

SAINT JOHN NEUMANN PARISH

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



1st SUNDAY OF ADVENT November 29, 2020

Fr. Robert Glasgow
Pastor
Chaplain (LTC) USA, Ret.
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Eileen Buckley
Business Manager / Parish Secretary
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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 11:15 AM - 1:00 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.

RITE OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION

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

ON MERCY

He who has two coats, let him share with him who has none and he who has food must do likewise. —Jas 2:15

The two excerpts below are from sermons by SS. Gregory Nazianzen (d. 390, bishop) and Caesarius of Arles (d. 573, bishop). Both begin with the words "BLESSED ARE THE MERCIFUL, BECAUSE THEY SHALL OBTAIN MERCY," and both exhort the faithful to works of mercy. It is by the path of love that God draws near to man, and man to God. And, the proof of love is in the works [of mercy]; when love ceases to act, it ceases to exist. Where charity is not found, God cannot dwell.

BY WAY OF EXAMPLE, shortly before he died, St Francis (d. 1226) penned his Testament. In it, he said his conversion was due to his work with lepers, a number of whom lived outside Assisi. He explained it this way: "God allowed me to begin my repentance in this way: when I lived in sin, seeing lepers was a very bitter experience for me. God himself guided me into their midst and among them I performed acts of charity. What appeared bitter to me became sweetness of the soul and body." Lepers were horrifying to people at the time, not only because of their unsightly affliction—black boils, truncated limbs—but because the disease was thought to be caused by sin. If a leper wanted to approach a town, he had to do so at night and ring a bell to warn people of his presence. As he saw it now, the more a person was despised, the more he or she



THE SEVEN WORKS OF MERCY by Ottaviano di Giarretto da Camerino (fl. 1439)

resembled Jesus in his last agonies, when he was abandoned by almost all the people he had come to save. To obey Jesus, therefore, you had to join those who were abandoned.

BLESSED are the merciful, because they shall obtain mercy, says the Scripture. Mercy is not the least of the beatitudes. Again: Blessed is he who is considerate to the needy and the poor. Once more: Generous is the man who is merciful and lends. In another place: All day the just man is merciful and lends. Let us lay hold of this blessing, let us earn the name of being considerate, let us be generous.

Not even night should interrupt you in your duty of mercy. Do not say: Come back and I will give you something tomorrow. There should be no delay between your intention and your good deed. Generosity is the one thing that cannot admit of delay.

Share your bread with the hungry, and bring the needy and the homeless into your house, with a joyful and eager heart. He who does acts of mercy should do so with cheerfulness. The grace of a good deed is doubled when it is done with promptness and speed. What is given with a bad grace or against one's will is distasteful and far from praiseworthy.

When we perform an act of kindness we should rejoice and not be sad about it. If you undo the shackles and the thongs, says Isaiah, that is, if you do away with miserliness and counting the cost, with hesitation and grumbling, what will be the result? Something great and wonderful! What a marvelous reward there will be: Your light will break forth like the dawn, and your healing will rise up quickly. Who would not aspire to light and healing.

If you think that I have something to say, servants of Christ, his brethren and co-heirs, let us visit Christ whenever we may; let us care for him, feed him, clothe him, welcome him, honor him, not only at a meal, as some have done, or by anointing him, as Mary did, or only by lending him a tomb, like Joseph of Arimathea, or by arranging for his burial, like Nicodemus, who loved Christ half-heartedly, or by giving him gold, frankincense and myrrh, like the Magi before all these others. The Lord of all asks for mercy, not sacrifice, and mercy is greater than myriads of fattened lambs. Let us then show him mercy in the persons of the poor and those who today are lying on the ground, so that when we come to leave this world they may receive us into everlasting dwelling places, in Christ our Lord himself, to whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen.



BLESSED are the merciful, for they shall receive mercy. My brothers and sisters, sweet is the thought of mercy, but even more so is mercy itself. It is what all men hope for, but unfortunately, not what all men deserve. For while all men wish to receive it, only a few are willing to give it.

How can a man ask for himself what he refuses to give to another? If he expects to receive any mercy in heaven, he should give mercy on earth. Do we all desire to receive mercy? Let us make mercy our patroness now, and she will free us in the world to come. Yes, there is mercy in heaven, but the road to it is paved by our merciful acts on earth. As Scripture says: Lord, your mercy is in heaven.

There is, therefore, an earthly as well as heavenly mercy, that is to say, a human and a divine mercy. Human mercy has compassion on the miseries of the poor. Divine mercy grants forgiveness of sins. Whatever human mercy bestows her on earth, divine mercy will return to us in our homeland. In this life God feels cold and hunger in all who are stricken with poverty; for, remember, he once said: What you have done to the least of my brothers you have done to me. Yes, God who sees fit to give his mercy in heaven wishes it to be a reality here on earth.

What kind of people are we? When God gives, we wish to receive, but when he begs, we refuse to give. Remember, it was Christ who said: I was hungry and you gave me nothing to eat. When the poor are starving, Christ too hungers. Do not neglect to improve the unhappy conditions of the poor, if you wish to ensure that your own sins be forgiven you. Christ hungers now, my brethren; it is he who deigns to hunger and thirst in the persons of the poor. And what he will return in heaven tomorrow is what he receives here on earth today.

What do you wish for, what do you pray for, my dear brothers and sisters, when you come to church? Is it mercy? How can it be anything else? Show mercy, then, while you are on earth, and mercy will be shown to you in heaven. A poor person asks you for something; you ask God for something. He begs for a morsel of food; you beg for eternal life. Give to the beggar so that you may merit to receive from Christ. For he it is who says: Give and it will be given to you. It baffles me that you have the impudence to ask for what you do not want to give. Give when you come to church. Give to the poor. Give them whatever your resources will allow.

MASS INTENTIONS

Nov 28 (Sat), 5:30 PM Barbara Thurston (req. by Maryjean Byer)

Nov 29 (Sun), 8:00 AM Colin Lizotte (req. by family)
 Nov 29, 10:00 AM Danielle Bonner (req. by; Tom Erbland (req. by Pat Flynn); Michael Yetto (req. by family)
 Nov 30 (Mon), 6:00 PM Stephen Maguire (req. by Shauna Casey, Frank Albano & family)
 Dec 2 (Wed), 12:15 PM Evelyn Rohou (req. by Shauna Casey, Frank Albano & family)
 Dec 3 (Thu), 12:15 PM John Squires (req. by Leslie & Bob)
 Dec 4 (Fri), 12:15 PM Ginny Early (for healing, req. by friends)

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).

dangers of our sins and saved by Thy deliverance. Through Christ our Lord.
 R/. Amen.

Holy Day of Obligation
IMMACULATE CONCEPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

7 Dec (Mon, Vigil) 5:30 PM
 8 Dec (Tue) 12:15 PM
 8 Dec 7:00 PM

ANNOUNCEMENTS

FAMILY ADVENT WREATHS

Following 10:00 AM Mass, Nov 29 (Sun)

Join us in the parish hall after this Sunday's Mass to make an Advent Wreath. There is no charge for this activity, but donations will be gratefully accepted. PLEASE NOTE: We are also happy to accommodate those who are not comfortable gathering at church by assembling kits for pickup.

To sign up or to indicate if you require a kit, please contact CLAIRE BRYSON at cbryson@sjnnh.org.

ADVENT WREATH BLESSING

The following prayer is repeated each day. Following the prayer, the family's youngest child lights the FIRST PURPLE CANDLE. (Other family members can take turns throughout the week lighting and extinguishing the candle.) A SECOND PURPLE CANDLE is lit the Second Sunday of Advent. The ROSE CANDLE is lit the Third Sunday of Advent—*Gaudete Sunday*—, and the last PURPLE CANDLE is lit the Fourth Sunday of Advent.

- 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

CHRISTMAS GIVING TREE

We ask you help in continuing the St John Neumann tradition of making this Christmas a little brighter for area families-in-need by donating a GIFT CARD that will be distributed on December 18th along with Food Baskets to families served by our SJN Food Pantry. In the Spirit of Christmas, GIFT CARDS in the amount of \$25.00+ would be very much appreciated. Suggested local vendor GIFT CARDS: Target, Walmart, CVS, Market Basket, Shaw's, Kohl's, Marshall's, Home Goods, TJMaxx, etc.

A COLLECTION LOCK BOX will be available after all Masses beginning December 5-13, or they can be dropped off at the office.

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).

St John Neumann
CHRISTMAS CAROLING
 w/ Hot Chocolate
 18 Dec (Fri), starting at 6:00 PM
 Directly in front of the church doors.
 POC: Claire Bryson, cbryson@sjnnh.org

NEW MISSALETTES

The 1st Sunday of Advent is the start of the NEW LITURGICAL YEAR. NOTE: due to COVID precautions, the NEW MISSALETTES cannot be placed in the pews. So, we've placed them in the foyer. Parishioners are welcome

to take one of the new MISSALETTES for use throughout the year.

**ADVENT AT THE INTERSECTIONS:
Virtual Retreat for Young Adult Catholics**

For all Catholic men and women ages 18-35, the virtual experience will be on Friday, 11 December from 7:00-8:30 PM. Cindy Cheshire, Campus Minister at the Newman Center in Keene will lead us through a night of exploring Advent at the intersections of our lives. Questions may be directed to Mary Jane Silva, Director of Adult Faith Formation at mjsilvia@rcbm.org or (603) 663-0172.

For more information, visit:
yareflection.eventbrite.com

SACRAMENTAL CERTIFICATES

PLEASE NOTE: The CONFIRMATION and FIRST HOLY COMMUNION certificates are available for pickup (w/ photos included).

— NOTICE —

- Due to the Saturday 4:00 PM Outdoor Mass, CONFESSION has moved temporarily to Sundays following the 10:00 AM Mass = 11:15 AM - 1:00 PM.
- The Sunday 10:00 AM Mass continues to be LIVE STREAMED at:

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

- The 12:15 daily Mass is posted Monday, and Wednesday thru Friday to:

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

- PLEASE NOTE: the 4:00 PM Outdoor Mass affords the greatest pandemic precautions for those most at risk.

**Holy Day of Obligation
NATIVITY OF THE LORD
Mass Schedule**

24 Dec (Thu, Children's Mass) 5:30 PM
24 Dec (Vigil) 7:00 PM
24 Dec (Midnight) 10:00 PM
25 Dec (Fri, Christmas Day) 10:00 AM

HOLY HOUR

Sundays 7:00-8:00 PM

"The Church and the world have a great need for

Eucharistic worship. Jesus awaits us in this sacrament of love. Let us not refuse the time to go to meet him in adoration, in contemplation full of faith, and open to making amends for the serious offenses and crimes of the world. Let our adoration never cease." —Pope St John Paul II (d. 2005)

— 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.

SJN Staff

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