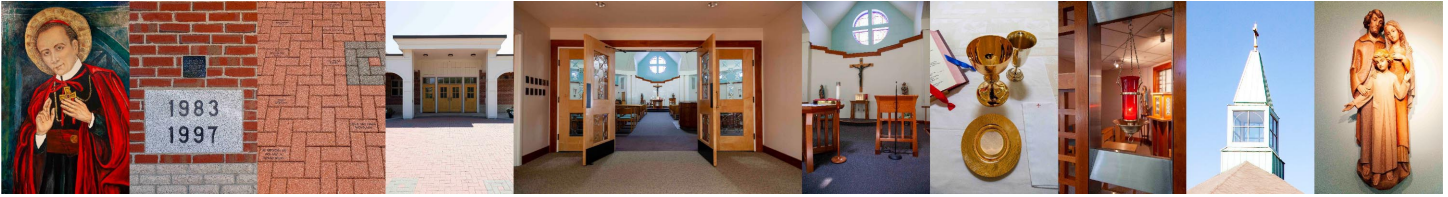


SAINT JOHN NEUMANN PARISH
708 Milford Rd (Rte 101A), Merrimack, NH 03054 — SJNNH.ORG



July 14, 2024
15th SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME
Eighth Sunday after Pentecost

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 PRAYER

Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need. —Heb 4:16

Both excerpts below are from Thomas à Kempis' (d. 1471) The Imitation of Christ. The first, from Chapter 13, "On Resisting Temptations"; the second, from Chapter 67, "On Asking God's Help and the Certainty of his Grace".

RESISTING TEMPTATIONS

SO long as we live in this world, we cannot remain without trial and temptation: as Job says, *Man's life on earth is a warfare* (Job 7:1). We must therefore be on guard against temptations, and watchful in prayer (1 Pet 4:7), that the Devil find no means of deceiving us; for he never rests, but prowls around seeking the ruin of souls (1 Pet 5:8). No one is so perfect and holy that he is never tempted, and we can never be secure from temptation.

Although temptations are so troublesome and grievous, yet they are often profitable to us, for by them we are humbled, cleansed, and instructed. All the Saints endured many trials and temptations (Acts 14:22), and profited by them; but those who could not resist temptations became reprobate, and fell away (Ecclus 9:11). There is no Order so holy, nor place so secluded, where there are no troubles and temptations.

No man can be entirely free from temptation so long as he lives; for the source of temptation lies within our own nature, since we are born with an inclination towards evil (Jas 1:14) when one temptation or trial draws to a close, another takes its place; and we shall always have something to fight, for man has lost the blessing of original happiness. Many try to escape temptations, only to encounter them more fiercely, for no one can win victory by flight alone; it is only by patience and true humility that we can grow stronger than all our foes.

The man who only avoids the outward occasions of evil, but fails to uproot it in himself, will gain little advantage. Indeed, temptations will return upon him the sooner, and he will find himself in a worse state than before. Little by little and by patient endurance (Col1:11) you will overcome them by God's help, better than by your own violence and importunity. Seek regular advice in temptation, and never deal harshly with those who are tempted, but give them such encouragement as you would value yourself.

The beginning of all evil temptation is an unstable mind and lack of trust in God. Just as a ship without a helm is driven to and fro by the waves, so a careless man, who abandons his proper course, is tempted in countless ways. *Fire tempers steel* (Ecclus 31:26), and temptation the just man. We often do not know what we can bear, but temptation reveals our true nature. We need especially to be on our guard at the very onset of temptation, for then the Enemy may be more easily overcome, if he is not allowed to enter the gates of the mind: he must be repulsed at the threshold, as soon as he knocks. Thus the poet Ovid writes, "Resist at the beginning; the remedy may come too late". For first there comes into the mind an evil thought: next, a vivid picture: then delight, and urge to evil, and finally consent. In this way the Enemy gradually gains complete mastery, when he is not resisted at first. And the longer a slothful man delays resistance, the weaker he becomes, and the stronger his enemy grows against him.

Some people undergo their heaviest temptations at the beginning of their conversion; some towards the end of their course; others are greatly troubled all their lives; while there are some whose temptations are but light. This is in accordance with the wisdom and justice of God's ordinance, who weighs the condition and merits of every man, and disposes all things for the salvation of those whom He chooses.

We must not despair, therefore, when we are tempted, but earnestly pray God to grant us his help in every need. For, as Saint Paul says, *With the temptation, God will provide a way to overcome it, that we may be able to bear it* (1 Cor 10:13). So, *let us humble ourselves under the hand of God* (Jud 8:17; 1 Pet 5:6), in every trial a trouble, for He will save and raise up the humble in spirit (Luke 1:52) all these trials, our progress is tested; in them great merit is secured, and our virtue become evident. It is no great matter if we are devout and fervent when we have troubles; but if we show patience in adversity, we can make great progress in virtue. Some are spared severe temptation but are overcome in the lesser ones of every day, in order that they may be humble, and learn not to trust in themselves, but to recognize their frailty.

ON ASKING GOD'S HELP AND THE CERTAINTY OF HIS GRACE

CHRIST [speaking]: *My son, I am the Lord, who give strength in time of trouble* (Nah 1:7). Come to Me when the struggle goes hard with you (Matt 11:28). Your slowness in turning to prayer is the greatest obstacle to receiving My heavenly comfort. For, when you should earnestly seek Me, you first turn to many other comforts and hope to restore yourself by worldly means. It is only when all these things have failed that you remember that I am the Saviour of all who put their trust in Me (Ps 17:7); and that, apart from Me, there can be no effective help, no sound counsel, and no lasting remedy. But now, *with spirit renewed after the tempest, gather fresh strength and light in My mercies* (Ecclus 35:20). For I am near and will restore all things, not only completely, but generously and in full measure. Is anything too hard for Me? (Jer 32:27). Shall I

be like one who does not fulfil his promise? Where is your faith? Stand firm, and persevere. Be courageous and patient and help will come to you in due time. Wait patiently for Me and I Myself will come and heal you. Temptation is your testing—there is no cause for alarm or fear. Sorrow upon sorrow can be the only result if you worry about the future. *Sufficient to the day is the evil in it* (Matt 6:34). It is quite vain and useless to be either anxious or pleased about the future, for what you anticipate may never happen.

The mind of man is prone to delusions, but to be deceived by the suggestions of the Devil is a sign of spiritual weakness. Satan does not care whether it be by truth or falsehood that he mocks and deceives you; or whether he obtains your downfall through love of the present or fear of the future. Therefore, *let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid* (John 14:27). Trust in Me, and put your whole confidence in My mercy (Ps 91:2). When you think I am far away, then often I am nearest to you. And when you think the battle almost lost, then the reward of all your toil is often near. All is not lost when anything turns out contrary to your plans. Therefore do not allow your feelings of the moment to obscure your judgement, nor yield to depression as though all hope of recovery were lost.

Do not imagine yourself utterly forsaken if for a while I have allowed some trial to harass you, or withdrawn the comfort that you desire; for this is the way to the Kingdom of Heaven. Be assured that it is better for you, and for all My servants, to struggle against difficulties than to have everything as you wish. I know your secret thoughts, and it is necessary for your salvation that you should sometimes be deprived of spiritual joys, lest you become conceited in your happy state, and complacently imagine yourself better than you are. What I have granted, I can take away, and restore it when I choose.

When I grant comfort, it remains Mine; and when I withdraw it, I am not taking anything that is yours, for every good gift and every perfect gift is Mine alone (Jas 1:17). If I send you trouble and affliction, do not be indignant or downhearted; for I can swiftly help you, and turn all your sorrow into joy. Notwithstanding, I keep My own counsel, and in all My dealings with you, give Me due praise.

If you are wise and have right judgement, you will never despair or be discouraged. On the contrary, if I scourge you with trouble and do not spare you (Job 6:10), be glad and grateful, and regard it as cause for joy. For, *as My Father has loved Me, so do I love you* (John 15:9) were My words to my well loved disciples, whom I did not send out to enjoy the pleasures of the world, but to fight hard battles; not to win honours, but contempt; not to be idle, but industrious; not to rest, but to bring forth much fruit with patience (Luke 8:15).

WEEKLY CALENDAR

Jul 14 SUNDAY — 15th Week of Ordinary Time
8:00 AM | Sunday Mass

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

Jul 15, MONDAY

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

Jul 16, TUESDAY

7:00 PM | Scouts Meeting

Jul 17, WEDNESDAY

9:30 AM | Knitting Group (meets every other Wednesday)

10:30 AM | "HEBREWS" Bible Study

12:15 PM | Daily Mass

6:00 PM | "HEBREWS" Bible Study

Jul 18, THURSDAY — St Benedict, Abbot

9:00 AM | Day Away

10:00 AM | Thursday Women's Group

12:15 PM | Daily Mass

Jul 19, FRIDAY

10:00 AM | Food Pantry

12:15 PM | Daily Mass

Jul 20, SATURDAY

8:30 AM | Men's Group

9:30 AM | Widow's Group (2nd Sat of month)

4:00 PM | Confession (until 5:00 PM)

5:30 PM | Anticipatory Sunday Mass

OFFERING

30 Jun '24 (14th Sunday Ordinary Time): \$11,940.00

7 Jul '24 (15th Sunday Ordinary Time): \$5,215.00

THANK YOU for your generosity!

MASS INTENTIONS

Jul 13 (Sat), 5:30 PM	Bruce Rountree, Christine Perez (req. by Chris Rountree)
Jul 14 (Sun), 8:00 AM	Petra Rivero Misione, Casimiro Armada Lavadores (req. by Alejandra)
Jul 14, 10:00 AM	Amelia Lennon - LIVING INTENTION (req. by Linda Ray)
Jul 14, 6:00 PM	Rita Brands (req. by Roy Family)
Jul 15 (Mon), 12:15 PM	Francisca Lopez Pollo, Antonio Costas Barreiro (req. by Alejandra)
Jul 17 (Wed), 12:15 PM	Carolyn Frarias (req. by Denis & Claudette Odesse)
Jul 18 (Thu), 12:15 PM	Maria de la Concepcion, Armada Riveiro (req. by Alejandra)
Jul 19 (Fri), 12:15 PM	Casimiro Armada Riveiro, Rosario Saa Padin (req. by Alejandra)
Jul 20 (Sat), 5:30 PM	James Gallagher (req. by Tom & Cynthia Sullivan)
Jul 21 (Sun), 8:00 AM	Mike Vincent (req. by Linda Ray)
Jul 21, 10:00 AM	Paula Super (req. by Denis &

Jul 21, 6:00 PM

Claudette Odesse)

Private Intention (req. by Patricia)

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

HOLIDAY FAIR PLANNING AND PARTICIPATION

Dear St. John Neumann Parish Family, we are excited to announce that our parish is planning to host a Holiday Fair this year, and we need your help to make it a success!

December 8, 2024 from 9:00-1:00 PM

Planning Committee Volunteers Needed: We are looking for enthusiastic and dedicated individuals to join our planning committee. If you have a passion for organizing events and want to contribute to bringing joy and community spirit to our parish during the holiday season, we would love to have you on board. Your ideas, energy, and commitment will be invaluable in making this event a memorable one for everyone.

Vendors and Craftspeople: Do you have handmade crafts, baked goods, or other items you would like to sell? This is a wonderful opportunity to showcase your talents and support our parish. We invite all parishioners and community members who are interested in reserving a table to sell their creations to sign up.

How to Get Involved:

- Planning Committee Volunteers: Please contact Rachel Maccini at (603) 921-1034 or rachelmaccini@gmail.com to express your interest in joining the planning committee.
- Vendors and Craftspeople: To reserve a table, please contact Rachel Maccini at 603-921-1034 or rachelmaccini@gmail.com. Spaces are limited, so please reach out as soon as possible.

Let's come together to celebrate the season, support our parish, and share the holiday spirit with our community. We look forward to your participation and support! Thank you, and God bless.

PARISH PRAYER LINE

To add someone please contact Teri at the parish office: (603) 880-4689, tschmitt@sinnh.org.

PLEASE PRAY FOR:

Karen. Fran. Derrick. Jen. Lisa. Bob. Sue. Peg.
Paul. Mike & family. Larry. Steve. Jessica.
Theresa. Nancy. Mary. Joe. Maria. Ryan. Maria.
Mona Lisa. Family of Larry. Family of Dolores.
Russ. Special intention. Vivian. Ginny. Tom. Ellen.
Bob. John. Barb. Mahmoud. Alejandra. Joe. Hazel.
Branden. Personal Intention. Kathy. Eucharistic
Procession heading to Indianapolis. All our priests.
Eucharistic Procession heading to Indianapolis.
Holy Souls in Purgatory. Those that have stepped
away from the faith. For vocations. All of our
parishioners and their needs.

FOR HIGH SCHOOL GIRLS

Join us to read and discuss the ENDOW STUDY:
“CREATED FOR COMMUNITY”, where we’ll
talk about who God calls us to be as women and
what that looks like in our day to day lives. This is
a great opportunity to grow in relationship with
God and friends. **We will meet Sundays (June
30th-August 11th) from 11:00 AM-12:30 PM.**
The group will be led by Elizabeth Bryson (a
sophomore at Franciscan University) and Katie
Oslin. Cost is \$20. To sign up, email
cbryson@sjnnh.org

YARN MINISTRY

WE WELCOME ALL WHO LOVE TO KNIT
OR CROCHET or would like to learn to! We
make items to warm and comfort those in
need. This includes Prayer Shawls for Hospice,
Scarves for the military and homeless, Chemo
Caps, Newborn Caps and Baby Blankets. WE
HOPE YOU WILL JOIN US! We meet every
other Wednesday 9:30-11:00 AM in the room
off of the Church Hall.

SAFE ENVIRONMENT POLICY

Did you know that the Diocese of Manchester
requires all those who work with children and
youth in our parishes, schools, and camps to
complete "SAFE ENVIRONMENT" training?
This training teaches adults to recognize and
report suspected abuse and boundary violations.
Training is also offered free of charge to all NH
Catholic adults and is available online at:

<https://manchester.cmgconnect.org>

For more information about child safety, visit
www.catholnh.org/safety.

CREATION CARE

"The Earth sustains humanity. It must not be injured; it must not be destroyed." —St Hildegard of Bingen (d. 1179)

NEW HAMPSHIRE CATHOLIC APPEAL 2024

This past month we kicked off the annual **NEW HAMPSHIRE CATHOLIC APPEAL (NHCA)** an initiative begun last year to help the diocese expand essential services and ministries across New Hampshire.



TO MAKE A GIFT:

Return the GIFT ENVELOPE distributed at Mass, or the one you may receive in the mail. Or, DONATE ONLINE at the **NHCA** website:

<https://www.catholicnh.org/nhca>



<https://sjnnh.org/online-donation>

SJN Staff

CLAIRE BRYSON – Children (K-5) and Family Ministry
cbryson@sjnnh.org | (603) 880-4689 x114

CHERI ANDERSEN – 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)