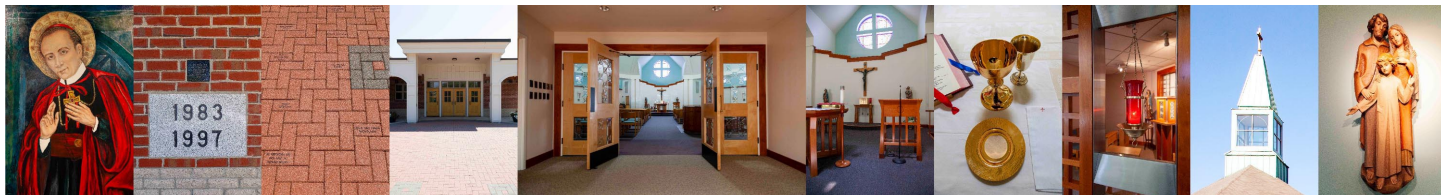


SAINT JOHN NEUMANN PARISH

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



August 20, 2023
20th SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME
Twelfth 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.

INCESSANT PRAYER

Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. —Mt 7:7

The following excerpts are from Saint John Paul the Great: His Five Loves (San Francisco: Ignatius Press, 2014).

POPE SAINT JOHN PAUL II (d. 2005)
Beatified 1 May 2011
Canonized 27 Apr 2014

BETWEEN 0500 and 0530—and sometimes as early as 0400—Pope [St] John Paul II would arise each morning, keeping virtually the same schedule he had as the bishop of Kraków. Although he enjoyed watching the sunrise, the main reason for his early start was to make time for prayer. He prayed the Rosary prostrate on the floor or kneeling, followed by his personal prayers, and would then go to the chapel in order to prepare for 0730 Mass. According to his press secretary, Joaquín Navarro-Valls, his 60 to 90 minutes of private prayer before Mass were the best part of his day. [And] After going to the sacristy to don his vestments for Mass, he would again kneel or sit for ten to twenty minutes. When visitors arrived to join him for Mass, they would always find him kneeling in prayer. Some said, "he looked like he was speaking with the Invisible." One of the masters of ceremonies added, "it seemed as if the Pope were not present among us." Bishop Andrew Wypych, who was ordained to the diaconate by Cardinal Karol Wojtyła, added, "You could see that he physically was there, but one could sense that he was immersed in the love of the Lord. They were united in talking to each other."

Prayer was the rhythm of the Holy Father's life. He made time to pray before and after his meals, and interspersed his Breviary prayers [the *Liturgy of the Hours*] throughout the day and night, calling it:



"very important, very important." At six in the morning, at noon, and again at six in the evening, he would stop whatever he was doing to pray the Angelus, just as he had done while working in the chemical plant in Poland. He prayed several Rosaries each day, went to confession every week, and did not let a day pass without receiving Holy Communion. Each Friday (and every day in Lent), he prayed the Stations of the Cross, and preferred to do this in the garden on the roof of the Papal Apartments. During Lent, he would eat one complete meal a day, and always fasted on the eve of our Lady's feast days. He remarked, "If the bishop doesn't set an example by fasting, then who will?" The Holy Father knew that his first duty to the Church was his interior life.

He declared, "the shepherd should walk at the head and lay down his life for his sheep. He should be the first when it comes to sacrifice and devotion."

Each night, he looked out his window to Saint Peter's Square and to the whole world, and made the sign of the cross over it, blessing the world goodnight. For many years, he ascended to the roof of the Papal Apartments to offer this nightly blessing. Visitors standing in the square noticed that his light often went off between eleven and one in the morning. One of his biographers noted that he seldom went to bed before midnight. As a priest and bishop, and perhaps as pope, he sometimes slept on the bare floor. In Kraków, his housekeeper knew of this, and noticed that he would crumple his bed sheets to conceal it.

More remarkable than his daily, weekly, and annual traditions of prayer was his habit of incessant prayer. While walking from place to place inside the Vatican or outside, prayer became as natural and vital to him as his breath. While strolling to his next appointment, Archbishop Mieczyslaw Mokrzycki said, "he was immersed in prayer for those five minutes. He was then beyond our reach, turned off. There were dozens of moments like that during the day. We knew that we were not supposed to disturb the Holy Father then because he was with God. They were united in an unusual way." He added that John Paul's mysticism was evidenced by the fact that he would "disconnect" himself from his surroundings and appeared oblivious to external distractions. Cardinal Dziwisz noticed that even times of work were "peppered with prayers, with short bursts of prayer." One member of the Curia noted, "No sooner does he pause than he starts praying." Cardinal Christoph Schönborn observed:

"The Holy Father looked as though he never stopped praying. I never saw anyone so constantly immersed in union with Christ and God, as though it were a permanent state that led him to submit everything he did unto the Lord's hands. His attentiveness to others, his gestures, words and readings—everything he did was bathed in prayer, like the great mystics. It could be said that he didn't make time to enter prayer. Rather, he made time for the sake of others to come out of it."

However, what's more fascinating than when the Pope prayed or what he prayed, is how he prayed. While hiking atop the Italian Alps, Dziwisz told the guide, "Lino, the

Holy Father wants to be alone for a little while in recollection, let's look for a good spot." They noticed a large flat rock and guided him over to it. The guide explained what happened next in his book, The Secret Life of John Paul II:

It was then that I witnessed for the first time something I will truly never forget, and that—overcoming my reservations—I am telling here for the first time. I seek to do so accurately and with purity of heart. His head was bowed and he was absorbed in prayer, totally immobile, without even the slightest movement. He was in a sort of trance—or I dare say, ecstasy—which he was modestly hiding from us. In fact, I couldn't see his face or even tell whether his hands were folded or not. Nor if his eyes were open or closed. Instead, I had the very clear sensation that I was observing someone endowed with a spiritual power that was no longer human; someone who no longer belonged to this world, but was living those minutes in complete communion with God, with the saints, and with all the souls of heaven. The unreal sparkle of the snow all around emphasized this impression. A complete silence had descended. Everything was motionless, as if a state of contemplation had taken hold of every element of nature. He never moved so much as a millimeter, his muscles were motionless like everything else around him. Then, the strangest thing occurred. The Pope, after the tiniest imperceptible movement, revived and then slowly got up, and when we looked at our watches, realized that almost an hour had gone by."

Such episodes of deep prayer were commonplace, according to those who spent time with the Holy Father. In 1995, when John Paul visited the Sacred Heart Cathedral—now Basilica—in Newark, he made a visit to the Blessed Sacrament before departing. When he knelt at the priedieu, a cardinal remembered:

"It was my hope, my intention to kneel a little behind him. I couldn't. I couldn't. As soon as he knelt, it was like a sacred space, like a tent was around him, and I moved away. I moved three or four yards back and stood by one of the stone pillars of the cathedral. Because you had to leave space there. He went into the deepest prayer. I've rarely seen anyone in that state of such deep prayerfulness. He wasn't with us any more. He was with the Lord. He knelt and then in ten seconds he was gone. It was so holy, I moved back. And he was there, for about maybe seven or eight minutes, lost in total prayer."

Then, Monsignor Dziwisz took his elbow and he gently got up, turned around with a great smile, waved to the people, and walked on.

WEEKLY CALENDAR

Aug 20, SUNDAY — 20th 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 21, MONDAY — Pope St Pius X

12:15 PM | Daily Mass

Aug 22, TUESDAY — Queenship of the Blessed Virgin Mary

7:00 PM | Scouts Meeting

Aug 23, WEDNESDAY

9:30 AM | Knitting Group (meets every other Wednesday)
10:00 AM | Ladies Faith Sharing Group
10:30 AM | **Power & Fulfillment Video Series: (Part 3: Family Prayer)**
12:15 PM | Daily Mass

Aug 24, THURSDAY — St Bartholomew, Apostle

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

Aug 25, FRIDAY

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

Aug 26, 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

13 Aug '23 (19th Sunday Ordinary Time): \$5,737.00

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 19 (Sat), 5:30 PM Pat Davis (req. by Tom Davis)
Aug 20 (Sun), 8:00 AM James Neely (req. by Bob & Denise Fregault)
Aug 20, 10:00 AM Dr. Bill Doherty & Sean Doherty (req. by Marie Doherty)
Aug 23 (Wed), 12:15 PM Jackie Bozzuto (req. by Karen & John Bozzuto)
Aug 24 (Thu), 12:15 PM Lucille DuBois (req. by Sandra Towne)
Aug 26 (Sat), 5:30 PM Diane Bonenfant (req. by Alice Lewis)
Aug 27 (Sun), 8:00 AM Diane Bonenfant & Hank Syseskey (req. by Elaine Syseskey)

The SANCTUARY CANDLE is lit this week in memory of Pete Champagne & Deb Matson-Champagne (req. by Sue Coker)

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

FAITH FORMATION REGISTRATION

2023-2024 School Year

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION (RE) is at the heart and center of parish life. *Only the LITURGY is more important.* The parish offers a K-thru-5th Grade program on Sunday mornings, Middle School on Monday nights, and High School on Sunday nights.

Please sign up as soon as possible to assist us in planning for the upcoming year. REGISTRATION FORMS and additional information (e.g., dates, Sacraments information) are available on the parish website <SJNNH.ORG>. Diocesan Sacramental Policy—the "Restored Order"—provides for FIRST RECONCILIATION during 2nd Grade, and both CONFIRMATION and FIRST EUCHARIST during 3rd Grade.

FALL CONCERT

w/ Paul Koleske

Sep 13 (Wed) at 6:30 PM
Saint John Neumann Church



This is no ordinary concert ...
you'll feel as though you are on a retreat.

Paul is a Catholic inspirational speaker, singer, songwriter, and recording artist. To date, he's conducted retreats and concerts in 119 dioceses across all 50 States (to include earlier this year at St. John Neumann).

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. In 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. For the repose of the soul of Ann Marie. Mary. Rick. Sarah. Savannah. Barb. Joe. Helen. Michael's Mother. Kim. Dee. Alan. Mary. Agnes. David. John. Gardner. June. Thomas. Wendell. Sue. Susan. For the victims of the fire in Hawaii. For family/friends who've fallen away from the faith. And for all of our parishioners and their needs.

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, 95 individuals/families have donated \$42,975 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)

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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KATHY HOPKINS

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PARISH COUNCIL

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Bob Fregault (Chairman)

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

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kofc@sjnnh.org