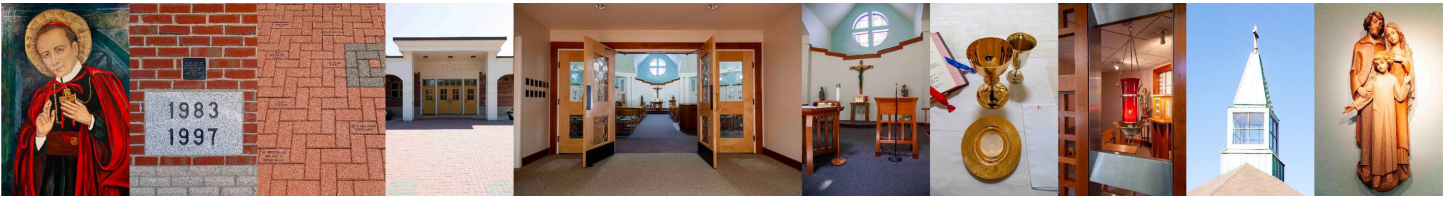


**SAINT JOHN NEUMANN PARISH**  
708 Milford Rd (Rte 101A), Merrimack, NH 03054 — SJNNH.ORG



September 10, 2023  
23rd SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME  
*Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost*

**Very Rev. Robert Glasgow, V.F.**  
Chaplain (LTC) USA (Ret.)  
(603) 880-4689 x113, [pastor@sjnnh.org](mailto:pastor@sjnnh.org)

**Deacon Brian Lester**  
[deacon@sjnnh.org](mailto:deacon@sjnnh.org)

**Teri Schmitt**  
Office Manager  
(603) 880-4689 x110, [office@sjnnh.org](mailto:office@sjnnh.org)

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**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.

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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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**CHRISTIAN TEACHING**

Fix these words in your heart and your soul, bind them as a reminder upon your hand, and wear them as a pendant between your eyes. You are to teach them to your children. You shall talk of them when you are sitting in your home, and when you are walking along the way, and when you lie down and when you rise up. —Deut 11:18-19

The excerpt below is from Pope St Pius X's 1905 encyclical Acerbo Nimis [Lt., On Teaching Christian Doctrine] which speaks of the absolute necessity of religious education.

1. AT this very troublesome and difficult time, the hidden designs of God have conducted Our poor strength to the office of Supreme pastor, to rule the entire flock of Christ. The enemy has, indeed, long been prowling about the fold and attacking it with such subtle cunning that now, more than ever before, the prediction of the Apostle to the elders of the Church of Ephesus seems to be verified: "I know that after I have gone, savage wolves will come among you and will not spare the flock" (Acts 20:29). Those who still are zealous for the glory of God are seeking the causes and reasons for this decline in religion. Coming to a different explanation, each points out, according to his own view, a different plan for the protection and restoration of the kingdom of God on earth. But it seems to Us, Venerable Brethren, that while we should not overlook other considerations, We are forced to agree with those who hold that the chief cause of the present indifference and, as it were, infirmity of soul, and the serious evils that result from it, is to be found above all in ignorance of things divine. This is fully in accord with what God Himself declared through the Prophet Hosea: "There is no knowledge of God in the land. Cursing and lying and killing and theft and adultery have overflowed: and bloodshed follows bloodshed. Therefore the land mourn, and all who live in it languish" (Hos 4:1-3).
2. It is a common complaint, unfortunately too well founded, that there are large numbers of Christians in our own time who are entirely ignorant of those truths necessary for salvation. And when we mention Christians, We refer not only to the masses or to those in the lower walks of life—for these find some excuse for their ignorance in the fact that the demands of their harsh employers hardly leave them time to take care of themselves or of their dear



ones—but We refer to those especially who do not lack culture or talents and, indeed, are possessed of abundant knowledge regarding things of the world but live rashly and imprudently with regard to religion. It is hard to find words to describe how profound is the darkness in which they are engulfed and, what is most deplorable of all, how tranquilly they repose there. They rarely give thought to God, the Supreme Author and Ruler of all things, or to the teachings of the faith of Christ. They know nothing of the Incarnation of the Word of God, nothing of the perfect restoration of the human race which He accomplished. Grace, the greatest of the helps for attaining eternal things, the Holy Sacrifice and the Sacraments by which we obtain grace, are entirely unknown to them. They have no conception of the malice and baseness of sin; hence they show no anxiety to avoid sin or to renounce it. And so they arrive at life's end in such a condition that, lest all hope of salvation be lost, the priest is obliged to give in the last few moments of life a summary teaching of religion, a time which should be devoted to stimulating the soul to greater love for God. And even this as too often happens only when the dying man is not so sinfully ignorant as to look upon the ministration of the priest as useless, and then calmly faces the fearful passage to eternity without making his peace with God. And so Our Predecessor, Benedict XIV, had just cause to write: "We declare that a great number of those who are condemned to eternal punishment suffer that everlasting calamity because of ignorance of those mysteries of faith which must be known and believed in order to be numbered among the elect."

3. There is then, Venerable Brethren, no reason for wonder that the corruption of morals and depravity of life is already so great, and ever increasingly greater, not only among uncivilized peoples but even in those very nations that are called Christian. The Apostle Paul, writing to the Ephesians, repeatedly admonished them in these words: "But fornication and impurity of any kind, or greed, must not even be mentioned among you, as is proper among saints. Entirely out of place is obscene, silly, and vulgar talk; but instead, let there be thanksgiving" (Eph 5:3-4). He also places the foundation of holiness and sound morals upon a knowledge of divine things—which holds in check evil desires: "Be careful then how you live, not as unwise people but as wise ... So do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is" (Eph 5:15-16). And rightly so. For the will of man retains but little of that divinely implanted love of virtue and righteousness by which it was, as it were, attracted strongly toward the real and not merely apparent good. Disordered by the stain of the first sin, and almost forgetful of God, its Author, it improperly turns every affection to a love of vanity and deceit. This erring will, blinded by its own evil desires, has need therefore of a guide to lead it back to the paths of justice whence it has so unfortunately strayed. The intellect itself is this guide, which need not be sought elsewhere, but is provided by

nature itself. It is a guide, though, that, if it lack its companion light, the knowledge of divine things, will be only an instance of the blind leading the blind so that both will fall into the pit. The holy king David, praising God for the light of truth with which He had illumined the intellect, exclaimed: "Let the light of your face shine on us, O Lord!" (Ps 4:7). Then he described the effect of this light by adding: "Thou hast given gladness in my heart," gladness, that is, which enlarges our heart so that it runs in the way of God's Commandments.

4. All this becomes evident on a little reflection. Christian teaching reveals God and His infinite perfection with far greater clarity than is possible by the human faculties alone. Nor is that all. This same Christian teaching also commands us to honor God by faith, which is of the mind, by hope, which is of the will, by love, which is of the heart; and thus the whole man is subjected to the supreme Maker and Ruler of all things. The truly remarkable dignity of man as the son of the heavenly Father, in Whose image he is formed, and with Whom he is destined to live in eternal happiness, is also revealed only by the doctrine of Jesus Christ. From this very dignity, and from man's knowledge of it, Christ showed that men should love one another as brothers, and should live here as become children of light, "not of revelry and drunkenness, not in debauchery and wantonness, not in strife and jealousy" (Rom 13:13). He also bids us to place all our anxiety and care in the hands of God, for He will provide for us; He tells us to help the poor, to do good to those who hate us, and to prefer the eternal welfare of the soul to the temporal goods of this life. Without wishing to touch on every detail, nevertheless it is not true that the proud man is urged and commanded by the teaching of Christ to strive for humility, the source of true glory? "Whoever becomes humble like this child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven" (Mt 18:4). From that same teaching we learn prudence of the spirit, and thereby we avoid prudence of the flesh; we learn justice, by which we give to every man his due; fortitude, which prepares us to endure all things and with steadfast heart suffer all things for the sake of God and eternal happiness; and, last of all, temperance through which we cherish even poverty borne out of love for God, nay, we even glory in the cross itself, unmindful of its shame. In fine, Christian teaching not only bestows on the intellect the light by which it attains truth, but from it our will draws that ardor by which we are raised up to God and joined with Him in the practice of virtue.
5. We by no means wish to conclude that a perverse will and unbridled conduct may not be joined with a knowledge of religion. Would to God that facts did not too abundantly prove the contrary! But We do maintain that the will cannot be upright nor the conduct good when the mind is shrouded in the darkness of crass ignorance. A man who walks with open eyes may, indeed, turn aside from the right path,

but a blind man is in much more imminent danger of wandering away. Furthermore, there is always some hope for a reform of perverse conduct so long as the light of faith is not entirely extinguished; but if lack of faith is added to depraved morality because of ignorance, the evil hardly admits of remedy, and the road to ruin lies open.

6. How many and how grave are the consequences of ignorance in matters of religion! And on the other hand, how necessary and how beneficial is religious instruction! It is indeed vain to expect a fulfillment of the duties of a Christian by one who does not even know them.

### WEEKLY CALENDAR

Sep 10, SUNDAY — 23rd Week of Ordinary Time

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

Sep 11, MONDAY

12:15 PM | Daily Mass

Sep 12, TUESDAY

7:00 PM | Scouts Meeting

Sep 13, WEDNESDAY — St John Chrysostom, Bishop

9:30 AM | Knitting Group (meets every other Wednesday)

12:15 PM | Daily Mass

6:30 PM | PAUL KOLESKE IN CONCERT

Sep 14, THURSDAY — EXALTATION OF THE HOLY CROSS

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

Sep 15, FRIDAY — OUR LADY OF SORROWS

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

Sep 16, 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

3 Sep '23 (22nd Sunday Ordinary Time):  
offering posted on BB adjacent to front office

THANK YOU for your generosity!

### MASS INTENTIONS

Sep 10 (Sun), 8:00 AM Marion Warpinski (req. by Cecilia Stuopis)  
Sep 10, 10:00 AM Richard Allen (req. by Linda Allen)  
Sep 11 (Mon), 10:00 AM Mario Cosco (req. by Denise Odesse)  
Sep 13 (Wed), 12:15 PM Catherine Clarke (req. by John & Mary Mann); Natalie

Botelho - LIVING INTENTION

Sep 14 (Thu), 12:15 PM Marie Duffy (req. by John & Mary Mann); Natalie Botelho - LIVING INTENTION  
Sep 15 (Fri), 12:15 PM Natalie Botelho - LIVING INTENTION  
Sep 17 (Sun), 8:00 AM Laura Sassak (req. by Ben Maccini)  
Sep 17, 10:00 AM James Neely (req. by Alice Lewis)  
Sep 17, 6:00 PM Amy Takayama-Perez (req. by Gerry & MJ Dube)

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

## 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).

### 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:

- **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 in the lobby and on the parish website <SJNNH.ORG>.

# MINISTRY FAIR



The Parish Council will host a Ministry Fair after all of the weekend Masses Sep 23-24.

## YARN MINISTRY UPDATE

The PRAYER SHAWL ladies are proud to announce that several new, beautiful, hand-knit or crocheted shawls were distributed to St Joseph Hospital and the Hospice House this Summer! With cooler weather on the way, we have had pleas from both for all the shawls or lap robes we can provide ... Unfortunately, our number of knitters has declined for various reasons. NEW MEMBERS ARE ALWAYS WELCOME! The ministry has provided warmth and love to the community for almost 25 years!



We are always accepting DONATIONS OF YARN (Pounder skeins for prayer shawls). DONATIONS may be left in the coatroom in the bin

marked "YARN".

THANK YOU for your continued support!

## 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:

Kim. Dee. Alan. Repose of soul of Mary. Agnes. David. John. Gardner. June. Thomas. Wendell. Sue. Susan. Crystal. Ernie. Michelle. Eileen. Joe. Pete. Kerianne. Lucas. Deb. Julian. Carole & family. Joe's family. Lexie. Ryan's family in Hawaii. David & Ryan's families in California. Stanley & Caroline. Pat. Alan. Terry. Elizabeth. Kim & Family. Joe. Owen. Elisa M. Sue. Deb. Anthony. Evalina. Sheila & Jerry. Jan & Dan. Peggy. Clinton. Jessica. Loreen. Sue's sister. Terry. Cindy & Sarah & family. And all our parishioners and their needs.

## 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!

## **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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### SJN Staff

#### CLAIRE BRYSON

Children (K-5) and Family Ministry

[cbryson@sjnnh.org](mailto:cbryson@sjnnh.org) | (603) 880-4689 x114

#### CHERI ANDERSEN

Youth (6-12) and Adult Ministry

[candersen@sjnnh.org](mailto:candersen@sjnnh.org) | (603) 880-4689 x111

#### ARTIE CAREW

Music Ministry

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

#### CAROL HOPFENSPIRGER & EVELYN VERBECK

Outreach & Food Pantry

[outreach@sjnnh.org](mailto:outreach@sjnnh.org) | (603) 880-4689 x116

#### KATHY HOPKINS

Day Away (Thursday)

[dayaway@sjnnh.org](mailto:dayaway@sjnnh.org) | (603) 880-4689

#### PARISH COUNCIL

Keith Faucher (President)

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

#### FINANCE COMMITTEE

Bob Fregault (Chairman)

#### KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

Arvid Skogsholm (Grand Knight)

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