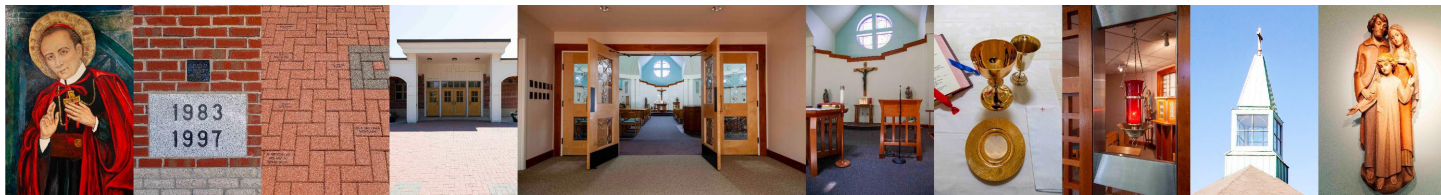


SAINT JOHN NEUMANN PARISH
708 Milford Rd (Rte 101A), Merrimack, NH 03054 — SJNNH.ORG



PASSION [alt., PALM] SUNDAY
March 24, 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 (Labor Day thru Memorial Day) 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

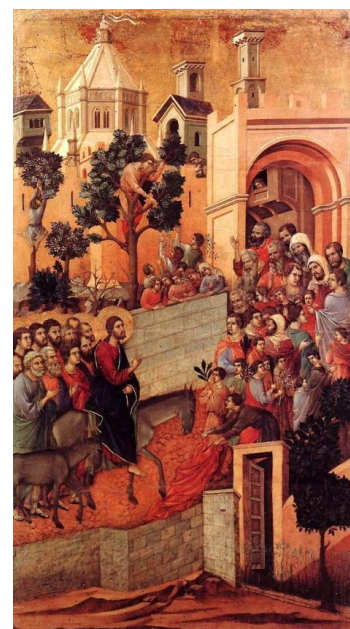
RCIA is the process of formation offered to those who seek to become Catholic. For information, please call the office.

THE CROSS

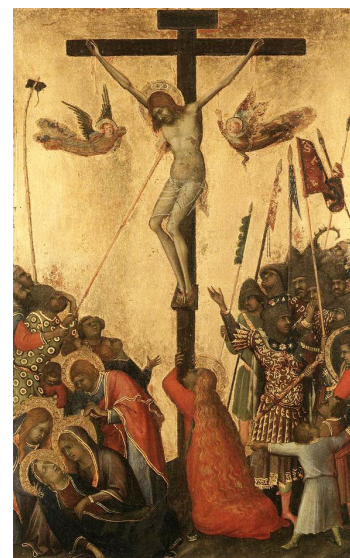
The Son of Man must suffer greatly and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes, and be killed, and rise after three days.
—Mark 8:32-32

The first excerpt below is from a homily by St John Chrysostom (d. 407) on the Holy Cross. The Cross not only released us from the evil that possessed us, but it is the source of countless blessings. The second excerpt is St Thomas Aquinas' (d. 1274) explanation of the twofold reason Christ suffered and died for us; namely, as a remedy for sin and to exemplify every virtue.

LET us consider of what great blessings for us Christ's Cross has become the cause. For though the Lord's Cross sounds sad and bitter, it is in reality full of joy and radiance. For the Cross is the salvation of the Church; the Cross is the boast of those who hope in it; the Cross is reconciliation of enemies to God and conversion of sinners to Christ. For through the Cross we have been delivered from enmity, and through the Cross we have been joined in friendship to God. Through the Cross we have been freed from the tyranny of the devil, and through the Cross



ENTRY INTO JERUSALEM
by Duccio (d. 1319)



THE CRUCIFIXION
by Simone Martini (d. 1344)

we have been delivered from death and destruction. 'When the Cross was not proclaimed, we were held fast by death; now the, Cross is proclaimed, and we have come to despise death, as though it did not exist, while we have come to long for everlasting life. 'When the Cross was not proclaimed, we were strangers to paradise; but when the Cross appeared, at once a thief was found worthy of paradise. From such darkness the human race has crossed over to infinite light; from death it has been called to everlasting life, from corruption it has been renewed for incorruption. For the eyes of the heart are no longer covered by the darkness that comes through ignorance, but through the Cross they are flooded with the light of knowledge. The ears of the deaf are no longer shut by unbelief, for the deaf have heard the word of the Lord, and the blind have recovered their sight to see the glory of God. These are the gifts we are given through the Cross. What blessing has not been achieved for us through the Cross?

The Cross is proclaimed, and faith in God is confessed and truth prevails in the whole inhabited world. The Cross is proclaimed, and martyrs are revealed and confession of Christ prevails. The Cross is proclaimed, and the resurrection is revealed, life is made manifest, the kingdom of heaven is assured. The Cross has become the cause of all these things, and through the Cross we have been taught to sing. What then is more precious than the Cross? What more profitable for our souls? So let us not be ashamed to name the Cross, but let us confess it with total confidence.

Christ is hung upon the Cross, and the devil has become a corpse. Christ has been stretched on the Cross, and a standard of salvation has been given to the world. Christ has been nailed to the Cross, and every soul has been released from bonds. Christ has been fixed to the Cross, and all creation has been set free from the slavery of corruption. Christ has breathed his last on the Cross, and a new marvel has been shown to the world; for the sun's light is darkened. This what a prophetic saying cries out, "And it shall come to pass in that day, says the Lord, that the sun will set at midday, and the light will become dark in the daytime, and I will change all your feasts into grief and all your songs into laments" (Amos 8:9). Do you see, beloved, how great a mystery the prophetic saying holds? For here the deeds of both are intimated: I mean of the Jews, who are under the law, and of the nations, who are outside the law, who both practice iniquity. For those who feast according to the law will grieve as they celebrate their feasts, and instead of songs, they make lamentations over Jerusalem. For Jerusalem will no longer hold solemn rites, and no feast will be celebrated in it. While pagan nations will mourn, making confession for their sins, and mourning is cause of blessedness. For scripture says, "Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted" (Matthew 5:4). They will mourn, then, over their empty feasts and lawless songs that they performed for the unclean demons. Take note then today how a pagan, repenting for the evil things he has done, laments and says with the prophet, "We have erred and strayed in our shame, and our sins have covered us, for we have been filled with our impiety. We have acknowledged the iniquities of our fathers". So then let us too lament and mourn for the evils that have been laid to

our charge; let us cling to the Cross, placing all our hopes on the Cross, so that taught through the Cross, fixing our thought on heaven, being brought close to Christ our Savior, we may be found worthy to be near God in the kingdom of heaven, in Christ our Lord himself, to whom be glory and might to the ages of ages. Amen.

WHY did the Son of God have to suffer for us?

There was a great need, and it can be considered in a twofold way: in the first place, as a remedy for sin, and secondly, as an example of how to act.

It is a remedy, for, in the face of all the evils which we incur on account of our sins, we have found relief through the passion of Christ. Yet, it is no less an example, for the passion of Christ completely suffices to fashion our lives. Whoever wishes to live perfectly should do nothing but disdain what Christ disdained on the cross and desire what he desired, for the cross exemplifies every virtue.

If you seek the example of love: Greater love than this no man has, than to lay down his life for his friends. Such a man was Christ on the cross. And if he gave his life for us, then it should not be difficult to bear whatever hardships arise for his sake.

If you seek patience, you will find no better example than the cross. Great patience occurs in two ways: either when one patiently suffers much, or when one suffers things which one is able to avoid and yet does not avoid. Christ endured much on the cross, and did so patiently, because when he suffered he did not threaten; he was led like a sheep to the slaughter and he did not open his mouth. Therefore Christ's patience on the cross was great. In patience let us run for the prize set before us, looking upon Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith who, for the joy set before him, bore his cross and despised the shame.

If you seek an example of humility, look upon the crucified one, for God wished to be judged by Pontius Pilate and to die.

If you seek an example of obedience, follow him who became obedient to the Father even unto death. For just as by the disobedience of one man, namely, Adam, many were made sinners, so by the obedience of one man, many were made righteous.

If you seek an example of despising earthly things, follow him who is the King of kings and the Lord of lords, in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge. Upon the cross he was stripped, mocked, spat upon, struck, crowned with thorns, and given only vinegar and gall to drink.

Do not be attached, therefore, to clothing and riches, because they divided my garments among themselves. Nor to honors, for he experienced harsh words and scourgings. Nor to greatness of rank, for weaving a crown of thorns they placed it

on my head. Nor to anything delightful, for in my thirst they gave me vinegar to drink.

WEEKLY CALENDAR

Mar 24, PALM SUNDAY — HOLY WEEK

8:00 AM | Palm Sunday Mass
10:00 AM | Palm Sunday Mass
2:00 PM | *Youth PASSION PLAY
6:00 PM | Palm Sunday Mass
7:00 PM | Eucharistic Adoration

Mar 25, MONDAY

12:15 AM | Daily Mass
10:00 AM | *CONFESSION (until 12:00 PM)
1:00 PM | *CONFESSION (until 3:00 PM)
6:00 PM | *CONFESSION (until 8:00 PM)

Mar 26, TUESDAY

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

Mar 27, 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

EASTER TRIDUUM

Mar 27, HOLY THURSDAY

10:00 AM | Thursday Women's Group
7:00 PM | *Mass of the Lord's Supper

Mar 29, GOOD FRIDAY — Day of Fast & Abstinence

10:00 AM | Food Pantry
10:15 AM | ADULT "Great Adventure Bible Study"
3:00 PM | *Stations of the Cross
7:00 PM | *Commemoration of the Lord's Passion

Mar 30, HOLY SATURDAY

10:00 AM | Easter Vigil Rehearsal
11:00 AM | Decorating Church for Easter
7:30 PM | *Easter Vigil

OFFERING

5th Sunday Lent (17 Mar '24):
Posted on BB directly opposite front office.

THANK YOU for your generosity!

MASS INTENTIONS

Mar 23 (Sat), 5:30 PM | James Gallagher (req. by Tom & Cynthia Sullivan)
Mar 24 (Sun), 8:00 AM | Maria Egler (req. by the Connelly Family)
Mar 24, 10:00 AM | Ginny Early, Pat Davis, Diane

Mar 24, 6:00 PM

Mar 25, 12:15 PM

Mar 27 (Wed), 12:15 PM

Mar 28 (Thu), 12:15 PM

Mar 30 (Sat), 7:30 PM

Mar 31 (Sun), 8:00 AM

Mar 31, 10:00 AM

Mar 31, 6:00 PM

Bonenfant (req. by Monday Women's Faith Sharing Group)
Paula Super (req. by Denis & Claudette Odesse)
Catherine Chaisson (req. by Sandra Towne)
Rosa Brands (req. by Mark & Margaret Roy)
Joseph Oertel (req. by John & Mary Mann)
Jeanne Strouse (req. by Ellie Boucher)
Eugene Mooney (req. by Mark & Margaret Roy)
Mary Ellen Gould (req. by Steve & Lisa DeBeradinis)
Joseph DuBois (req. by Sandra Towne)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

YOUTH PASSION PLAY

Palm Sunday (Mar 24, 2:00 PM)

HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE

HOLY THURSDAY

Mass of the Lord's Supper
28 Mar, 7:00 PM

GOOD FRIDAY

Stations of the Cross
29 Mar, 3:00 PM

—and—

Commemoration of the Lord's Passion
29 Mar, 7:00 PM

HOLY SATURDAY

Easter Vigil
30 Mar, 7:30 PM

EASTER SUNDAY

31 Mar
8:00 AM, 10:00 AM and 6:00 PM

*Children's EASTER EGG HUNT
follows the 10:00 AM Mass

MEMORIAL EASTER FLOWERS

To donate towards the Easter Flowers in memory of a family member or friend, please print their name(s) on the envelope. They will be remembered at all Masses throughout the 7-week Easter Season.



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.

CREATION CARE MINISTRY

Since January, you have helped us collect 160 lbs. of plastic film for recycling! That is 160 pounds that is not in landfills. THANK YOU! Please DO NOT put paper or hard plastic in the bins.

How else can we care for God's creation other than recycling? Our next CREATION CARE meeting is Thursday, 7 April at 7:00 PM. If you cannot come, you're welcome to join us online via Zoom: <https://us04web.zoom.us/j/3593768649?pwd=bXZmbHpoTXBram9DalhqZFBaWkprUT09>

Saint John Neumann YARN MINISTRY

We are small but mighty! We continue to craft Prayer Shawls going to Hospice House and St Joseph's Hospital. Chemo Caps are given to the Radiation Center in Nashua as well as the Cancer Center at St Joseph's Hospital. Our mission has expanded to supporting the Linus Project and year-round scarfs for the military. *Our ministry has been providing warmth and love to our community for over 20 years!*

We are always in need to DONATIONS and NEW MEMBERS ARE ALWAYS WELCOME! Thank you for your continued support! Any questions, please contact Aldrian Rostrom at (603) 440-9969.

PRAYER LINE MINISTRY

To add someone to the PRAYER LINE, please contact Teri at the parish office: tschmitt@sjnnh.org; (603) 880-4689. Please pray for:

For those in our Grief Share Ministry. Donna. Mark. Eileen. Kim. Robert. Sandy. Peg. Andy. Kathy & family. Branson. Matthew & family. Pat. Steve. Avery. Vivian. Ginny. Joan. Robin. Chase. Nate & Isabella. James. Tom. Justine & Matt. Daniel. Carol. Heather. Tara. Tom. Kathy. Anna. Leigh. Ginny. Mark. Matt. Cheryl. Tom. Patty & Thomas. Thanksgiving for Heather, Bob, Steve, Jan, & Claire. Joe. Mike. Cecile. Caleb. Joan. Matt. Sue. Barbara. Benjamin. Julianne. Thomas. Paul. Kathleen's Family. Steve. Ruth. Ginny. Gratitude for Linda's Recovery. Dan. Bob. Tom. Rose. Deb. Pat. Julianne. Gary. Jan. Phyllis. Deb. For the soul of Paula. SJN Parishioners. For family and friends who have stepped away from the faith.

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>

PARISH *online*

For monthly parish updates, subscribe to FLOCKNOTES by going to:

<https://SJNMERRIMACK.flocknote.com>

— or texting —

"SJNMERRIMACK" to 84576

(message/data rates may apply)

INSTAGRAM: sjnmerrimack

FACEBOOK: St John Neumann-Merrimack

SJN Staff

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CHERI ANDERSEN

Youth (6-12) and Adult Ministry

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ARTIE CAREW

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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)