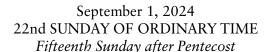


708 Milford Road (Route 101A) Merrimack, New Hampshire 03054

We Live + as we Believe + as we Worship



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.

#### TRUST IN GOD

I do not understand what I do ... For I do not do the good I want to do, but the evil I do not want to do [and] this I keep on doing. —Rom 7:15,19

The first excerpt below is from Don Lorenzo Scupoli's (d. 1610) Spiritual Combat first published in 1589, a practical manual on how we turn from sin to be ever more faithful to the Gospel. In a word, mistrust of self and trust in God. God has promised that his grace is always sufficiently weighted in our struggles to afford us a way out of even the most difficult tempting (1 Cor 10:13). It is not by our own strength that we overcome the many obstacles that oppose our salvation, but by the strength that comes from God. Concerning this struggle, we either fight [by the grace of God] or die [for neglect of it]. The second excerpt, on preparing our souls for temptations, is from a Lenten homily of Pope St Leo the Great (d. 461).

CHAPTER XII: Of the Many Wills Which Are in Man, And of the Warfare Between Them.

ALTHOUGH in this spiritual combat man has two wills,—the will of the mind, which we call the reasonable and superior will; and the will of the senses, which we call the sensual and inferior will, and which sometimes bears the names of appetite, flesh, sense, and passion: yet, as it is through the reason we are men, we cannot be said to will any thing when the lower will desires it, unless the higher will is disposed also to consent to it.

And herein lies the whole spiritual struggle; the reasonable will stands midway between the Divine Will which is above it, and the lower will of the flesh which is below it, and is continually assailed by the one or the other; each seeking to attract it, to bring it into subjection, and to rule it Great is the toil and struggle at the outset, which beginners experience when they resolve to amend their wicked lives, and—renouncing the world and the flesh—to yield themselves up to the love and service of Jesus Christ. For the battery, which the higher will sustains from the Divine and sensual wills warring on both sides of it, is so sharp and violent, that it entails much suffering.

Those who are experienced in the ways of virtue or vice do not feel this, but pursue the course they have entered upon with less difficulty; the virtuous yielding readily their will to the Divine Will, the vicious yielding without resistance to the will

But let no one suppose it possible to form true Christian virtues, and to serve

of the flesh.

God as he ought, unless he is ready in good earnest to do violence to his own inclinations, and to endure the pain of giving up all the things which pleased him, both great and small, and to which he had clung with earthly affection.

For this reason few reach perfection; for when they have overcome their greater faults with much toil, they will not continue to do violence to themselves, by bearing the vexation and weariness which the resistance of the countless little wishes and little movements of the passions involves. Thus these insignificant enemies are permitted to have their own way, and so obtain complete mastery over their hearts. All those who, if they do not take what belongs to others, yet cling inordinately to that which is lawfully their own, are of this class. If they do not take unlawful measures for the sake of obtaining honors, yet they do not, as they should, shun them; but, on the contrary, they covet them, and even sometimes by various ways seek to gain them. If they keep the fasts of obligation, they do not mortify their appetite as to superfluities, nor as to the delicacies which they crave for. If they live chaste lives, yet they do not abstain from some indulgences which hinder much their union with God and their growth in the spiritual life, and which even to the holiest persons are dangerous, and are especially so to those who fear them least, and therefore should be avoided by all to the utmost of their power.

The result of this course is, that all other good works are done in a lukewarm spirit, are mixed up with much self-seeking and secret imperfections, and are accompanied by a certain self-esteem, and by a desire for the praise and appreciation of the world.

Such persons not only fail to advance in the way of salvation, but, by turning back, stand in danger of relapsing into their old sins; because they have no love for true virtue, and show little gratitude to the Lord Who rescued them from the bondage of the Devil. Moreover, they are too blind and ignorant to see their real danger, whilst they delude themselves with the idea that they are in a safe condition.

Here we discover a great error, and one so much the more injurious as it is the less guarded against. Many who aspire to the spiritual life. being rather lovers of themselves than of that which is needful (although indeed they know it not), select for the most part those practices which accord with their own taste, and neglect others which touch to the quick their natural inclinations and sensual appetites, to overcome which all reason demands that they should put forth their full strength.

Therefore, beloved, I advise and entreat you to cherish a love for that which is painful and difficult, for such things will bring you victory over self; —on this all depends. That victory will be the more certain and speedy, the more resolutely you give your heart to those toils which in holiness and in war are the lot of beginners; and if you love the toil and hardship of the struggle, rather than the victory and the virtue, you shall the sooner gain all things.

As we approach then, dearly-beloved, the

beginning of Lent, which is a time for the more careful serving of the Lord, because we are, as it were, entering on a kind of contest in good works, let us prepare our souls for fighting with temptations, and understand that the more zealous we are for our salvation, the more determined must be the assaults of our opponents. But stronger is He that is in us than He that is against us (1 John 4:4), and through Him are we powerful in whose strength we rely: because it was for this that the Lord allowed Himself to be tempted by the tempter, that we might be taught by His example as well as fortified by His aid. For He conquered the adversary, as you have heard, by quotations from the law, not by actual strength, that by this very thing He might do greater honor to man, and inflict a greater punishment on the adversary by conquering the enemy of the human race not now as God but as Man. He fought then, therefore, that we too might fight thereafter: He conquered that we too might likewise conquer. For there are no works of power, dearly-beloved, without the trials of temptations, there is no faith without proof, no contest without a foe, no victory without conflict. This life of ours is in the midst of snares, in the midst of battles; if we do not wish to be deceived, we must watch: if we want to overcome, we must fight. And therefore the most wise Solomon says, My son in approaching the service of God prepare your soul for temptation (Sir 2:1). For He being a man full of the wisdom of God, and knowing that the pursuit of religion involves laborious struggles, foreseeing too the danger of the fight, forewarned the intending combatant; lest haply, if the tempter came upon him in his ignorance, he might find him unready and wound him unawares.

#### WEEKLY CALENDAR

Sep 1, SUNDAY — 22nd Week of Ordinary Time

8:00 AM | Sunday Mass

10:00 AM | Sunday Mass

6:00 PM | Sunday Mass

7:00 PM | Eucharistic Adoration

Sep 2, MONDAY — Labor Day Holiday, Parish Offices Closed

12:15 AM | No Daily Mass

6:15 PM | Monday Women's Group

Sep 3, TUESDAY — Pope St Gregory the Great

7:00 PM | Scouts Meeting

Sep 4, WEDNESDAY

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

12:15 PM | Daily Mass

Sep 5, THURSDAY

9:00 AM | Day Away

10:00 AM | Thursday Women's Group

Sep 6, FRIDAY

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

Sep 7, SATURDAY

8:30 AM | Men's Group

8:30 AM | First Saturday Rosary 9:00 AM | First Saturday 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

# **OFFERING**

1 Sep '24 (22nd Sunday Ordinary Time): \$6,440.00 Posted on BB outside office.

THANK YOU for your generosity!

# MASS INTENTIONS

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 INTENTION

(req. by Linda Ray)

Sep 1, 6:00 PM Diane Bonenfant Sep 4 (Wed), 12:15 PM Lucille DuBois & Earl G.

Stimson (req. by Sandra

Towne)

Sep 5 (Thu), 12:15 PM Jim McElroy, Sr. (req. by the

Connelly Family)

Sep 6 (Fri), 12:15 PM Holy Souls

Sep 7 (Sat), 5:30 PM Patricia Purcell (req. by Mark

& Joanne Kenna)

Sep 8 (Sun), 8:00 AM Charles Ayers (req. by family) Sep 8, 10:00 AM Matthew Harris (req. by

Matthew Harris (req. by Howard & Karen Harris)

Sep 8, 6:00 PM Charlene Hafner (req. by Jerry

& Sheila Burnett)

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).



#### SCAM ALERT

Should you receive a text/email purportedly from St John Neumann parish staff requesting gift cards, it is a SCAM! For more information on internet scams or to file a report, go to the FBI INTERNET CRIME COMPLAINT CENTER:

https://www.ic3.gov/default.aspx

# SCAM ALERT ALERT

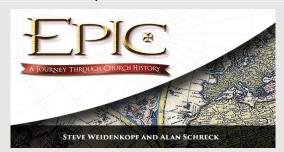
# ANNOUNCEMENTS

### ADULT FAITH FORMATION

For more information: https://sjnnh.org/adult-faith-formation



Staring Sep 11, offered Wednesdays at 10:30 AM + 6:30 PM



Beginning Sep 12, offered Thursdays 6:00 PM + Fridays 10:30 AM

# 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.

#### 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

# 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. Jeanette. Kristen. Lyric. Alexandra. Alice. Pat & her husband. Zach. Ivory. Ray. Marge. Rebecca. Alice & the residents of Oxford, CT. Kathy. Pat. Wendy. Nancy. 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