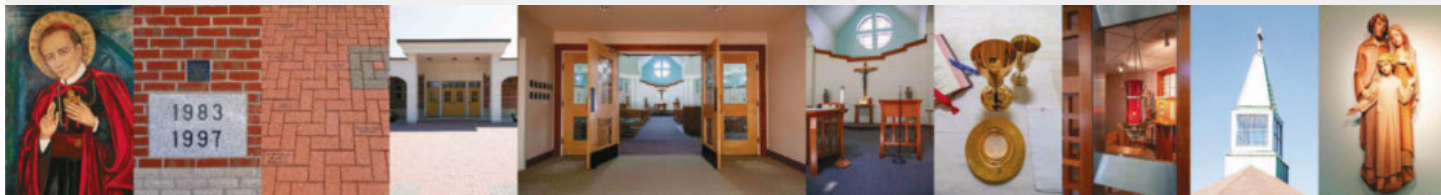


# SAINT JOHN NEUMANN PARISH

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



4th SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME  
January 30, 2022

**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

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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.

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## 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.

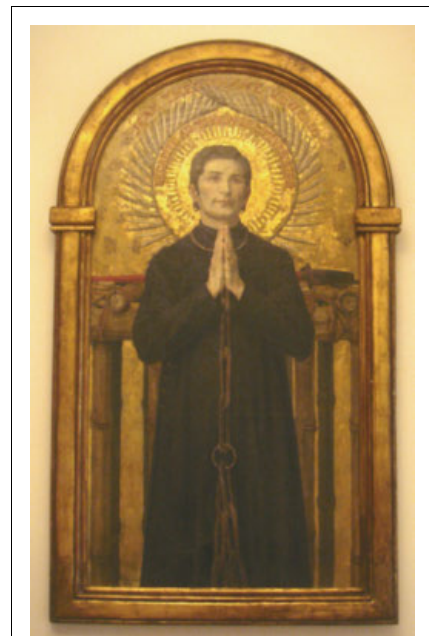
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## MISSIONARY ACTIVITY

THE GREAT COMMISSION. "Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you." —Mt 28:19-20

Théophane Vénard (1829-1861) had long dreamt of being a missionary. From the moment he was ordained in 1851, his most ardent desire was for Tonkin [Vietnam]. "The mission in Tonkin is the envied mission, since it offers the shortest means to go to Heaven. Oh! If only one day I, too, were called to offer my blood as a witness to the faith!" He left France in 1852 and arrived in China in 1853. Twenty-two months after he'd left France, Vénard arrived in Vinh-Tri, the center of the vicariate of West Tonkin. He was martyred on February 2, 1861 —he was canonized by Pope John Paul II on June 19, 1988.



ST THÉOPHANE VÉNARD IN CHAINS  
Paris Foreign Missions Society

The second excerpt is from a letter written by Fr. Jerome Harran in 1726 to the Prince of Asturias [Spain] describing missionary activity in Paraguay, South America.

ON Monday, March 3, 1851, Théophane Vénard arrived at the Seminary for the Foreign Missions. Having traveled by train for the first time, he had arrived in Paris and called a hackney. "I told the cabman: 128 rue du Bac. In less than an hour I had arrived. How my heart was beating!" The Seminary for the Foreign Missions was already called "the seminary of martyrs." Cardinal Touchet had given it the title "The Polytechnic of



Martyrdom" in a famous speech in Rome in 1908. The expression caused a sensation.

In the 17th century François Pallu, principal founder of the foreign missions, had already written, after having reached the Indies by the land route at a high cost in loss of life among his company: "Here is the bridge begun; we are only too happy if our bodies serve as the pilings on which to build a firm path, wide open to brave missionaries." This spirit prevailed at the Seminary for the Foreign Missions when Théophile Vénard arrived. There were no doubts about anything. Already having the charge of the interior of China, where, between the mandarins and the bandits, even the notion of security was unknown, and of Vietnam, where any missionary discovered was automatically tortured, the foreign missions agreed in 1831 to take on Korea, where the situation was identical to that in Vietnam; and Japan, of which nothing was known. In 1838, they took on the North of China, in 1846, the south of China. The most amazing aspect of the situation is that Christianity took hold and developed in these places; the blood of native martyrs, priests, catechists and the faithful mixed with the blood of missionaries. A rush for martyrdom? No. An acceptance of "humanly impossible" missions? Yes.

In 1963—on the occasion of the tricentenary of the foreign missions—Pope Paul VI wrote of the Superior General: "But your most beautiful claim to glory is the martyrs who confessed their faith at the price of their blood. One can truly apply to them the words of Saint Augustine: 'By the death of the martyrs, the Church expands, and the name of Christ is spread among the nations.' We ask you to preserve, intact, this magnificent heritage."

YOU can well imagine, Monsieur, to what efforts an evangelical laborer must give himself up, if he would go in search of these savages in their mountains. "While I was in Europe," writes one of these missionaries, "I thought it would be sufficient to carry in to this missionary field a great zeal for the conversion of souls; but since I have had the happiness to be there, I have learned that it is necessary also to be exercised for a long while in the inward denial of self, in a complete separation from all things here below, in the mortification of the senses, in a contempt for life, and in the surrender of my whole self into the hands of Providence."

When the number of Indians at any settlement in great, two missionaries are ordinarily employed in civilizing and instructing the neophytes in Christian truths. Each year one of them makes excursions of thirty or forty leagues in length to the residence of the savage tribes, to win them for Jesus Christ and to draw them to the settlement. He departs with nothing except his breviary under his left arm and the large crucifix in his right hand, having no other provision than his confidence in God and what he

can find along the way. He is accompanied by twenty or thirty Christian converts, who act as guides and interpreters, and who sometimes discharge the duty of preachers. With their aid, with a hatchet in his hand, he clears for himself a passage through the dense forests. If, as often happens, he finds himself on the borders of lakes or marshes which have to be crossed, he is always the one who marches ahead of the others, the water up to his waist, encouraging them by his example to follow him. He is the first to climb the steep rocky slopes and cliffs. He is the first to penetrate into caves, at the risk of finding wild beasts there, instead of the Indians he is seeking.

In the midst of these fatigues he often has, for his entire support, only some handfuls of Indian corn, some roots, or some of the wild fruits which they call motaqi. Often he can find nothing to quench his thirst save the dew gathered from the leaves of trees. I do not speak of the constant danger of losing his life by the hands of the Indians who sometimes lie in ambush, armed with arrows and clubs, ready to beat to death the unwary who come into their country and are looked upon by them as enemies. We must acknowledge, however, the particular protection of God, who watched for their safety and for the wants of every missionary. It happened more than once that, when they found themselves reduced to extreme necessity, that the game and the fish came as it were of their own accord, to present themselves to the Indians who formed their party. At other times, when the savages were most hostile to the missionary who had placed himself in their power, they suddenly changed their cruel plans, or the strength left them at the moment and their enfeebled arms were unable to discharge the arrows which would have brought death.

But however painful and dangerous these journeys might be, the Gospel laborer found himself fully recompensed for his pains and sufferings when he returned in triumph to the settlement, accompanied by three or four hundred Indians, with the hope of gaining the next year many more who, more defiant and fearing the missionary had come to deceive them and make them slaves, would not acquiesce before they had sent some of their people to the settlement to see what was taking place there and to return then with an account. What a consolation for him to find himself again in the midst of his dear neophytes, whose number had been increased by his solicitude, and to be once more in the place where, because of the pious liberality of persons who have interested themselves in the conversion of so many savage tribes, he has the opportunity to regain his strength so that he may apply himself with renewed zeal to the task!

It is certain that these labors surpassed human

strength, and that it would not have been possible to cope with them if one had not been sustained by a strength divinely given. It is not less astonishing that we can count among all the great number of missionaries who toiled for so many years in these laborious missions only three or four who were overcome by the fatigues incident to their work. The larger part, after having worked for twenty-five or thirty years, retained as much strength and vigor as those who in Europe enjoyed all the conveniences of life. Such a one was Father Jean Baptiste de Zea, who passed the greater part of his life in teaching these savage tribes and who, at the age of sixty-five years, did not appear to be more than forty.

### LAST WEEK

3rd Sunday Ordinary Time (23 Jan): \$5,861.00

Thank you for your generosity!

### WEEKLY CALENDAR

30 Jan, SUNDAY — 4th Week of Ordinary Time

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

31 Jan, MONDAY

12:15 PM | Daily Mass

1 Feb, TUESDAY

7:00 PM | Scout Meeting

2 Feb, WEDNESDAY

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

3 Feb, THURSDAY — Feast of St Blaise

12:15 PM | Daily Mass w/ BLESSING OF THROATS

4 Feb, FIRST FRIDAY (Day of Penance)

10:00 AM | Food Pantry  
12:15 PM | Daily Mass and Adoration

6 Feb, FIRST SATURDAY

8:30 AM | Men's Group  
8:45 AM | Rosary  
9:00 AM | Mass  
9:00 AM | Divine Mercy Cenacle (1st & 3rd Sat)  
9:30 AM | Widow's Group (2nd Sat of month)  
4:00 PM | Confession  
5:30 PM | 5:30 Mass

### MASS INTENTIONS

Jan 29 (Sat), 5:30 PM Holy Souls  
Jan 30 (Sun), 10:00 AM Donald Vanecek (req. by Pauline Atkinson & family)  
Jan 30, 10:00 AM SJN Parishioners  
Jan 30, 6:00 PM Deceased priests 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).

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

#### 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](https://ascensionpress.com/bibleinayear)

To receive the reading list:

[ascensionpress.com/pages/biy-registration](https://ascensionpress.com/pages/biy-registration)

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

#### YOUTH PASSION PLAY

Calling all youth in Grades 6-12 to join in this year's Passion Play! If enough are interested, weekly rehearsals will be 11:00 AM-to-Noon beginning Feb 6th. Contact our parish Youth Minister, Cheri Andersen at [youth@sjnnh.org](mailto:youth@sjnnh.org) for more information or to sign up.

#### PARISH NEWS

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

#### — 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 SJO FOOD PANTRY.

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KATHY HOPKINS  
Day Away (Thursday)  
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dayaway@sjnnh.org

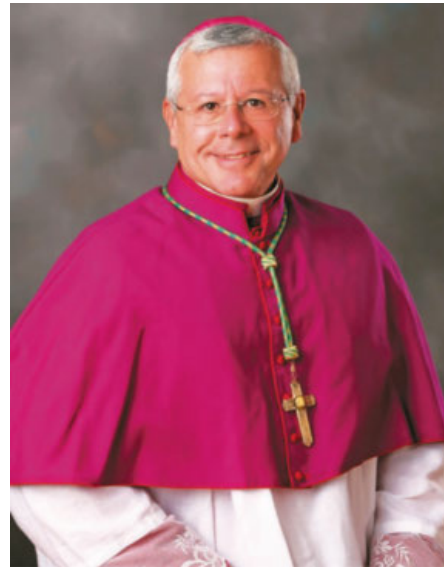
PASTORAL COUNCIL  
Steve De Beradinis (President)

FINANCE COMMITTEE  
Bob Fregault (Chairman)

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

Leo Bobek, Grand Knight

lbobek63@gmail.com



The Most Reverend  
**Peter Anthony Libasci, D.D.**  
*Tenth Bishop of Manchester*

*Installed Bishop of Manchester December 8, 2011*



O God, eternal shepherd of the faithful,  
who tend your Church in countless ways  
and rule over her in love,  
grant, we pray, that Peter, your servant,  
whom you have set over your people,  
may preside in the place of Christ  
over the flock whose shepherd he is,  
and be faithful as a teacher of doctrine,  
a Priest of sacred worship  
and as one who serves them by governing.  
Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,  
who lives and reigns with you  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

- Collect from the Mass on the  
Anniversary of the Ordination of the Bishop -

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The Most Reverend Peter Anthony Libasci, D.D.  
*Tenth Bishop of Manchester*

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