

708 Milford Road (Route 101A) Merrimack, New Hampshire 03054

We Live + as we Believe + as we Worship

August 25, 2024 21st SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME Fourteenth 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	
Daily (Mon, Wed-Fri)	

CONFESSION

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.

TRUSTING IN GOD'S MERCY

No one who conceals transgressions will prosper, but one who confesses and forsakes them will obtain mercy. —Prov 28:13

The first excerpt below is from Thomas à Kempis' (d. 1471) Imitation of Christ. Repentance is impossible without the help of grace, and however difficult the road before us, we must TRUST always in God's mercy. In the words of St Faustina (d. 1938) [Divine Mercy]: "Let no soul, even the most miserable, fall prey to doubt; for as long as one is alive, each one can become a great saint, so great is the power of God's grace. It remains only for us not to oppose God's action." The second excerpt, by way of example, is from the catechetical lessons of St John Vianney (d. 1855). The third, on the proper means of chastening ourselves, is from St Francis de Sales' (d. 1 622) Introduction to the Devout Life.



THE GOOD SHEPHERD [detail] by Bernard Plockhorst (d. 1907)

A Man Should Not Be Too Downcast When He Falls into Defects

THE voice of Christ: My child, patience and humility in adversity are more pleasing to Me than much consolation and devotion when things are going well. Why are you saddened by some little thing said against you? Even if it had been more you ought not to have been affected. But now let it pass. It is not the first, nor is it anything new, and if you live long it will not be the last. You are manly enough so long as you meet no opposition. You give good advice to others, and you know how to strengthen them with words, but when unexpected tribulation comes to your door, you fail both in counsel and in strength. Consider your great weakness, then, which you experience so

weakness, then, which you experience so often in small matters. Yet when these and like trials happen, they happen for your good. Put it out of your heart as best you know how, and if it has touched you, still do



not let it cast you down or confuse you for long. Bear it patiently at least, if you cannot bear it cheerfully. Even though you bear it unwillingly, and are indignant at it, restrain yourself and let no ill-ordered words pass your lips at which the weak might be scandalized. The storm that is now aroused will soon be quieted and your inward grief will be sweetened by returning grace. "I yet live," says the Lord, "ready to help you and to console you more and more, if you TRUST in Me and call devoutly upon Me." Remain tranquil and prepare to bear still greater trials. All is not lost even though you be troubled oftener or tempted more grievously. You are a man, not God. You are flesh, not an angel. How can you possibly expect to remain always in the same state of virtue when the angels in heaven and the first man in paradise failed to do so? I am He Who rescues the afflicted and brings to My divinity those who know their own weakness.

We Must Never Despair

MY children, there is so little faith now in the world that people either hope too much, or they despair. Some say, "I have done too much evil; the good God cannot pardon me." My children, this is a great blasphemy; it is putting a limit to the mercy of God, which has no limit—it is infinite. You may have done evil enough to lose the souls of a whole parish, and if you confess, if you are sorry for having done this evil, and resolve not to do it again, the good God will have pardoned you.

A priest was once preaching on hope, and on the mercy of the good God. He reassured others, but he himself despaired. After the sermon, a young man presented himself, saying, "Father, I am come to confess to you." The priest answered, "I am willing to hear your confession." The other recounted his sins, after which he added, "Father, I have done much evil; I am lost!" "What do you say, my friend! We must never despair." The young man rose, saying, "Father, you wish me not to despair, and what do you do?" This was a ray of light; the priest, all astonishment, drove away that thought of despair, became a religious and a great saint. The good God had sent him an angel under the form of a young man, to show him that we must never despair. The good God is as prompt to grant us pardon when we ask it of Him as a mother is to snatch her child out of the fire.

What We Want Is a Quiet, Steady, Firm Displeasure at Our Own Faults

ONE important direction in which to exercise gentleness, is with respect to ourselves, never

growing irritated with one's self or one's imperfections; for although it is but reasonable that we should be displeased and grieved at our own faults, yet ought we to guard against a bitter, angry, or peevish feeling about them. Many people fall into the error of being angry because they have been angry, vexed because they have given way to vexation, thus keeping up a chronic state of irritation, which adds to the evil of what is past, and prepares the way for a fresh fall on the first occasion. Moreover, all this anger and irritation against one's self fosters pride, and springs entirely from self-love, which is disturbed and fretted by its own imperfection. What we want is a quiet, steady, firm displeasure at our own faults. A judge gives sentence more effectually speaking deliberately and calmly than if he be impetuous and passionate (for in the latter case he punishes not so much the actual faults before him, but what they appear to him to be); and so we can chasten ourselves far better by a quiet steadfast repentance, than by eager hasty ways of penitence, which, in fact, are proportioned not by the weight of our faults, but according to our feelings and inclinations. Thus one man who specially aims at purity will be intensely vexed with himself at some very trifling fault against it, while he looks upon some gross slander of which he has been guilty as a mere laughing matter. On the other hand, another will torment himself painfully over some slight exaggeration, while he altogether overlooks some serious offence against purity; and so on with other things. All this arises solely because men do not judge themselves by the light of reason, but under the influence of passion. So then, when you have fallen, lift up your heart in quietness, humbling yourself deeply before God by reason of your frailty, without marveling that you fell;—there is no cause to marvel because weakness is weak, or infirmity infirm. Heartily lament that you should have offended God, and begin anew to cultivate the lacking grace, with a very deep TRUST in His Mercy, and with a bold, brave heart.

WEEKLY CALENDAR

Aug 25, SUNDAY — 21st Week of Ordinary Time

8:00 AM | Sunday Mass

10:00 AM | Sunday Mass

6:00 PM | Sunday Mass

7:00 PM | Eucharistic Adoration

Aug 26, MONDAY

12:15 AM | Daily Mass

6:15 PM | Monday Women's Group

Aug 27, TUESDAY — St Monica

7:00 PM | Scouts Meeting

Aug 28, WEDNESDAY — St Augustine, Bishop 9:30 AM | Knitting Group (meets every other Wednesday)

12:15 PM | Daily Mass

Aug 29, THURSDAY — The Passion of St John the Baptist

9:00 AM | Day Away

10:00 AM | Thursday Women's Group

Aug 30, FRIDAY

10:00 AM | Food Pantry 12:15 PM | Daily Mass

Aug 31, 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

11 Aug '24 (19th Sunday Ordinary Time): \$6,046.00 15 Aug '24 (Assumption): \$1,762.00

18 Aug '24 (20th Sunday Ordinary Time): \$4,516.00 Offerings posted on BB outside office.

THANK YOU for your generosity!

MASS INTENTIONS

Aug 24 (Sat), 5:30 PM	Paul Ally (req. by Ellie
	Boucher)
Aug 25 (Sun), 8:00 AM	Laura Sassak (req. by Pat Ritz)
Aug 25, 10:00 AM	Ethnea Daniels (req. by
	Bronwen Pritchard)
Aug 25, 6:00 PM	Holy Souls
Aug 26 (Mon), 12:15 PM	Mike Vincent (req. by Linda
	Ray)
Aug 28 (Wed), 12:15 PM	Anthony Baio (req. by Loretta
	Keaney)
Aug 29 (Thu), 12:15 PM	Ethnea Daniels (req. by John
	Reedy)
Aug 30 (Fri), 12:15 PM	John Bozzuto (req. by John &
	Karen Bozzuto)
Aug 31 (Sat), 5:30 PM	John Berube (req. by Mark &
	Joanne Kenna)
Sep 1 (Sun), 8:00 AM	Pat Davis (req. by Tom Davis)
Sep 1, 10:00 AM	Autumn Lennon & Rick
	Gagne - LIVING
	INTENTIONS
	(req. by Linda Ray)
Sep 1, 6:00 PM	Diane Bonenfant
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The <u>Code of Canon Law</u> 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

FAITH FORMATION REGISTRATION

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION is at the heart and center of parish life. Only the LITURGY is more important.

REGISTRATION FORMS and additional information (e.g., dates, Sacraments information) are available on the parish website: SJNNH.ORG

42nd ANNUAL SCOUT RETREAT

ALL SCOUTS (Boys & Girls) in Grades 6-12, and Adult Leaders, are invited to the 42nd ANNUAL SCOUT RETREAT Sep 13 (Fri) – Sep 15 (Sun) at Camp Fatima (Gilmanton Iron Works, NH). The cost is \$20.00 per scout and \$13.00 per adult. This Retreat is like a Camporee involving scouts in a number of fun, challenging, and faith filled activities! Put on by Fr. Ray Ball and the DIOCESAN CATHOLIC SCOUTING COMMITTEE. All BSA, GSUSA, American Heritage Girls, Venture Crews, Trail Life, Troops of St. George, and Knights of Columbus Squires are all invited. For INFORMATION & REGISTRATION:

www.catholicnh.org/scout www.facebook.com/nhscoutretreat FrRay3@gmail.com, (603) 224-4393 x1

Blessed Brunch

ALL WOMEN are invited to join us for a Blessed Brunch on Sep 7 (Sat) from 9:30–11:00 AM in the Parish Hall. Please sign up in the gathering space and bring a dish to share.



Our next session of GRIEF SHARE starts on Sep11 (Wed) at 6:30 PM. This 14-session series is for anyone grieving the loss of a loved one. You can join at any point during the series. For more information contact Deacon Brian Lester at: deacon@sjnnh.org.

FALL ENROLLMENT

SAINT CHRISTOPHER ACADEMY in Nashua, NH offers an outstanding Catholic education that emphasizes faith, academics, and strong moral values

for students in Pre-Kindergarten through Grade 8. Advanced academic programs and a broad range of athletic and extracurricular opportunities support the development of students who are well-rounded learners and leaders grounded in the Catholic faith. APPLICATIONS are open for the fall of 2024 ... apply now! To learn more, visit SaintChrisAcademy.org or contact Enrollment Coordinator Lorrice Bedard at (603) 882-7442, ext. 310.

Is God Calling You to Work for Him?



ST. GIANNA'S PLACE is seeking a mature, caring individual to work directly with our residents. Responsibilities include supporting residents on a daily basis with their immediate and long-term goals.

Previous experience working with families and knowledge of early childhood care is a plus. If interested. Contact Donna Meade at:

DMeade@StGiannasplace.org

NEW HAMPSHIRE CATHOLIC APPEAL 2024

The New Hampshire Catholic Appeal (NHCA) is a Diocesan wide effort to support the ministries of our local Catholic Church here in New Hampshire.

Our participation helps the entire Church in New Hampshire where the needs are the greatest.



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

PARISH PRAYER LINE

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

Youth volunteers and students-past, present, & future. Alejandra. Joe. Hazel. Branden. Personal Intention. Kathy. Leon. Ron. Brianna. Brenda. Jane. Melody. Tony. Bob. Lisa. Andrew. Dale. Suzie. Carol-Ann. Deb. Soul of Jeremiah. Ginny. Mark.

Ruthann. Lisa. Elaine. John. Gail. Maureen. Eileen. Ivory. Susan. Tom. Jordyn & Baby. Karen. Chris. Barbara. Sue. Tom. Diane. Joan. Alexis. Diane. Arline. Mark. Andrew. Paige. Barbara. Mike. Dale & his wife. Jared. Melanie. David. Ron. Chris. Pat. Susan. Bernadette. Rebecca & Darin. Elaine & family. Russ. For vocations. All our priests. Holy Souls in Purgatory. Those that have stepped away from the faith.

SJN Staff

LOUISE HICKEY – Children (K-5) lhickey@sjnnh.org

EMILIE FULCHINO – Middle School Ministry efulchino@sjnnh.org

MICKAYLA WACLAWIK – High School Ministry mwaclawik@sjnnh.org

CHERI ANDERSEN – Adult Ministry candersen@sjnnh.org | (603) 880-4689 x111

ARTIE CAREW – Music Ministry music@sjnnh.org

SHEILA BURNETT – Pastoral Associate

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 parishcouncil@sjnnh.org

FINANCE COMMITTEE – Bob Fregault (Chairman)

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS – Arvid Skogsholm (Grand Knight) kofc@sjnnh.org