

3rd SUNDAY OF ADVENT
December 15, 2024

Very Rev. Robert Glasgow, V.F.
Chaplain (LTC) USA (Ret.)
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Rev. Ethelbert Orabuche
Priest Associate

Deacon Brian Lester
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Teri Schmitt
Office Manager
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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.

ORDER OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION

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

PROMISE KEPT

For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him might not perish but might have eternal life. —John 3:16

The first excerpt below is from St Augustine's (d. 430) Commentary on Psalm 109: God's promises are given to us through His Son. The second is from St Irenaeus of Lyon's (d. 202) treatise Against Heresies: When Christ comes, God will be seen by men.



MARY AND JOSEPH ON THEIR WAY TO BETHLEHEM
[detail]
by Hugo van der Goes (d. 1482)

GOD decreed a time for making promises and a time for the promises to be fulfilled. The time for making promises was the time of the prophets, ending with John the Baptist, the last prophet. From then until the end is the time for the fulfilment of promises.

God is faithful. He has made himself our debtor, not by receiving anything from us but by promising us so much. The promise alone was not enough for him: he wanted it in writing, so that he could be held to it, practically entering into a contract with us that listed the promises he was making. In that way, when he began to fulfil his promises, we could see the order of their fulfilment by looking in Scripture. Therefore the time of the prophets was (as I have said so often) the time of making promises.

He promised us eternal salvation and an unending life of blessedness with the angels, and an imperishable inheritance, the joy of seeing his face, a dwelling-place with him in heaven, and the fear of death removed from us through the resurrection. This is, if you like, his ultimate promise. We look forward to it, and when we reach it, we will want nothing more. But as to how this final end is to be reached, he has also told us in promises and prophecies.

He has promised to men that they will be like God; to mortals he has promised immortality; to sinners, righteousness; to the lowly, glory.

Indeed, brethren, because what God



promised seemed incredible to men—that from mortality, decay, weakness, lowliness, dust and ashes they should become equals of the angels of God—he did not only sign a contract with them to convince them. He sent, not just any prince, not just any angel or archangel, but his only Son. The road by which he was to lead us to the end he had promised—through his Son he would show us that road.

Even so, it was not enough for God to send his Son to point out the way. He made his Son the way itself, so that we can go on our journey guided by him as he walks along his own way.

So the only Son of God was to come to men, to take on humanity, and thus to die, to ascend to heaven and sit at the right hand of the father, and so to fulfil what he had promised among the nations. After that promise to the nations had been fulfilled, he would fulfil his other promise, to come, to demand the return of what he had given, to separate the vessels of anger from the vessels of mercy, to give the wicked what he had threatened and the righteous what he had promised.

All this had to be prophesied and foretold. It had to have its coming announced. It could not come suddenly and unexpectedly, causing terror and alarm: people had to be awaiting it with faith.

THERE is one God, who by his word and wisdom created all things and set them in order. His Word is our Lord Jesus Christ, who in this last age became man among men to unite end and beginning, that is, man and God.

The prophets, receiving the gift of prophecy from this same Word, foretold his coming in the flesh, which brought about the union and communion between God and man ordained by the Father. From the beginning the word of God prophesied that God would be seen by men and would live among them on earth; he would speak with his own creation and be present to it, bringing it salvation and being visible to it. He would *free us from the hands of all who hate us*, that is, from the universal spirit of sin, and enable us *to serve him in holiness and justice all our days*. Man was to receive the Spirit of God and so attain to the glory of the Father.

The prophets, then, foretold that God would be seen by men. As the Lord himself says: *Blessed are the clean of heart, for they shall see God*. In his greatness and inexpressible glory *no one can see God and live*, for the Father is beyond our comprehension. But in his love and generosity and omnipotence he allows even this to those who love him, that is, even to see God, as the prophets foretold. *For what is impossible to men is possible to God*.

By his own powers man cannot see God, yet God will be seen by men because he wills it. He will be seen by those he chooses, at the time he

chooses, and in the way he chooses, for God can do all things. He was seen of old through the Spirit in prophecy; he is seen through the Son by our adoption as his children, and he will be seen in the kingdom of heaven in his own being as the Father. The Spirit prepares man to receive the Son of God, the Son leads him to the Father, and the Father, freeing him from change and decay, bestows the eternal life that comes to everyone from seeing God.

As those who see light are in the light sharing its brilliance, so those who see God are in God sharing his glory, and that glory gives them life. To see God is to share in life.

WEEKLY CALENDAR

Dec 15, SUNDAY — 23rd Week of Advent

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

Dec 16, MONDAY

- 12:15 AM | Daily Mass
- 6:00 PM | CONFESSIONS (until 8:00 PM)
- 6:15 PM | Monday Women's Group

Dec 17, TUESDAY

- 7:00 PM | Scouts Meeting

Dec 18, WEDNESDAY

- 9:30 AM | Knitting Group (meets every other Wednesday)
- 12:15 PM | Daily Mass
- 1:00 PM | CONFESSIONS (until 3:00 PM)

Dec 19, THURSDAY

- 9:00 AM | Day Away
- 12:15 AM | Daily Mass

Dec 20, FRIDAY

- 10:00 AM | Food Pantry
- 12:15 PM | Daily Mass
- 6:00 PM | CONFESSIONS (until 8:00 PM)

Dec 21, 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
- 6:30 PM | OCIA

OFFERING

8 Dec '24 (2nd Sunday of Advent):
POSTED ON BB OUTSIDE OF FRONT OFFICE
THANK YOU for your generosity!

MASS INTENTIONS

Dec 14 (Sat), 5:30 PM	Lorraine Berube (req. by Mark & Joanne Kenna)
Dec 15 (Sun), 8:00 AM	Pat Davis (req. by Tom Davis)
Dec 15, 10:00 AM	Lee Ray - LIVING INTENTION (req. by Linda Ray)
Dec 15, 6:00 PM	Holy Souls (req. by Edviges Silva)
Dec 16 (Mon), 12:15 PM	Lawrence Fletcher (req. by John & Karen Bozzuto)
Dec 18 (Wed), 12:15 PM	Mike Vincent + Elizabeth Lennon - LIVING INTENTION (req. by Lee & Linda Ray)
Dec 19 (Thu), 12:15 PM	Manuel Teves (req. by Edviges Silva)
Dec 20 (Fri), 12:15 PM	Luis + Nora (req. by Emily Medeiros)
Dec 21 (Sat), 5:30 PM	James Gallagher (req. by Tom & Cynthia Sullivan)
Dec 22 (Sun), 8:00 AM	Thomas Brands (req. by Maureen Mooney)
Dec 22, 10:00 AM	Gordon Nickerson - 10th Anniv. (req. by Carol Yetto)
Dec 22, 6:00 PM	The Silva Family (req. by Edviges Silva)

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

BREAKFAST w/ SAINT NICK

THANKS to the Knights of Columbus for hosting their annual "Breakfast w/ St Nick" this past Sunday!

ADVENT WREATH BLESSING

The following prayer is repeated each day. The purple candles are lit the 1st, 2nd and 4th Sundays of Advent, the pink candle is lit the 3rd Sunday of Advent [Gaudete Sunday].

- V. Our help is in the name of the Lord.
R/. *Who made heaven and earth.*
- V. O God, by whose Word all things are sanctified, pour forth Your blessing upon this wreath and grant that we who use it may prepare our hearts for the coming of Christ

and may receive from You abundant graces. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

R/. *Amen.*

- V. O Lord, stir up Thy might, we beg Thee, and come, that by Thy protection we may deserve to be rescued from the threatening dangers of our sins and saved by Thy deliverance. Through Christ our Lord.

R/. *Amen.*

Holy Day of Obligation NATIVITY OF THE LORD

Christmas Eve Masses

(24 Dec, Tue)

4:00, 7:00 and 10:00 PM

Christmas Day Mass

(25 Dec, Wed)

10:00 AM



Holy Day of Obligation MARY MOTHER OF GOD

Vigil Mass

(31 Dec, Tue)

5:30 PM

Holy Day Mass

(1 Jan 2025, Wed)

10:00 AM

CONFESSION hours will be extended this week (Dec 16, 18, 20):

Monday, 6:00 to 8:00 PM

Wednesday, 1:00 to 3:00 PM

Friday, 6:00 to 8:00 PM

SEASONAL CHOIRS

The ADULT SEASONAL CHOIR rehearsals are on Tuesdays at 7:00 PM. If you'd like to participate, please contact Artie Carew at music@sjnnh.org.

—and—

The CHILDREN'S CHOIR rehearsals are on Sundays following the 10:00 AM Mass in the church. For more information, contact Artie Carew at music@sjnnh.org.

MEMORIAL CHRISTMAS FLOWERS

Those who receive offering envelopes will notice a special envelope labeled "CHRISTMAS DECORATION OFFERING". A DONATION can be made in the name of a loved one(s). If so, please print their name(s) on the envelope. Those not receiving offering envelopes are welcome to DONATE towards our Christmas altar decorations as well, just use a plain envelope (and if in memory of a loved one, print their name or names on the envelope).

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

Sunday Mass is live streamed at 10:00 AM on YOUTUBE.COM > Search for: "SJN Merrimack NH Mass"

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

<https://SJNMERRIMACK.flocknote.com>
— or texting —

"SJNMERRIMACK" to 84576
(message/data rates may apply)

INSTAGRAM: [instagram.com/sjnmerrimack](https://www.instagram.com/sjnmerrimack)

FACEBOOK: [facebook.com/St John Neumann-Merrimack](https://www.facebook.com/StJohnNeumannMerrimack)

PRAYER LINE

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

Youth volunteers and students-past, present, & future. Participants in our Grief Share group. Stephanie. Tony. Keith. Ginny. John. Barbara. Avery. Jarrod. Paul. Soul of Chris. Thanksgiving for David and Rebecca. Joey. Heather. Angela. Mark & Sharon. Susan. Jen. Joyce. Thomas. Mark. Soul of Basil. Maureen. Fred. Julie. Miriam's Son. Joey. Adriana.

Angela. Jim. Laura. Nancy. Avila. Tim. Thanksgiving for Brynleigh. Bernie. Lucy. Brendan. Taylor. Cindy. Dan & Dan, Jr.; Doug & Pat. Souls of Ruby, Gerry & Arthur. Soul of Rita. Rhonda & Dale. Pam. Stronger Families. Holy Souls in purgatory. Family and friends who have fallen away from the faith. For vocations. Clergy of the diocese. For all of our parishioners and their needs.

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