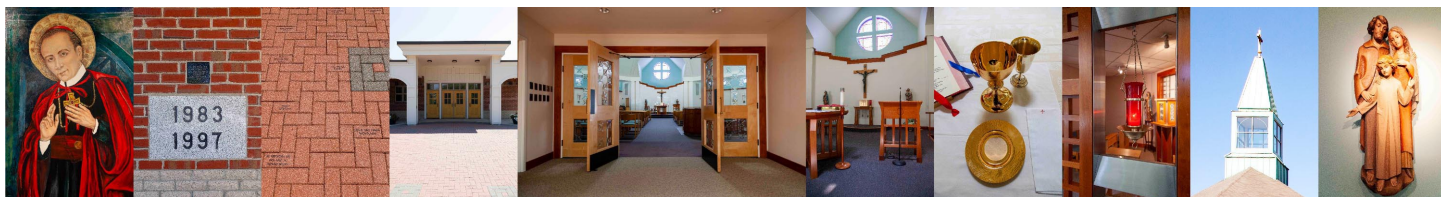


SAINT JOHN NEUMANN PARISH
708 Milford Rd (Rte 101A), Merrimack, NH 03054 — SJNNH.ORG



4th SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME
January 28, 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.

ON HELL

The iniquities of the wicked ensnare them, and they are caught in the toils of their sin. They die for lack of discipline, and because of their great folly they are lost. —Prov 5:22-23

Sirach says, "Before everyone are life and death, whichever they choose will be given them" (15:17). At death, the time to accept salvation is at an end. Hell is the state of definitive self-exclusion from communion with God and the blessed, reserved for those who refuse by their own free choice to believe and be converted from sin, even to the end of their lives. The first excerpt below is from the 1908 Catholic Encyclopedia. The second is from a homily by St Bernard of Clairvaux (d. 1153) in which he traces the descent of an unrepentant soul into the darkness of sin. As St John Damascene (d. 749) observed, "The pains of hell are due not so much to God as to man himself." The third excerpt is St Francis de Sales' (d. 1622) "Meditation on Hell". As St John Chrysostom (d. 407) warned, "He who despises hell or forgets it will not escape it."

IMPENITENCE. 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.

The PAIN OF LOSS and the PAIN OF SENSE constitute the very essence of hell, the former being by far the most dreadful part of eternal punishment.

OF LOSS. The pain of loss consists in the loss of the beatific vision and in so complete a separation of all the powers of the soul from God that it cannot find in Him even the least peace and rest. It is accompanied by the loss of all super-natural gifts, e.g. the loss of faith. The characters impressed by the sacraments alone remain to the greater confusion of the bearer. The pain of loss is not the mere absence of superior bliss, but it is also a most intense positive pain. The utter void of the soul made for the enjoyment of infinite truth and infinite goodness causes the reprobate immeasurable anguish. Their consciousness that God, on Whom they entirely depend, is



their enemy forever is overwhelming. Their consciousness of having by their own deliberate folly forfeited the highest blessings for transitory and delusive pleasures humiliates and depresses them beyond measure. The desire for happiness inherent in their very nature, wholly unsatisfied and no longer able to find any compensation for the loss of God in delusive pleasure, renders them utterly miserable. Moreover, they are well aware that God is infinitely happy, and hence their hatred and their impotent desire to injure Him fills them with extreme bitterness. And the same is true with regard to their hatred of all the friends of God who enjoy the bliss of heaven. The pain of loss is the very core of eternal punishment. If the damned beheld God face to face, hell itself, notwithstanding its fire, would be a kind of heaven. Had they but some union with God, even if not precisely the union of the beatific vision, hell would no longer be hell, but a kind of purgatory. And yet the pain of loss is but the natural consequence of that aversion from God which lies in the nature of every mortal sin.

OF SENSE. The pain of sense is the natural consequence of that inordinate turning to creatures which is involved in every mortal sin. It is meet that whoever seeks forbidden pleasure should find pain in return. The pain of sense consists in the torment of fire so frequently mentioned in Holy Writ. According to the greater number of theologians the term fire denotes a material fire, and so a real fire. Scripture and tradition speak again and again of the fire of hell, and there is no sufficient reason for taking the term as a mere metaphor. It is urged: How can a material fire torment demons, or human souls before the resurrection of the body? But, if our soul is so joined to the body as to be keenly sensitive to the pain of fire, why should the omnipotent God be unable to bind even pure spirits to some material substance in such a manner that they may suffer a torment more or less similar to the pain of fire which the soul can feel on earth? This reply indicates, as far as possible, how we may form an idea of the pain of fire which the demons suffer. It is quite superfluous to add that the nature of hell-fire is different from that of our ordinary fire; for instance, it continues to burn without the need of a continually renewed supply of fuel. How we are to form a conception of that fire in detail remains quite undetermined; we merely know that it is corporeal. The demons suffer the torment of fire, even when, by Divine permission, they leave the confines of hell and roam about on earth. In what manner this happens is uncertain. We may assume that they remain fettered inseparably to a portion of that fire.

Hell is a state of the greatest and most complete misfortune, as is evident from all that has been said. The damned have no joy whatever, and it were better for them if they had not been born (Mt 26:24).

IF this cold once penetrates the soul when (as so often happens) the soul is neglectful and the spirit asleep and if no one (God forbid) is there to curb

it, then it reaches into the soul's interior, descends to the depths of the heart and the recesses of the mind, paralyzes the affections, obstructs the paths of counsel, unsteadies the light of judgment, fetters the liberty of the spirit, and soon—as appears to bodies sick with fever—a rigor of the mind takes over: vigor slackens, energies grow languid, repugnance for austerity increases, fear of poverty disquiets, the soul shrivels, grace is withdrawn, time means boredom, reason is lulled to sleep, the spirit is quenched, the fresh fervor wanes away, a fastidious lukewarmness weighs down, brotherly love grows cold, pleasure attracts, security is a trap, old habits return. Can I say more? The law is cheated, justice is rejected, what is right is outlawed, the fear of the Lord is abandoned. Shamelessness finally gets free rein. There comes that rash leap, so dishonorable, so disgraceful, so full of ignominy and confusion; a leap from the heights into the abyss, from the court-yard to the dung-heap, from the throne to the sewer, from heaven to the mud, from the cloister to the world, from paradise to hell.

PREPARE. 1, Place yourself in God's Presence. | 2, Humble yourself. | 3, Picture a dark city filled with fire and brimstone, which is inhabited by citizens who cannot escape.

CONSIDER. 1, The lost are plunged in an eternal abyss of indescribable torture. Every part of their body and soul suffers because they used their body and soul to sin. The eyes (which delighted in impure and vicious sights) now see devils. Their ears (that rejoiced in unholy words) now hear yells of despair. All the senses suffer in like manner. | 2, Far greater than all these sufferings is the loss of God's glory. The soul is unable to see God. Absalom wanted to see the face of his father, King David (2 Sam 14:32). How much more the soul desires to see its heavenly Father. | 3, Consider how insufferable are the pains of hell. They will last forever. If a fever makes the night seem long, how long is the endless night of eternity where there is only despair?

AFFECTIONS AND RESOLUTIONS. 1, Isaiah says, "Who of us can live with the consuming fire? Who of us can live with the everlasting flames?" (33:14). Can you accept these? Can you live forever without God? | 2, Realize that you have repeatedly deserved hell. Resolve on definite actions to avoid sin and eternal death. | And 3, Give thanks.

Conclude by saying an Our Father, Hail Mary, and Glory Be.

WEEKLY CALENDAR

Jan 28, SUNDAY — 4th 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 29, 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 30, TUESDAY

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

Jan 31, WEDNESDAY

9:30 AM | Knitting Group (meets every other Wednesday)
12:15 PM | Daily Mass

Feb 1, THURSDAY

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

Feb 2, FRIDAY

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

Feb 3, 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

21 Jan '24 (3rd Sunday Ordinary Time):
Posted on BB directly opposite front office.

THANK YOU for your generosity!

MASS INTENTIONS

Jan 27 (Sat), 5:30 PM	Evelyn Burton (req. by Ellie Boucher)
Jan 28 (Sun), 8:00 AM	Sandra LaCroix (req. by Maureen Mooney)
Jan 28, 10:00 AM	Edward & Charlotte Reddy (req. by Sr. Mary Rose)
Jan 29, 12:15 PM	Dorota Krynska - LIVING INTENTION (req. by sister)
Jan 31 (Wed), 12:15 PM	Mason da Silva - LIVING INTENTION (req. by Adevide da Silva)
Feb 1 (Thu), 12:15 PM	Mason da Silva - LIVING INTENTION (req. by Adevide da Silva)
Feb 2 (Fri), 12:15 PM	Mason da Silva - LIVING INTENTION (req. by Adevide da Silva)

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

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. Please bring your Bible and Journal!

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

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

FAMILY BINGO

B I N G O					
10	28	41	49	69	
11	18	45	54	73	
8	20	FREE SPACE	50	70	
12	23	35	57	66	
1	17	36	48	63	

The parish hosts a FAMILY BINGO this Sunday following the 10:00 AM. There's NO COST. CATHOLIC PRIZES! The Knights of Columbus are offering Meatball Subs to raise funds in support of the 18 Pregnancy Centers across the state. *The parish will provide Meatball Subs for children at no cost.* The parish will provide chips, cookies, and drinks for everyone.

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 1 Jan thru 4 Feb, 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.



Spring 2024 Manchester Campaign

From 14 Feb thru 24 Mar from 7:00 AM to 7:00 PM you are invited to join with other Christians in more than 60 countries and 600 cities around the

world for "40 DAYS FOR LIFE" seeking an end to abortion through prayer, fasting, and outreach to offer hope and options to anyone dealing with an unplanned pregnancy. Did you know that more than 64,000,000 abortions have been performed in the USA in the past 50 years (that's 3,500 per day)? Please join us as prayerful, peaceful, non-confrontational witnesses to the sanctity of all human life during the local 40-DAY VIGIL on the public sidewalk outside Planned Parenthood (24 Pennacook St, Manchester). We pray for ALL VICTIMS of abortion—unborn children, parents, families, abortion workers, legislators ... because it affects everyone in our society.

For more information, please visit our website at 40daysforlife.com/manchester. You can sign up for VIGIL HOURS by creating an account on the website—or—just contact the Manchester Leader, Norm Thibault, at (603) 289-0574 and he'll do the sign up steps for you. The KICKOFF EVENT is 11 February, 2:00 PM at St Elizabeth Seton Church Hall (190 Meetinghouse Rd, Bedford).

PODCASTS

Fr. Mike Schmitz's podcasts —THE BIBLE IN A YEAR + THE CATECHISM IN A YEAR— begin each year on January 1st. There is no cost although Ascension Press offers materials in support of both studies. For more information:

ascensionpress.com/bibleinayear
ascensionpress.com/catechisminayear

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:

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. Sue. Tiffany. Hannah. Rob. Kim. Allen. Carol's family. Cheryl & her family. Kathy. Sue. Ida. Dylan. Eileen. Robert. Family of Dan. Becky, Gabriel & Maggie. Cheryl.

Kim. Joan. Allison. Avery. Bob & Family. Allison. John. Chantal. Sierra's family. Ross. Jonathan. For those on the street, especially during this cold stretch. Family and friends who have stepped away from the faith. Vocations. Our country. All of our parishioners and their needs.

TAX NOTICE

CONTRIBUTIONS REQUEST CARDS are located alongside the bulletins in lobby. Your financial support of the parish has been very much appreciated!

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)