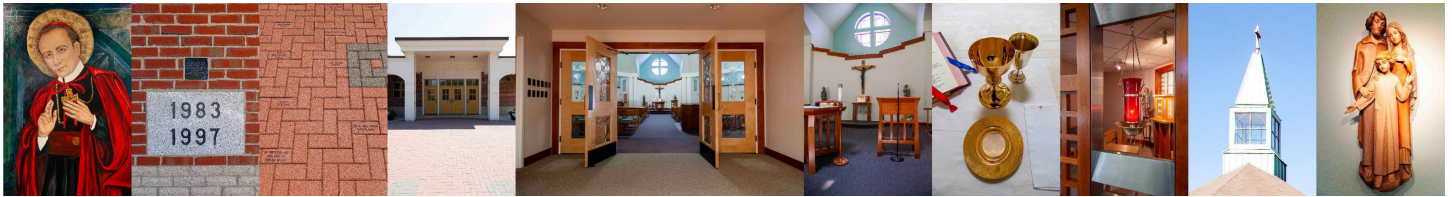


SAINT JOHN NEUMANN PARISH
708 Milford Rd (Rte 101A), Merrimack, NH 03054 — SJNNH.ORG



1st SUNDAY OF ADVENT
December 3, 2023

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.

ON JUDGMENT

When a man dies, his life is revealed. Call no man happy before his death, for by how he ends, a man is known. —Sir 11:28

The first excerpt below is from the Catechism of the Council of Trent [alt., Roman Catechism] of 1566, the first universal catechism. The second is from the 1912 Catholic Encyclopedia. As Scripture reveals, "*It is appointed that human beings die once, and after this the judgment*" (Heb 9:27). At death, body and soul are separated and the time to accept salvation is at an end. We will be judged according to how we have lived—that is, how we have responded to God's call/grace—and will either be filled with life or damned for eternity: "*Before man is life and death, good and evil, that which he shall choose shall be given him*" (Sir 15:17). The fate awaiting the unrepentant is eternal loss.

THE WICKED. Turning next to those who shall stand on His left, He will pour out His justice upon them in these words: *Depart from me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels.*

The first words, *depart from me*, express the heaviest punishment with which the wicked shall be visited, their eternal banishment from the sight of God, unrelieved by one consolatory hope of ever recovering so great a good. This punishment is called by theologians the pain of loss, because in hell the wicked shall be deprived forever of the light of the vision of God.

The words *ye cursed*, which follow, increase unutterably their wretched and calamitous condition. If when banished from the divine presence they were deemed worthy to receive some benediction, this would be to them a great source of consolation. But since they can expect nothing of this kind as an alleviation of their misery, the divine justice deservedly pursues them with every species of malediction, once they have been banished.

The next words, *into everlasting fire*, express another sort of punishment, which is called by theologians the pain of sense, because, like lashes, stripes or other more severe chastisements, among which fire, no doubt, produces the most intense pain, it is felt through the organs of sense. When, moreover, we reflect that this torment is to be eternal, we can see at once that the punishment of the damned includes every kind of suffering.

The concluding words, *which was*



prepared for the devil and his angels, make this still more clear. For since nature has so provided that we feel miseries less when we have companions and sharers in them who can, at least in some measure, assist us by their advice and kindness, what must be the horrible state of the damned who in such calamities can never separate themselves from the companionship of most wicked demons? And yet most justly shall this very sentence be pronounced by our Lord and Savior on those sinners who neglected all the works of true mercy, who gave neither food to the hungry, nor drink to the thirsty, who refused shelter to the stranger and clothing to the naked, and who would not visit the sick and the imprisoned.

THE damned are confirmed in evil; every act of their will is evil and inspired by hatred of God. This is the common teaching of theology; St Thomas sets it forth in many passages. Nevertheless, some have held the opinion that, although the damned cannot perform any supernatural action, they are still able to perform, now and then, some naturally good deed; thus far the Church has not condemned this opinion. The common teaching is the true one; for in hell the separation from the sanctifying power of Divine love is complete. Many assert that this inability to do good works is physical, and assign the withholding of all grace as its proximate cause; in doing so, they take the term grace in its widest meaning, i.e. every Divine co-operation both in natural and in supernatural good actions. The damned, then, can never choose between acting out of love of God and virtue, and acting out of hatred of God. Hatred is the only motive in their power; and they have no other choice than that of showing their hatred of God by one evil action in preference to another. The last and the real cause of their impenitence is the state of sin which they freely chose as their portion on earth and in which they passed, unconverted, into the next life and into that state of permanence (*status termini*) by nature due to rational creatures, and to an unchangeable attitude of mind. Quite in consonance with their final state, God grants them only such cooperation as corresponds to the attitude which they freely chose as their own in this life. Hence the damned can but hate God and work evil, whilst the just in heaven or in purgatory, being inspired solely by love of God, can but do good. Therefore, too, the works of the reprobate, in as far as they are inspired by hatred of God, are not formal, but only material sins, because they are performed without the liberty requisite for moral imputability. Formal sin the reprobate commits then only, when, from among several actions in his power, he deliberately chooses that which contains the greater malice. By such formal sins the damned do not incur any

essential increase of punishment, because in that final state the very possibility and Divine permission of sin are in themselves a punishment; and, moreover, a sanction of the moral law would be quite meaningless.

From what has been said it follows that the hatred which the lost soul bears to God is voluntary in its cause only; and the cause is the deliberate sin which it committed on earth and by which it merited reprobation. It is also obvious that God is not responsible for the reprobate's material sins of hate, because by granting His co-operation in their sinful acts as well as by refusing them every incitement to good, He acts quite in accordance with the nature of their state. Therefore their sins are no more imputable to God than are the blasphemies of a man in the state of total intoxication, although they are not uttered without Divine assistance. The reprobate carries in himself the primary cause of impenitence; it is the guilt of sin which he committed on earth and with which he passed into eternity. The proximate cause of impenitence in hell is God's refusal of every grace and every impulse for good. It would not be intrinsically impossible for God to move the damned to repentance; yet such a course would be out of keeping with the state of final reprobation. St Thomas teaches that the chief cause of impenitence is Divine justice which refuses the damned every grace. Nevertheless many theologians defend the opinion that the damned are only morally incapable of good; they have the physical power, but the difficulties in their way are so great that they can never be surmounted. The damned can never divert their attention from their frightful torments, and at the same time they know that all hope is lost to them. Hence despair and hatred of God, their just Judge, is almost inevitable, and even the slightest good impulse becomes morally impossible. The Church has not decided this question.

But if the damned are impenitent, how can Scripture (Wis 5) say they repent of their sin? They deplore with the utmost intensity the punishment, but not the malice of sin; to this they cling more tenaciously than ever. Had they an opportunity, they would commit the sin again, not indeed for the sake of its gratification, which they found illusive, but out of sheer hatred of God. They are ashamed of their folly which led them to seek happiness in sin, but not of the malice of sin itself.

WEEKLY CALENDAR

Dec 3, SUNDAY — 1st SUNDAY OF ADVENT
8:00 AM | Sunday Mass

10:00 AM | Sunday Mass
 11:00 AM | K-5th Grade Religious Education
 6:00 PM | Sunday Mass
 7:00 PM | High School Program
 7:00 PM | Eucharistic Adoration

Dec 4, MONDAY

12:15 PM | Daily Mass
 6:30 PM | Middle School Program

Dec 5, TUESDAY

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

Dec 6, WEDNESDAY

9:30 AM | Knitting Group (meets every other Wednesday)
 12:15 PM | Daily Mass
 6:30 PM | Grief Share w/ Deacon Lester

Dec 7, THURSDAY — St Ambrose, Bishop

9:00 AM | Day Away
 10:00 AM | Thursday Women's Gro
~~12:15 PM~~ | *NOTE: No 12:15 PM Daily Mass
 5:30 pm | *Holy Day Vigil Mass

Dec 8, FRIDAY — Holy Day of Obligation: IMMACULATE CONCEPTION OF THE VIRGIN MARY

10:00 AM | Food Pantry
 10:30 AM | ADULT "Great Adventure Bible Study"
 12:15 PM | *Holy Day Mass
 7:00 PM | *Holy Day Mass

Dec 9, 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
 6:30 PM | RCIA

OFFERING

26 Nov '23 (34th Sunday Ordinary Time): \$6,311 posted on the bulletin board opposite the front office.

THANK YOU for your generosity!

MASS INTENTIONS

Dec 2 (Sat), 5:30 PM Carol Grondin (req. by John & Mary Mann)
 Dec 3 (Sun), 8:00 AM Pat Davis (req. by Tom Davis)
 Dec 3, 10:00 AM Jeanette Taylor + Terry Candler (req. by Ginny Holland)
 Dec 4 (Mon), 12:15 PM Norbert Higgins (req. by John & Mary Mann)
 Dec 6 (Wed), 12:15 PM Carol Medeiros (req. by Emily Medeiros)
 Dec 7 (Thu), 5:30 PM Ron DiStasio (req. by Mike & Linda Morolla)
 Dec 8 (Fri), 7:00 PM Therese Hall (req. by Kathleen Cook)
 Dec 9 (Sat), 5:30 PM Hugh Moran (req. by Jim, Jan, Emily & Martin Moran)
 Dec 10 (Sun), 8:00 AM Steve Russell (req. by Maureen Mooney)

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 IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

Bp. Peter Libasci will celebrate the Masses

7 Dec (Thursday), 5:30 PM
 8 Dec (Friday), 12:15 and 7:00 PM

DEANERY ADVENT PENANCE SERVICE

10 Dec (Sunday), 2:00 - 4:00 PM
 Saint Joseph the Worker Parish
 777 W Hollis St, Nasua

ADVENT WREATH BLESSING

The following prayer is repeated each day. The purple candles are lit the 1st, 2nd and 4th Sundays of Advent, the pink candle is lit the 3rd Sunday of Advent [Gaudete Sunday].

V. Our help is in the name of the Lord.
 R/. *Who made heaven and earth.*

V. O God, by whose Word all things are sanctified, pour forth Your blessing upon this wreath and grant that we who use it may prepare our hearts for the coming of Christ and may receive from You abundant graces. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

R/. *Amen.*

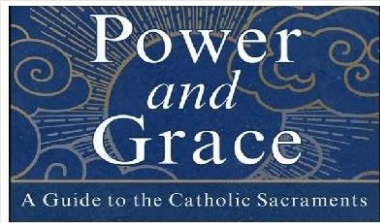
V. O Lord, stir up Thy might, we beg Thee, and come, that by Thy protection we may deserve to be rescued from the threatening dangers of our sins and saved by Thy deliverance. Through Christ our Lord.
 R/. *Amen.*

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. Paul. Chris. Broken families. Young family where the adults have separated. Quick ending to the wars in Israel and Ukraine. That our world turns their eyes to God. Unborn. Division in our country. Family and friends who have stepped away from the faith. All of our parishioners and their needs.



This is an opportunity to learn the purpose and meaning of the seven Catholic Sacraments as we spend the four weeks of ADVENT preparing for Christ's arrival with the Ascension Press study POWER & GRACE. Starting Wednesday, Nov. 29

10:30 AM-12:00 PM —or— 6:30-8:00 PM

National Shrine of Our Lady of La Salette CHRISTMAS FESTIVAL OF LIGHTS



The parish is putting together a DAY TRIP to Attleboro, MA for the National Shrine of Our Lady of La Salette's CHRISTMAS FESTIVAL OF LIGHTS. We'll leave Friday, Dec 15 immediately following the 12:15 PM daily Mass and arrive in time to attend the 3:00 PM concert, grab a snack in the cafeteria, to explore the creche museum, and to take a stroll among the beautiful Christmas lights and decorations. LaSalette priests will be available for confession. We'll depart at 7:00 PM.

We need to know who is interested by Tuesday, Dec 12 to ensure we have enough drivers. PLEASE SIGN UP IN the lobby or email Cheri stating you would like to attend + whether you need a ride or are willing to drive + the number of people you can fit in your vehicle. EXAMPLE: Cheri: driving + 5 (or 6 if small): candersen@sjnnh.org

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>

PARISH *online*

Sunday Mass is live streamed at 10:00 AM on YOUTUBE.COM > Search for: "SJN Merrimack NH Mass"

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.com/sjnmerrimack

FACEBOOK.com/St John Neumann-Merrimack

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
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ARTIE CAREW

Music Ministry
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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

kofc@sjnnh.org
Arvid Skogsholm (Grand Knight)