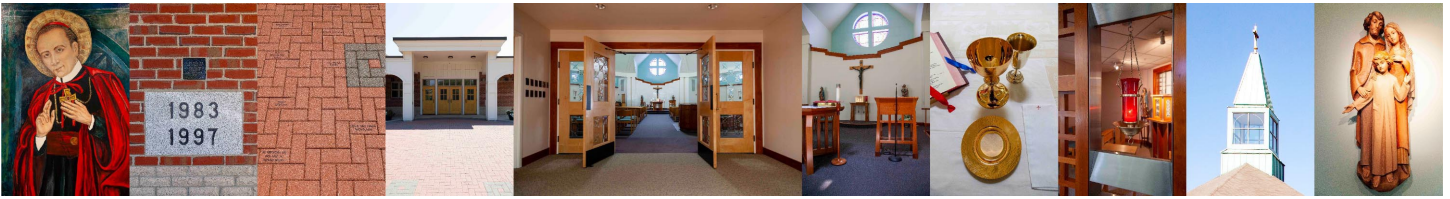


**SAINT JOHN NEUMANN PARISH**  
708 Milford Rd (Rte 101A), Merrimack, NH 03054 — SJNNH.ORG



**THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD**  
January 7, 2024

**Very Rev. Robert Glasgow, V.F.**  
Chaplain (LTC) USA (Ret.)  
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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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**A LIGHT TO THE NATIONS**

Rise up in splendor! Your light has come ... Nations shall walk by your light, and kings by your shining radiance. —Isaiah 60:1-3

The following is an excerpt from Pope Benedict XVI's homily on the Feast of Epiphany (6 Jan 2006), the first full year of his pontificate. Italics added.



JOURNEY OF THE MAGI  
by Stefano di Giovanni (d. 1450)

IN the liturgy of the Christmas season this verse of Psalm 98 frequently recurs as a refrain: "The Lord has made his salvation known: in the sight of the nations he has revealed his justice" (v. 2).

These are words that the Church uses to emphasize the "epiphanic" dimension of the Incarnation: the Son of God becoming human, his entry into history, is the crowning point of God's revelation of himself to Israel and to all the peoples. In the Child of Bethlehem, God revealed himself in the humility of the "human form", in the "form of a slave", indeed, of one who died on a cross (cf. Phil 2:6-8). This is the Christian paradox.

Indeed, this very concealment constitutes the most eloquent "manifestation" of God. The humility, poverty, even the ignominy of the Passion enable us to know what God is truly like. The Face of the Son faithfully reveals that of the Father. This is why the mystery of Christmas is, so to speak, an entire "epiphany". The manifestation to the Magi does not add something foreign to God's design but unveils a perennial and constitutive dimension of it, namely, that "in Christ Jesus the Gentiles are now coheirs ... members of the same body and sharers of



the promise through ... the Gospel" (Eph 3:6).

At a superficial glance, God's faithfulness to Israel and his manifestation to the peoples could seem divergent aspects; they are actually two sides of the same coin. In fact, *according to the Scriptures, it is precisely by remaining faithful to his Covenant of love with the people of Israel that God also reveals his glory to other peoples.* Grace and fidelity (cf. Ps 89:2), "mercy and truth" (cf. Ps 85:11), are the content of God's glory, they are his "name", destined to be known and sanctified by people of every language and nation.

However, this "content" is inseparable from the "method" that God chose to reveal himself, that is, absolute fidelity to the Covenant that reaches its culmination in Christ. The Lord Jesus, at the same time and inseparably, is "a light revealing to the Gentiles the glory of your people Israel" (Lk 2:32), as the elderly Simeon was to exclaim, inspired by God, taking the Child in his arms when his parents presented him at the temple. The light that enlightens the peoples—the light of the Epiphany—shines out from the glory of Israel—the glory of the Messiah born, in accordance with the Scriptures, in Bethlehem, "the city of David" (cf. Lk 2:4).

The Magi worshiped a simple Child in the arms of his Mother Mary, because in him they recognized the source of the twofold light that had guided them: the light of the star and the light of the Scriptures. In him they recognized the King of the Jews, the glory of Israel, but also the King of all the peoples.

The mystery of the Church and her missionary dimension are also revealed in the liturgical context of the Epiphany. She is called to make Christ's light shine in the world, reflecting it in herself as the moon reflects the light of the sun.

The ancient prophecies concerning the holy city of Jerusalem, such as the marvelous one in Isaiah that we have just heard: "Rise up in splendor! Your light has come. . . . Nations shall walk by your light, and kings by your shining radiance" (Is 60:1-3), have found fulfillment in the Church.

This is what disciples of Christ must do: trained by him to live in the way of the Beatitudes, they must attract all people to God through a witness of love: "In the same way, your light must shine before men so that they may see goodness in your deeds and give praise to your heavenly Father" (Mt 5:16). By listening to Jesus' words, we members of the Church cannot but become aware of the total inadequacy of our human condition, marked by sin.

The Church is holy, but made up of men and women with their limitations and errors. It is Christ, Christ alone, who in giving us the Holy Spirit is able to transform our misery and constantly renew us. He is the light of the peoples who has chosen to illumine the world through his Church (cf. *Lumen Gentium*, n. 1).

"How can this come about?", we also ask ourselves with the words that the Virgin addresses to the Archangel Gabriel. And she herself, the Mother of Christ and of the Church, gives us the answer: with her example of total availability to God's will—"be it done to me according to your word" (Lk 1:38)—she teaches us to be a "manifestation" of the Lord, opening our hearts to the

power of grace and faithfully abiding by the words of her Son, light of the world and the ultimate end of history.

So be it!

### EPIPHANY PROCLAMATION

In accord with ancient custom, the date of Easter is formally announced on the Feast of Epiphany. The number of Sundays that follow Epiphany, the date of Ash Wednesday [the beginning of Lent], and the number of Sundays that follow Pentecost are all computed in relation to Easter.



**D**ear brothers and sisters, the glory of the Lord has shone upon us, and shall ever be manifest among us, until the day of his return. Through the rhythms of times and seasons let us celebrate the mysteries of salvation.

Let us recall the year's culmination, the **EASTER TRIDUUM OF THE LORD**: his last supper, his crucifixion, his burial, and his rising celebrated between the evening of the 28th day of March and the evening of the 30th day of March, **EASTER SUNDAY** being on the 31st of March.

Each Easter—as on each Sunday—the Holy Church makes present the great and saving deed by which Christ has for ever conquered sin and death. From Easter are reckoned all the days we keep holy.

**ASH WEDNESDAY**, the beginning of Lent, will occur on the 14th of February.

The **ASCENSION OF THE LORD** will be commemorated on Thursday, the 9th day of May.

**PENTECOST**, joyful conclusion of the season of Easter, will be celebrated on the 19th day of May.

And, this year the **FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT** will be on the 1st day of December.

Likewise the pilgrim Church proclaims the Passover of Christ in the feasts of the holy Mother of God, in the feasts of the Apostles and Saints, and in the commemoration of the faithful departed.

To Jesus Christ, who was, who is, and who is to come, Lord of time and history, be endless praise, for ever and ever.

Amen.

## WEEKLY CALENDAR

Jan 7, SUNDAY — Epiphany / 1st Week of Ordinary Time

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

Jan 8, MONDAY — The Baptism of the Lord

10:00 AM | "Jesus and the Eucharist" Bible Study  
12:15 AM | Daily Mass  
6:00 PM | "Jesus and the Eucharist" Bible Study

Jan 9, TUESDAY

10:00 AM | "Jesus and the Eucharist" Bible Study  
6:00 PM | YOUTH & ADULT "Great Adventure Bible Study"  
7:00 PM | Scouts Meeting

Jan 10, WEDNESDAY

9:30 AM | Knitting Group (meets every other Wednesday)  
12:15 PM | Daily Mass  
6:00 PM | "Jesus and the Eucharist" (in Spanish) Bible Study

Jan 11, THURSDAY

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

Jan 12, FRIDAY

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

Jan 13, SATURDAY — St Hilary, Bishop

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

31 Dec '23 (Holy Family)  
and 1 Jan '24 (Mary, Mother of God)

Posted on BB directly opposite front office.

THANK YOU for your generosity!

### MASS INTENTIONS

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)
Jan 10 (Wed), 12:15 PM	James Andersen, Jr. (req. by Cheri Andersen)
Jan 12 (Fri), 12:15 PM	Suzanne Varner (req. by John & Mary Mann)
Jan 13 (Sat), 5:30 PM	Marion Warpinski (req. by Cecelia Stuopis)
Jan 14 (Sun), 8:00 AM	Ron Distasio (req. by Maureen Mooney)
Jan 14, 10:00 AM	St John Neumann Parishioners

Jan 14, 6:00 PM

Albert & Albena Champagne  
(req. by Richard & Marlene Jones)

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



A word of THANKS to all who helped decorate the church over the Advent season in preparation for Christmas! And THANKS, too, to the musicians, choir members, and liturgical ministers for their service to the parish, and especially their support of our Christmas liturgies!

### "JESUS AND THE EUCHARIST" BIBLE STUDY

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ, as part of the EUCHARISTIC REVIVAL: YEAR OF THE PARISH we are excited to announce a second running of the new Bible Study, "JESUS AND THE EUCHARIST". There is no cost and no homework for this course. Throughout the study, we will explore the significance of the Eucharist and how the Eucharist is the culmination of God's love for us. We hope that this study will open up for you the immense treasury of the gift of the Eucharist. Please bring your Bible and journal!

On MONDAYS at 10:00 AM — or — 6:00 PM  
8, 15, 22, 29 Jan; 5, 12, and 19/26 Feb

On TUESDAYS at 10:00 AM  
9, 16, 23, 30 Jan; 6, 13, and 20 Feb

On WEDNESDAYS **IN SPANISH** at 6:00 PM  
10, 17, 24, 31 Jan; 7, 21, and 28 Feb

If you are interested in attending, PLEASE EMAIL [candersen@sjnnh.org](mailto:candersen@sjnnh.org). We look forward to seeing you at one of these small groups!

### 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!

### 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 and 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 years and the fall of 2024. To learn more, visit [SaintChrisAcademy.org](http://SaintChrisAcademy.org) or contact Enrollment Coordinator, Lorrice Bedard at (603) 882-7442, ext. 310.

### 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/StJohnNeumann-Merrimack)

### 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:

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.

## **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)