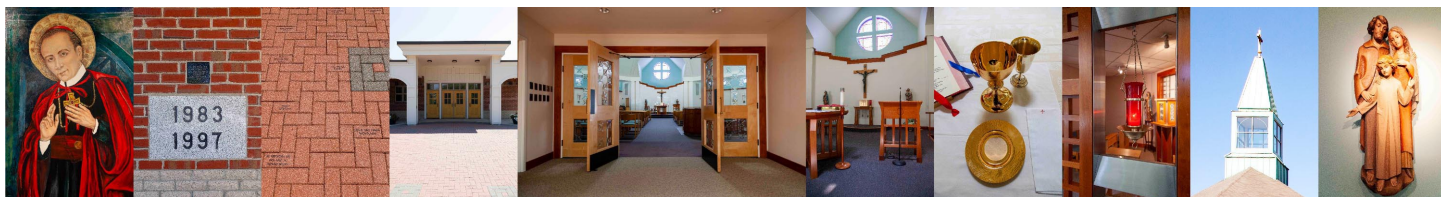


SAINT JOHN NEUMANN PARISH
708 Milford Rd (Rte 101A), Merrimack, NH 03054 — SJNNH.ORG



2nd SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME
January 14, 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.

GOD'S SERVANT FIRST

Blessed are you when people hate you, and when they exclude and insult you, and denounce your name as evil on account of the Son of Man.
Rejoice and leap for joy on that day! —Luke 6:22-23

The excerpt below is from Chapter 20: *His Happy Death and Glorious Martyrdom* of Thomas Stapleton's *The Life and Illustrious Martyrdom of Sir Thomas More*. St Paul writes: "Let every person be subordinate to the higher authorities, for there is no authority except from God, and those that exist have been established by God" (Rom 13:1). That said, we have the duty to disobey/oppose the directives of civil authority when they are contrary to the teachings of the Gospel and/or the demands of the moral order (see Catechism #2242). As St Thomas More (d. 1535) expressed it, "I die the king's faithful servant, but God's servant first."

AFTER receiving sentence of death and being led back to the Tower [of London] on July 1, 1535, Thomas More prepared himself for approaching death. He was in no way cast down or anxious in mind; he was not only quite resigned, as we have seen, but even cheerful and merry, according to his wont. Of this we shall soon have proof. But not for a moment did he put aside the fear of the Lord. "Blessed is the man that is always fearful." During those last days, within the narrow limits of his prison, he would walk up and down clad in a linen sheet, like a corpse about to be buried, and severely discipline himself. Mark the holiness of the man who had, though innocent, suffered for so long such heavy punishment, but was as unrelenting toward himself as if he had ever lived in pampered luxury and had committed the grossest crimes. Woe to us who live delicately, who are puffed up with pride, green with envy, mean, avaricious, gross, impure, but yet are unwilling to bear any hardship for Christ's sake or for our own good. But "the kingdom of heaven suffereth violence, and the violent bear it away." Thomas More had learnt this lesson thoroughly, and to the last day of his life he willed to be harsh and to do violence to himself. He knew that in the race the strong runner, as he approaches his goal, increases his efforts and his speed.

The Way to the Scaffold

When the day had arrived which was to bring to More death, or rather life, he was led out of his prison. His beard was long and



disordered, his face was pale and thin from the rigor of his confinement. He held in his hand a red cross and raised his eyes to heaven. His robe was of the very poorest and coarsest. He had decided to make his last journey in a better garment and to put on the gown of camlet, which Bonvisi had given him in prison, both to please his friend and to be able to give it to the executioner. But through the avarice or wickedness of his jailer, he, so great and renowned, he who had held such high office, went out clad in his servant's gown made of the basest material that we call frieze. But this was for Thomas More a fitting nuptial garment; by it he was made like to Christ, who willed to be poor; clothed in it he hastened to drink the chalice of Christ and to celebrate the nuptial feast of the Lamb.

Margaret Giggs, the wife of John Clement, once showed me a life-like image, made with great skill, of More going out to the place of execution, and in accordance with that image I have described here his appearance and demeanor. She was present at More's death and assisted the other Margaret, Roper's wife, to bury him.

As he was passing on his way, a certain woman offered him wine, but he refused it, saying, "Christ in his Passion was given not wine, but vinegar, to drink."

Another woman shouted at him and demanded to know what he had done with certain documents which she had entrusted to him while he was chancellor. "Good woman," he replied, "as for your documents, have patience, I beseech you, for the space of one short hour. For then from the care of your documents and from every other burden, the King's Majesty in his goodness will give me complete relief."

He was again interrupted by another woman, who perhaps felt she had a grievance or perhaps was suborned by others, and now cried out that he had done her a grave injury while he was Chancellor. "I remember your case quite well," he gravely replied, "and if I had to pass sentence again, it would be just the same as before."

The Crown of Martyrdom

When he arrived at the place of execution and was about to mount the scaffold, he stretched out his hand for assistance, saying, "I pray you see me safe up, and for my coming down let me shift for myself." On the scaffold he wished to speak to the people, but was forbidden to do so by the Sheriff. He contented himself, therefore, with saying, "I call you to witness, brothers, that I die the faithful servant of God and the King, and in the faith of the Catholic Church." Such were his words; and in truth no one in the kingdom could be matched with him for fidelity to the King; God he served with the greatest zeal and holiness of life; he died not only in the Catholic faith but on its behalf. After that, kneeling down, he recited aloud the fiftieth Psalm: "Have mercy on me, O God."

The Bishop of Rochester in the same circumstances had said the *Te Deum*. He was filled by God with joy and exultation; he had hastened to the scaffold, casting aside the staff of his old age. On the day he was to die, he had slept peacefully in bed until an advanced hour of the morning, and had asked for milk for his breakfast.

More, however, was filled with the spirit of humility

and holy fear: he chose to recite a prayer for forgiveness and not a hymn of praise. The dispositions of each were from God and pleasing to God. For the Apostle tells us that "the fruit of the spirit is joy," and David reminds us that "a sacrifice to God is an afflicted spirit." Although the Bishop of Rochester was no more destitute of holy fear than More was destitute of holy joy. For after saying the Psalm and finishing his prayer, he rose briskly, and when according to custom the executioner begged his pardon, he kissed him with great love, gave him a golden angel, and said to him, "Thou wilt give me this day a greater benefit than ever any mortal man can be able to give me. Pluck up thy spirits, man, and be not afraid to do thine office; my neck is very short; take heed therefore thou strike not awry, for saving of thine honesty." But, even before, he had asked his daughter and other friends to do whatever acts of kindness they could to his executioner. Then the executioner wished to bind his eyes, but he said, "I will cover them myself." He covered his face with a linen cloth he had brought with him, and joyfully and calmly laid his head on the block. It was at once struck off, and his soul sped to heaven.

By binding his eyes he had just cut himself off from the sight of men, but now at once he reaches the open vision of God and the angels. How happy his soul, raised, by one single blow, to the everlasting joys of heaven! Now did he experience the truth of a saying he often uttered: "A man may very easily lose his head, but come to no harm." He was beheaded, but in what way was he harmed? He was old and in bad health; suffering a few moments of pain he exchanged what remained to him of this life for the never-ending life of heaven. In the eyes of the world he died a shameful death, but what loss was that to him who now enjoys not only the glory of heaven, but perpetual honor even amongst men? For a moment he was parted from those he loved, but how could that be painful to him when he knew that as a reward for his sacrifice he would be forever happily reunited with them? He died robbed of his honors and his wealth, but in return he has received an abundant reward in heaven, for Christ, who is the very truth, said of such as More: "Be glad and rejoice, for your reward is very great in heaven."

More Dies for the Primacy of the Pope

Thomas More, then, gladly suffered imprisonment, the loss of his goods, and death itself for the primacy of the Pope, the one Supreme Head of the Church. And truly upon this primacy and supremacy the whole peace, order, and unity of the Church depend, for if it is rejected, a way is opened to all the heresies, and the wolves ravage the flock with impunity, as the example of England alone may well teach other nations.

Thus More, his toils and sorrows past, reigns gloriously in heaven, and on earth enjoys the praise not only of the good but even of the wicked themselves. All bewail his death as most unjust; none can be found, except perhaps a few sycophants of the impious King, to approve of it.

WEEKLY CALENDAR

Jan 14, SUNDAY — 2nd 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 15, MONDAY

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

Jan 16, 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 17, WEDNESDAY — St Anthony, Abbot

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 18, THURSDAY

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

Jan 19, FRIDAY

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

Jan 20, 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

31 Dec '23 (Holy Family): \$12,941.41
1 Jan '24 (Mary, Mother of God): \$602.00
Posted on BB directly opposite front office.
THANK YOU for your generosity!

MASS INTENTIONS

Jan 13 (Sat), 5:30 PM | Marion Warpinski (req. by Ceceilia Stuopis)
Jan 14 (Sun), 8:00 AM | Ron Distasio (req. by Maureen Mooney)
Jan 14, 10:00 AM | Jozef Krynski (req. by family)
Jan 14, 6:00 PM | Albert & Albena Champagne (req. by Richard & Marlene Jones)
Jan 17 (Wed), 12:15 PM | Dominick da Silva - LIVING INTENTION (req. by Adevege da Silva)
Jan 18 (Thu), 12:15 PM | Dominick da Silva - LIVING INTENTION (req. by Adevege da Silva)
Jan 19 (Fri), 5:30 PM | Dominick da Silva - LIVING INTENTION (req. by Adevege da Silva)

Jan 21 (Sun), 8:00 AM | Joan Otto (req. by Bob & Denise Fregault)
Jan 21, 10:00 AM | Theresa W. Dowling - 11 YEAR ANNIVERSARY (req. by Terry Williams)

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

"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. We look forward to seeing you at one of these small groups!

IN MEMORIAM

We remember our faithful departed in prayer:

Dorothy Bowser

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.

Knights of Columbus Council #10896 **PREGNANCY CENTER SUPPORT DRIVE**



In the past, the KoC councils collected non-perishable items to be distributed to 18 PREGNANCY CENTERS throughout the state. This year—from Jan 1-22—the drive will be similar to

the Giving Tree: we hope that you can purchase GIFT CARDS which will be given to the PREGNANCY CENTERS to purchase whatever is needed. The collection box is in the lobby.

CREATION CARE TEAM

Jan 18 (Thu), 7:00 PM by Zoom or Phone

All are welcome to attend the next meeting of the SJN Creation Care team meeting! It will be Thursday, Jan 18 at 7:00 PM on ZOOM ONLY. We will not have a room at the church. This means that you do not have to go out in the cold and the snow! Here is the ZOOM to use ... or join just by phone:

<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/3593768649?pwd=bXZmbHpoTXBram9DalhqZFBaWkprUT09>

If you want to join only by PHONE, here are several numbers you can use: 1 (305) 224-1968; 1 (309) 205-3325. Once you dial one of those, you can enter the Meeting ID of 359 376 8649. The Participant ID does not really matter, you can just press the # key.

VAMC VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY

The Manchester VA MEDICAL CENTER (718 Smyth Rd, Manchester) CHAPLAIN SERVICE is in need of VOLUNTEERS. Duties would include helping before/after Mass, bringing veteran's to and from the Mass, and/or serving as a Eucharistic Minister for the Veteran's in the Community Living Center. Please contact Fr. Tom Steinmetz at (603) 623-8944 for more information.

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.

IN CASE OF INCLEMENT WEATHER

SUNDAY MASSES | In general, we do not cancel Sunday Masses. In cases of extreme weather conditions, any change to the Mass schedule will be published on our parish website: SJNNH.ORG

DAILY MASS | If the Merrimack Schools are closed due to snow, the PARISH OFFICES will also be closed. Depending on road conditions, daily Mass may still be offered. Please call after 11:00 AM to verify, or check the parish website: 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>

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

kofc@sjnnh.org

Arvid Skogsholm (Grand Knight)