

3rd SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME
January 26, 2025

Very Rev. Robert Glasgow, V.F.
Chaplain (LTC) USA (Ret.)
(603) 880-4689 x113, pastor@sjnnh.org

Rev. Ethelbert Orabuche
Priest Associate

Deacon Brian Lester
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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.

ORDER OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION

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

TO LIVE FOR GOD

For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans for welfare and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope. —Jer 29:11

The excerpt below recounts the turning point in the life of St Alphonsus Liguori (d. 1787, bishop). One of the deadly sins is sloth, not solely in the sense of lethargy, but as indifference to what is good and holy. Its remedy is zeal, the fruit of faith. At the age of 26, St Alphonsus attended a retreat which would change the course of his life. From that time on, the spiritual disciplines he wholeheartedly embraced increased his desire more and more to live for God. In short, to be a saint.

THE time came when there was a change in the spiritual fervor of Alphonsus. He lived amid applause and honor; he was feted and fawned upon by those whom his talents had served [he was a brilliant young lawyer], and society opened its ranks to him of its best. He began to find it all very agreeable. His father insisted that he visit here and there, that he become acquainted with this prominent personage and that, until the time came when it was almost physically impossible to perform his accustomed spiritual exercises, and he would omit them with scarcely a qualm.

It could easily have been a sad turning point in his life, and had it not been for the depth of his convictions about sin, he might have lost all the character he had built up through his earlier years. In his old age he looked back upon this period, which lasted almost a year,



Portraits of
SAINT ALPHONSUS LIGUORI, C.S.S.R.
as Priest and as Bishop



which such unfeigned horror that the impression is given that he did fall into the worst evil. The evidence is to the contrary, however: he became lukewarm in his love of God, lax in fidelity to his spiritual exercises, but he never really gave himself over to sin. An old man who had been a lifelong friend of Alphonsus was once asked whether he had ever seen or heard of improper behavior on the part of Alphonsus in his youth. The old man answered simply: "No. He was always a model young man. I would tell a lie, I would tell a lie," he repeated, "were I to say otherwise."

It was a retreat that roused him from his spiritual lethargy, one he made at the instigation of a friend in March, 1722. Alphonsus was often to call that retreat one of the choicest graces God had bestowed upon him. How well he remembered it is clear from the dedication of one of his books, written many years later, to the superior of the Vincentians in whose house the retreat was made, in which he says: "It was in your house that I learned to know God and to turn away from the world." The meditations conducted for him on the purpose of life and the dangers of toying with sin profoundly impressed him; he immediately recognized the folly of his past worldliness and determined that it would come to an end.

The effect of the retreat showed itself principally, when he returned to the world, in the beginning of his extraordinary and lifelong devotion to the Blessed Sacrament. He would seek out churches where the Forty Hours' Adoration was being held, and would spend hours on his knees before the altar in prayer. He loved to buy flowers for the altar on occasions of this kind, and would himself arrange them about the tabernacle to the edification of all who saw him. From that time on, he was to be an apostle of devotion to the Blessed Sacrament. Later in life he was to look back and attribute all the graces of his vocation to the fervor of his visits to the Blessed Sacrament during these days. In the introduction to an edition of his *Visits to the Blessed Sacrament* he says: "In this little book I feel myself bound, at least out of gratitude to Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament, to declare that through the devotion of visiting Him, I had lived until I was twenty-six years of age. Fortunate indeed would will you be if you can detach yourself from that world at an earlier age, and give yourself without reserve to the Lord, Who has given Himself without reserve to you."

From that time on he was determined to become a saint. What changes this would effect in his life he himself did not yet dream.

Father D. F. Miller, C.S.S.R. and Father L. X. Aubin, C.S.S.R., *St. Alphonsus Liguori: Bishop, Confessor, Founder of the Redemptorists and Doctor of the Church (1696-1787)*, (Rockford, IL: TAN Books and Publishers, Inc., 1940), pp. 18-20

St Ignatius Loyola (d. 1556) begins his Spiritual Exercises with "The First Principle and Foundation":

THE goal of our life is to live with God forever. God, who loves us, gave us life. Our own response of love allows God's life to flow into us without

limit. All the things in this world are gifts from God, presented to us so that we can know God more easily and make a return of love more readily. As a result, we appreciate and use all these gifts of God insofar as they help us to develop as loving persons. But if any of these gifts become the center of our lives, they displace God and so hinder our growth toward our goal. In everyday life, then, we must hold ourselves in balance before all of these created gifts insofar as we have a choice and are not bound by some obligation. We should not fix our desires on health or sickness, wealth or poverty, success or failure, a long life or a short one. For everything has the potential of calling forth in us a deeper response to our life in God. Our only desire and our one choice should be this: I want and I choose what better leads to God's deepening his life in me.



The SUSCIPE [Lt., "Receive"], a prayer attributed to St Ignatius Loyola (d. 1556):

TAKE, Lord, and receive all my liberty,
my memory, my understanding
and my entire will,
All I have and call my own.
You have given all to me.
To you, Lord, I return it.
Everything is yours; do with it what you will.
Give me only your love and your grace.
That is enough for me.

OFFERING

19 Jan '25 (2nd Sunday Ordinary Time):
posted on BB opposite front office.

THANK YOU for your generosity!

WEEKLY CALENDAR

Jan 26, SUNDAY — 3rd Week in Ordinary Time

8:00 AM | Sunday Mass
10:00 AM | Sunday Mass
11:00 AM | Order of Christian Initiation
6:00 PM | Sunday Mass
7:00 PM | Eucharistic Adoration

Jan 27, MONDAY

12:15 AM | Daily Mass

Jan 28 TUESDAY

7:00 PM | Scouts

Jan 29, WEDNESDAY

10:00 AM | Daily Mass
10:30 AM | FOLLOW ME: Meeting Jesus in the

6:30 PM | Gospel of John [Adult]
 FOLLOW ME: Meeting Jesus in the
 Gospel of John [Adult + Children]

Jan 30, THURSDAY

9:00 AM | Day Away
 12:15 AM | Daily Mass
 6:30 PM | EPIC: Church History

Jan 31, FRIDAY

10:00 AM | Food Pantry
 10:30 AM | EPIC: Church History
 12:15 PM | Daily Mass (Adoration follows)

Feb 1, SATURDAY

8:30 AM | Men's Group
 8:30 AM | First Saturday Rosary
 10:30 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

MASS INTENTIONS

Jan 25 (Sat), 5:30 PM ~Joan Luke (req. by Loretta Keaney)
 Jan 26 (Sun), 8:00 AM ~Ralph Stevens (req. by Maureen Mooney)
 Jan 26, 10:00 AM ~Former participants of the Day Away program (req. by Day Away program)
 Jan 26, 6:00 PM ~Michael Guidry, Sr. (req. by Linda Guidry)
 Jan 27 (Mon), 12:15 PM ~Fr. Jeff Statz - LIVING INTENTION for 50th B'day and 20th Ordination Anniv. (req. by Paul & Sandy Statz)
 Jan 29 (Wed), 12:15 PM ~Joan Luke (req. by Ellie Boucher)
 Feb 1 (Sat), 5:30 PM ~Gertrude Mary Cook (req. by family)
 Feb 2 (Sun), 8:00 AM ~Pat Davis (req. by Tom Davis)
 Feb 2, 10:00 AM Agatha Oertel (req. by 5th Grade Class)

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

Peter, by the Grace of God,
 Bishop of Manchester
 To Our Beloved Faithful in Christ
 Of the Diocese of Manchester

In observance with the norms of law governing the
 Universal Church regarding the Jubilee Year of Hope

and the imparting of the Apostolic Blessing and the granting of the Plenary Indulgence for the remission of temporal punishment due to sin,

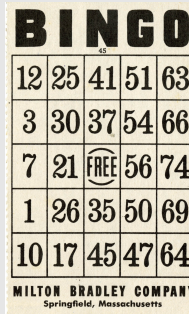
DECREE and PROMULGATE

the Jubilee Year as directed by His Holiness Francis, Pope of Rome to be in effect in the Diocese of Manchester as of Vespers on December 28, 2024 until Vespers on December 29, 2025.

Of particular law of the Diocese of Manchester, the Plenary Indulgence and Apostolic Blessing are to be granted to those who, fulfilling the norms established for reception of the Indulgence (Sacramental confession and renunciation of sin, reception of Holy Communion, prayers for the intentions of the Holy Father and acts of charity) participate in some way (joining in part of the procession, or adoring the Most Blessed Sacrament as the procession passes by, or prayerfully attending an observance at a processional stopping point) in the Diocesan Eucharistic Pilgrimage to be held beginning on Sunday May 18, 2025 and concluding its statewide travel on Thursday June 19, 2025.

Given at Vespers this 14th day of December 2024 in Manchester, New Hampshire Gaudete Sunday Eve,

+ Most Reverend Peter A. Libasci
 Tenth Bishop of Manchester



FAMILY BINGO

Our annual Family Bingo follows the Sunday 10:00 AM Mass this weekend. There's no cost. Catholic prizes. Everyone plays just one card.

**NEW PROJECTOR MINISTRY!
 VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!**

Do you feel comfortable running PowerPoint? Or want to learn? Want to help augment the music and other ministries at Mass? This could be a ministry for you! Thanks to the generosity of parishioners, we are blessed to have a wonderful projection system. This Fall we have been piloting music lyric projection during select Masses. Our goal has been that the projected lyrics are accessible and legible. And the feedback from parishioners has been warmly tremendous! We are now ready to provide this benefit across more of our beautiful St. John Neumann Masses. But we need your help to

do so. To learn more about potentially volunteering, simply contact Paul Schmitt at:
blessedschmitts@gmail.com

GriefShare®
Grieving the **death**
of a loved one?

13 SESSIONS
Join us at any time in the series
WHEN:
Wednesdays, 6:30-8:30 PM
Starting February 19
WHERE:
St John Neumann Hall
708 Milford Rd., Merrimack
Contact: Deacon Brian Lester,
deacon@sjnnh.org

Catholic Charities New Hampshire's
February 22nd "MARDI GRAS GALA"

The MARDI GRAS GALA—Catholic Charities NH's signature fundraising event of the year—returns to Manchester on February 22nd! The evening will feature a festive New Orleans experience with authentic Cajun cuisine, entertainment, a live auction with exclusive getaways and sports tickets, and more. Attendees help us continue our mission to follow the footsteps of Jesus, bringing comfort, healing and empowerment to our neighbors most in need. To register or for more information:

visit: www.cc-nh.org/mardigras
—or—
call: Becca @ (603) 663-0207

PRAYER LINE

To add someone to the 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). Bonnie. Tim. Stephanie. Ivory. Pat. Marilyn. Laurie. Mike. Sheila. Gerry. Bobby. Carol. Hugh. Alan. Kathy & Mark. Eva. Fr. Rob. Bob. Steve. Claire. Paul. Kathy & Brenda. Joe. Leon. Jay. Ron's brother. Rob. Helena & Spencer. Nina. Ginny. Jen. Eli. Ella. Kathy. Thomas. Fred. Bob. Steven. Oliver. Carl. Bob. Sylvia. Dan. Vivian. Laura. Tom. Chuck. Sue. Bill. Jan. Chrissy. Dave. Adam. Peggy. Sue. Mike. Orestes. Betty Jean.

Elizabeth. Betty. Souls of Jane & Agatha. Ruthann. Ginny. Sue. Jackie. Milly Concetta. Unemployed. Widows & Widowers. Children & adults w/ ADHD. Fr. Paul. Those with Alzheimers and their families. Those who have been affected by the tragedies in New Orleans and Los Angeles. Family and friends who have stepped away from the faith. Vocations. All of our parishioners and their needs.

PARISH ONLINE

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

<https://SJNMERRIMACK.flocknote.com>
Or, by texting "SJNMERRIMACK" to 84576
(message/data rates may apply)

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FINANCE COMMITTEE
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KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS
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