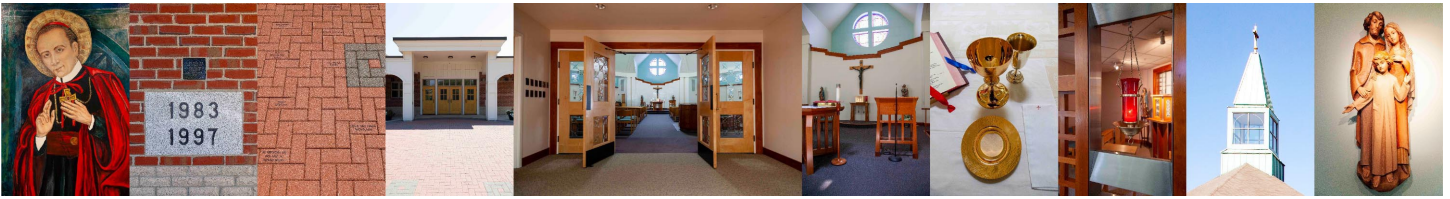


SAINT JOHN NEUMANN PARISH
708 Milford Rd (Rte 101A), Merrimack, NH 03054 — SJNNH.ORG



**HOLY FAMILY
& MARY, MOTHER OF GOD**
Dec 31, 2023 / Jan 1, 2024

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.

BEHOLD YOUR MOTHER

When Jesus saw his mother and the disciple there whom he loved, he said to his mother, "Woman, behold, your son." Then he said to the disciple, "Behold, your mother." And from that hour the disciple took her into his home. —John 19:26-27

The excerpt below is from Pope St John Paul II's (d. 2005) 25 March 1987 encyclical On the Blessed Virgin Mary in the Life of the Pilgrim Church [Redemptoris Mater].



MADONNA AND CHILD
by Sano di Pietro (d. 1481)

22. WE can therefore say that in this passage of John's Gospel—"Do whatever he tells you" (John 2:5)—we find as it were a first manifestation of the truth concerning Mary's maternal care. This truth has also found expression in the teaching of the Second Vatican Council. It is important to note how the Council illustrates Mary's maternal role as it relates to the mediation of Christ. Thus we read: "Mary's maternal function towards mankind in no way obscures or diminishes the unique mediation of Christ, but rather shows its efficacy," because "there is one mediator between God and men, the



man Christ Jesus" (1 Tim 2:5). This maternal role of Mary flows, according to God's good pleasure, "from the superabundance of the merits of Christ; it is founded on his mediation, absolutely depends on it, and draws all its efficacy from it." It is precisely in this sense that the episode at Cana in Galilee offers us a sort of first announcement of Mary's mediation, wholly oriented towards Christ and tending to the revelation of his salvific power.

From the text of John it is evident that it is a mediation which is maternal. As the Council proclaims: Mary became "a mother to us in the order of grace." This motherhood in the order of grace flows from her divine motherhood. Because she was, by the design of divine Providence, the mother who nourished the divine Redeemer, Mary became "an associate of unique nobility, and the Lord's humble handmaid," who "cooperated by her obedience, faith, hope and burning charity in the Savior's work of restoring supernatural life to souls." And "this maternity of Mary in the order of grace ... will last without interruption until the eternal fulfillment of all the elect."

23. If John's description of the event at Cana presents Mary's caring motherhood at the beginning of Christ's messianic activity, another passage from the same Gospel confirms this motherhood in the salvific economy of grace at its crowning moment, namely when Christ's sacrifice on the Cross, his Paschal Mystery, is accomplished. John's description is concise: *"Standing by the cross of Jesus were his mother, and his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene. When Jesus saw his mother, and the disciple whom he loved standing near, he said to his mother: 'Woman, behold your son!' Then he said to the disciple, 'Behold, your mother!' And from that hour the disciple took her to his own home"* (John 19:25-27).

Undoubtedly, we find here an expression of the Son's particular solicitude for his Mother, whom he is leaving in such great sorrow. And yet the "testament of Christ's Cross" says more. Jesus highlights a new relationship between Mother and Son, the whole truth and reality of which he solemnly confirms. One can say that if Mary's motherhood of the human race had already been outlined, now it is clearly stated and established. It emerges from the definitive accomplishment of the Redeemer's Paschal Mystery. The Mother of Christ, who stands at the very center of this mystery—a mystery which embraces each individual and all humanity—is given as mother to every single individual and all mankind. **The man at the foot of the Cross is John, "the disciple whom he loved."** But it is not he alone. Following tradition, the Council does not hesitate to call Mary "the Mother of Christ and mother of mankind": since she "belongs to the offspring of Adam she is one with all human beings ... Indeed she is 'clearly the mother of the members of Christ ... since she cooperated out of love so that there might be born in the Church the faithful.'"

And so this "new motherhood of Mary," generated

by faith, is the fruit of the "new" love which came to definitive maturity in her at the foot of the Cross, through her sharing in the redemptive love of her Son.

24. Thus we find ourselves at the very center of the fulfillment of the promise contained in the Proto-gospel: the *"seed of the woman ... will crush the head of the serpent"* (cf. Gen 3:15). By his redemptive death Jesus Christ conquers the evil of sin and death at its very roots. It is significant that, as he speaks to his mother from the Cross, he calls her *"woman"* and says to her: *"Woman, behold your son!"* Moreover, he had addressed her by the same term at Cana too (cf. John 2:4). How can one doubt that especially now, on Golgotha, this expression goes to the very heart of the mystery of Mary, and indicates the unique place which she occupies in the whole economy of salvation? As the Council teaches, in Mary "the exalted Daughter of Sion, and after a long expectation of the promise, the times were at length fulfilled and the new dispensation established. All this occurred when the Son of God took a human nature from her, that he might in the mysteries of his flesh free man from sin."

The words uttered by Jesus from the Cross signify that the motherhood of her who bore Christ finds a "new" continuation in the Church and through the Church, symbolized and represented by John. In this way, she who as the one *"full of grace"* was brought into the mystery of Christ in order to be his Mother and thus the Holy Mother of God, through the Church remains in that mystery as *"the woman"* spoken of by the Book of Genesis (3:15) at the beginning and by the Apocalypse (12:1) at the end of the history of salvation. In accordance with the eternal plan of Providence, Mary's divine motherhood is to be poured out upon the Church, as indicated by statements of Tradition, according to which Mary's "motherhood" of the Church is the reflection and extension of her motherhood of the Son of God.

According to the Council the very moment of the Church's birth and full manifestation to the world enables us to glimpse this continuity of Mary's motherhood: "Since it pleased God not to manifest solemnly the mystery of the salvation of the human race until he poured forth the Spirit promised by Christ, we see the Apostles before the day of Pentecost *'continuing with one mind in prayer with the women and Mary the mother of Jesus, and with his brethren'* (Acts 1:14). We see Mary prayerfully imploring the gift of the Spirit, who had already overshadowed her in the Annunciation."

And so, in the redemptive economy of grace, brought about through the action of the Holy Spirit, there is a unique correspondence between the moment of the Incarnation of the Word and the moment of the birth of the Church. The person who links these two moments is Mary: Mary at Nazareth and Mary in the Upper Room at Jerusalem. In both cases her discreet yet essential presence indicates the path of "birth from the Holy Spirit". Thus she who is present in the mystery

of Christ as Mother becomes—by the will of the Son and the power of the Holy Spirit—present in the mystery of the Church. In the Church too she continues to be a maternal presence, as is shown by the words spoken from the Cross: "*Woman, behold your son!*"; "*Behold, your mother.*"

WEEKLY CALENDAR

Dec 31, SUNDAY — CHRISTMAS SEASON

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

Jan 1, MONDAY — MARY, MOTHER OF GOD (NOTE: the holy day is not binding this year because it falls on Monday)

10:00 AM | *Holy Day Mass

Jan 2, TUESDAY — SS Basil the Great and Gregory Nazianzen, Bishops

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

Jan 3, WEDNESDAY

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

Jan 4, THURSDAY — St Elizabeth Ann Seton

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

Jan 5, FRIDAY

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

Jan 6, SATURDAY

8:30 AM | First Saturday ROSARY
9:00 AM | First Saturday MASS
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

24 Dec '23 (4th Sunday of Advent)
and 25 Dec '23 (Nativity of the Lord)

Posted on BB directly opposite front office.

THANK YOU for your generosity!

MASS INTENTIONS

Dec 30 (Sat), 5:30 PM St John Neumann Parishioners
Dec 31 (Sun), 8:00 AM Pat Davis (req. by Tom Davis)
Dec 31, 10:00 AM Ryan Lennon - LIVING INTENTION (req. by Linda Ray)
Jan 3 (Wed), 12:15 PM Gary da Silva, Jr. - LIVING INTENTION (req. by Adevege

da Silva)
Jan 4 (Thu), 12:15 PM Gary da Silva, Jr. - LIVING INTENTION (req. by Adevege da Silva)
Jan 5 (Fri), 12:15 PM Gary da Silva, Jr. - LIVING INTENTION (req. by Adevege da Silva)
Jan 6 (Sat), 5:30 PM St John Neumann Parishioners
Jan 7 (Sun), 8:00 AM Brian Shea (req. by Maureen Mooney)
Jan 7, 10:00 AM Nancy Duffey (req. by John & Mary Mann)

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

IN MEMORIAM

We remember our faithful departed in prayer:

Mom & Dad with love. Karen. Kelly; Sr. Maria George. Richard K. Allen. Pat Ally. Sal Ammirati. Jeryl Bacon. Maryann Belanger. Henry & Julia Bilow. Diane Bonenfant. The Boudreau Family. Lee A. Cuzzocrea Conner. Pat Davis. Ron DiStasio. Dr. William Doherty. Sean Doherty. Dubay Family. Russ & Edna Durkee. The Durkee- Lowney Family. Virginia Early. Fagan Family. Irene & Vic Fournier. Maurice & Jean Gagne. Alfred & Betty Garneau. The Hardy Family. Larry Hardy. Matthew Harris. Enrique Henriquez. Mr. & Mrs. H. Hetzler. Billy Howell, Jr.; Hunsader Family. Kelly Family. Mr. Benjamin Kincade. Roy Klumpp. Theresa Klumpp. The Krysiak Family. Robert W. Kubiak. Beatrice Lampin. Casey Lavoie. Henry Ledezma. Edwin & Julia Lemire. Ray & Lurena Lemery. Edwin & Julia Lemire. Tara LePore. Paul & Alice Lowney. Anne McCann. James McGovern. Rose Carolyn McGovern. McKee Family. Thomas Mercier. Elsie Moorehead. Steve Mroz. John Neuzil. Florence Neuzil. Tito Nunez. Jennie Pinelle. Michal Pluta. Mietek Pluta. Carol Rich. George Ritz. MaryJane Ritz. Darlene Robitaille. Bjorn Roden. Laura Sassak. Elizabeth Sheehan. Leslie Sheehan. Mrs. Czeslawa Stankiewicz. Jeanne Strause. Dennis Surdam. Hank Syseskey. Loraine Trombley. Ray Trombley. Alice Trubacz. Paul Trubacz. Shirley VanBuren. Richard VanBuren. Donald Vanecek. Janet Wadleigh. Ray & Jean Weihrauch. Ann & William Wellman. Stefan Wojcicki. Hanna Wojcicki. Al Zewski. John Zewski. Sophie 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.

FIRST SATURDAYS

The ROSARY is offered at 8:30 AM the first Saturday of every month, followed by MASS at 9:00 AM.

NEW YEAR, NEW SCHOOL?



As we start the new year ... is your child ready for school? SAINT CHRISTOPHER ACADEMY would love to welcome your child now or in the fall! SAINT CHRIS offers an outstanding education that emphasizes faith, academics, and strong moral values for students in Pre-Kindergarten through Grade 8. Advanced academic programs and a broad range of extracurricular and athletic opportunities support the development of students who are well-rounded learners and leaders. APPLICATIONS are open for both the current year and the fall of 2024. To learn more, visit SaintChrisAcademy.org or contact Enrollment Coordinator, Lorrice Bedard at (603) 882-7442, ext. 310.

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!

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. Paul. Chris. Bonnie. Bob. Pat. Margery. Diane. Emily. Fr. John Grace. Rose. Lyric. Susan. Martha. Jeremiah. Margaret. Malik. Armonie. Steve. Mark. Phil. Gardner. Theresa. Bill. Robert. Priscille. Sierra. Wesley. Ann. Declan. Kim. Deb. Vivian. Tonya. The Rena Family. The Unborn. Family and friends who have stepped

away from the faith. Vocations. All of our parishioners and their needs.

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

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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

kofc@sjnnh.org

Arvid Skogsholm (Grand Knight)