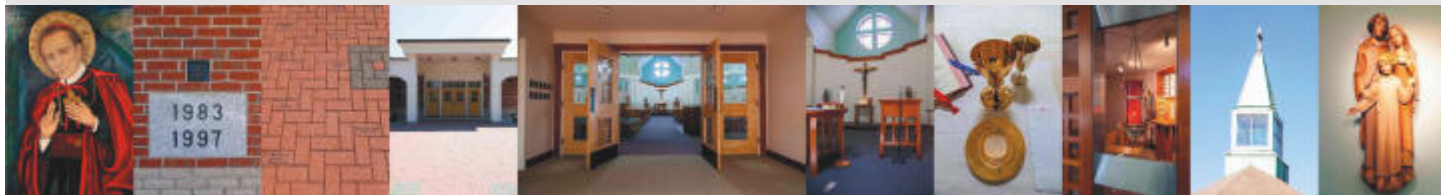


SAINT JOHN NEUMANN PARISH

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



16th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
July 18, 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 (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

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.

RITE OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION

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

COUNTLESS WITNESSES

I tell you, my friends, do not be afraid of those who kill the body but after that can do no more. —Luke 12:4

The following excerpt is from Pope St John Paul II's (d. 2005) homily of 7 May 2000 (3rd Sunday of Easter). The Holy Father spoke of the vast number of Christians who've suffered/died for the faith—"the witness to Christ borne even to the shedding of blood has become a common inheritance of Catholics, Orthodox, Anglicans and Protestants"—in the last century alone.



MASSACRE OF THE INNOCENTS [detail]
by Léon Cogniet (d. 1880)

1. "UNLESS a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it bears much fruit" (Jn 12:24). With these words on the eve of his Passion, Jesus foretells his glorification through his death. We have just heard this challenging truth in the Gospel acclamation. It resounds forcefully tonight in this significant place, where we remember the "witnesses to the faith in the twentieth century". Christ is the grain of wheat who by dying has borne fruits of everlasting life. And down the centuries his disciples have followed in the footsteps of the Crucified King, becoming a numberless multitude "from every nation, race, people and language": apostles and confessors of the faith, virgins and martyrs, bold heralds of the Gospel and silent servants of the Kingdom. Gathered as we are at the Colosseum for this meaningful jubilee celebration, our coming together this evening is for all of us a source of great emotion. The monuments and ruins of ancient Rome speak to humanity of the sufferings and persecutions endured with fortitude by our forebears in the faith, the Christians of the first generations. These ancient



remains remind us how true are the words of Tertullian who wrote: "the blood of the martyrs is the seed of the Church."

2. The experience of the martyrs and the witnesses to the faith is not a characteristic only of the Church's beginnings but marks every epoch of her history. In the twentieth century, and maybe even more than in the first period of Christianity, there has been a vast number of men and women who bore witness to the faith through sufferings that were often heroic. How many Christians in the course of the twentieth century, on every continent, showed their love of Christ by the shedding of blood! They underwent forms of persecution both old and new, they experienced hatred and exclusion, violence and murder. Many countries of ancient Christian tradition once more became lands where fidelity to the Gospel demanded a very high price. In our century "the witness to Christ borne even to the shedding of blood has become a common inheritance of Catholics, Orthodox, Anglicans and Protestants". The generation to which I belong experienced the horror of war, the concentration camps, persecution. In my homeland, during the Second World War, priests and Christians were deported to extermination camps. In Dachau alone some three thousand priests were interned. Their sacrifice was joined to that of many Christians from other European countries, some of whom belonged to other Churches and Ecclesial Communities. The experience of the Second World War and of the years following brought me to consider carefully and with gratitude the shining example of those who, from the beginning of the twentieth century to its end, met persecution, violence, death, because of their faith and because their behavior was inspired by the truth of Christ.
3. And there are so many of them! They must not be forgotten, rather they must be remembered and their lives documented. The names of many are unknown; the names of some have been denigrated by their persecutors, who tried to add disgrace to martyrdom; the names of others have been concealed by their executioners. But Christians preserve the memory of a great number of them. This is shown by the numerous replies to the invitation not to forget, received by the "New Martyrs" Commission within the Committee for the Great Jubilee. The Commission has worked hard to enrich and update the Church's memory with the witness of all those people, even those who are unknown, who "risked their lives for the sake of our Lord Jesus Christ" (Acts 15:26). Yes, as the Orthodox Metropolitan Benjamin of Saint Petersburg, martyred in 1922, wrote on the eve of his execution: "The times have changed and it has become possible to suffer much for love of Christ." With the same conviction, from his cell in Buchenwald, the Lutheran Pastor Paul Schneider asserted once more in the presence of his prison guards: "Thus says the Lord, 'I am the resurrection and the life!'"
4. "Blessed are you when they insult you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven" (Mt 5:11-12). How well these words of Christ fit the countless witnesses to the faith in the last century, insulted and persecuted, but never broken by the power of evil! Where hatred seemed to corrupt the whole of life leaving no escape from its logic, they proved that "love is stronger than death." Within terrible systems of oppression which disfigured man, in places of pain, amid the hardest of privations, through senseless marches, exposed to cold and hunger, tortured, suffering in so many ways, they loudly proclaimed their loyalty to Christ crucified and risen. In a few moments we shall hear some of their striking testimonies. Countless numbers refused to yield to the cult of the false gods of the twentieth century and were sacrificed by Communism, Nazism, by the idolatry of State or race. Many others fell in the course of ethnic or tribal wars, because they had rejected a way of thinking foreign to the Gospel of Christ. Some went to their death because, like the Good Shepherd, they decided to remain with their people, despite intimidation. On every continent and throughout the entire twentieth century, there have been those who preferred to die rather than betray the mission which was theirs. Men and women Religious lived their consecration to the shedding of blood. Men and women believers died offering their lives for love of their brothers and sisters, especially the poorest and the weakest. Many women lost their lives in order to defend their dignity and purity.
5. "Whoever loves his life loses it and whoever hates his life in this world will keep it for eternal life" (Jn 12:25). A few minutes ago we listened to these words of Christ. They contain a truth which today's world often scorns and rejects, making love of self the supreme criterion of life. But the witnesses to the faith, who also this evening speak to us by their example, did not consider their own advantage, their own well-being, their own survival as greater values than fidelity to the Gospel. Despite all their weakness, they vigorously resisted evil. In their fragility there shone forth the power of faith and of the Lord's grace. Dear Brothers and Sisters, the precious heritage which these courageous witnesses have passed down to us is a patrimony shared by all the Churches and Ecclesial Communities. It is a heritage which speaks more powerfully than all the causes of division. The ecumenism of the martyrs and the witnesses to the faith is the most convincing of all; to the Christians of the twenty-first century it shows the path to unity. It is the heritage of the Cross lived in the light of Easter: a heritage which enriches and sustains Christians as they go forward into the new millennium. If we glory in this heritage it is not because of any partisan spirit and still less because of any desire for vengeance upon the persecutors, but in order to make manifest the extraordinary power of God, who has not ceased to act in every time and place. We do this as we

ourselves offer pardon, faithful to the example of the countless witnesses killed even as they prayed for their persecutors.

MASS INTENTIONS

July 17 (Sat), 5:30 PM	Amy Senay & Larry O'Kelley (req. by Jerry & Sheila Burnett)
July 18 (Sun), 8:00 AM	SJN Parishioners
July 18, 10:00 AM	Herman Hetzler (req. by Rita & Dave Wadleigh); Paulette Laurie - LIVING INTENTION (req. by family)
July 19 (Mon), 12:15 PM	Deceased clergy of the diocese
July 20 (Fri), 12:15 PM	Boris Naprta (req. by wife, Anica)

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).

WEEKLY CALENDAR

18 Jul, 16th WEEK IN ORDINARY TIME

8:00 AM | Mass
10:00 AM | Mass
6:00 PM | Adoration (until 7:00 PM)

19 Jul, MONDAY

10:00 AM | CHILDREN'S STORY TIME
11:00 AM | UNICYCLE SCHOOL
12:15 PM | Daily Mass
7:00 PM | Choir Rehearsal

20 Jul, TUESDAY

8:00 AM | RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE
11:00 AM | UNICYCLE SCHOOL
7:00 PM | Scout Meeting

21 Jul, WEDNESDAY

10:00 AM | Faith Sharing
11:00 AM | UNICYCLE SCHOOL
12:15 PM | Daily Mass

22 Jul, THURSDAY

10:00 AM | "Blessed Is She" Women's Group
11:00 AM | UNICYCLE SCHOOL
12:15 PM | Daily Mass

23 Jul, FRIDAY (Day of Penance)

10:00 AM | Food Pantry (until 12:30)
11:00 AM | UNICYCLE SCHOOL
12:15 PM | Daily Mass (followed by Adoration)

24 Jul, SATURDAY

8:30 AM | Men's Group
9:00 AM | Divine Mercy Cenacle (1st & 3rd Sat)

9:30 AM | Widow's Group (2nd Sat of month)
4:00 PM | Confession (until 5:00 PM)
5:30 PM | Anticipatory Mass

ANNOUNCEMENTS

FAITH FORMATION REGISTRATION 2021-2022 School Year

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION (RE) is at the heart and center of parish life. Only the LITURGY is more important.

- Diocesan Sacramental Policy—the "Restored Order"—now provides for FIRST RECONCILIATION during 2nd Grade, and both CONFIRMATION and FIRST EUCHARIST during 3rd Grade. The parish offers a K-thru-5th Grade program, much like previous years, on Sunday mornings and Wednesday afternoons.

Please sign up as soon as possible to assist us in planning for the upcoming year. Classes this year will be held in person every other week. Families can choose Sunday morning sessions or Wednesday afternoons. More information, dates, Sacrament information, and REGISTRATION FORM can all be found on our website <SJNNH.ORG>.

- <REGISTRATION FORMS> are available online and from the SJN Faith Formation Office. TO COMPLETE REGISTRATION, parents are asked to attend any of the short FAITH FORMATION BRIEFING offered after all of the weekend Masses in August, or to meet with Fr. Glasgow separately.
- The parish offers a High School program on Sunday nights, as well as a Middle School program on Monday nights.

CHILDREN'S STORY TIME



Join us on Monday mornings thru August 23 at 10:00 AM for a CHILDREN'S STORY TIME. During the first four sessions, we'll be focusing on *St Joseph*. The remaining sessions will be on *prayer*. We will meet in the Parish Hall and, weather permitting, also gather outside. Please bring a beach towel for the outdoor portion of our gatherings. SIGN UP by emailing Claire at

cbryson@sjnnh.org.

2021 MISSION APPEAL
Medical Missionaries of Mary (MMM)

SISTER KATHLEEN ALBEE, AMMM will be with us the last weekend of July on behalf of the MMM to appeal for assistance to continue their work throughout the world. MISSION APPEALS were cancelled last year due to COVID19. The insert in today's bulletin— "ABOUT US"—is the from the MMM's website.

RCIA

What is the RCIA? The Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA) is for non-Catholic adults seeking to convert to Catholicism or who just want to learn more about the Catholic faith. It is also for anyone baptized Catholic as an infant but who never received religious instruction or the sacraments of Confirmation or Eucharist.

We hope to offer RCIA this year beginning late-September. Should you have an interest in participating, please contact Fr. Glasgow.

"CATHOLICISM" SERIES

Cheri Andersen is hosting Bp. Barron's 10-week video-based "CATHOLICISM" series each Wednesday this Summer (6:30 PM, SJN Parish Hall). For more information contact Cheri <youth@sjnnh.org>.

HOLY HOUR

HOLY HOUR is scheduled Fridays following the 12:15 PM daily Mass, and Sundays from 6:00 PM (7:00 PM during the school year).

"Visits to the BLESSED SACRAMENT are a proof of gratitude, an expression of love, and a duty of adoration toward Christ our Lord." —Pope St Paul VI (d. 1987)

PARISH NEWS

PARISH NEWS — WE LOVE BEING IN TOUCH WITH YOU! You can keep in touch with us via email and/or text messaging. Unsubscribe anytime. Choose to get updates from parish groups

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SJN Staff

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PASTORAL COUNCIL

Steve De Beradinis (President)

FINANCE COMMITTEE

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