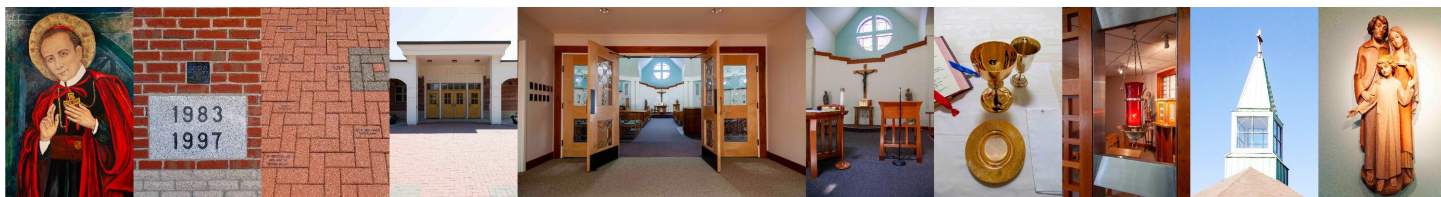


SAINT JOHN NEUMANN PARISH
708 Milford Rd (Rte 101A), Merrimack, NH 03054 — SJNNH.ORG



2nd SUNDAY OF LENT
February 25, 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.

KNOCK, OBTAIN, RECEIVE

Be careful not to practice your righteousness in front of others to be seen by them. If you do, you will have no reward from your Father in heaven.
—Mt 6:1

The first excerpt below is from Pope Benedict XVI's (d. 2022) General Audience of Ash Wednesday, 9 Mar 2011. The second is from a sermon by St Peter Chrysologus (d. 450) who declared that to pray is to knock at the door, to fast is to obtain, and by almsgiving receive. The three Lenten disciplines of Prayer, Fasting and Almsgiving are inseparable, giving life to each other.



THE CHARITY OF SAINT ELIZABETH OF HUNGARY [detail]
by Edmund Blair Leighton (d. 1922)

IN the Church's tradition, this journey we are asked to take in Lent is marked by certain practices: **FASTING**, **ALMSGIVING** and **PRAYER**. Fasting means abstinence from food but includes other forms of privation for a more modest life. However, all this is not yet the full reality of fasting: it is an outer sign of an inner reality, of our commitment, with God's help, to abstain from evil and to live by the Gospel. Those who are unable to nourish themselves with the word of God do not fast properly. In the Christian tradition fasting is closely linked to almsgiving.

St Leo the Great taught in one of his Discourses on Lent: "All that each Christian is bound to do in every season he must now do with greater solicitude and devotion in order to fulfil the apostolic prescription of Lenten fasting consistently, not only in abstinence from food but also and above all from sin. Furthermore, with this holy fasting which is only right, no work may be more fruitfully associated than almsgiving which, under the one name of 'mercy', embraces many good works. The



field of works of mercy is immense. It is not only the rich and the well-off who can benefit others with almsgiving, but also those of modest means and even the poor. Thus, although their futures differ, all may be the same in the soul's sentiments of piety."

St Gregory the Great recalled in his Pastoral Rule that fasting is sanctified by the virtues that go with it, especially by charity, by every act of generosity, giving to the poor and needy the equivalent of something we ourselves have given up. Lent, moreover, is a privileged period for prayer.

St Augustine said that fasting and almsgiving are "the two wings of prayer" which enable it to gain momentum and more easily reach even to God. He said: "In this way our prayers, made in humility and charity, in fasting and almsgiving, in temperance and in the forgiveness of offences, giving good things and not returning those that are bad, keeping away from evil and doing good, seek peace and achieve it. On the wings of these virtues our prayers fly safely and are more easily carried to Heaven, where Christ our Peace has preceded us." The Church knows that because of our weakness it is difficult to create silence in order to come before God and to acquire an awareness of our condition as creatures who depend on him, as sinners in need of his love. It is for this reason that in Lent she asks us to pray more faithfully, more intensely, and to prolong our meditation on the word of God.

St John Chrysostom urged: "Embellish your house with modesty and humility with the practice of prayer. Make your dwelling place shine with the light of justice; adorn its walls with good works, like a lustre of pure gold, and replace walls and precious stones with faith and supernatural magnanimity, putting prayer above all other things, high up in the gables, to give the whole complex decorum. You will thus prepare a worthy dwelling place for the Lord, you will welcome him in a splendid palace. He will grant you to transform your soul into a temple of his presence."

Dear friends, on this Lenten journey let us be careful to accept Christ's invitation to follow him more decisively and consistently, renewing the grace and commitments of our Baptism, to cast off the former person within us and put on Christ, in order to arrive at Easter renewed and able to say, with St Paul: "It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me" (Gal 2:20). I wish you all a good Lenten journey!

THERE are three things, my brethren, by which faith stands firm, devotion remains constant, and virtue endures. They are PRAYER, FASTING and ALMSGIVING. PRAYER knocks at the door, FASTING obtains, mercy receives. PRAYER, mercy and FASTING: these three are one, and they give life to each other.

FASTING is the soul of PRAYER, ALMSGIVING is the lifeblood of FASTING. Let no one try to separate them; they cannot be separated. If you have only one of them or not all together, you have nothing. So if you pray, fast; if

you fast, show mercy; if you want your petition to be heard, hear the petition of others. If you do not close your ear to others you open God's ear to yourself. When you fast, see the FASTING of others. If you want God to know that you are hungry, know that another is hungry. If you hope for mercy, show mercy. If you look for kindness, show kindness. If you want to receive, give. If you ask for yourself what you deny to others, your asking is a mockery. Let this be the pattern for all men when they practice mercy: show mercy to others in the same way, with the same generosity, with the same promptness, as you want others to show mercy to you.

Therefore, let PRAYER, mercy and FASTING be one single plea to God on our behalf, one speech in our defense, a threefold united PRAYER in our favor.

Let us use FASTING to make up for what we have lost by despising others. Let us offer our souls in sacrifice by means of FASTING. There is nothing more pleasing that we can offer to God, as the psalmist said in prophecy: *A sacrifice to God is a broken spirit; God does not despise a bruised and humbled heart.* Offer your soul to God, make him an oblation of your FASTING, so that your soul may be a pure offering, a holy sacrifice, a living victim, remaining your own and at the same time made over to God.

Whoever fails to give this to God will not be excused, for if you are to give him yourself you are never without the means of giving. To make these acceptable, ALMSGIVING must be added. FASTING bears no fruit unless it is watered by mercy. FASTING dries up when mercy dries up. Mercy is to FASTING as rain is to earth. However much you may cultivate your heart, clear the soil of your nature, root out vices, sow virtues, if you do not release the springs of mercy, your FASTING will bear no fruit. When you fast, if your mercy is thin your harvest will be thin; when you fast, what you pour out in ALMSGIVING overflows into your barn. Therefore, do not lose by saving, but gather in by scattering. Give to the poor, and you give to yourself. You will not be allowed to keep what you have refused to give to others.

WEEKLY CALENDAR

- Feb 25, SUNDAY — 2nd Week of Lent
- 8:00 AM | Sunday Mass
 - 10:00 AM | Sunday Mass
 - 6:00 PM | Sunday Mass
 - 7:00 PM | Eucharistic Adoration
- Feb 26, MONDAY
- 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 27, TUESDAY
 6:00 PM | YOUTH & ADULT "Great Adventure Bible Study"
 7:00 PM | Scouts Meeting

Feb 28, 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 29, THURSDAY
 9:00 AM | Day Away
 10:00 AM | Thursday Women's Group
 12:15 PM | Daily Mass

Mar 1, 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

Mar 2, FIRST SATURDAY
 8:30 AM | 1st Saturday Rosary followed by 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

18 Feb '24 (1st Sunday of Lent):
 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 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)
 Feb 26, 12:15 PM Nicholas Krasucki - LIVING INTENTION (req. by Brian & Andrea Lester)
 Feb 28 (Wed), 12:15 PM Olivia Botelho - LIVING INTENTION (req. by Natalie Botelho)
 Feb 29 (Thu), 12:15 PM Olivia Botelho - LIVING INTENTION (req. by Natalie Botelho)
 Mar 1 (Fri), 12:15 PM John Michaud (req. by family);

Olivia Botelho - LIVING INTENTION (req. by Natalie Botelho)

Mar 2 (Sat), 9:00 AM Pat Davis (req. by Tom Davis)
 Mar 2, 5:30 PM Martin Vowels (req. by Eleanor Boucher)
 Mar 3 (Sun), 8:00 AM Pat Davis (req. by Tom Davis)
 Mar 3, 10:00 AM Michael Guidry, Sr. (req. by Denis & Claudette Odesse)
 Mar 3, 6:00 PM Martha Anderes (req. by the Gavert Family)

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

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)

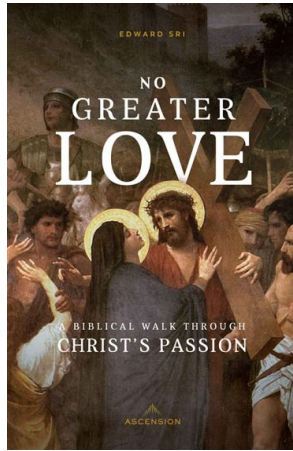
LENTEN WOMEN'S RETREAT

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.

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.





"NO GREATER LOVE: A Biblical Walk Through Christ's Passion" 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 in the parish hall. For more information: Cheri Andersen, candersen@sjnnh.org



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.

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)