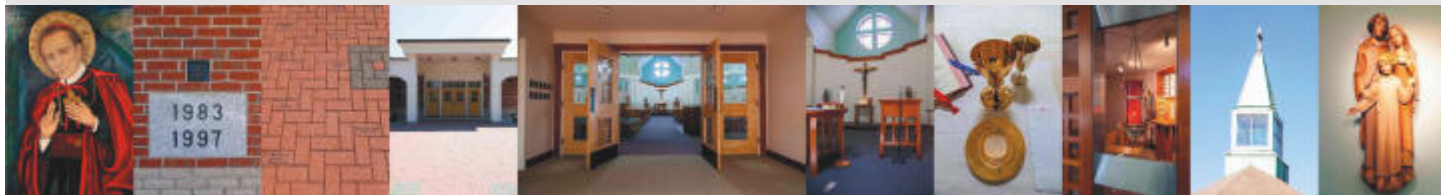


SAINT JOHN NEUMANN PARISH

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



30th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
October 24, 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.

ON CHARITY

Religion that is pure and undefiled before God is this: to care for orphans and widows in their affliction and to keep oneself unstained by the world. —James 1:27

In the words of St Robert Bellarmine (d. 1621), "the school of Christ is the school of charity". The Catechism (#1825) teaches: "The Lord asks us to love as he does, even our enemies, to make ourselves the neighbor of those farthest away, and to love children and the poor as Christ himself." Faith compels us to do this, and only faith makes it possible. By way of example, the first excerpt below is from an early *Life* of St Francis of Assisi (d. 1226). The second is from St Don Bosco's (d. 1888) autobiography Memoirs of the Oratory.



SAINT FRANCIS OF ASSISI
by Simone Martini (d. 1344)

AT that time three notorious robbers were in the district called Monte Casale, and they perpetrated many evil deeds in the neighborhood. One day they came to the House of the brethren and asked the guardian, Brother Angelo, to give them some food.

The guardian answered them as follows, reproving them harshly: "You robbers and cruel murderers, you are not ashamed to rob the fruit of other men's labors and now you would dare to devour the very alms given to the servants of God! You are not worthy that the earth should carry you, for you have no reverence, neither for men nor for God who created you. Get away to your business, and do not show yourselves again here!" Thereupon they went away perturbed and in high



dudgeon [i.e., highly resentful].

And then St Francis returned with a bag full of bread and a vessel of wine, which had been given to him and his companion outside.

When the guardian told him how he had chased away the robbers, St Francis reprimanded him severely, saying: "You have behaved in a cruel manner, and sinners are brought back to God far better by kindness than by cruel reproofs; therefore our Lord Jesus Christ, whose Gospel we have vowed to observe, says that the whole have no need of a physician, only the infirm, and that He had not come to call the just, but to call the sinners to repentance, and for that reason He would often eat with their. Because of this thing, then, which you have done against charity and against the Holy Gospel of Christ, I command you by holy obedience that you immediately take this bag of bread I have been given, and this vessel of wine, and follow there carefully over the hills and valleys until you find them, and offer them all this bread and wine as a gift from me, and then kneel down before them and confess to them the sin of your cruelty with humility. Then entreat them in my name to do no more ill, but to fear God and not offend their neighbor, and if they will do that, I promise to provide for their needs and to give them food and drink continually. And when you have told them that, return here in all humility."

While the said guardian was on his way to carry out the command of St Francis, the holy father entered into prayer and entreated the Lord to soften the hearts of those robbers and convert them to penitence. The obedient guardian arrived before them and presented the bread and the wine to them, doing and saying as St Francis had bidden him.

And as it pleased God, while these robbers were consuming the alms of St Francis, they began to say to each other: "Woe to us miserable unfortunate men, what terrible torments await us in hell.... Truly, these friars are saints of God, who deserve to enter Paradise...." These and similar words were spoken by one of them, and the other two said: "For sure, you are speaking the truth, but look, what are we to do?"

"Let us go," said he, "to St Francis, and if he gives us hope that we may find mercy with God for our sins, let us do what he commands, then we can free and save our souls from the torments of hell."

The others were pleased with this advice, and so they agreed all three and came in haste to St Francis and said to him: "Father, because of the many and terrible sins that we have committed, we do not think we can find mercy with God; but if you have any hope that God would receive us mercifully, see, we are ready to do what you tell us and to do penitence with you."

Then St Francis, receiving them charitably and with loving kindness, comforted them with many examples and assured them of the infinite mercy of God, saying that if we had unlimited sins, God's mercy would still be greater, and quoting the Gospel; and he told them how the Apostle, St Paul, had said: "Christ, the blessed One, came into the world to save sinners." And by these words and similar admonitions the three robbers were moved to

renounce the devil and all his works, and St Francis received them into the Order, and they began to do great penitence.

NOW it happened that late one rainy evening in May [1847] a lad of fifteen showed up soaked to the skin. He asked for bread and shelter. My mother took him into the kitchen and put him near the fire; while he warmed himself and dried his clothes, she fed him a bowl of soup and some bread. As he ate, I asked him whether he had gone to school, whether he had family, and what kind of work he did.

"I'm a poor orphan," he answered me. "I've come from the Sesia valley to look for work. I had three francs with me, but I spent them before I could earn anything. Now I have nothing left and no one to turn to."

"Have you been admitted to first communion?"

"I haven't been admitted yet."

"And confirmation?"

"I haven't received it yet."

"Have you been to confession?" "I've gone a few times."

"Now where do you want to go?"

"I don't know. For charity's sake, let me stay in some corner of the house tonight."

At this point he broke down and cried. My mother cried with him. I was moved.

"If I could be sure you weren't a thief, I would try to put you up. But other boys stole some of the blankets and you might take the rest of them."

"Oh, no, Sir. You needn't worry about that. I'm poor, but I've never stolen anything."

"If you wish," replied my mother, "I will put him up for tonight, and tomorrow God will provide."

"Where?" I asked.

"Here in the kitchen."

"You're risking even your pots."

"I'll see that it doesn't happen."

"Go ahead, then."

The good woman, helped by the little orphan, went out and collected some bricks. With these she built four little pillars in the kitchen. On them she laid some boards and threw a big sack on top, thereby making the first bed in the Oratory.

My good mother gave the boy a little talk on the necessity of work, of trustworthiness, and of religion. Finally she invited him to say his prayers.

"I don't know any," he answered.

"You can say them with us," she told him. And so he did. That all might be secure, the kitchen was locked, and opened only in the morning.

That was the first youngster at our hospice. Very soon we had a companion for him, and then others. But during that year, lack of space

prevented us from taking more than two. So passed 1847.

MASS INTENTIONS

Oct 23 (Sat), 5:30 PM	Nancy Zlotek (by Diane Sizemore)
Oct 24 (Sun), 8:00 AM	Nancy Zlotek (by Diane Sizemore)
Oct 24, 10:00 AM	Nancy Zlotek (by Diane Sizemore)
Oct 24, 6:00 PM	SJN Parishioners
Oct 25 (Mon), 12:15 PM	Deceased clergy of the diocese
Oct 27 (Wed)	Jeannette Walters (req. by Faith Sharing Group)
Oct 28 (Thu)	Enzo, Maria & Teresa Baffoni (req. by family)

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

24 Oct, SUNDAY — 30th WEEK IN ORDINARY TIME

8:00 AM | Mass
10:00 AM | Mass
6:00 PM | Mass
7:00 PM | Adoration

25 Oct, MONDAY

12:15 PM | Daily Mass

26 Oct, TUESDAY

7:00 PM | Scout Meeting

27 Oct, WEDNESDAY

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

28 Oct, THURSDAY

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

29 Oct, FRIDAY (Day of Penance)

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

30 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

"RETURN VIDEO COURSE"

Half of young Americans who were raised Catholic no longer identify as Catholic today. Roughly eight in ten (79%) who shed their faith leave before age 23. Few experiences cause more despair than having a child leave the Church. Most parents feel helpless. They're desperate to draw their child back to the Church, but they don't know what to do. We need to understand the landscape and the real reasons why our young people drift away. Then, once we understand the problem, we need a game plan to bring them home. That's precisely what the "RETURN Video Course" will give you.

<https://youtu.be/qeD6zVEhmMc>

How to Draw Young People Back to the Church
w/ Bp. Robert Barron and Brandon Vogt

<https://youtu.be/MPybe4Evj0s>

An Interview with Brandon Vogt, Author of Return:
How to Draw Your Child Back to the Church

Trunk or Treat

Friday, October 29th.

SJN Parking lot opens at 5:00 PM, Trunk-or-Treat starts at 6:00 PM. All are welcome! Decorate the trunk of your car.

Costumed children walk through the parking lot, stopping at cars that've decorated trunks and receiving candy.



PARISH HARVEST DINNER

Nov 6, following the 5:30 PM Mass.

TICKETS available

after Sunday Masses Oct 24 & 31.

PARISH NEWS

The parish uses Flocknotes to keep members updated. To receive emails and/or text messages, see below. Unsubscribe any time. Choose to get updates from just the groups you're interested in.

Visit > <https://SJNMERRIMACK.flocknote.com>
Text > "SJNMERRIMACK" to 84576 (message and data rates may apply)

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.

DID YOU KNOW?

Did you know? The Diocese of Manchester requires all those who work with children and youth in our parishes, schools, and camps to complete "SAFE ENVIRONMENT" training. This training teaches adults to recognize and report suspected abuse and boundary violations. Training is also offered free of charge to all NH Catholic adults and is available online at:

<<https://manchester.cmgconnect.org>>

For more information about child safety, visit www.catholicnh.org/safety.

RESPECT LIFE CONTEST



The New Hampshire KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS is once again sponsoring a STUDENT RESPECT LIFE ESSAY CONTEST. The contest is open to any Junior High (grades 6-8) and Senior High (grades 9-12) student in New Hampshire. The New Hampshire Knights of Columbus will provide up to six cash awards of \$100 each. Visit www.catholicnh.org/koc-respectlife for more information.

SAINT GIANNA'S PLACE

"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 31st.

— 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.

SJN Staff

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PASTORAL COUNCIL
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FINANCE COMMITTEE
Bob Fregault (Chairman)

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