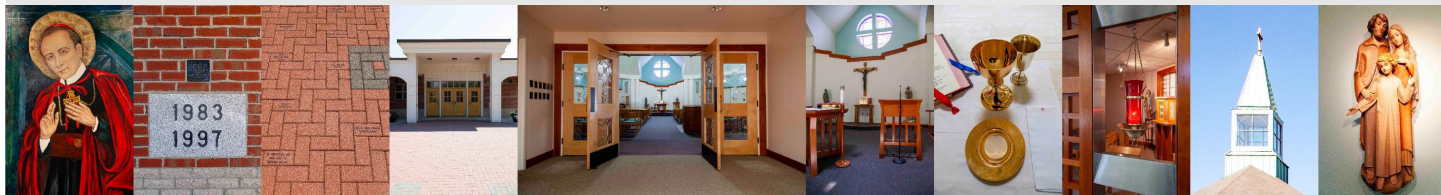


SAINT JOHN NEUMANN PARISH

708 Milford Rd (Rte 101A), Merrimack, NH 03054 — SJNNH.ORG



5th SUNDAY OF LENT March 21, 2021

Fr. Robert Glasgow
Pastor
Chaplain (LTC) USA, Ret.
880-4689 x113, pastor@sjnnh.org

Eileen Buckley
Business Manager / Parish Secretary
880-4689 x110, office@sjnnh.org

MASS SCHEDULE

Saturday (Outdoor) 4:00 PM
Saturday (Anticipatory) 5:30 PM
Sunday 8:00 AM
Sunday 10:00 AM
Sunday (Labor Day thru Memorial Day) 6:00 PM
Daily (Mon, Wed-Fri) 12:15 PM

CONFESSION

Sunday 4:00 PM - 5:30 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.

RITE OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION

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

OUR SALVATION

This is the time of fulfillment. The kingdom of God is at hand. Repent, and believe in the gospel. —Mark 1:15

The following excerpt is attributed to Pope St Clement (d. ca. 101) though it was likely the work of an anonymous author in the first half of the 2nd century (ca. 120-140). He says we sin if we think little of salvation. He stresses the need/importance of ongoing repentance and self-control for all who would profess the Christian faith. Italics added.



VICTORY O LORD!
by John Everett Millais (d. 1896)

The first occurrence of our English word "FAITH" in the Bible is found in Exodus 17:12 as the word "STEADY" (Heb, *emunah*). Aaron's and Hur's "FAITHFULNESS" in keeping Moses' hands pointing heavenward directed Joshua's army to remember that it is God that gave them victory in every battle.

"THEN Amalek came and waged war against Israel in Rephidim. So Moses said to Joshua, 'Choose some men for us, and tomorrow go out and engage Amalek in battle. I will be standing on top of the hill with the staff of God in my hand.' Joshua did as Moses told him: he engaged Amalek in battle while Moses, Aaron, and Hur climbed to the top of the hill. As long as Moses kept his hands raised up, Israel had the better of the fight, but when he let his hands rest, Amalek had the better of the fight. Moses' hands, however, grew tired; so they took a rock and put it under him and he sat on it. Meanwhile Aaron and Hur supported his hands, one on one side and one on the other, so that his hands remained STEADY until sunset. And Joshua defeated Amalek and his people with the sword." —Exod 17:8-13

BRETHREN, we ought to regard Jesus Christ both as God and as the judge of the living and the dead, and we should not undervalue the fact of our salvation. If we think little of it, it means that we hope for little. Moreover, people who hear these things and think them of small importance commit sin, and we ourselves sin if we do not realize what we have been called from, who has called us, and to what place, and how much suffering Jesus Christ endured on our account.

How then shall we repay him? What fruit can we bear that would be worthy of what he has given us? For how many benefits are we not in his debt! He has enlightened our minds; he has called us sons as a father does; he saved us when we were about to perish. How then shall we praise him, how repay him for his gifts? For he saw our many errors and the damnation that awaited us, and knowing that apart from him we had no hope of salvation, he pitied us, and in his mercy saved us. He called us when we were not his people and willed us to become his people. Another text says: *I have come not to call the righteous, but sinners, for it is those who are on the point of perishing who must be saved.* It is a great and wonderful work to uphold those who are falling, rather than those who already stand firm. Christ willed to save people who were in danger of losing their souls, and he has been the salvation of many. When we were rushing headlong on the way to perishing, he came and called us. It is through Christ we have come to know the Father of truth. This knowledge consists in not denying Christ through whom we know the Father. As he himself has said, *If anyone declares himself for me in the presence of men, I will declare myself for him in the presence of my Father.* This is our reward, to acknowledge him who saves us. How, then, do we acknowledge him? By doing what he has told us to do, by not rejecting his commands. By not honoring him with our lips but with all our heart and all our mind. As it is written in Isaiah: *This people honors me only with lip-service, while their hearts are far from me.*

WE ACKNOWLEDGE CHRIST BY OUR ACTIONS. It is not enough for us to call him "Lord." That will not save us. As he says: *It is not those who say to me, "Lord, Lord," who will enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does what is right.* We must acknowledge him by our actions, by loving one another, by not committing adultery, by avoiding calumny and jealousy. We must live continently, compassionately, virtuously. We must let love for each other take precedence over love of riches. It is by these actions that we acknowledge Christ, not by doing the opposite; and remember that it is not human beings that we should fear and respect, but God. The Lord has said to you: *If you are gathered together into my arms and do not obey my commands I will cast you from me and say to you, "I do not know where you come from. Away from me, all you wicked men!"* So, my brethren, let us move forward to face the contest before us. In the contests of this world victory does not come to all competitors but only to a few who have trained hard and fought well; but in our contest, let us fight so that all may have the victory. Let us run the straight race, let us compete in the eternal contest, and let whole crowds of us steer our course towards the crown of victory. If we cannot all be victors let us at least come close. Remember also that in the worldly games cheats are flogged and thrown out of the arena. What do you think will happen if you cheat in the eternal contest? What God has said will happen: *their worm will not die, nor will their fire go out; and all flesh will see them.*

WE MUST REPENT OF OUR SINS WHILE STILL ON EARTH. We should repent of our sins while we are still on earth. When

a potter is making a vessel and it becomes misshapen or breaks in his hands, he shapes it again; but once placed in the oven, it is beyond repair. Now the clay in the craftsman's hands is an image of ourselves, and it teaches us that, while still in this world, we must wholeheartedly repent of sins committed in the body and make it possible for the Lord to save us while there is time. When we have left this world, we shall no longer be able to repent and confess our sins. We must do the will of the Father, keep our bodies pure, and observe the commandments of the Lord, for this is the way to obtain eternal life. The Lord says in the gospel: *If you have not been observant in small matters, who will entrust you with anything important? For I tell you that the man who is faithful in the smallest things is faithful in the greatest things as well.* In other words, in order to obtain eternal life, we must remain pure and keep the seal of our baptism undefiled. Nor must any of you say that our bodies will not share in the judgement, nor rise again. In what were you saved? In what did you receive your sight? Think for a moment. Was it not in this very body? Our bodies are the temple of God, and as such we must guard them, for even as we were called in the body, so shall we also be judged in the body. Since Christ, our Lord and Savior, who in the beginning was spirit, became flesh and in this way called us, it is in this flesh of ours that we shall also receive our reward. Therefore, let us love one another, so that we may all attain to the kingdom of God. While we can still be healed, let us surrender ourselves into the hands of our divine physician and give him his recompense, the recompense of true sorrow for our sins. Since he who knows all things sees what is in our hearts, let us praise him with our hearts as well as our lips. He will then receive us as his sons. The Lord himself has said: *My brothers are those who do my Father's will.*

MASS INTENTIONS

Mar 20 (Sat), 5:30 PM	Pat Ally (req. by Boucher family); Ginny Early - LIVING INTENTION (req. by friends)
Mar 21 (Sun), 8:00 AM	SJN Parishioners
Mar 21, 10:00 AM	Benny Beebe (req. by Joanne Pcloart & Linda Koch)

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).

— NOTICE —

Due to the rehearsals for the Youth Passion Play, SUNDAY CONFESSION has moved to 4:00-5:30 PM.

LENTEN SCHEDULE

ADORATION

Fridays following the 12:15 PM daily Mass
—and—

Sundays following the 6:00 PM Mass

STATIONS OF THE CROSS

Fridays of Lent

6:00 PM (19 Mar)

in-person and via Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/112258683764613/live>

PASSION PLAY

26 Mar (Fri) at 7:00 PM,

—and—

28 Mar (Sun) at 2:00 PM

CONFESSION

Fridays of Lent

7:00-8:00 PM

—and—

15-18 Mar (Mon-Thu)

6:00-8:00 PM



HOLY WEEK

HOLY THURSDAY

Mass of the Lord's Supper

1 Apr — 7:00 PM

GOOD FRIDAY

Commemoration of the Lord's Passion

2 Apr — 7:00 PM

HOLY SATURDAY

Easter Vigil

3 Apr — 7:30 PM

EASTER SUNDAY

4 Apr — 8:00 and 10:00 AM (no 6:00 PM Mass)

*NOTE: Easter Egg Hunt follows the 10:00 AM Masses (for children up thru 5th Grade)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

MEMORIAL EASTER FLOWERS

DONATIONS for Easter Flowers that'll be used to decorate the Sanctuary are being accepted. Donations can be made in the name of a friend or family member. If you do not have the special envelope, envelopes are available in the foyer. Please print the name on the envelope, and they'll be remembered at all Masses through the seven-week Easter Season.

EASTER EGG HUNT

The parish will host an Easter Egg Hunt immediately following the April 4th Easter Sunday 10:00 AM Mass for children up thru 5th Grade. We have treats for Middle/High School students willing to help spread the eggs before Mass as well.

ADULT CONFIRMATION

The diocesan ADULT CONFIRMATION MASS is scheduled for 11 Apr 2021 at St Joseph's Cathedral (145 Lowell St, Manchester, NH) for Catholics ages 18 and older who have been baptized and have received First Holy Communion and who are practicing the faith but who have not received the Sacrament of Confirmation. **NOTE: the Registration Form and Baptism Certificate must be submitted to the diocesan Office of Adult Faith Formation no later than Monday, 5 Apr 2021. For more information, please see Fr. Glasgow.**

FAMILY ROSARY

Wednesday evenings thru March 24 at 6:00 PM on Zoom. To register click on link at: <https://sjnnh.org/lent>. Once registered you will receive an email with a link to join. The same link will give you access each week.

JASON EVERT EVENTS

Register at: iccnashuanh.org/jason-evert
Mar 19/26, 6:30-8:00 PM

Immaculate Conception Parish (216 E Dunstable Rd, Nashua) is hosting an IN-PERSON and VIRTUAL EVENT with JASON EVERT—Catholic author and chastity speaker—on Friday, March 19 (for students Grades 7-12): "**What's So Great About Being Catholic?**" and again on Friday, Mar 26 (General Audience): "**Love or Lust? Straight Answers About Dating, Relationships, and Sexual Purity**". Jason Evert founded TOTUS TUUS PRESS and CHASTITY PROJECT (an organization that promotes chastity primarily to high school and college students).

ENGAGED COUPLE MARRIAGE FORMATION COURSE

The diocese will offer an Engaged Couple Marriage Formation Course beginning 7 Apr 2021 (Wednesday evenings, 7:00-8:30 PM). The cost is

\$135.00. Registering couples will receive a box of resources by mail, including all program materials. To register:

<https://form.jotform.com/RCBM/ecc-apr21>

MARRIAGE: UNIQUE FOR A REASON

<http://www.marriageuniqueforareason.org>

The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops' (USCCB) Subcommittee for the Promotion and Defense of Marriage has launched a MARRIAGE: UNIQUE FOR A REASON website. The purpose is to provide authentic Catholic teaching about marriage. The website has an extensive FAQ section on the meaning of marriage, a blog, and videos such as "Made for Each Other" and "Made for Life".



— NOTICE —

SUNDAY MASS continues to be live streamed at 10:00 AM:

<https://www.facebook.com/112258683764613/live>

The 12:15 PM DAILY MASS is posted Monday, Wednesday thru Friday to:

<https://www.facebook.com/sjnnh>

PARISH INFORMATION

WE LOVE BEING IN TOUCH WITH YOU! Now you can keep in touch with us via email and/or text messaging:

Visit > <https://SJNMERRIMACK.flocknote.com>

Text > "SJNMERRIMACK" to 84576 (message and data rates may apply)

Choose to get updates from parish groups you're interested in. Unsubscribe anytime. No spam, we promise.

— AMAZON SMILE —

Please consider supporting our St John Neumann FOOD PANTRY whenever you purchase items through AMAZON.COM. Go to:

<https://smile.amazon.com/ch/02-0370038>

and add "Saint John Neumann Parish" as your charity of choice. 0.5% of every purchase is donated by Amazon.com to the SJN FOOD PANTRY.

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Bob Fregault (Chairman)

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Tom Davis, Grand Knight
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