

SAINT JOHN NEUMANN PARISH

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



27th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
October 3, 2021

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 (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.

ON CONVERSION

"Do not persist in your unbelief, but believe!" —John 20:27

The conversion of Blessed Charles Foucauld (d. 1916)—one of the most remarkable French priests of the last century—is recounted below. It dates to 1886 when he set out to talk with Father Henri Huvelin. Fr. Huvelin had proved himself a brilliant student and academic. He seemed destined for high office in the Church, but he chose instead the simple life of a parish priest. He was first assigned to Saint-Eugène's, then from 1875 at Saint Augustin's, where he soon became a force in the confessional and in the pulpit. He had the gift of discernment. One of his more noticeable successes was the conversion of the notorious atheist, Littré, on his deathbed. And he was instrumental in the conversion of a young Charles de Foucauld who would be martyred in North Africa in 1916, a heroic witness to Christian charity, and be beatified by Pope Benedict XVI on Nov 13, 2005.



CONVERSION OF SAINT PAUL [detail]
by Caravaggio (d. 1610)

ON October 30, 1886, Charles de Foucauld rose early. He ate no breakfast. His mind aflame, he left his apartment and headed for Saint-Augustin's. A decision had been made. He would meet Father Huvelin. Marie [Marie de Bondy, a close friend and committed Catholic] had advised him to do so, but she mentioned it to no one, since no actual appointment had been made. Charles hoped to see him after one of his lectures. But the priest had recently stopped delivering them, worn out by a nearly fatal attack of bronchitis. Charles then decided to see him anonymously in his confessional, where he could be found before the first Mass.



Since it was very early and the church had just opened, there was as yet no one in the confessional, in the nave's third chapel, on the right. Father Huvelin was there. Charles leaned toward him and, without kneeling, murmured in a voice overcome by emotion: "Father, do not be surprised. I do not come for confession. I do not have the faith. I only wish to learn some things about the Catholic religion."

Father Huvelin fixed his eyes on him: "You do not have the faith. Have you never believed, then?"

"Yes, thirteen years ago. But right now, I am unable to believe. There are all the obstacles of the mysteries, the dogma, the miracles."

"You are mistaken, my son. What is missing now, in order for you to believe, is a pure heart. Go down on your knees, make your confession to God, and you will believe."

"But I have not come for that!"

"That does not matter. Go down on your knees and say the *Confiteor*."

Without really understanding what was happening to him, Charles knelt and confessed at length, covering his entire life. When he would pause, a gentle silence extended over all things, barely disturbed by the soft rustlings of the pious folk gathering in the adjacent chapel to hear early Mass. Finally, the priest granted him absolution: "Deinde te absolvo...."

Charles was filled with joy and a peace he had never thought possible.

"Have you eaten anything?" the priest asked.

"No."

"Receive Communion."

Charles rose to his feet. He felt astonishingly light and at the same time possessed by that incomprehensible joy. In one moment, all his doubts had been swept away. He did not believe, he knew! He headed toward the altar of the Virgin. "*Introibo ad altare Dei*." I shall approach the altar of God. It was as if he had become a child again, the child he had been before the death of his parents. He had found his father again. Then he received the Body of Christ; he would never again be hungry or thirsty.

Yes, astonishing, this conversion. Nothing human involved; it proceeded from the supernatural. Thus Huvelin the theologian stayed in the background. He did not try to convince this very special penitent through arguments addressed to his intelligence. Only God can convert, and he does so by going for the heart. Father Huvelin would give the key to this conversion later in introducing Charles to the abbot of Solesmes: "He makes of religion his love." Father Huvelin saw what others had not seen, even Inès, even Marie, more persuasive in her silences than in the words she must not have failed to address to him in her efforts to convert. He had no need for reasoning, because he had already applied reason to the whole matter. "He needed only one word to catalyze an experience that had reached its culmination." "Make your confession", that is, relinquish yourself, your ego, your pride. "Receive Communion", agree to receive the

One who is Love, by giving yourself to him in return.

"As soon as I came to believe there was a God, I understood that I could not do otherwise than live only for him."

Jean-Jacques Antier, English translation by Julie Shirek Smith, *Charles de Foucauld* (San Francisco: Ignatius Press, 1999), pp. 98-102. Italics added.

The Catechism speaks of two conversions. The first, of renouncing sin, professing faith in Jesus Christ, and accepting baptism. The second, the uninterrupted task of purification and sanctification:

1427 Jesus calls to CONVERSION. This call is an essential part of the proclamation of the kingdom: "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand; repent, and believe in the gospel." In the Church's preaching this call is addressed first to those who do not yet know Christ and his Gospel. Also, Baptism is the principal place for the first and fundamental CONVERSION. It is by faith in the Gospel and by Baptism that one renounces evil and gains salvation, that is, the forgiveness of all sins and the gift of new life.

1428 Christ's call to CONVERSION continues to resound in the lives of Christians. This second CONVERSION is an uninterrupted task for the whole Church who, "clasping sinners to her bosom, [is] at once holy and always in need of purification, [and] follows constantly the path of penance and renewal." This endeavor of CONVERSION is not just a human work. It is the movement of a "contrite heart," drawn and moved by grace to respond to the merciful love of God who loved us first.

1429 St Peter's CONVERSION after he had denied his master three times bears witness to this. Jesus' look of infinite mercy drew tears of repentance from Peter and, after the Lord's resurrection, a threefold affirmation of love for him. The second CONVERSION also has a communitarian dimension, as is clear in the Lord's call to a whole Church: "Repent!"

St Ambrose says of the two CONVERSIONS that, in the Church, "there are water and tears: the water of Baptism and the tears of repentance."

MASS INTENTIONS

Oct 2 (Sat), 5:30 PM	Nancy Zlotek (req. by Yarn Ministry)
Oct 3 (Sun), 8:00 AM	Nancy Zlotek (req. by Tom & Pat Davis)
Oct 3, 10:00 AM	Michael Lyle (req. by Faith Sharing Group)
Oct 3, 6:00 PM	Eric Larochelle (req. by Rita Geringer)
Oct 4 (Mon), 12:15 PM	Deceased clergy of the diocese.

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). Masses with no intention are offered for the Holy Souls in Purgatory.

WEEKLY CALENDAR

3 Oct, SUNDAY — 27th WEEK IN ORDINARY TIME

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

4 Oct, MONDAY

12:15 PM | Daily Mass

5 Oct, TUESDAY

8:00 AM | Red Cross Blood Drive
7:00 PM | Scout Meeting

6 Oct, WEDNESDAY

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

7 Oct, THURSDAY

10:00 AM | "BLESSED IS SHE" Women's Group
12:15 PM | Daily Mass

8 Oct, FRIDAY (Day of Penance)

10:00 AM | Food Pantry (until 12:30)
12:15 PM | Daily Mass (w/ Adoration)

9 Oct, FIRST SATURDAY

8:30 AM | Men's Group
9:30 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 | Mass

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS

3 Oct (Sun) at 5:00 PM

— AMAZON SMILE —

Please consider supporting our St John Neumann FOOD PANTRY whenever you purchase items through AMAZON.COM. This past quarter (Apr-Jun) we received \$102.45 from the AmazonSmile Foundation. To participate, 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.

YARN MINISTRY UPDATE

As of September 29th we began meeting every other Wednesday, 9:30-11:00 AM. Our next gathering is October 13th. We are in dire need of new members so we can continue to serve the needs of the community. Please join us!

Also, our supply closet is empty! DONATIONS are needed and very much appreciated. There is a drop-off bin in the coat closet marked "Yarn". For a prayer shawl, 2-3 "Pounder" skeins are needed. Please help us out. With cold weather around the corner, requests will be great. Without your generosity, we could not exist. THANKS you for your support!

ALL SOULS OFFERING

All Souls is November 2. It is customary to offer prayers for family members and to remember them at Mass throughout the whole of the month. Special envelopes are available in the foyer if you would like to have family members remembered at Mass throughout November. You may place the envelopes in the Collection Basket.

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 you're interested in:

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

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

BABY BOTTLE CAMPAIGN

ST. GIANNA'S PLACE—a home for women in crisis pregnancies located in Hudson—will be holding a "BABY BOTTLE CAMPAIGN". Our

doors have now been open for two years and we've been able to offer a loving, supportive home to 15 women and many babies and children during this short time! Your financial support is greatly appreciated in order to defray the costs of the day-to-day operations and educational programs we offer to our moms. If you would like to help, simply take home a Baby Bottle, fill it with your donation, and return it to the bin in the entrance of the church by October 23rd.

ST. GIANNA'S PLACE is in need of prayer warrior volunteers! From the comfort of your home, we need folks to pray for our moms and babies. Please fill out the tag attached to the Baby Bottle and return it to the bin. Someone will then contact you to be part of our new prayer warrior ministry. With your support, we can change mothers' and their babies' lives through the love and care of this community. THANK YOU!

ST. GIANNA'S HOUSE EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

ATTENTION LADIES: Are you looking to make a difference in this world? Are you committed to prolife? Are you interested in directly serving less advantaged women and their children? Do you have Case Management experience? If so, then ST. GIANNA'S has the job for you. We are currently looking for a full-time Case Manager to work in our Catholic 24-hour transitional-housing home. Our Case Manager is responsible for providing case management, advocacy and support services for pregnant women fleeing homelessness, domestic violence, sexual violence, emotional abuse, and human trafficking. Responsibilities also include supporting and assisting the director in the management of residents, volunteers, and staff. Interested Catholic women should visit our website for full details:

stgiannasplace.org/employment-opportunities

SJN MASSES CONTINUE ONLINE

SUNDAY MASS is live streamed at 10:00 AM on YOUTUBE page. To find us, search for:

"SJN Merrimack NH Mass"

DAILY MASSES (Mon, Wed-Fri) are posted to our FACEBOOK page. Go to:

[https:// www.facebook.com/sjnnh](https://www.facebook.com/sjnnh)

HOLY HOUR

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

DIOCESAN NEWS

FALL WEDDING ANNIVERSARY MASS (17 Oct 2021, St Joseph Cathedral):

Bishop Peter A. Libasci invites all couples celebrating a significant wedding anniversary in 2021 to attend the FALL WEDDING ANNIVERSARY MASS (St Joseph Cathedral, 17 Oct at 2:00 PM). TO REGISTER: please contact the parish office by 22 Sep. Once registration has been completed by the parish office, all registrants will receive an invitation to this special celebration. To all you married couples, congratulations and we look forward to seeing you at this fall's Wedding Anniversary Mass!

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Welcome Back to Mass

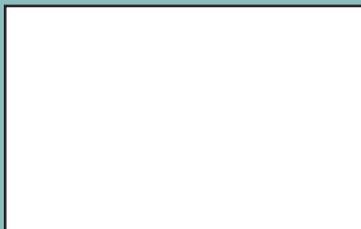


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