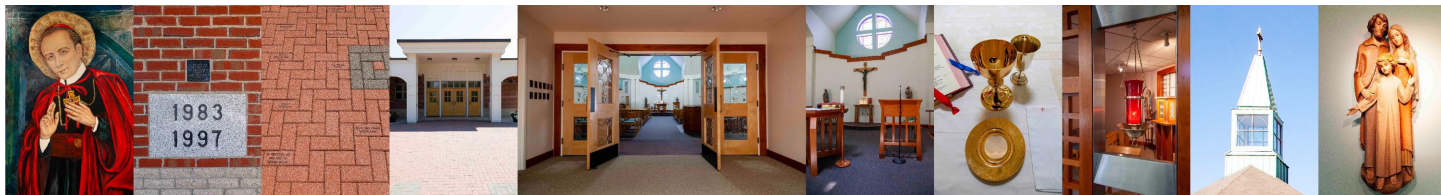


SAINT JOHN NEUMANN PARISH

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



3rd SUNDAY OF EASTER
April 10, 2023

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.

TESTAMENT

Everyone who has given up houses or brothers or sisters or father or mother or children or lands for the sake of my name will receive a hundred times more, and will inherit eternal life. —Mt 19:29

The first excerpt below is from The Legend of the Three Companions, an early *Life* of St Francis of Assisi (d. 1226) and his first disciples. It recounts an incident in the Saint's life, the beginning of his resolve to serve God. The second excerpt is from St Francis' Testament and dates to just days before his death on 3 Oct 1226. It is his final effort to explain the manner of the Franciscan vocation; that is, how he—and all Franciscan friars—are called to serve God by imitating the crucified Christ.



DEATH OF SAINT FRANCIS OF ASSISI
by Suber-Caseaux Errazuriz (d. 1956)

FRANCIS, born in Assisi in the valley of Spoleto [in 1182], was at first given the name Giovanni by his mother; he was born during his father's absence, and when the latter returned from France, he received the name Francesco.

After he had attained manhood and developed his native discernment, he devoted himself to the profession of his father, who was a merchant. Yet this he did in his own way. Merry and generous by nature, ever ready for jest and song, he roamed the town of Assisi day and night with his comrades and was most prodigal in his spending—to such an extent that he used all the



money allowed him and all his earnings for banquets and festivities.

For this reason his parents frequently remonstrated with him, pointing out that he was living in such style with his friends that he no longer seemed to be their son, but the son of a great prince. Yet as his parents were wealthy and loved their son tenderly, they allowed him to have his own way rather than disturb him.

Nevertheless an inborn delicacy and courtesy characterized his manners and his speech, and the kindness of his heart was such that he resolved never to utter a rude or unkind word to anyone.

One day, when Francis was standing in the shop and selling cloth, a poor man came in and begged for alms for the love of God, but being occupied and tempted by cupidity and the desire for riches, he refused. At that moment the grace of God touched him, he reproached himself for his hard-heartedness and said to himself: "If the beggar had pleaded, in the name of a great count or baron, I would surely have given him what he asked; how much more willingly should I do so for the sake of the King of kings, the Lord of creation!"

From that day onwards he carried the resolution in his heart never again to refuse anything that might be asked him for the sake of so mighty a Lord.

THIS is how the Lord gave me, brother Francis, the power to do penance. When I was in sin the sight of lepers was too bitter for me. And the Lord himself led me among them, and I pitied and helped them. And when I left them I discovered that what had seemed bitter to me was changed into sweetness in my soul and body. And shortly afterward I rose and left the world.

And the Lord gave me such faith in churches that I prayed simply, saying, "I adore you, Lord Jesus Christ, with all your churches throughout the world, and we bless you because you redeemed the world through your holy cross. Later God gave me and still gives me such faith in priests who live according to the form of the Holy Roman Church that even if they persecuted me I would still run back to them, because of their position. And if I had all the wisdom of Solomon and came upon some poor little priests in their parishes, I would preach there only if they wished me to do so. And I want to fear, love and honor these and all others as my lords. And I do not even want to think about there being any sin in them, because I see the Son of God in them and they are my lords. And I do this because in this world I physically see the most high Son of God only in his most holy body and blood, which they receive and they alone administer to others. And I want this holy mystery to be honored above all things, venerated, and kept in costly containers. Whenever I find his holy names or words in improper places I pick them up and ask that they be collected and stored in a proper place. And we ought to honor and venerate all theologians and those who

administer the holy divine word, for they administer to us spirit and life.

And when God gave me brothers, no one showed me what I should do, but the Most high revealed to me that I should live according to the form of the holy gospel. I had it written in few words and simply, and the lord pope confirmed it for me. And those who came to receive life gave all that they had to the poor and were content with one tunic patched inside and out, with a cord and trousers. And we did not wish to have more.

We who were clerics said the office like other clerics, and the laymen said the "Our Father," and we gladly stayed in churches. And we were ignorant and subject to all. And I worked with my hands, and want to do so still. And I definitely want all the other brothers to work at some honest job. Those who don't know how should learn, not because they want to receive wages but as an example and to avoid idleness. And when our wages are withheld from us, let us return to the Lord's table, begging alms from door to door. The Lord revealed what greeting we should use: "The Lord give you peace."

The brothers must be careful not to accept any churches, poor dwellings, or anything else constructed for them unless these buildings reflect the holy poverty promised by us in the *Rule*. We should always live in these places as strangers and pilgrims. I firmly command all the brothers, by the obedience they owe me, that wherever they are they should not dare to ask either directly or through an intermediary for any letter from the Roman court to secure a church or any other place, to protect their preaching, or to prevent persecution of their bodies; but wherever they are not received, they should flee into another land and do penance with God's blessing.

And I firmly wish to obey the Minister General of this brotherhood, and any other guardian the minister should want to give me. And I want to be such a captive in his hands that I cannot go anywhere or do anything without his desire and command, because he is my lord. And although I am simple and ill, I always want to have a cleric who can perform the office for me, as the *Rule* states. And all the other brothers are thus bound to obey their guardians and perform the office according to the rule. And whenever some are found who do not wish to perform the office according to the *Rule* and want to change it, or who are not Catholic in their beliefs, then all the brothers wherever they may be are bound by obedience to turn such people over to the custodian nearest the place where they found them. The custodian in turn is bound by obedience to guard him strongly like a man in chains, day and night, so that he cannot possibly escape from his hands until he personally places him in the hands of his minister. And the minister is bound by obedience to place him in the care of brothers who will guard him night and day like a man in chains until they turn him over to our Lord Bishop of Ostia, who is the Lord Protector and Corrector of the whole brotherhood.

And the brothers must not say, "This is another *Rule*," for it is a recollection, admonition, exhortation and my testament which I, poor brother Francis, make for you my brothers, so that we may observe the rule we have promised to God in a more Catholic manner. And the General

Minister and all other ministers and custodians are bound by obedience not to add or subtract from these words. And they must always have this writing with them in addition to the *Rule*. And in all chapter meetings held by them, when they read the rule, they must also read these words.

And I firmly forbid my brothers, both clerics and laymen, to place glasses on the *Rule* or say, "This is what it means." But just as the Lord gave me the power to compose and write both the rule and these words simply and purely, so you must understand them simply and without gloss and observe them by holy action until the end.

And whoever observes them will be filled in heaven with a blessing of the most high Father and on earth he will be filled with the blessing of his beloved Son, with the Holy Spirit the Comforter and all the powers of heaven and all the saints. And I, brother Francis, your servant insofar as I can be, internally and externally confirm for you this holy blessing.

OFFERING

3rd Sunday Lent	3 Mar '24	\$ 6,713
4th Sunday Lent	10 Mar '24	\$ 9,784
5th Sunday Lent	17 Mar '24	\$ 8,247
Palm Sunday	24 Mar '24	\$ 5,262
Good Friday	29 Mar '24	\$ 1,543
Easter Sunday	31 Mar '24	\$11,292
Online		\$ 7,590

Divine Mercy Sunday (3 Apr '24):
Posted on BB directly opposite front office
THANK YOU for your generosity!

WEEKLY CALENDAR

Apr 14, SUNDAY — 3rd Week of Easter

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

Apr 15, MONDAY

12:15 AM | Daily Mass
6:15 PM | Monday Women's Group

Apr 16, TUESDAY

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

Apr 17, WEDNESDAY

9:30 AM | Knitting Group (meets every other Wednesday)
10:30 AM | "EPIC: The Early Church" Study

12:15 PM | Daily Mass
6:00 PM | "EPIC: The Early Church" Study
6:30 PM | Grief Share

Apr 18, THURSDAY

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

Apr 19, FRIDAY

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

Apr 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

MASS INTENTIONS

Apr 13 (Sat), 5:30 PM	Rick Boucher (req. by family)
Apr 14 (Sun), 8:00 AM	William Stott, Jr. (req. by Maureen Mooney)
Apr 14, 10:00 AM	MaryLou Lacoy (req. by Jerry & Sheila Burnet)
Apr 14, 6:00 PM	Vito Benedetto (req. by the Connelly Family)
Apr 15 (Mon), 12:15 PM	Sarah Crerar - LIVING INTENTION (req. by Joe & Agatha Connelly)
Apr 17 (Wed), 12:15 PM	Ana Betehlo - LIVING INTENTION (req. by Natalie Botelho)
Apr 18 (Thu), 12:15 PM	Ana Betehlo - LIVING INTENTION (req. by Natalie Botelho)
Apr 19 (Fri), 12:15 PM	Ana Betehlo - LIVING INTENTION (req. by Natalie Botelho)
Apr 20 (Sat), 5:30 PM	James Gallagher (req. by Tom & Cynthia Sullivan)
Apr 21 (Sun), 8:00 AM	Eugene Mooney (req. by Mark & Margaret Roy)
Apr 21, 10:00 AM	Elizabeth Lennon - LIVING INTENTION (req. by Linda Ray)
Apr 21, 6:00 PM	Clement Lamarre (req. by the Connelly 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

EPIC: THE EARLY CHURCH

Wednesdays, 10:30 AM or 6:00 PM

EPIC: THE EARLY CHURCH is a 10-part video series that explores the people and events that shaped the first 500 years of the Church. Pope St John Paul II said, "Christ is the foundation and center of history; he is its meaning and ultimate goal." For more info: candersen@sjnnh.org. STARTS Wednesday, 10 April.

JESUS AND THE EUCHARIST

This the YEAR OF THE PARISH, the second year of the three-year EUCHARISTIC REVIVAL. The parish is offering the third iteration of "JESUS AND THE EUCHARIST," a 7-part series:

- 1 - What's Our Story?
- 2 - Who Is Jesus?
- 3 - Am I Saved?
- 4 - Why a Church?
- 5 - God Is with Us
- 6 - The Story of the Eucharist
- 7 - Bread for the Journey.

For more day/time or more information:
candersen@sjnnh.org.

CREATION CARE

Three Key Principles Catholic social teaching is built on three foundational principles — HUMAN DIGNITY, SOLIDARITY and SUBSIDIARITY. Human Dignity, embodied in a correct understanding of the human person, is the greatest. The others flow from it. Good governments and good economic systems find ways of fostering the three principles.

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:

For those in our Grief Share Ministry. 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. Alison. Russ. Souls of Roland, Lillian, Melodie, and Paula. Claire & family, Dan & family, Cameron. Mark. Thomas. Fr. Lopez. Fr. Roger. Loreen. Jay. Paul. Joe. Paul. Evelyn. Alan. Matt & Michael. Faige. Bob. Gary. Phyllis. Jessica. Diane. Ky. Thanksgiving for Paul. Cindy & Family. Jim. Leon. Diane.

Chase. Thomas. Rita. Christopher. For those who have fallen 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

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)