

SAINT JOHN NEUMANN PARISH

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



2nd SUNDAY OF ADVENT
December 6, 2020

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 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.

A SAVIOR WITH CHRIST!

I have become all things to all, to save at least some. All this I do for the sake of the gospel, so that I too may have a share in it. —1 Cor 9:22-23

The following excerpt is taken from Pope John Paul II's (d. 2005) Second Meditation given on October 6, 1986 during his retreat for priests and seminarians conducted in Ars, France. The site

was chosen because the patron saint of priests—St John Marie Vianney, the Cure d'Ars—had been stationed in Ars.

On informing a young Fr. Vianney of his posting to Ars, the Vicar-General added:

"There is not much love of God in this parish: you will put it there." The theme of the Holy Father's meditation is much the same:

**THE PRIEST-
HOOD IS THE
LOVE OF THE
HEART OF
CHRIST.**



POPE SAINT JOHN PAUL II
Photo by Dennis Jarvis

5. "I HAVE MADE MYSELF ALL THINGS TO ALL MEN, IN ORDER BY ALL MEANS TO SAVE SOME" (1 Cor 9:22). The word salvation is one of those used most frequently by the Cure d'Ars. What does it mean for him? To be saved is to be delivered from the sin that separates from God, dries up the heart, and risks eternal separation from the love of God which would be the worst unhappiness of all. To be saved is to live united to God, to see God. To be saved is likewise to be reintroduced into a true communion with others, because our sins very often consist in wounding the love of neighbor, justice, truth, the



respect for his goods and his body: all this is contrary to the will of God. There is a profound solidarity among all the members of the Body of Christ: one cannot love him without loving his brothers. Salvation therefore permits one to rediscover a filial relationship to God and a fraternal relationship to others.

The redemption of Christ has opened for all the possibility of salvation. The priest cooperates in redemption, preparing souls for it by preaching conversion and by giving pardon for sins. It was for their salvation that the Cure d'Ars wanted to be a priest: "To win souls for the Good God", as he said when he announced his vocation at the age of eighteen, as St Paul had said, "to win the greatest number" (1 Cor 9:19). It was for this that Jean Marie Vianney spent himself to the point of exhaustion and undertook to do penance, as if to wrest from God the graces of conversion. He feared for their salvation and wept. And when he was tempted to run away from his heavy charge as parish priest, he came back, for the salvation of parishioners. We read in St Paul, "The love of Christ constrains us ... now is the day of salvation" (2 Cor 5:14; 6:2). "The priesthood", as Jean Marie Vianney also said, "is the love of the heart of Christ."

Finally, God himself is free with his gifts. Conversion is a grace. In the encyclical Dominum et Vivificantem (pt. 2, no. 47), I have shown that only the Holy Spirit permits its to become aware of the gravity of sin and of the tragedy of the loss of the sense of God, and gives the desire for conversion.

But our love for mankind cannot be resigned to seeing them deprive themselves of salvation. We cannot directly produce the conversion of souls, but we are responsible for the proclamation of the Faith, of the totality of the Faith and of its demands. We must invite our faithful to conversion and to holiness; we must speak the truth, warn, advise, and make them desire the sacraments that reestablish them in the grace of God. The Cure d'Ars considered this a formidable but necessary ministry: "If a pastor remains dumb when he sees God outraged and souls wandering away, woe to him!" We know with what care he prepared his Sunday homilies and his catechesis, and with what courage he recalled the requirements of the gospel, denounced sin, and invited men to make good the evil they had committed.

To convert, to heal, to save: three key words of our mission. The Cure d'Ars obviously stood truly in solidarity with his sinful people: he did everything to snatch souls from their sin and torpor and to lead them back to love: "Grant me the conversion of my parish, and I am ready to suffer whatever you wish for the rest of my life." It has been said that he had "a vision of salvation full of pathos": it may be that some expressions and a severe tone were inspired in him by Jansenism. Yet he was able to overcome this rigorism. He preferred to insist on the attractive side of virtue and on the mercy of God, for whom our sins are "like grains of sand". He showed the tenderness of the God who had been offended. His appeals followed the

direct line of the appeals of the prophets (see Ezek 3:16, 21), of Jesus, of St Paul, and of St Augustine on the importance of salvation and the urgency of conversion. He feared that the priests might become apathetic and accustomed to the indifference of their faithful. How could we neglect his warning today?

6. "LET YOURSELVES BE RECONCILED TO GOD." This sentence of St Paul defines perfectly the ministry of St Jean Marie Vianney. He is known in all the world as the one who heard confession for ten to fifteen hours a day or even longer, and was still doing this up to five days before his death.

The essential thing in his ministry of salvation was to offer forgiveness to repentant souls, at the price of an effort that does not cease to impress us.

Let us note what his Vicar-General said to the Cure d'Ars: "There is not much love of God in this parish: you will put it there." The holy parish priest also found penitents without much fervor. However, because of his priestly attitude of holiness, a considerable crowd grasped the importance of the sacrament of forgiveness. What was the secret with which he attracted both believers and unbelievers, holy people and sinners? The Cure d'Ars, who was so hard in some sermons in order to castigate sin, was—like Jesus—very merciful in the encounter with each sinner. Father Monin said of him that he was a "fire of tenderness and mercy". He burned with the mercy of Christ.

We have here an extremely important aspect of evangelization. From the evening of Easter onward, the apostles were sent out to forgive sins. The gift of the Holy Spirit is bound to this power. And the Book of Acts continually comes back to the forgiveness of sins as the grace of the New Covenant (see Acts 2:38; 5:31; 10:43; 13:38). This is the *leitmotiv* of the preaching of the apostles: "Let yourselves be reconciled."

7. It was to the Eucharist that Jean Marie Vianney wished to lead his penitent faithful. You know the central place that the Mass occupied in each of his days, and with what care he prepared himself for Mass and celebrated it. He was well aware that the renewal of the sacrifice of Christ was the source of the graces of conversion. He emphasized also Communion, inviting those who were properly prepared to receive Communion more frequently, contrary to the pastoral praxis of the time. You know, again, that the Real Presence of Christ in the Eucharist fascinated him, in the Mass and outside it. He was found so often before the tabernacle, in adoration! His poor parishioners in turn were not slow to come and greet Christ and adore him in his Blessed Sacrament. The Council has happily allowed us to renew our eucharistic celebrations, to open them to a participation of the community, to make them living and expressive. I think that the Cure d'Ars would have been happy at this. This was an essential catechesis for the Cure d'Ars.

I leave you to meditate on this grace which the

Lord gives us, of forgiving sins in his name and of offering his Body in nourishment to our brothers and sister. "A savior with Christ!"

MASS INTENTIONS

- Dec 5 (Sat), 5:30 PM Barbara Thurston (req. by Maryjean Byer)
- Dec 6 (Sun), 10:00 AM Mario Lopez (req. by Barbara & Gail Dunn)
- Dec 6, 6:00 PM Barbara Thurston (req. by Barbara & Gail Dunn)
- Dec 7 (Mon), 12:15 PM Catherine Shea (req. by Doreen Thomas)
- Dec 8 (Tue), 7:00 PM Masato Aoki (req. by Brian & Andrea Lester)
- Dec 9 (Wed), 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).

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

ADVENT WREATH BLESSING

The following prayer is repeated each day. A SECOND PURPLE CANDLE is lit the Second 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 dangers of our sins and saved by Thy deliverance. Through Christ our Lord.
R/. Amen.

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

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).

SACRAMENTAL CERTIFICATES

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

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.

**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

**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

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)

**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

— 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

CLAIRE BRYSON
Children's Ministry (K-5th Grade)
(603) 880-4689 x114
cbryson@sjnh.org

CHERI ANDERSEN
Youth Ministry (6th-12th Grade)
(603) 880-4689 x111
candersen@sjnh.org

TERI SCHMITT
Religious Education Secretary
tschmitt@rcbm.org

DIANE BONENFANT
Sacristan

CAROL YETTO
Music Ministry
SJNMusic@myfairpoint.net

CAROL HOPFENSPIRGER and EVELYN VERBECK
Outreach & Food Pantry
(603) 880-4689 x116

KATHY HOPKINS
Day Away (Thursday)
(603) 880-4689
dayaway@sjnh.org

PASTORAL COUNCIL
Steve De Beradinis (President)

FINANCE COMMITTEE
Bob Fregault (Chairman)

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS
Tom Davis, Grand Knight
gk10896 @comcast.net

603-882-4080

ROGER F. BLAIS

Additions • Roofing • Siding
Replacement Windows • Decks
4 Peaslee Rd., Merrimack, NH 03054
rblaisgc@gmail.com

Accepting  New Patients

Amherst Orthodontics
ALL STAR SMILES

Dr. Diane Shieh

672-0844

www.AmherstOrthodontics.com
FREE EXAM & APPOINTMENT SHUTTLE

Smith & Heald
Funeral Home

DEBORAH L. QUINLAN
DIRECTOR

63 Elm St., Milford
673-1422

RENO'S AUTO BODY, INC.

741 West Hollis St., Nashua, NH
603-882-7636

Family Owned/Operated Since 1969
Experienced High Quality Collision Repairs
In Foreign & Domestic Autos & Motor Homes

FREE ESTIMATES
Towing & Rental Assistance
We Offer Pick Up & Delivery
Ask About Our 100% Satisfaction Guarantee

RIVET
FUNERAL HOME
& CREMATION

425 D.W. Highway
Merrimack, NH
424-5530

Serving the Area for
Over a Generation

(603) 883-5822

Chick
Beaulieu, Inc.

5 1/2 Gaffney Street
Nashua, NH 03060
www.chickbeaulieu.com

ROOFING • SIDING • PAINTING • GUTTERS
MASONRY • DECKS • SHUTTERS
REPLACEMENT WINDOWS • STORM WINDOWS & DOORS

Your Local Family Owned Dealer For All Major Brands Since 1978

BRENNAN & MACKAY
APPLIANCE SALES AND SERVICE

www.brennanandmackayappliances.com
276 South Street, Rte. 13, Milford, NH • 673-1177

We Service What We Sell With Experienced Personnel
GE - FRIGIDAIRE - BOSCH - LG - WHIRLPOOL - KITCHENAID - MAYTAG

catholicmatch
New Hampshire



CatholicMatch.com/NH

ADT-Monitored Home Security
Get 24-Hour Protection From a Name You Can Trust

- Burglary
- Fire Safety
- Flood Detection
- Carbon Monoxide



Authorized Provider SafeStreets

1-855-225-4251

Merrimack
Flower Shop
& Greenhouse

Delivery Available • 603-424-3145
4 Railroad Ave., Merrimack
www.merrimackflowershop.com

Saint Christopher
ACADEMY

One School, Two Campuses,
Many Opportunities

Prek 3's to Grade 8 • Nashua, NH
Call for a private tour at 882-7442
www.SaintChrisAcademy.org

PROTECTING SENIORS NATIONWIDE
MEDICAL ALERT SYSTEM



\$29.95/MO PLUS SPECIAL OFFER
BILLED QUARTERLY

CALL NOW! 1.877.801.7772
WWW.24-7MEDALARM.COM

AVAILABLE FOR A LIMITED TIME

ADVERTISE YOUR **BUSINESS HERE**

Contact **Ray Amirault** to place an ad today!
ramirault@4LPi.com or (800) 477-4574 x6416

LPi

WE'RE HIRING
AD SALES EXECUTIVES



- Full Time Position with Benefits
- Sales Experience Preferred
- Paid Training
- Overnight Travel Required
- Expense Reimbursement

CONTACT US AT
careers@4LPi.com
www.4LPi.com/careers

Too Sick for Mass?

SUPPORT OUR PARISH NO MATTER WHERE YOU ARE!

Sign-up to get your bulletin delivered right to your inbox!

www.parishesonline.com



SUPPORT THE ADVERTISERS THAT SUPPORT OUR COMMUNITY

