

**7th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**  
**February 23, 2025**

**Very Rev. Robert Glasgow, V.F.**  
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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.

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**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.

**LEST IT FALL**

It shall come to pass [that] I will pour out my spirit upon all flesh. Your sons and daughters will prophesy, your old men will dream dreams, your young men will see visions. —Joel 3:1 [quoted by St Peter, Acts 1:17]

The image below depicts Pope Innocent III's (d. 1216) dream in which he saw St Francis of Assisi (d. 1226) reaching up to support the tottering Church, lest it fall to ruins. [Less well known is the Pope's dream five years later in which he saw St Dominic (d. 1221) doing the same.] The following excerpt from St Bonaventure's (d. 1274) Life of St Francis recounts the Pope's recognition of Francis as the man he'd seen in his dream and his approval of the Franciscan Rule.



DREAM OF POPE INNOCENT III  
by Giotto (d. 1337)

8. NOW when the servant of Christ perceived that the number of the Brethren was gradually increasing, he wrote for himself and for his Brethren a Rule for their life, in simple words. Herein the observance of the Holy Gospel was set as the inseparable foundation, and some few other points were added that seemed necessary for a consistent manner of life. But he was fain that what he had written should be approved by the Supreme Pontiff, wherefore he purposed to approach the Apostolic See with that his company of simple men, relying only on the divine guidance. God from on high had regard unto his desire, and fortified the minds of his companions, that were afeared at the thought of his simpleness, by a vision shown unto the man of God after this wise. It seemed unto him that he was walking along a certain road, near by which stood a very lofty tree. When he had drawn nigh unto it, and was standing beneath it, wondering at its height, on a sudden he was so raised on high by the divine might as that he touched the top of the tree, and bent down its highest branches unto its roots right easily. The portent of this vision Francis, filled with the Spirit of God, understood to refer unto the



stooping of the Apostolic See unto his desire; wherefore he was gladdened in spirit, and his Brethren were strengthened in the Lord, and thus he set forth with them on the journey.

9. Now when he had come unto the Roman Curia, and had been introduced into the presence of the Supreme Pontiff, he expounded unto him his intent, humbly and earnestly beseeching him to sanction the Rule aforesaid for their life. And the Vicar of Christ, the lord Innocent III, a man exceeding renowned for wisdom, beholding in the man of God the wondrous purity of a simple soul, constancy unto his purpose, and the enkindled fervor of a holy will, was disposed to give unto the suppliant his fatherly sanction. Howbeit, he delayed to perform that which the little poor one of Christ asked, by reason that unto some of the Cardinals this seemed a thing untried, and too hard for human strength. But there was present among the Cardinals an honor-worthy man, the lord John of Saint Paul, Bishop of Sabina, a lover of all holiness, and an helper of the poor men of Christ. He, inflamed by the Divine Spirit, said unto the Supreme Pontiff, and unto his colleagues: "If we refuse the request of this poor man as a thing too hard, and untried, when his petition is that the pattern of Gospel life may be sanctioned for him, let us beware lest we stumble at the Gospel of Christ. For if any man saith that in the observance of Gospel perfection, and the vowing thereof, there is contained aught that is untried, or contrary unto reason, or impossible to observe, he is clearly seen to blaspheme against Christ, the author of the Gospel." When these arguments had been set forth, the successor of the Apostle Peter, turning unto the poor man of Christ, said: "Pray unto Christ, my son, that He may shew us His will through thee, and when we know it more surely, we will more confidently assent unto thy holy desires."
10. Then the servant of God Almighty, betaking himself wholly unto prayer, gained by devout intercession that which he might set forth outwardly, and the Pope feel inwardly. For when he had narrated a parable of a rich King that had of free will espoused a fair woman that was poor, and how the children she bare shewed the likeness of the King that begat them, and so were brought up at his table, even as he had learnt this of the Lord,—he added, as an interpretation thereof: "It is not to be feared that the sons and heirs of the everlasting King will perish of hunger, even they that have been born of a poor mother in the likeness of the King, Christ, by the power of the Holy Spirit, and that shall themselves beget sons through the spirit of Poverty in a little poor Religion. For if the King of heaven hath promised an everlasting kingdom unto them that follow Him, how much more shall He provide for them those things that He bestoweth alike on the good and on the evil?" When the Vicar of Christ had diligently hearkened unto this parable, and the interpretation thereof, he marveled greatly, and perceived that Christ had of a truth spoken through a man. Moreover, he

maintained, by the inspiration of the Divine Spirit, that a vision that at that time was shown unto him from heaven would be fulfilled in Francis.

For in a dream he saw, as he recounted, the Lateran Basilica about to fall, when a little poor man, of mean stature and humble aspect, propped it with his own back, and thus saved it from falling. "Verily," saith he, "he it is that by his work and teaching shall sustain the Church of Christ." From this vision, he was filled with an especial devotion unto him, and in all ways disposed himself unto his supplication, and ever loved the servant of Christ with an especial affection. Then and there he granted his request, and promised at a later day to bestow yet more upon him.

He sanctioned the Rule, and gave him a command to preach repentance, and made all the lay Brethren that had accompanied the servant of God wear narrow tonsures, that they might preach the word of God without hindrance.

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#### WEEKLY CALENDAR

Feb 23, SUNDAY — 7th Week in Ordinary Time

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

Feb 24, MONDAY

12:15 AM | Daily Mass

Feb 25, TUESDAY

7:00 PM | Scouts

Feb 26, WEDNESDAY

12:15 AM | Daily Mass  
 10:30 AM | FOLLOW ME: Meeting Jesus in the Gospel of John [Adult]  
 6:30 PM | FOLLOW ME: Meeting Jesus in the Gospel of John [Adult + Children]  
 6:30 PM | Grief Share

Feb 27, THURSDAY

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

Feb 28, FRIDAY

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

Mar 1, SATURDAY

8:30 AM | Men's Group  
 9:30 AM | Widow's Group (2nd Sat of month)  
 10:00 AM | \*NOTE: No 1st Saturday Rosary/Mass due to a 10:00 AM funeral  
 4:00 PM | Confession (until 5:00 PM)  
 5:30 PM | Anticipatory Sunday Mass

### OFFERING

16 Feb '25 (5th Sunday Ordinary Time):  
UNAVAILABLE AT PRESS TIME  
THANK YOU for your generosity!

### MASS INTENTIONS

Feb 22 (Sat), 5:30 PM	James Gallagher (req. by Tom & Cindy Sullivan)
Feb 23 (Sun), 8:00 AM	Gary Silva (req. by Adviges Silva)
Feb 23, 10:00 AM	Carlos Medeiros (req. by Emily Medeiros)
Feb 23, 6:00 PM	Martha Anderes (req. by the Gavert Family)
Feb 24 (Mon), 12:15 PM	A personal Intention for a 5th Grade Class - LIVING INTENTION
Feb 26 (Wed), 12:15 PM	Mr. & Mrs. Boudreau, Lainey & Little Larry (req. by Judy Hardy)
Feb 27 (Thu), 12:15 PM	Adviges Silva Family (req. by Adviges Silva)
Mar 1 (Sat), 5:30 PM	Pat Davis - 3rd Anniv. (req. by Tom Davis)
Mar 2 (Sun), 8:00 AM	Pat Davis - 3rd Anniv. (req. by Tom Davis)

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

#### *Blessed Brunch*

Save the Date: March 8

All women of the parish are invited to join us for an afternoon of quiet and reflection. We'll be having a LENTEN RETREAT for women on Saturday, March 8 from 1:00-5:00 PM, ending with the Saturday evening parish Mass. More information to follow.

### ADULT CONFIRMATION

The Spring 2025 celebration of the Sacrament of Confirmation is scheduled for Sunday, 27 April 2025 at 2:00 PM, St Joseph Cathedral (145 Lowell St, Manchester). REGISTRATION is thru the

parish. BAPTISMAL CERTIFICATES must be attached to the registration form.

PLEASE NOTE: In addition to Flocknotes, we're now able to announce Mass delays and/or cancellations at [WWW.WMUR.COM](http://WWW.WMUR.COM).

### LENT

The start of Lent is next week.

ASH WEDNESDAY

March 5, 2025

Mass w/ distribution of Ashes:  
8:30 AM and 6:30 PM

- All the days of Lent are DAYS OF PENANCE. The faithful are encouraged to practice some form of voluntary self-denial or personal penance (e.g., physical mortification or temperance or acts of religion, charity or Christian witness).

The three pillars of Lenten observance are PRAYER, FASTING and ALMSGIVING. The purpose of the discipline(s) we voluntarily undertake during Lent should be to counter ingrained habits of sin or to foster works of selfless charity. In the words of St John Chrysostom (d. 407):

"Do not let only your mouth fast, but also the eye and the ear and the feet and the hands and all the members of your bodies. Let the hands fast, by being free of avarice and greed. Let the feet fast, by ceasing to run after sin. Let the eyes fast, by disciplining them not to glare at that which is sinful."

- FRIDAYS OF LENT (Mar 7, 14, 21, 18, Apr 4, 11) are obligatory DAYS OF ABSTINENCE. The faithful from age 14 onwards are bound by the law of ABSTINENCE = meatless meals.
- ASH WEDNESDAY (Mar 5) and GOOD FRIDAY (Apr 18) are DAYS OF FAST & ABSTINENCE. The faithful aged 18-59 (until the beginning of the 60th year) are bound by the law of FASTING. When fasting, a person is permitted to eat one full meal. Two smaller meals may also be taken, but not to equal a full meal. If possible, the fast on Good Friday is continued until the Easter Vigil on Holy Saturday as the "paschal fast" to honor the suffering and death of the Lord Jesus, and to prepare ourselves to share more fully and to

celebrate more readily his Resurrection.

**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](mailto:deacon@sjnnh.org)

PRAYER LINE

To add someone to the Parish Prayer Line, contact Teri at the parish office: (603) 880-4689, [tschmitt@sjnnh.org](mailto:tschmitt@sjnnh.org).

PLEASE PRAY FOR: Youth volunteers and students (past, present, & future). Fr. Paul. 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. Dusty & Janelle. Miriam. Mary. Kathleen. Dale. Maya. Raymond. Bill. Bella. Kim's Family. Alice. Cheryl. Karl. Lilly. Marie. Michael. Kathy. Andrew. Amy. Sue. Clara. Millisa. Mikala. Baby Gallagher. Baby S. (due March). Baby S. (due April). 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)

TAX NOTICE

If you would like a statement of your 2024 contributions to the parish, please fill out the CONTRIBUTIONS REQUEST CARD (located in the back of the church) and place it in the collection basket. You can also request a statement by emailing us your:

- Name
- Address
- Phone #
- Envelope #

Your financial support has been very much appreciated!

SJN Staff

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KATHY HOPKINS — Day Away (Thursday)  
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PARISH COUNCIL  
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FINANCE COMMITTEE  
Bob Fregault (Chairman)

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS  
Arvid Skogsholm (Grand Knight)  
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