

2nd SUNDAY OF LENT
March 16, 2025

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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.

LENT

Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight. —Prov 3:5-6

The following excerpt is from Pope Benedict XVI's General Audience of 9 Mar 2011 (Ash Wednesday).

JESUS says to us: "*If any man would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me*" (Luke 9:23). In other words he tells us that in order to attain, with him, the light and joy of the Resurrection, the victory of life, of love and of goodness, we too must take up our daily cross, as a beautiful passage from [Thomas à Kempis' (d. 1471)] Imitation of Christ urges us: "**Take up your cross, therefore, and follow Jesus, and you shall enter eternal life. He himself opened the way before you in carrying his Cross (John 19:17), and upon it he died for you, that you too, might take up your cross and long to die upon it. If you die with him, you shall also live with him, and if you share his suffering, you shall also share his glory.**"

In Holy Mass of the First Sunday of Lent we shall pray: "Father, through our observance of Lent, sign of the sacrament of our conversion, help us to understand the meaning of your Son's death and Resurrection, and teach us to reflect it in our lives" (Opening Prayer). This is an invocation that we address to God because we know that he alone can convert our hearts. And it is above all in the Liturgy, by participating in the holy mysteries, that we are led to make this journey with the Lord; it means learning at the school of Jesus, reviewing the events that brought salvation to us but not as a mere commemoration, a remembrance of past events. In the liturgical actions Christ makes himself present through the power of the Holy Spirit and these saving events become real.

There is a keyword that recurs frequently in the Liturgy to indicate this: the word "today"; and it should be understood in its original and practical, rather than metaphorical, sense. Today God reveals his law and we are granted to choose today between good and evil, between life and death (cf. Deut 30:19). Today "*the Kingdom of God is at hand; repent and believe in the Gospel*" (Mark 1:15). Today Christ died on Calvary and rose from the dead; he ascended into Heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father; today the Holy Spirit is given to us; today is a favorable time.

The Readings we shall listen to on the coming Sundays and to which I ask you to pay special attention are taken up precisely



by the ancient tradition which accompanied catechumens in the discovery of Baptism. These Readings are the great proclamation of what God brings about in this sacrament, a wonderful baptismal catechesis addressed to each one of us.

The First Sunday of Lent, known as the "Sunday of the Temptation" because it presents Jesus' temptations in the wilderness, invites us to renew our definitive adherence to God and, in order to remain faithful to him, to face courageously the struggle that awaits us. Over and over again we need determination, resistance to evil, we need to follow Jesus.

The Second Sunday is called "of Abraham and of the Transfiguration". Baptism is the sacrament of faith and of divine sonship; like Abraham, Father of believers, we too are asked to set out, to depart from our land, to give up the security we have created for ourselves in order to place our trust in God; the destination is glimpsed in the Transfiguration of Christ, the beloved Son, in whom we too become "sons of God".

On the following Sundays, Baptism is presented in images of water, light and life. The Third Sunday makes us meet the Samaritan woman (cf. John 4:5-42). Like Israel in the Exodus, in Baptism we too have received the water that saves; Jesus, as the Samaritan woman says, has living water that quenches all thirst; and this water is the Spirit himself.

The Fourth Sunday makes us reflect on the experience of the "man blind from birth" (cf. John 9:1-41). In Baptism, we are set free from the shadow of evil and receive Christ's light in order to live as children of light. We too must learn to see in Christ's Face God's presence, hence light.

Lastly, the Fifth Sunday presents to us the raising of Lazarus (cf. John 11:1-45). In Baptism we passed from death to life and were enabled to please God, to make the former person die so as to live by the Spirit of the Risen One.

In the Church's tradition, this journey we are asked to take in Lent is marked by certain practices: Fasting, Almsgiving and Prayer. Fasting means abstinence from food but includes other forms of privation for a more modest life. However, all this is not yet the full reality of fasting: it is an outer sign of an inner reality, of our commitment, with God's help, to abstain from evil and to live by the Gospel. Those who are unable to nourish themselves with the word of God do not fast properly. In the Christian tradition fasting is closely linked to almsgiving.

St Leo the Great taught in one of his Discourses on Lent: "All that each Christian is bound to do in every season he must now do with greater solicitude and devotion in order to fulfil the apostolic prescription of Lenten fasting consistently, not only in abstinence from food but also and above all from sin. Furthermore, with this holy fasting which is only right, no work may be more fruitfully associated than almsgiving which, under the one name of 'mercy', embraces many good works. The field of works of mercy is immense. It is not only the rich and the well-off who can benefit others with almsgiving, but also those of modest means and even the poor. Thus, although their futures differ, all may be the same in the soul's sentiments

of piety." St Gregory the Great recalled in his Pastoral Rule that fasting is sanctified by the virtues that go with it, especially by charity, by every act of generosity, giving to the poor and needy the equivalent of something we ourselves have given up. Lent, moreover, is a privileged period for prayer.

St Augustine said that fasting and almsgiving are "the two wings of prayer" which enable it to gain momentum and more easily reach even to God. He said: "In this way our prayers, made in humility and charity, in fasting and almsgiving, in temperance and in the forgiveness of offences, giving good things and not returning those that are bad, keeping away from evil and doing good, seek peace and achieve it. On the wings of these virtues our prayers fly safely and are more easily carried to Heaven, where Christ our Peace has preceded us." The Church knows that because of our weakness it is difficult to create silence in order to come before God and to acquire an awareness of our condition as creatures who depend on him, as sinners in need of his love. It is for this reason that in Lent she asks us to pray more faithfully, more intensely, and to prolong our meditation on the word of God.

St John Chrysostom urged: "Embellish your house with modesty and humility with the practice of prayer. Make your dwelling place shine with the light of justice; adorn its walls with good works, like a lustre of pure gold, and replace walls and precious stones with faith and supernatural magnanimity, putting prayer above all other things, high up in the gables, to give the whole complex decorum. You will thus prepare a worthy dwelling place for the Lord, you will welcome him in a splendid palace. He will grant you to transform your soul into a temple of his presence."

Dear friends, on this LENTEN JOURNEY let us be careful to accept Christ's invitation to follow him more decisively and consistently, renewing the grace and commitments of our Baptism, to cast off the former person within us and put on Christ, in order to arrive at Easter renewed and able to say, with St Paul: "It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me" (Gal 2:20). I wish you all a good LENTEN JOURNEY! Thank you!

WEEKLY CALENDAR

- Mar 16, SUNDAY — 1st Week of Lent
8:00 AM | Sunday Mass
10:00 AM | Sunday Mass
11:00 AM | Seven Deadly Sins, Seven Lively Virtues
11:30 AM | Order of Christian Initiation of Adults
6:00 PM | Sunday Mass
7:00 PM | Eucharistic Adoration
- Mar 17, MONDAY
12:15 AM | Daily Mass
- Mar 18, TUESDAY
7:00 PM | Scouts

Mar 19, WEDNESDAY

12:15 AM | Daily Mass

10:30 AM | Luke: The Story of Salvation Fulfilled

6:30 PM | Luke: The Story of Salvation Fulfilled

6:30 PM | Grief Share

Mar 20, THURSDAY

9:00 AM | Day Away

12:15 AM | Daily Mass

Mar 21, FRIDAY

10:00 AM | Food Pantry

12:15 PM | Daily Mass (w/ Stations [Short Form]
followed by Adoration)

6:00 PM | Confession (until 8:00 PM)

6:00 PM | Stations [Long Form] (followed by Soup
Supper)

Mar 22, 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

Ash Wednesday: \$1,990.00

9 Mar '25 (1st Sunday of Lent): \$9,526.00

THANK YOU for your generosity!

MASS INTENTIONS

Mar 15 (Sat), 5:30 PM	James Gallagher (req. by Tom & Cindy Sullivan)
Mar 16 (Sun), 8:00 AM	George Ritz (req. by Pat Ritz)
Mar 16, 10:00 AM	Stephen Cunniff (req. by Robert Sheehan)
Mar 17 (Mon), 12:15 PM	Virginia DeLisle (req. by family)
Mar 18 (Wed), 12:15 PM	Gary Boloneiro (req. by Emily Medeiros)
Mar 20 (Thu), 12:15 PM	Judith Knott (req. by David)
Mar 21 (Fri), 12:15 PM	John Knott (req. by David)
Mar 22 (Sat), 5:30 PM	George Tietjen (req. by Rita Geringer)
Mar 23 (Sun), 8:00 AM	Vinelda Schmitt (req. by Alverta, Wily & Famiy)
Mar 23, 10:00 M	Luisa Mateos (req. by Ronan O'Sullivan)

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



The annual 40 DAYS FOR LIFE campaign to end

abortion runs from Mar 5-Apr 13. The theme of the campaign is "LOVE THEM BOTH"—both the parents considering abortion and their fragile unborn children.

<https://www.40daysforlife.com/en/manchesternh>

Please consider praying peacefully with other NH Catholics, Christians, and people of good will on the public sidewalk outside PLANNED PARENT-HOOD (24 Pennacook St, Manchester). The Prayer Volunteers offer an hour of prayer between the hours of 7:00 AM-7:00 PM weekdays or weekends as a witness to the beauty and sacredness of life, particularly the life of our tiniest neighbors—the unborn.

LENTEN SCHEDULE

CONFESSION

Fridays of Lent:

Mar 21, 28, Apr 4, 11: 6:00-8:00 PM

5th Week of Lent:

Apr 7, 9, 11: 6:00-8:00 PM

Monday of Holy Week:

Apr 14: 10-12, 1-3 PM and 6-8 PM

DEANERY PENANCE SERVICE

Immaculate Conception Church
(216 E Dunstable Rd, Nashua)
23 Mar (Sun) at 2:00 PM

HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE

HOLY THURSDAY

Mass of the Lord's Supper
17 Apr, 7:00 PM



GOOD FRIDAY

Stations of the Cross
18 Apr, 3:00 PM

—and—

Commemoration of the Lord's Passion
18 Apr, 7:00 PM



HOLY SATURDAY

Easter Vigil
19 Apr, 7:45 PM



EASTER SUNDAY

20 Apr
8:00 AM, *10:00 AM and 6:00 PM

*Children's EASTER EGG HUNT
follows the 10:00 AM Mass

LUKE: THE STORY OF SALVATION

Join us as we see the story of salvation fulfilled studying the Gospel of Luke in Ascension Press' GREAT ADVENTURE STUDY, LUKE: THE STORY OF SALVATION FULFILLED. The course will be offered on Wednesdays, 10:30 AM — and — 6:30 PM, from March 12 thru May 14. If you choose, the participant books are \$20.00.

SEVEN DEADLY SINS, SEVEN LIVELY VIRTUES

Starting March 9, we will stream Bp. Barron's "SEVEN DEADLY SINS, SEVEN LIVELY VIRTUES" videos during Coffee & Donuts in the hall (Room 3) after the 10:00 AM Sunday Mass. The videos are approximately 15 minutes in length. The first video has a 10-minute introduction, then the first of the seven deadly sins.

MEMORIAL EASTER FLOWERS

To donate towards the Easter Flowers in memory of a family member(s) or friend(s), please print their name(s) on the envelope. They will be remembered at all Masses throughout the 7-week Easter Season.

PRAYER LINE

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

PLEASE PRAY FOR: Youth volunteers and students (past, present, & future). Michael. Kathy. Andrew. Amy. Sue. Clara. Millisa. Mikala. Baby Gallagher. Baby S. (Due March). Baby S. (Due April). Dick. Laura. Peg. Dale. Christine. Lisa. Kimberly. Hazel. Soul of Rosemary. Caitlin. Susan. Mark. Helena. Mike. Keagan. Sheila. Roma. Pope Francis. Bernie. Special Intention. Abdul. Tricia. Marie. Jay. Leon. Pope Francis. Special Intention. Family and friends who have stepped away from the faith. Vocations. All of our parishioners and their needs.

CREATION CARE MINISTRY

"God passes through the thicket of the world, and wherever His glance falls He turns all things to beauty." —St John of the Cross (d 1591)

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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FINANCE COMMITTEE
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