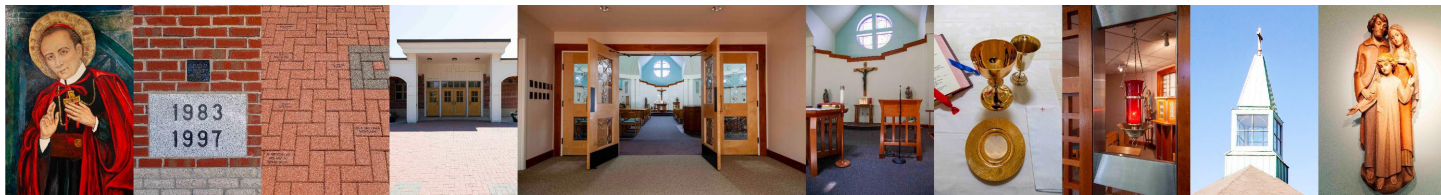


SAINT JOHN NEUMANN PARISH
708 Milford Rd (Rte 101A), Merrimack, NH 03054 — SJNNH.ORG



August 13, 2023
19th SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME
Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost

Very Rev. Robert Glasgow, V.F.
Chaplain (LTC) USA (Ret.)
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Deacon Brian Lester
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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.

BLESSED IS SHE

Mary said, "Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord. May it be done to me according to your word." —Luke 1:38

The following excerpt is from Pope Benedict's (d. 2022) homily of 15 Aug 2022, the Solemnity of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary.

ON 1 November 1950, Venerable Pope Pius XII proclaimed as Dogma that the Virgin Mary "having completed the course of her earthly life, was assumed body and soul into heavenly glory". This truth of faith was known by Tradition, was affirmed by the Fathers of the Church, and was a particularly important aspect in the veneration of the Mother of Christ. Precisely this devotional element, so to speak, was the driving force behind the formulation of this dogma. The dogma appears as an act of praise and exaltation of the Holy Virgin. It also emerges from the text of the Apostolic Constitution, where it affirms that the dogma is proclaimed for "the honor of her Son ... for the increase of the glory of that same august Mother, and for the joy and exultation of the entire Church". What was already celebrated in the veneration and devotion of the People of God as the highest and most permanent glorification of Mary was thus expressed in the form of a dogma; the act of the



ASSUMPTION OF THE VIRGIN
by Tiziano Vecelli (d. 1576)



proclamation of the Assumption was presented almost as a liturgy of faith. And in the Gospel which we have just heard, Mary herself prophetically pronounces a few words that orientate us in this perspective. She says: "For behold, henceforth all generations will call me blessed" (Luke 1:48). It is a prophecy for the whole history of the Church. These words of the Magnificat, recorded by St Luke, indicate that praising the Blessed Virgin, Mother of God, intimately united to Christ her Son, regards the Church of all ages and of all places. The fact that the Evangelist noted these words presupposes that the glorification of Mary was already present in the time of St Luke and he considered it to be a duty and a commitment of the Christian community for all generations. Mary's words tell us that it is a duty of the Church to remember the greatness of Our Lady for the faith. This Solemnity is an invitation to praise God, and to look upon the greatness of Our Lady, for we know who God is in the faces of those who belong to him.

But why is Mary glorified by her Assumption into Heaven?

St Luke, as we have heard, sees the roots of the exaltation and praise of Mary in Elizabeth's words: "Blessed is she who believed" (Luke 1:45). And the Magnificat, this canticle to God, alive and active in history is a hymn of faith and love, which springs from the heart of the Virgin.

She lived with exemplary fidelity and kept in the inmost depths of her heart the words of God to his people, the promises he made to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, making them the content of her prayer: the Word of God in the Magnificat became the word of Mary, the lamp for her journey, thus preparing her to receive even in her womb the Word of God made flesh. Today's Gospel passage recalls this presence of God in history and in the unfolding of events; in particular, there is a reference to the Second Book of Samuel (6:1-15), in which David moves the Holy Ark of the Covenant. The comparison is clear to the Evangelist: Mary expecting the birth of her Son Jesus is the Holy Ark that contains the presence of God, a presence that is a source of consolation, of total joy. John, in fact, leaps in Elizabeth's womb, just as David danced before the Ark. Mary is the "visit" of God that creates joy. Zechariah, in his song of praise says explicitly: "Blessed be the Lord God of Israel, for he has visited and redeemed his people" (Luke 1:68). The house of Zechariah experienced the visit of God by the unexpected birth of John the Baptist, but above all by the presence of Mary, who bore within her womb the Son of God.

But now let us ask ourselves: how does the Assumption of Mary help our journey?

The first answer is: in the Assumption we see that in God there is room for man, God himself is the house with many rooms of which Jesus speaks (cf. John 14:2); God is man's home, in God there is God's space. And Mary, by uniting herself, united to God, does not distance herself from us. She does not go to an unknown galaxy, but whoever approaches God comes closer, for God is close to us all; and Mary, united to God, shares in the presence of God, is so close to us, to each one of us.

There is a beautiful passage from St Gregory the Great on St Benedict that we can apply to Mary too. St Gregory the Great says that the heart of St Benedict expanded so much that all creation could enter it. This is even truer of Mary: Mary, totally united to God, has a heart so big that all creation can enter this. Mary is close, she can hear us, she can help us, she is close to everyone of us. In God there is room for man and God is close, and Mary, united to God, is very close; she has a heart as great as the heart of God.

But there is also another aspect: in God not only is there room for man; in man there is room for God. This too we see in Mary, the Holy Ark who bears the presence of God. In us there is space for God and this presence of God in us, so important for bringing light to the world with all its sadness, with its problems. This presence is realized in the faith: in the faith we open the doors of our existence so that God may enter us, so that God can be the power that gives life and a path to our existence. In us there is room, let us open ourselves like Mary opened herself, saying: "Let your will be done, I am the servant of the Lord". By opening ourselves to God, we lose nothing. On the contrary, our life becomes rich and great.

And so, faith and hope and love are combined. Today there is much discussion on a better world to be awaited: it would be our hope. If and when this better world comes, we do not know, I do not know. What is certain is that a world which distances itself from God does not become better but worse. Only God's presence can guarantee a good world. Let us leave it at that.

One thing, one hope is certain: God expects us, waits for us, we do not go out into a void, we are expected. God is expecting us and on going to that other world we find the goodness of the Mother, we find our loved ones, we find eternal Love. God is waiting for us: this is our great joy and the great hope that is born from this Feast. Mary visits us, and she is the joy of our life and joy is hope.

What is there to say then? A great heart, the presence of God in the world, room for God within us and room for us in God, hope, being expected: this is the symphony of this Feast, the instruction that meditating on this Solemnity gives us. Mary is the dawn and the splendor of the Church triumphant; she is the consolation and the hope of people still on the journey, it says in today's Preface.

Let us entrust ourselves to her Motherly intercession, that she may obtain that he strengthen our faith in eternal life; may she help us to live the best way the time that God has given us with hope. May it be a Christian hope, that is not only nostalgia for Heaven, but a living and active desire for God who is here in the world, a desire for God that makes us tireless pilgrims, nourishing in us the courage and the power of faith, which at the same time is the courage and the power of love. Amen.

Under your mercy we take refuge, O Mother of God. Do not reject our supplications in necessity, but deliver us from danger. [O you] alone pure and alone blessed. —Earliest extant prayer to Mary (SUB TUUM, ca. 250)

WEEKLY CALENDAR

Aug 13, SUNDAY — 19th 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 14, MONDAY

12:15 PM | Daily Mass
5:30 PM | Holy Day Mass (Vigil)

Aug 15, TUESDAY — ASSUMPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY (Holy Day of Obligation)

12:15 PM | Holy Day Mass
7:00 PM | Holy Day Mass
7:00 PM | Scouts Meeting

Aug 16, WEDNESDAY

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

Aug 17, THURSDAY

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

Aug 18, FRIDAY

10:00 AM | Food Pantry
12:15 PM | Daily Mass w/ Eucharistic Adoration

Aug 19, 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

6 Aug '23 (Transfiguration): \$10,719.00

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 12 (Sat), 5:30 PM Marie Bozzuto (req. by Alice Lewis)
Aug 13 (Sun), 8:00 AM Charlotte Joy Scalese (req. by Maureen Mooney)
Aug 13, 10:00 AM Catherine & Maria - LIVING INTENTION (req. by Karen Bozzuto)
Aug 14 (Mon), 12:15 PM Peggy Capozzi & Alice San Martino (req. by John & Mary Mann)
Aug 15 (Tue), 12:15 PM Maria Egler (req. by Alice Lewis)
Aug 15 (Tue), 7:00 PM Tom Perugini (req. by Mike & Linda Marolla)
Aug 16 (Wed), 12:15 PM John Botelho, Jr. - LIVING INTENTION (req. by Natalie Botelho)
Aug 17 (Thu), 12:15 PM John Botelho, Jr. - LIVING INTENTION (req. by Natalie Botelho)

Aug 18 (Fri), 12:15 PM John Botelho, Jr. - LIVING INTENTION (req. by Natalie Botelho)
Aug 19 (Sat), 5:30 PM Pat Davis (req. by Tom Davis)
Aug 20 (Sun), 8:00 AM James Neely (req. by Bob & Denise Fregault)

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

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)

ANNUAL MAHRAJAN FOOD FESTIVAL

Our Lady of the Cedars Melkite Catholic Church (140 Mitchell St, Manchester) is hosting their annual Mahrajan Middle Eastern Food Festival August 18-20. The event will feature a variety of Lebanese foods and pastries, a cash bar, Arabic music by D.J. Kibar, gifts, church tour, children's games, and a petting zoo. ADMISSION IS FREE. Schedule:

Friday (18 Aug): 5:00-10:00 PM
Saturday (19 Aug): 12:00 Noon-10:00 PM
Sunday (20 Aug): 12:00 Noon-5:00 PM

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:

Linda, Sam, Theresa, Joey, Ray, Bob's family, Christine, Cynthia & Jim, 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, repose of the soul of Ann Marie, Mary, Rick, Sarah, Savannah, Barb, Joe, Helen, Michael's mother, new moms & babies, those in hospice & those who care for them, those traveling this summer, that our world turns their eyes to God, 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](https://www.sjnnh.org)> and scrolling to the bottom of the homepage and clicking on <ONLINE-DOANATION>.

<https://sjnnh.org/online-donation>

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CAROL HOPFENSPIRGER & EVELYN VERBECK

Outreach & Food Pantry

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KATHY HOPKINS

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Bob Fregault (Chairman)

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

Arvid Skogsholm (Grand Knight)

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