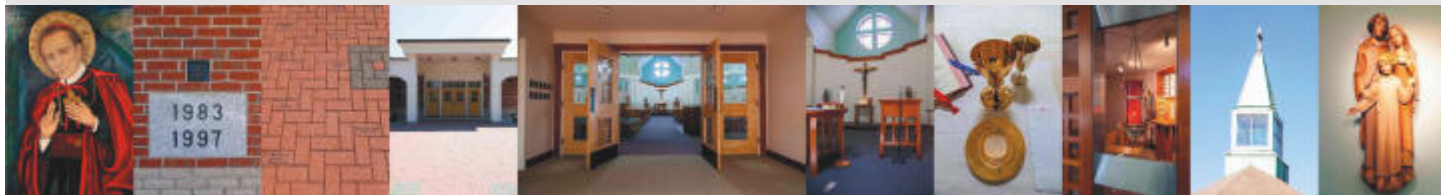


SAINT JOHN NEUMANN PARISH

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



EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

January 2, 2022

Fr. Robert Glasgow

Pastor

Chaplain (LTC) USA, Ret.

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Eileen Buckley

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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.

LIGHT TO THE NATIONS

Rise up in splendor! Your light has come ... Nations shall walk by your light, and kings by your shining radiance. —Isaiah 60:1-3

The following is an excerpt from Pope Benedict XVI's homily on the Feast of Epiphany (6 Jan 2006), the first full year of his pontificate. Italics added.



JOURNEY OF THE MAGI
by Stefano di Giovanni (d. 1450)

IN the liturgy of the Christmas season this verse of Psalm 98 frequently recurs as a refrain: "The Lord has made his salvation known: in the sight of the nations he has revealed his justice" (v. 2).

These are words that the Church uses to emphasize the "epiphanic" dimension of the Incarnation: the Son of God becoming human, his entry into history, is the crowning point of God's revelation of himself to Israel and to all the peoples. In the Child of Bethlehem, God revealed himself in the humility of the "human form", in the "form of a slave", indeed, of one who died on a cross (cf. Phil 2:6-8). This is the Christian paradox.

Indeed, this very concealment constitutes the most eloquent "manifestation" of God. The humility, poverty, even the ignominy of the Passion enable us to know what God is truly like. The Face of the Son faithfully reveals that of the Father. This is why the mystery of Christmas is, so to speak, an entire "epiphany". The manifestation to the Magi does not add something foreign to God's design but unveils a perennial and constitutive dimension of it, namely, that "in Christ Jesus the Gentiles are now coheirs ... members of the same body and sharers of the promise through ... the Gospel" (Eph



3:6).

At a superficial glance, God's faithfulness to Israel and his manifestation to the peoples could seem divergent aspects; they are actually two sides of the same coin. In fact, according to the Scriptures, it is precisely by remaining faithful to his Covenant of love with the people of Israel that God also reveals his glory to other peoples. Grace and fidelity (cf. Ps 89:2), "mercy and truth" (cf. Ps 85:11), are the content of God's glory, they are his "name", destined to be known and sanctified by people of every language and nation.

However, this "content" is inseparable from the "method" that God chose to reveal himself, that is, absolute fidelity to the Covenant that reaches its culmination in Christ. The Lord Jesus, at the same time and inseparably, is "a light revealing to the Gentiles the glory of your people Israel" (Luke 2:32), as the elderly Simeon was to exclaim, inspired by God, taking the Child in his arms when his parents presented him at the temple. The light that enlightens the peoples—the light of the Epiphany—shines out from the glory of Israel—the glory of the Messiah born, in accordance with the Scriptures, in Bethlehem, "the city of David" (cf. Luke 2:4).

The Magi worshiped a simple Child in the arms of his Mother Mary, because in him they recognized the source of the twofold light that had guided them: the light of the star and the light of the Scriptures. In him they recognized the King of the Jews, the glory of Israel, but also the King of all the peoples.

The mystery of the Church and her missionary dimension are also revealed in the liturgical context of the Epiphany. She is called to make Christ's light shine in the world, reflecting it in herself as the moon reflects the light of the sun.

The ancient prophecies concerning the holy city of Jerusalem, such as the marvelous one in Isaiah that we have just heard: "Rise up in splendor! Your light has come ... Nations shall walk by your light, and kings by your shining radiance" (Isa 60:1-3), have found fulfillment in the Church.

This is what disciples of Christ must do: trained by him to live in the way of the Beatitudes, they must attract all people to God through a witness of love: "In the same way, your light must shine before men so that they may see goodness in your deeds and give praise to your heavenly Father" (Mt 5:16). By listening to Jesus' words, we members of the Church cannot but become aware of the total inadequacy of our human condition, marked by sin.

The Church is holy, but made up of men and women with their limitations and errors. It is Christ, Christ alone, who in giving us the Holy Spirit is able to transform our misery and constantly renew us. He is the light of the peoples who has chosen to illumine the world through his Church (cf. *Lumen Gentium*, n. 1).

"How can this come about?", we also ask ourselves with the words that the Virgin addresses to the Archangel Gabriel. And she herself, the Mother of Christ and of the Church, gives us the answer: with her example of total availability to God's will—"be it done to me according to your word" (Luke 1:38)—she teaches us to be a

"manifestation" of the Lord, opening our hearts to the power of grace and faithfully abiding by the words of her Son, light of the world and the ultimate end of history.

So be it!

EPIPHANY PROCLAMATION

In accord with ancient custom, the date of Easter is formally announced on the Feast of Epiphany. The number of Sundays that follow Epiphany, the date of Ash Wednesday [the beginning of Lent], and the number of Sundays that follow Pentecost are all computed in relation to Easter.



Dear brothers and sisters, the glory of the Lord has shone upon us, and shall ever be manifest among us, until the day of his return. Through the rhythms of times and seasons let us celebrate the mysteries of salvation.

Let us recall the year's culmination, the EASTER TRIDUUM OF THE LORD: his last supper, his crucifixion, his burial, and his rising celebrated between the evening of the 14th day of April and the evening of the 16th day of April, EASTER SUNDAY being on the 17th day of April.

Each Easter—as on each Sunday—the Holy Church makes present the great and saving deed by which Christ has for ever conquered sin and death. From Easter are reckoned all the days we keep holy.

ASH WEDNESDAY, the beginning of Lent, will occur on the 2nd day of March.

The ASCENSION OF THE LORD will be commemorated on Thursday, the 26th day of May.

PENTECOST, joyful conclusion of the season of Easter, will be celebrated on the 5th day of June.

And, this year the FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT will be on the 27th day of November.

Likewise the pilgrim Church proclaims the Passover of Christ in the feasts of the holy Mother of God, in the feasts of the Apostles and Saints, and in the commemoration of the faithful departed.

To Jesus Christ, who was, who is, and who is to come, Lord of time and history, be endless praise, for ever and ever.

Amen.

LAST WEEK

Not available at time of printing —
posted at SJNNH.ORG.

Thank you for your generosity!

WEEKLY CALENDAR**2 Jan, SUNDAY — EPIPHANY SUNDAY**

8:00 AM | Mass
10:00 AM | Mass
11:30 AM | *Cantata w/ brunch following
6:00 PM | Mass
7:00 PM | Adoration

3 Jan, MONDAY

12:15 PM | Daily Mass

4 Jan, TUESDAY

7:00 PM | Scout Meeting

5 Jan, WEDNESDAY

9:30 AM | Knitting Group (meets every other
Wednesday)
10:00 AM | Faith Sharing
12:15 PM | Daily Mass

6 Jan, THURSDAY — NOTICE: No daily Mass thru Jan 17th. Daily Mass will resume Jan 19th.

12:15 PM | *No Daily Mass

7 Jan, FRIDAY (Day of Penance)

10:00 AM | Food Pantry
12:15 PM | *No Daily Mass or Adoration

8 Jan, 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 (w/ Visiting Priest)
5:30 PM | 5:30 Mass

MASS INTENTIONS

Jan 1 (Sat), 5:30 PM	Alice Lowney (26th Anniv., req. by Rurkee family)
Jan 2 (Sun), 8:00 AM	SJN Parishioners
Jan 2, 10:00 AM	Private Intention
Jan 2, 6:00 PM	Holy Souls
Jan 3 (Mon), 4:00 PM	Deceased clergy of the diocese
Jan 5 (Wed), 12:15 PM	Richard H. Lee, Jr. (req. by Mary Ellen Brookes)

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).

— DAILY MASS NOTICE —

Fr. Glasgow will be attending a course beginning later this week. There will be no daily Mass from Thursday (Jan 6) thru Monday (Jan 17). Daily Mass will resume on Wednesday, Jan 19.

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)

HOLY HOUR

FRIDAY, following the 12:15 PM daily Mass and SUNDAY, following the 6:00 PM Mass.

Other than Holy Communion, no act of worship pleases God so much as VISITS TO THE BLESSED SACRAMENT. In the words of Pope St Paul VI (d. 1987), "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).

IN MEMORIAM

Donations for Christmas Flower were made in memory of:

Maryann Belanger, William Power, Isabel Ambrose, deceased member of the Neely family, Linda Soucy, Jery L. Bacon, Glenn Scherr, Sheehan-Welch, Fisher-Carleton Families, Sister Maria George, Albert Richard, Raymond and Lurena Lemery, Anna Olexson, Pauline Nadeau, George Ritz, Mary Jane Ritz, Al and Betty Garneau, Margaret Elizabeth Watson, Eric Faucher, Mardik Family, Mary Silveira, Irene and Vic Fournier, Russ and Edna Durkee, Alice and Paul Lowney, Jean and Maurice Gagne, Anthony Buccellat, Gary Pirog, Steve Loughrey, Michaela McLaughlin, Skip DeBeradinis, Frances Van Houten, Bill Doherty and Sean D. Doherty, Bea Lampin, Eleanor Coyne, Steve Mroz, Charboneau and Eno Families, Matthew Harris and Florence and John Neuzil, Larry Hardy, Raymond and Lurena Lemery, Jean and Maurice Gagne, John and Jennie Trella, Kelly Family, Tom Mercier,

Michael Mercier, Larry and Mary Beudeau, Rainy Lill, Joseph DuBois Lucille DuBois, Anna Olexa Pauline Nadeau, Richard Blais, Carmel Arsenault, Lucile Berstein, Theresa Klumpp, Roy Klumpp, Rick Boucher, Dick Boucher, Oderay Quintero, Minerva Arauz, Maurice Chase, George Ritz, Mary Jane Ritz; deceased members of the Maresco and Arnmirate Families, McKee and Fagan Families; Herman and Berry Heteler, Janet Waleigh, Gary and Tara LePore, Alice and Joe Giorano, Baby Rich, Linda Soucy, Anne McCann, Mary McCann, Michael McCann, Jean B. Greene, John J. Greene, James H. Basyer, Richard Allen, Theresa Dowling, the Gallagher Sullivan Family, Blais and Arsenault Families



**V. Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord.
R/. And let perpetual light shine upon them.**

May their souls and the souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen.

— TAX NOTICE —

If you would like a statement of your 2021 contributions to the parish, please fill out the CONTRIBUTIONS REQUEST CARD (located alongside the bulletins in the foyer) and place it in the collection basket. You can also request a statement by emailing us your:

- Name
- Address
- Phone #
- Envelope #

Statements will go out in February. Your financial support, especially during the past few months, has been very much appreciated!

— AMAZON SMILE —

Please consider supporting our St John Neumann FOOD PANTRY whenever you purchase items through AMAZON.COM. This past quarter (Jul-Sep) we received \$81.93 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.

BIBLE IN A YEAR

Join Fr. Mike Schmitz beginning January 1, 2022 whose 365 daily BIBLE IN A YEAR podcasts will guide you through the Bible (each episode is about 20-25 minutes). There is no cost, although Ascension Press offers materials in support of the Bible study. For more information:

ascensionpress.com/bibleinayear

To receive the reading list:

ascensionpress.com/pages/biy-registration

Tune in and live your daily life through the lens of God's word!

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