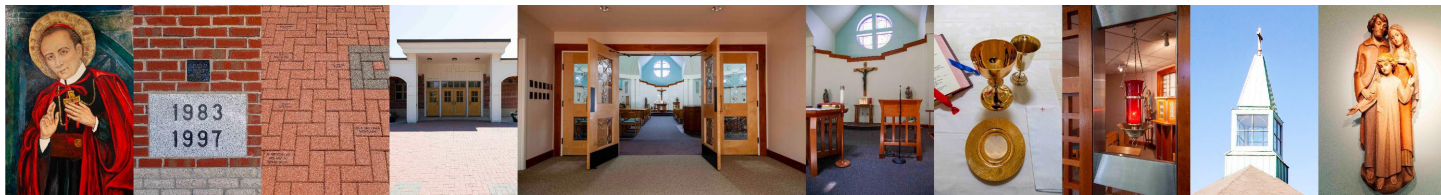


SAINT JOHN NEUMANN PARISH
708 Milford Rd (Rte 101A), Merrimack, NH 03054 — SJNNH.ORG



1st SUNDAY OF LENT
February 18, 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 DISCIPLESHIP

I will walk about in freedom, for I have sought out your precepts. —Ps
119:45

The first excerpt is from C. S. Lewis' (d. 1963) Mere Christianity, which speaks of free will as the only thing that makes possible any love or goodness or joy. The second is from Dietrich Bonhoeffer's (d. 1945) The Cost of Discipleship, which contrasts "cheap" and "costly" grace. Only the latter makes repentance, discipleship, and life in Christ possible.

GOD created things which had free will. That means creatures which can go either wrong or right. Some people think they can imagine a creature which was free but had no possibility of going wrong; I cannot. If a thing is free to be good it is also free to be bad. And free will is what has made evil possible. Why, then, did God give them free will? Because free will though it makes evil possible, is also the only thing that makes possible any love or goodness or joy worth having. A world of automata—of creatures that worked like machines—would hardly be worth creating. The happiness which God designs for His higher creatures is the happiness of being freely, voluntarily united to Him and to each other in an ecstasy of love and delight compared with which the most rapturous love between a man and a woman on this earth is mere milk and water. and for that they must be free. Of course God knew what would happen if they used their freedom the wrong way: apparently He thought it worth the risk. Perhaps we feel inclined to disagree with Him. But there is a difficulty about disagreeing with God. He is the source from which all your reasoning power comes: you could not be right and He wrong any more than a stream can rise higher than its own source. When you are arguing against Him you are arguing against the very power that makes you able to argue at all: it is like cutting off the branch you are sitting on. If God thinks this state of war in the universe a price worth paying for free will—that is, for making a live world in which creatures can do real good or harm and something of real importance can happen, instead of a toy world which only moves when He pulls the strings—then we may take it is worth paying. When we have understood about free will, we shall see how silly it is to ask, as somebody once asked me: "Why did God make a creature of such rotten stuff that it went wrong?" The better



stuff a creature is made of—the cleverer and stronger and freer it is—then the better it will be if it goes right, but also the worse it will be if it goes wrong.

When Christ calls a man, he bids him come and die.

When all is said and done, the life of faith is nothing if not an unending struggle of the spirit with every available weapon against the flesh.

Cheap grace means grace sold on the market like cheapjacks' [i.e., inferior quality] wares. The sacraments, the forgiveness of sin, and the consolations of religion are thrown away at cut prices. Grace is represented as the Church's inexhaustible treasury, from which she showers blessings with generous hands, without asking questions or fixing limits. Grace without price; grace without cost! The essence of grace, we suppose, is that the account has been paid in advance; and, because it has been paid, everything can be had for nothing. Since the cost was infinite, the possibilities of using and spending it are infinite. What would grace be if it were not cheap?

Cheap grace is the preaching of forgiveness without requiring repentance, baptism without church discipline, Communion without confession, absolution without personal confession. Cheap grace is grace without discipleship, grace without the cross, grace without Jesus Christ, living and incarnate.

Costly grace is the treasure hidden in the field; for the sake of it a man will go and sell all that he has. It is the pearl of great price to buy which the merchant will sell all his goods. It is the kingly rule of Christ, for whose sake a man will pluck out the eye which causes him to stumble; it is the call of Jesus Christ at which the disciple leaves his nets and follows him.

Costly grace is the gospel which must be sought again and again, the gift which must be asked for, the door at which a man must knock.

Such grace is costly because it calls us to follow, and it is grace because it calls us to follow Jesus Christ. It is costly because it costs a man his life, and it is grace because it gives a man the only true life. It is costly because it condemns sin, and grace because it justifies the sinner. Above all, it is costly because it cost God the life of his Son: "ye were bought at a price," and what has cost God much cannot be cheap for us. Above all, it is grace because God did not reckon his Son too dear a price to pay for our life, but delivered him up for us. Costly grace is the Incarnation of God.

Costly grace is the gospel which must be sought

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It is only because he became like us that we can become like him.

Discipleship is not an offer that man makes to Christ.

Earthly goods are given to be used, not to be collected. In the wilderness God gave Israel the manna every day, and they had no need to worry about food and drink. Indeed, if they kept any of the manna over until the next day, it went bad. In the same way, the disciple must receive his portion from God every day. If he stores it up as a permanent possession, he spoils not only the gift, but himself as well, for he sets his heart on accumulated wealth, and makes it a barrier between himself and God. Where our treasure is, there is our trust, our security, our consolation and our God.

The will of God, to which the law gives expression, is that men should defeat their enemies by loving them.

Fruit is always the miraculous, the created; it is never the result of willing, but always a growth. The fruit of the Spirit is a gift of God, and only He can produce it. They who bear it know as little about it as the tree knows of its fruit. They know only the power of Him on whom their life depends.

The messengers of Jesus will be hated to the end of time. They will be blamed for all the division which rend cities and homes. Jesus and his disciples will be condemned on all sides for undermining family life, and for leading the nation astray; they will be called crazy fanatics and disturbers of the peace. The disciples will be sorely tempted to desert their Lord. But the end is also near, and they must hold on and persevere until it comes. Only he will be blessed who remains loyal to Jesus and his word until the end.

WEEKLY CALENDAR

Feb 18, SUNDAY — 1st Week of Lent

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

Feb 19, MONDAY — *Office closed in observance of Presidents' Day holiday.

10:00 AM | "Jesus and the Eucharist" Bible Study
12:15 AM | *No Daily Mass
6:00 PM | "Jesus and the Eucharist" Bible Study

Feb 20, TUESDAY

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

Feb 21, WEDNESDAY

9:30 AM | Knitting Group (meets every other Wednesday)
10:30 AM | *"No Greater Love: A Biblical Walk Through Christ's Passion" Bible Study
12:15 PM | Daily Mass
6:00 PM | *"No Greater Love" Bible Study
6:30 PM | Grief Share

Feb 22, THURSDAY

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

Feb 23, FRIDAY — Day of Abstinence

10:00 AM | Food Pantry
10:15 AM | ADULT "Great Adventure Bible Study"
12:15 PM | Daily Mass
6:00 PM | *Confession (until 8:00 PM)
6:30 PM | *Lenten Stations and Adoration

Feb 24, 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

11 Feb '24 (6th Sunday Ordinary Time):
Posted on BB directly opposite front office.

NH CATHOLIC APPEAL

To date parishioners have contributed
\$49,067, exceeding our goal of \$48K.

THANK YOU for your generosity!

MASS INTENTIONS

Feb 17 (Sat), 5:30 PM James Gallagher (req. by Tom & Cynthia Sullivan)
Feb 18 (Sun), 8:00 AM Anita Creager (req. by Mark & Margaret Roy)
Feb 18, 10:00 AM Annette Gladysz & Maurice Gagne (req. by Linda Ray)
Feb 18, 6:00 PM Joseph F. Krasucki - LIVING INTENTION (req. by Brian & Andrea Lester)
Feb 21 (Wed), 12:15 PM Andrew Previte (req. by

Feb 22 (Thu), 12:15 PM Mark & Margaret Roy)
Randy Gagne - LIVING INTENTION (req. by Linda Ray)
Feb 23 (Fri), 12:15 PM Diane Bonenfant (req. by Mark & Margaret Roy)
Feb 24 (Sat), 5:30 PM Elizabeth Barney (req. by John & Karen Bozzuto)
Feb 25 (Sun), 8:00 AM Janet Tyfarczyk (req. by Bob & Denise Fregault)
Feb 25, 10:00 AM Michael - LIVING INTENTION (req. by family)
Feb 25, 6:00 PM Annie Wilmer - LIVING INTENTION (req. by Agatha Connelly)

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

LENTEN SCHEDULE

DAILY MASS

12:15 PM (Mon, Wed-Fri)

STATIONS OF THE CROSS

Fridays of Lent
6:30 PM (Long Form);
Short Form follows daily Mass

CONFESSION

Fridays of Lent

6:00-8:00 PM

&

18-22 Mar (Mon-Fri)

6:00-8:00 PM

DEANERY PENANCE SERVICE

10 Mar (Sun), 2:00 PM
Immaculate Conception Church
(216 E Dunstable Rd, Nashua)

LENTEN WOMEN'S RETREAT

St John Neumann Parish
16 Mar, 12:30-8:30 PM

All WOMEN are invited to join us for a women's Lenten retreat. Author Claire McGarry will present two sessions based on her book GRACE IN TENSION. There will be time for group discussion, private prayer, Mass, dinner and Eucharistic Adoration. TO REGISTER, call the parish office (880-4689) or email cbryson@gmail.com.

NO GREATER LOVE:
A Biblical Walk Through Christ's Passion

"No Greater Love" is a 5-part video series filmed on location in the Holy Land. Beginning Feb 21 (Wednesday) and offered at 10:30 AM and again at 6:00 PM.

GRIEF SHARE

Beginning Feb 21 at 6:30 PM in the parish hall, Deacons Brian Lester and John Martin will lead this 13-week grief recovery support group. Few people understand how painful and isolating grief can be. But, together with others who have experienced the same pain, there is hope and healing.

CURSILLO

CURSILLO (Cur-SEE'-yo) is a short "running" (in the sense of St Paul's admonition to "run the good race") course on the Catholic faith. CURSILLO is a 3-day weekend which begins on Thursday evening and concludes on Sunday. Talks are given by both lay persons and clergy. It is something to experience, not just to understand intellectually. It is an opportunity to grow in faith, to gain a deeper understanding of the teaching of Jesus and how we can serve him. For more info contact Matt McSorley: (603) 305-3012, mcsorleynh@gmail.com.

MEN'S
Mar 7-10, 2024

WOMEN'S
Apr 18-21, 2024

LOCATION: Camp Sentinel
29 Sentinel Lodge Rd, Center Tuftonboro, NH



Please join us during this 40 days (Feb 14 thru Mar 24) as we stand vigil on the public sidewalk outside Planned Parenthood (24 Pennacook St, Manchester) offering hope and options to anyone dealing with an unplanned pregnancy. For more information:

40daysforlife.com/manchester

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:

Bob & Family. Allison. John. Chantal. Sierra's family. Ross. Jonathan. John & Sue. Thomas. Kate. Steve. Kim & Family. Stephanie's Family. Stephen. Elaine & her family. Family and friends who have stepped away from the faith. Vocations. All of our parishioners and their needs.

RICE BOWLS are available in the foyer. Your Lenten alms have the power to make the world a better place for all. Money raised supports the work of CATHOLIC RELIEF SERVICES. For more information on Catholic Relief Services, go to: CRS.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)