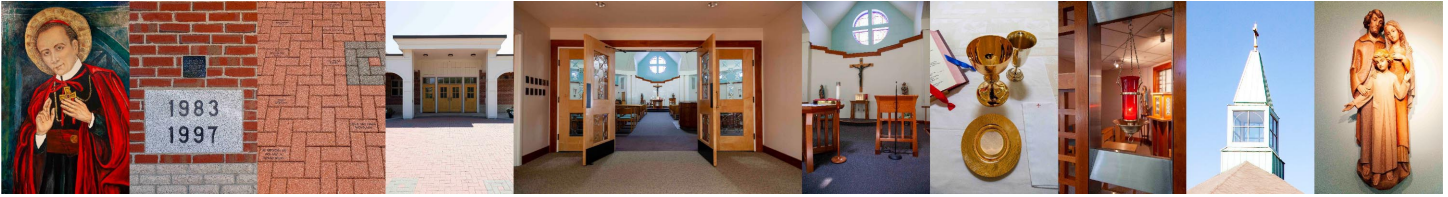


SAINT JOHN NEUMANN PARISH
708 Milford Rd (Rte 101A), Merrimack, NH 03054 — SJNNH.ORG



October 8, 2023
27th SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME
Nineteenth 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.

HEAVEN

And this is eternal life, that they know you the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent." —John 17:3



The excerpt below is from Pope St John Paul II's (d. 2005) General Audience of 21 July 1999. Properly understood, **HEAVEN** is a living, personal relationship with the Holy Trinity. It is our meeting with the Father which takes place *in the risen Christ* through the communion of the Holy Spirit. In short, it is fullness of communion with God *with, in, and through Jesus Christ*. As St Ambrose (d. 397) said, "Where Christ is, there is life, there is the kingdom."

1. WHEN the form of this world has passed away, those who have welcomed God into their lives and have sincerely opened themselves to his love, at least at the moment of death, will enjoy that fullness of communion with God which is the goal of human life. As the Catechism teaches, "this perfect life with the Most Holy Trinity this communion of life and love with the Trinity, with the Virgin Mary, the angels and all the blessed is called "HEAVEN". HEAVEN is the ultimate end and fulfilment of the deepest human longings, the state of supreme, definitive happiness" (n.1024). Today we will try to understand the biblical meaning of "HEAVEN", in order to have a better understanding of the reality to which this expression refers.
2. In biblical language "HEAVEN", when it is joined to the "earth", indicates part of the universe. Scripture says about creation: "In the beginning God created the HEAVENS and the earth" (Gen 1:1). HEAVEN is the transcendent dwelling-place of the



living God. Metaphorically speaking, HEAVEN is understood as the dwelling-place of God, who is thus distinguished from human beings (cf. Ps 104:2f.; 115:16; Isa 66:1). He sees and judges from the heights of HEAVEN (cf. Ps 113:4-9) and comes down when he is called upon (cf. Ps 18:9, 10; 144:5). However the biblical metaphor makes it clear that God does not identify himself with HEAVEN, nor can he be contained in it (cf. 1 Kgs 8:27); and this is true, even though in some passages of the First Book of the Maccabees "HEAVEN" is simply one of God's names (1 Macc 3:18, 19, 50, 60; 4:24, 55). The depiction of HEAVEN as the transcendent dwelling-place of the living God is joined with that of the place to which believers, through grace, can also ascend, as we see in the Old Testament accounts of Enoch (cf. Gen 5:24) and Elijah (cf. 2 Kgs 2:11). Thus HEAVEN becomes an image of life in God. In this sense Jesus speaks of a "reward in HEAVEN" (Mt 5:12) and urges people to "lay up for yourselves treasures in HEAVEN" (ibid., 6:20; cf. 19:21).

3. The New Testament amplifies the idea of HEAVEN in relation to the mystery of Christ. To show that the Redeemer's sacrifice acquires perfect and definitive value, the Letter to the Hebrews says that Jesus "passed through the HEAVENS" (Heb 4:14), and "entered, not into a sanctuary made with hands, a copy of the true one, but into HEAVEN itself" (ibid., 9:24). Since believers are loved in a special way by the Father, they are raised with Christ and made citizens of HEAVEN. It is worthwhile listening to what the Apostle Paul tells us about this in a very powerful text: "God, who is rich in mercy, out of the great love with which he loved us, even when we were dead through our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved), and raised us up with him, and made us sit with him in the HEAVENLY places in Christ Jesus, that in the coming ages he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus" (Eph 2:4-7). The fatherhood of God, who is rich in mercy, is experienced by creatures through the love of God's crucified and risen Son, who sits in HEAVEN on the right hand of the Father as Lord.
4. After the course of our earthly life, participation in complete intimacy with the Father thus comes through our insertion into Christ's paschal mystery. St Paul emphasizes our meeting with Christ in HEAVEN at the end of time with a vivid spatial image: "Then we who are alive, who are left, shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air; and so we shall always be with the Lord. Therefore comfort one another with these words" (1 Thes 4:17-18).

Sacramental Life Is Anticipation of HEAVEN

In the context of Revelation, we know that the "HEAVEN" or "happiness" in which we will find ourselves is neither an abstraction nor a physical place in the clouds, but a living, personal relationship with the Holy Trinity. It is our meeting with the Father

which takes place in the risen Christ through the communion of the Holy Spirit. It is always necessary to maintain a certain restraint in describing these "ultimate realities" since their depiction is always unsatisfactory. Today, personalist language is better suited to describing the state of happiness and peace we will enjoy in our definitive communion with God. The Catechism sums up the Church's teaching on this truth: "By his death and Resurrection, Jesus Christ has 'opened' HEAVEN to us. The life of the blessed consists in the full and perfect possession of the fruits of the redemption accomplished by Christ. He makes partners in his HEAVENLY glorification those who have believed in him and remained faithful to his will. HEAVEN is the blessed community of all who are perfectly incorporated into Christ" (n. 1026).

5. This final state, however, can be anticipated in some way today in sacramental life, whose center is the Eucharist, and in the gift of self through fraternal charity. If we are able to enjoy properly the good things that the Lord showers upon us every day, we will already have begun to experience that joy and peace which one day will be completely ours. We know that on this earth everything is subject to limits, but the thought of the "ultimate" realities helps us to live better the "penultimate" realities. We know that as we pass through this world we are called to seek "the things that are above, where Christ is seated at the right hand of God" (Col 3:1), in order to be with him in the eschatological fulfilment, when the Spirit will fully reconcile with the Father "all things, whether on earth or in HEAVEN" (Col 1:20).

WEEKLY CALENDAR

Oct 8, SUNDAY — 27th Week of Ordinary Time
 8:00 AM | Sunday Mass
 10:00 AM | Sunday Mass
 6:00 PM | Sunday Mass
 7:00 PM | Eucharistic Adoration

Oct 9, MONDAY — OFFICE closed in observance of the Columbus Day holiday
 12:15 PM | *No Daily Mass

Oct 10, TUESDAY
 6:00 PM | YOUTH & ADULT "Great Adventure Bible Study"
 7:00 PM | Scouts Meeting

Oct 11, WEDNESDAY
 9:30 AM | Knitting Group (meets every other Wednesday)
 10:30 AM | "Jesus and the Eucharist" Video Series
 12:15 PM | Daily Mass
 6:30 PM | Grief Share w/ Deacon Lester
 7:00 PM | "Jesus and the Eucharist" Video Series

Oct 12, THURSDAY
 9:00 AM | Day Away
 10:00 AM | Thursday Women's Group
 12:15 PM | Daily Mass
 5:30 PM | "Jesus and the Eucharist" Video Series

Oct 13, FRIDAY

10:00 AM | Food Pantry
10:30 AM | ADULT "Great Adventure Bible Study"
12:15 PM | Daily Mass w/ Eucharistic Adoration

Oct 14, 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

1 Oct '23 (26th Sunday Ordinary Time)
offering posted on BB adjacent to front office
THANK YOU for your generosity!

MASS INTENTIONS

Oct 7 (Sat), 5:30 PM	Ed Towne (req. by Sandra Towne)
Oct 8 (Sun), 8:00 AM	Charlotte Joy Scalese (req. by Maureen Mooney)
Oct 8, 10:00 AM	Theresa Lester (req. by Brian & Andrea Lester)
Oct 8, 6:00 PM	Ricardo Acevedo (req. by Karen Acevedo)
Oct 11 (Wed), 12:15 PM	Caitlyn Kehoe - LIVING INTENTION (req. by Thomas Waguska); Jose Botelho - LIVING INTENTION (req. by Lucia Pacheco)
Oct 12 (Thu), 12:15 PM	Joe Oertel - LIVING INTENTION (req. by Agatha Connelly); Jose Botelho - LIVING INTENTION (req. by Lucia Pacheco)
Oct 13 (Fri), 12:15 PM	Joe Oertel - LIVING INTENTION (req. by Agatha Connelly); Jose Botelho - LIVING INTENTION (req. by Lucia Pacheco)
Oct 14 (Sat), 5:30 PM	Brighton Penkacik (req. by Doug Davidson)
Oct 15 (Sun), 8:00 AM	Pat Davis (req. by Gerry & MJ Dube)
Oct 15, 10:00 AM	Hedy Smith (req. by Doug Davidson)
Oct 15, 6:00 PM	Joe Oertel - LIVING INTENTION (req. by Agatha Connelly)

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



The annual 40 DAYS FOR LIFE campaign to end abortion runs from Sep 27-to-Nov 5. *The theme of the campaign is "LOVE THEM BOTH"—both the parents considering abortion and their fragile unborn children.*

Please consider praying peacefully with other NH Catholics, Christians, and people of good will on the public sidewalk outside PLANNED PARENTHOOD (24 Pennacook St, Manchester). The Prayer Volunteers offer an hour of prayer between the hours of 7:00 AM-7:00 PM weekdays or weekends as a witness to the beauty and sacredness of life, particularly the life of our tiniest neighbors—the unborn. **For questions: Agatha (a SJN parishioner) or call at (603) 320-1472.**



PARISH HARVEST DINNER
Nov 6, following the Saturday 5:30 PM Mass
TICKETS (\$2/individual, \$5/family) available after Sunday Masses Oct 24 & 31

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!

"JESUS AND THE EUCHARIST"

This year is the YEAR OF THE PARISH, the second year of the three-year EUCHARISTIC REVIVAL. The parish will offer a 7-session study entitled, "JESUS AND THE EUCHARIST" three times (3x) during the course of the year (Autumn, Winter, Spring) AND on multiple days/times so everyone has the opportunity to participate. Please sign up for a small group today.

MONDAYS

(10:30 AM-Noon)

Oct 9, 16, 23, 30; Nov 6, 13 and 20

WEDNESDAYS

(10:30 AM-Noon)

Oct 4, 11, 18, 25; Nov 1, 8 and 15

WEDNESDAYS

(7:00-8:30 PM)

Oct 4, 11, 18, 25; Nov 8, 15 and 22

THURSDAYS
(5:30-7:00 PM)
Oct 5, 12, 19, 26; Nov 2, 9 and 16

"GREAT ADVENTURE BIBLE STUDY"

No matter what your age, we have a Bible Study for you. KIDS gather together in one place, PARENTS/ADULTS in another. Both will learn the same story of SALVATION HISTORY ... simultaneously at their respective level. Don't miss out on this opportunity to draw closer to God as you learn His story!

For more information, contact Claire Bryson (Youth), cbryson@sjnnh.org —or— Cheri Andersen (Adult), candersen@sjnnh.org.

YOUTH & ADULT STUDIES
Tuesdays (6:00-7:30 PM)
ADULT STUDY
Friday (10:30 AM-Noon)

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:

Helen. Family of Bob. Ryan. Bill. Jane. Kim. Roy.
Rose. Nancy. Family of Robb. Barney. Magie.
Norman. Linda. Cindy. Sheila. Heather & Baby.
Joe. Laura & Joe. Bonnie. Kerstin. Lucy. Frank.
The Bielecki Family & all of their departed souls.
For those who've suffered the loss of a loved ones.
Thanksgiving for Joe & Nancy. For a return to the
Faith of those who have fallen away.

ALL SOULS REMEMBRANCE

ALL SOULS is November 2. It is customary to offer prayers for family members and to remember them at Mass throughout the whole of the month. Special envelopes are available in the foyer if you would like to have family members remembered at Mass throughout November. You may place the envelopes in the Collection Basket.

TRINITY HIGH SCHOOL OPEN HOUSE

Trinity High School will host a OPEN HOUSE for 8th Graders on Oct 19 at 7:00 PM. DISCOVER THE DIFFERENCE AT TRINITY! We offer several options for TUITION ASSISTANCE to assist families. *All future students in attendance will be entered into a raffle to win \$1,000 off tuition.* To

RSVP, please contact our Admissions Office at (603) 668-2910 ext. 220 or admissions@trinity-hs.org.

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

ARTIE CAREW

Music Ministry
music@sjnnh.org

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

Arvid Skogsholm (Grand Knight)
kofc@sjnnh.org