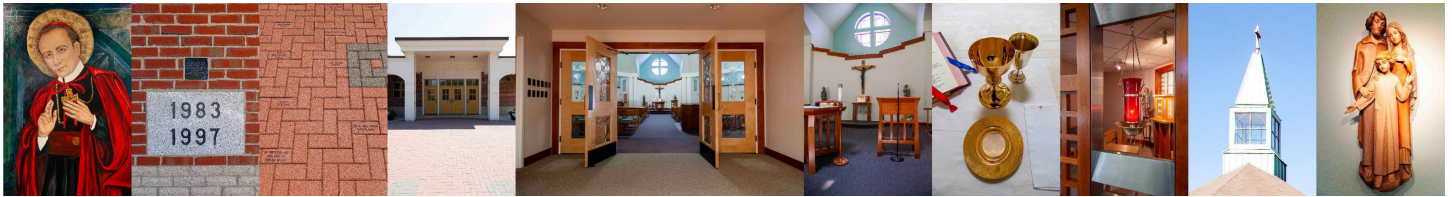


SAINT JOHN NEUMANN PARISH
708 Milford Rd (Rte 101A), Merrimack, NH 03054 — SJNNH.ORG



November 12, 2023
32nd SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME
Twenty-Fourth Sunday after Pentecost

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

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.

DEATH IS GAIN, LIFE IS LOSS

Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us rid ourselves of every burden and sin that clings to us and persevere in running the race that lies before us while keeping our eyes fixed on Jesus, the leader and perfecter of faith. —Heb 12:1-2

The first excerpt below is from a homily by St Bernard of Clairvaux (d. 1153). To venerate the memory of the Saints benefits us, not them. The second, from a letter by St Ambrose (d. 397), is a reflection on death.



THE WORLD'S THY SHIP AND NOT THY HOME

JESUS was inside the boat, sleeping with his head on a pillow. The followers went and woke him. They said, "Teacher, don't you care about us? We are going to drown!" Jesus stood up and gave a command to the wind and the water. He said, "Quiet! Be still!" Then the wind stopped, and the lake became calm. He said to his followers, "Why are you afraid? Do you still have no faith?" —Mark 4:38-40

WHY should our praise and glorification, or even the celebration of this feast day mean anything to the saints? What do they care about earthly honors when their heavenly Father honors them by fulfilling the faithful promise of the Son? What does our commendation mean to them? The saints have no need of honor from us; neither does our devotion add the slightest thing to what is theirs. Clearly, if we venerate their memory, it serves us, not them. But I tell you, when I think of them, I feel myself inflamed by a tremendous yearning.

Calling the saints to mind inspires, or rather arouses in us, above all else, a longing to enjoy their company, so desirable in itself. We long to share in the citizenship of heaven, to dwell with the spirits of the blessed, to join the assembly of patriarchs, the ranks of the prophets, the council of apostles, the great host of



martyrs, the noble company of confessors and the choir of virgins. In short, we long to be united in happiness with all the saints. But our dispositions change. The Church of all the first followers of Christ awaits us, but we do nothing about it. The saints want us to be with them, and we are indifferent. The souls of the just await us, and we ignore them.

Come, brothers, let us at length spur ourselves on. We must rise again with Christ, we must seek the world which is above and set our mind on the things of heaven. Let us long for those who are longing for us, hasten to those who are waiting for us, and ask those who look for our coming to intercede for us. We should not only want to be with the saints, we should also hope to possess their happiness. While we desire to be in their company, we must also earnestly seek to share in their glory. Do not imagine that there is anything harmful in such an ambition as this; there is no danger in setting our hearts on such glory.

When we commemorate the saints we are inflamed with another yearning: that Christ our life may also appear to us as he appeared to them and that we may one day share in his glory. Until then we see him, not as he is, but as he became for our sake. He is our head, crowned, not with glory, but with the thorns of our sins. As members of that head, crowned with thorns, we should be ashamed to live in luxury; his purple robes are a mockery rather than an honor. When Christ comes again, his death shall no longer be proclaimed, and we shall know that we also have died, and that our life is hidden with him. The glorious head of the Church will appear and his glorified members will shine in splendor with him, when he forms this lowly body anew into such glory as belongs to himself, its head.

Therefore, we should aim at attaining this glory with a wholehearted and prudent desire. That we may rightly hope and strive for such blessedness, we must above all seek the prayers of the saints. Thus, what is beyond our own powers to obtain will be granted through their intercession.

WE see that death is gain, life is loss. Paul says: For me life is Christ, and death a gain. What does "Christ" mean but to die in the body, and receive the breath of life? Let us then die with Christ, to live with Christ. We should have a daily familiarity with death, a daily desire for death. By this kind of detachment our soul must learn to free itself from the desires of the body. It must soar above earthly lusts to a place where they cannot come near, to hold it fast. It must take on the likeness of death, to avoid the punishment of death. The law of our fallen nature is at war with the law of our reason and subjects the law of reason to the law of error. What is the remedy? Who will set me free from this body of death? The grace of God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

We have a doctor to heal us; let us use the remedy he prescribes. The remedy is the grace of Christ, the dead body our own. Let us then be exiles from our body, so as not to be exiles from

Christ. Though we are still in the body, let us not give ourselves to the things of the body. We must not reject the natural rights of the body, but we must desire before all else the gifts of grace.

What more need be said? It was by the death of one man that the world was redeemed. Christ did not need to die if he did not want to, but he did not look on death as something to be despised, something to be avoided, and he could have found no better means to save us than by dying. Thus his death is life for all. We are sealed with the sign of his death; when we pray we preach his death; when we offer sacrifice we proclaim his death. His death is victory; his death is a sacred sign; each year his death is celebrated with solemnity by the whole world.

What more should we say about his death since we use this divine example to prove that it was death alone that won freedom from death, and death itself was its own redeemer? Death is then no cause for mourning, for it is the cause of mankind's salvation. Death is not something to be avoided, for the Son of God did not think it beneath his dignity, nor did he seek to escape it.

Death was not part of nature; it became part of nature. God did not decree death from the beginning; he prescribed it as a remedy. Human life was condemned because of sin to unremitting labor and unbearable sorrow and so began to experience the burden of wretchedness. There had to be a limit to its evils; death had to restore what life had forfeited. Without the assistance of grace, immortality is more of a burden than a blessing.

The soul has to turn away from the aimless paths of this life, from the defilement of an earthly body; it must reach out to those assemblies in heaven (though it is given only to the saints to be admitted to them) to sing the praises of God. We learn from Scripture how God's praise is sung to the music of the harp:

Great and wonderful are your deeds, Lord God Almighty; just and true are your ways, King of the nations. Who will not revere and glorify your nature? You alone are holy; all nations will come and worship before you.

The soul must also desire to witness your nuptials, Jesus, and to see your bride escorted from earthly to heavenly realities, as all rejoice and sing: All flesh will come before you. No longer will the bride be held in subjection to this passing world but will be made one with the spirit.

Above all else, holy David prayed that he might see and gaze on this: One thing I have asked of the Lord, this I shall pray for: to dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life, and to see how gracious is the Lord.

WEEKLY CALENDAR

Nov 12, SUNDAY — 31st Week of Ordinary Time

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

Nov 13, MONDAY — St Frances Xavier Cabrini

12:15 PM | Daily Mass

Nov 14, TUESDAY

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

Nov 15, WEDNESDAY — St Albert the Great, Bishop

9:30 AM | Knitting Group (meets every other Wednesday)
10:15 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

Nov 16, THURSDAY — St Margaret of Scotland & St Gertrude

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

Nov 17, FRIDAY — St Elizabeth of Hungary, Religious

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

Nov 18, SATURDAY — Dedication of the Basilicas of SS. Peter and Paul

9:30 AM | Widow's Group (2nd Sat of month)
4:00 PM | Confession (until 5:00 PM)
5:30 PM | Anticipatory Sunday Mass

Nov 17 (Fri), 12:15 PM Elfriede Rauscher (req. by William Rauscher); Eracemia Pereira-Silva - LIVING INTENTION (req. by Emily Medeiros)

Nov 18 (Sat), 5:30 PM James Gallagher (req. by Thomas & Cynthia Sullivan)

Nov 19 (Sun), 8:00 AM Ken Paquin (req. by Maureen Mooney)

Nov 19, 6:00 PM Michael Lafleur (req. by family)

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

FOOD PANTRY NEEDS

The NH Food Bank has none of the following items this year. If you are able to help, our Food Pantry needs the following items by Nov 15 to be of use in the annual Thanksgiving baskets we distribute:

Canned Cranberry Sauce + Canned Peas + Canned Green Beans + Canned Mushroom Soup + Large Boxes of Stuffing Mix + Large Boxes of Mashed Potatoes + Large Jar of Applesauce + and Canned Pumpkin.

OFFERING

5 Nov '23 (31st Sunday Ordinary Time):
posted on the bulletin board opposite the front office.

THANK YOU for your generosity!

MASS INTENTIONS

Nov 11 (Sat), 5:30 PM Kenny Garvey (req. by Doug Davidson)
Nov 12 (Sun), 8:00 AM John O'Connell, Jr. (req. by Maureen Mooney)
Nov 12, 10:00 AM Danielle Bonner (req. by Heather Wiggins)
Nov 12, 6:00 PM William H. Andrews (req. by the Caron Family)
Nov 13 (Mon), 12:15 PM Lisa Matthews (req. by the Connelly Family)
Nov 15 (Wed), 12:15 PM Eracemia Pereira-Silva - LIVING INTENTION (req. by Emily Medeiros)
Nov 16 (Thu), 12:15 PM Maria Egler (req. by Michael & Barbara Fletcher); Eracemia Pereira-Silva - LIVING INTENTION (req. by Emily Medeiros)

MARIAN APPARITIONS SINCE FATIMA

JOIN US for a fascinating talk on Marian apparitions since Fatima following the Saturday 5:30 PM Mass on Nov 11.

The talk will be given by Deacon Andy Usera of our parish who has been involved in Marian issues for over three decades. An attorney by profession, he received a masters in theology Summa cum Laude from Christendom College and was ordained a deacon by Abp. Charles Chaput, OFM Cap of Denver, CO in October 2010. He has visited sites of numerous Marian apparitions and has personally met several visionaries. He has translated documents related to apparitions, written articles and been interviewed on the topic. We will learn what the Church says about private revelations such as apparitions and the criteria and process it follows to approve these. More importantly, we will hear about the specifics about what Our Blessed Mother has been trying to tell us for decades, seemingly in a more insistent manner, all over the world (e.g. Banneux, Beauraing, Garabandal, Medjugorje, Betania, Akita, Kibeho, Cuapa and San Nicolas) and what our response should be. Deacon Usera will bring to the talk

statues of Our Blessed Mother as she is depicted in several of the apparitions discussed. COME AND JOIN US!

IN MEMORIAM

We remember our faithful departed in prayer:

Diane Bonenfant, Maria Amelia, Jeryl Bacon, The Baffoni Family, Elizabeth Barney, Roger Barney, Batcheller Loesch Ancestors, Elaine Beebe, Pauline Bellerose, Berthelsen Pennel Ancestors, Marilyn Bixby, Diane Bonenfant, Mary & Larry Boudreau, Jackie Bozzuto, John A. Bozzuto, Marie Bozzuto, Vince & Marie Buscema, Pete Champagne, Ian Connolly, Marie Davis, Pat Davis, Barbara Davis, Kenneth Davis, Nancy DeBeradinis, Ronald Denver, Lisa Deware, Ezio DiFilippis, Russ & Edna Durkee, The Durkee Family, Ramon Fernandez, Laurence Fletcher, Maurice and Jean Gagne, Linda Graham, Leona Guercio, Patrick Guercio, Little Larry Hardy, All nine of the Hardy Family, Matthew Harris, Rosario Hernandez, Mary Horn, Billy Howell, Jr., Jane Hrogh, Karen Kelly, Theresa Klumpp, Roy Klumpp, Edith Krhoun, Edward Krhoun, Bea Lampin, Joseph & Laura Leclerc, Riley Lessard, Norman Levasseur, Alfred Levasseur, Yvonne Levasseur, Patricia Levesque, The Licata Family, Rainy Lill, Paul & Alice Lowney, The Lowney Family, Michael Lyle, Zachary Lyle, Deb Matson-Champagne, Anna M. McCann, Mary A. McCann, Michael C. McCann, Mary McCormack, Michael Mercier, Tom Mercier, Ben Millikan, Mr. & Mrs. Max Miosek, Mike & Jean Nader, Lt. Col. James Neely, Jr., Alma Needer, John Neuzil, Florence Neuzil, Camilla Neveu, Roger Neveu, Jennie Pinelle, Peter Prifty, Pauline Prifty, Barbara Prifty, Roland & Juliette Poulin, Roger & Normand Poulin, Eva Reynolds, Robert Riley, George Ritz, Mary Jane Ritz, Francis Ryan, Ruth Ryan, Marie Ryan, Joseph Ryan, Laura Sassak, Fred Scherr, Glenn Scherr, Patricia Sciple, Kazimierz Stankiewicz, Czeslawa Stankiewicz, Alina Stankiewicz, Eugeniusz Stankiewicz, William Steele, Nancy Tanner, Mary Moss Tanner, Lorraine Trombley, Ray Trombley, Cal Vincent Usera, Usera Tous Ancestors, Mary Irene Walsh, Mr. & Mrs. Joseph Wezalis, John Zewski, Sophie Zewski, Al Zewski

**V. Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord.
R/. And let perpetual light shine upon them. May
their souls and the souls of all the faithful
departed, through the mercy of God, rest in
peace. Amen.**

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:

Those in our Grief Share Group. Michelle. Thanksgiving for Jerry. Jennifer. Marina & Chris. Mel & her student. Steve & family. Jan. Jeanne. Victoria. Christina. Brian. Pat & James. Thanksgiving for Riley. Ian's family. The Gavert family.

Heather W. Heather A. Elaine's sister. Kim. Erick. Danny. Eric. Shannon. Bill. Deanna. Sue. Lorin. Jennifer. Bob. Joan. Crystal. For a just ending to the wars in Israel and Ukraine. All of our parishioners and their needs.

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>

SCAM ALERT

Should you receive a text/email purportedly from St John Neumann parish staff requesting gift cards, it is a SCAM! For more information on internet scams or to file a report, go to the FBI INTERNET CRIME COMPLAINT CENTER:

<https://www.ic3.gov/default.aspx>

SJN Staff

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CAROL HOPFENSPIRGER & EVELYN VERBECK

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KATHY HOPKINS

Day Away (Thursday)
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PARISH COUNCIL

Keith Faucher (President)
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FINANCE COMMITTEE

Bob Fregault (Chairman)

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

kofc@sjnnh.org
Arvid Skogsholm (Grand Knight)