

SAINT JOHN NEUMANN PARISH

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



33rd SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
November 14, 2021

Fr. Robert Glasgow
Pastor
Chaplain (LTC) USA, Ret.
880-4689 x113, pastor@sjnnh.org

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.

Q. How does the Catechism define a miracle?
[See answer below.]

ON MIRACLES

They will pick up serpents [with their hands], and if they drink any deadly thing, it will not harm them. They will lay hands on the sick, and they will recover. —Mark 16:18

The short excerpt below is from William F. Buckley's article "On God, Miracles, and Communal Spirit" (National Review, 9 Aug 1993). He first details the rigorous process at Lourdes for investigating miracles, and then recounts one of the "fewer than 100 cures" certified as miraculous.



GROTTO OF MASSABIELLE
Sanctuary of Our Lady of Lourdes, France

ON the extraordinary occasion when the Bureau, after exhaustive investigation, places a stamp of approval on the claims of a "cure," it is saying formally that there is no known or hypothetical scientific explanation for the physical transformation the doctors have documented. The case goes then to a second medical examining body, an international committee whose headquarters are in Paris. If this body concurs, that validation is then referred to a canonical commission in the diocese in which the candidate lives; and the skepticism here is not only scientific but theological: The Church has almost always been the last to believe that a miracle actually took place, but of course prepared to believe that what took place was a miracle. In this respect the Church learns from Thomas, who declined to believe in the Resurrection until the palpability of Christ's wounds was experienced. Do not ask the ecclesiastical tribunal at Lourdes to



acclaim that you have been miraculously cured (unless you have been). You would have better luck at that bank in London that continues to store remnants of the Czar's treasury announcing yourself as Anastasia.

Fewer than one hundred "cures" have been certified by the Church as miraculous. This number is drastically smaller than the number of "cures" plausibly claimed by men and women who have traveled to Lourdes but who for whatever reason (they did not care; they had not kept records; their local doctors would not cooperate) didn't submit to the rigorous examinations required; or else did so, and did not pass these tests. Ms. Cranston—see Ruth Cranston, *Miracles of Lourdes*, 3rd Revised Edition (Galilee Trade: 1 Jan 1988) —, who spent many years in residence at Lourdes and engaged in meticulous record-keeping, estimates at 10,000 the number who have declared themselves cured. But even if her calculations are correct, that leaves us with one cure per ten or 15 thousand pilgrims. The odds, one supposes without actually going to statistical archives, are not very different from what one might expect on buying a lottery ticket. People go to Lourdes for other reasons, and if my own experience is representative, they leave profoundly affected.

The book by Ms. Cranston gives the record, as noted, of many documented cures. I select one, not because it is singular but because it is, in essential respects, typical. Marie Bailly was a patient of a French doctor who, when finally he complied with the family request that he accompany his patient to Lourdes, wrote down, for the record, what would be the transformation he would need to see before acknowledging that any cure had taken place. He confronted, first, a general question: What kind of ailment would qualify as miraculously treated? His answer: "An organic disease: a cancer disappearing; a bone regrown; a congenital dislocation vanishing."

He went on in his notes to describe the plight of his patient, a young woman in the last stages of tuberculous peritonitis. "I know her history," he recorded. "Her whole family died of tuberculosis. She has had tubercular sores, lesions of the lungs, and now, for the past few months, peritonitis diagnosed by both a general practitioner and the well-known Bordeaux surgeon, Bromilloux. Her condition is very grave. She may die right under my nose. If such a case were cured, it would indeed be a miracle."

One hour before Marie Bailly was carried to the grotto, he examined her yet again at one of the adjacent hospitals, remarking in his notes her white, emaciated face, her galloping pulse — 150 to the minute — the distended abdomen, the ears and nails turning blue. He told the Sisters, "She may last a few more days, but she is doomed. Her heart is giving out. Death is very near."

The doctor accompanied Marie Bailly to the grotto. There he saw her face change color, losing its ashen hue. Her swollen abdomen flattened out under the blanket. Her pulse became calm and regular. She requested a glass of milk. Her respiration had become normal. Mrs. Cranston records the doctor's reaction. "The sweat broke out on his forehead. He felt as though someone had struck him on the head. His own heart began to pump furiously. It was the most 'momentous thing' he had ever seen."

The doctor roused himself from his trance and took his patient back to the hospital, where he examined her in the company of three other doctors. They confirmed what he knew already from his intimate knowledge of her case. His patient had been — cured. The doctor told a colleague. "When one reads about such things one cannot help suspecting some kind of charlatanism. But here is a cure I have seen with my own eyes. I have seen an apparently chronic invalid restored to health and normal life ... Such cures cannot be brought about by natural means."

LAST WEEK

Attendance 370 / Offering \$6,917.50

Thank you for your generosity!

MASS INTENTIONS

Nov 13 (Sat), 5:30 PM	Reggie Dupre (req. by Knitting Ministry)
Nov 14 (Sun), 8:00 AM	SJN Parishioners
Nov 14, 10:00 AM	Warren G. Hunt (req. by Linda & Michael Johnson)
Nov 14, 6:00 PM	Holy Souls
Nov 15 (Mon), 12:15 PM	Deceased clergy of the diocese
Nov 19 (Fri), 12:15 PM	Nancy Drew (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). **Masses with no intention are offered for the Holy Souls in Purgatory.**

WEEKLY CALENDAR

14 Nov, SUNDAY — 32nd WEEK IN ORDINARY TIME

8:00 AM | Mass

10:00 AM | Mass

6:00 PM | Mass

7:00 PM | Adoration

15 Nov, MONDAY

12:15 PM | Daily Mass

16 Nov, TUESDAY

7:00 PM | Scout Meeting

17 Nov, WEDNESDAY

9:30 AM | Knitting Group (meets every other Wednesday)

10:00 AM | Faith Sharing

10:00 AM | "Return" Video Course
12:15 PM | Daily Mass
6:30 PM | "Return" Video Course (Repeat)

18 Nov, THURSDAY

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

19 Nov, FRIDAY (Day of Penance)

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

20 Nov, 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



THANK YOU!

On behalf of the parish, I'd like to THANK the Parish Council and the Knights of Columbus for hosting this year's Parish Harvest Dinner!

CHOIR REHEARSALS

The SEASONAL CHOIR continues to meet Tuesday evenings, 7-9 PM.

The CHILDREN'S CHOIR will meet Sunday mornings starting November 28, 9:00-9:45 AM.

CANTATA rehearsals will meet on Sundays starting November 28, time TBD (it will be either 11:30 AM or 4:00 PM).

"RETURN" VIDEO COURSE

Wednesdays 10:00 AM, and again at 6:30 PM

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



EVANGELIZATION COMMITTEE

Related to the above, we'd like to form an EVANGELIZATION COMMITTEE in the parish. The whole purpose of parish life is to make Christ the center of our lives. In the words of St [Mother] Teresa of Calcutta, "To EVANGELIZE means you have Jesus in your heart, and then you carry Him to the heart of others." To do this effectively is a whole-of-the-parish task. Please consider helping in some way.

Of EVANGELIZATION, Pope St Paul VI said:

"The presentation of the Gospel message is not an optional contribution for the Church. It is the duty incumbent on her by the command of the Lord Jesus, so that people can believe and be saved. This message is indeed necessary. It is unique. It cannot be replaced. It does not permit either indifference, syncretism or accommodation. It is a question of people's salvation. It is able to stir up by itself faith, faith that rests on the power of God. It is truth. It merits having the apostle consecrate to it all his time and all his energies, and to sacrifice for it, if necessary, his own life." —EVANGELII NUNTIANDI, 5.

"Evangelizing is, in fact, the grace and vocation proper to the Church, her deepest identity. She exists in order to evangelize." —EVANGELII NUNTIANDI, 14.

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://SJMERRIMACK.flocknote.com>
Text > "SJMERRIMACK" to 84576 (message and data rates may apply)

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.

Dear Father Glasgow,

It is with a grateful heart that I say "thank you" on behalf of the moms and babies who reside at our home. The parishioners of St John Neumann donated \$3,474 which will help defray the costs of running our home and help us provide the necessities for our residents. Our mom's lives are able to be transformed through the programming and structure of St. Gianna's as well as with your continued prayers.

Thank you and may God bless you!

For life,
LIZ NEVILLE
Co-founder
St. Gianna's Place

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.

- A. The Glossary of the Catechism defines miracle as: "A sign or wonder, such as a healing or the control of nature, which can only be attributed to divine power."

— 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

Steve De Beradinis (President)

FINANCE COMMITTEE

Bob Fregault (Chairman)

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

Leo Bobek, Grand Knight
lboek63@gmail.com

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