Amy; Susan, Mark, Thanksgiving for Hazel, Karen, a personal intention, Drew, Rachel,

Rosemary, Hannah, Brent, Chip, John, Rosemary & family, Bruce & Penny, Rebecca, Jimmy, Carole's daughter, Sandy & Jane & family, Ann Marie, family and friends who have stepped away from the faith, vocations, 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

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CAROL HOPFENSPIRGER & EVELYN VERBECK

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KATHY HOPKINS

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PARISH COUNCIL

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Bob Fregault (Chairman)

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

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