

SAINT JOHN NEUMANN PARISH

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



4th SUNDAY OF ADVENT December 20, 2020

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 (Outdoor) 4:00 PM
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

Sunday 11:15 AM - 1:00 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.

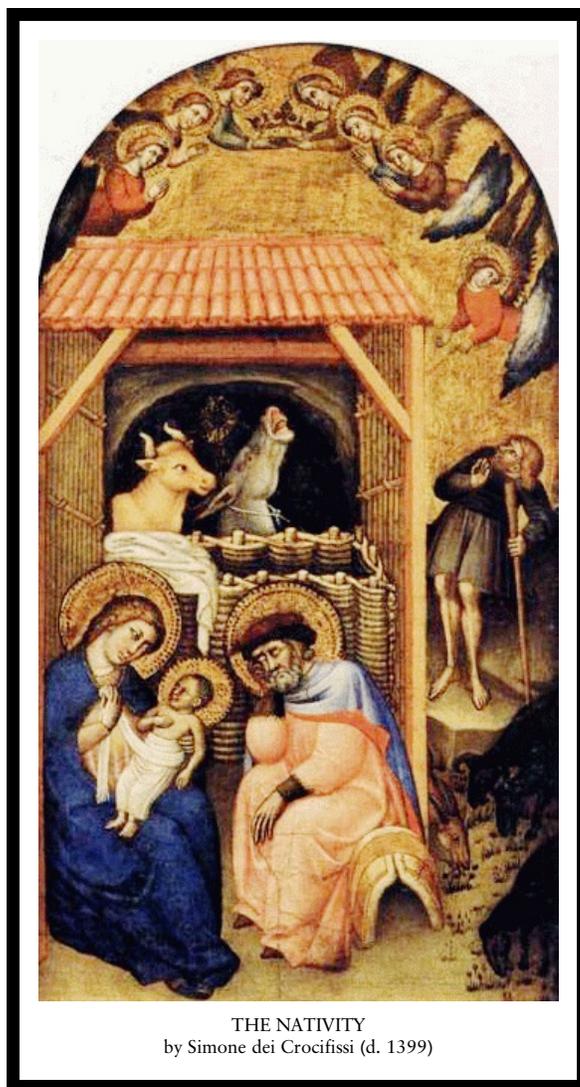
RITE OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION

RCIA is the process of formation offered to those who seek to become Catholic. For information, please call the office.

THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD

Good news and great joy to all the world:
today is born the savior, Christ the Lord! —Luke 2:10-11

The following is an excerpt from a homily on the Nativity of the Lord by St Augustine (d. 430).



HEAR, O sons of light, who have been received by adoption into the kingdom of God; hear, my very dear brethren; hear and be glad in the Lord, ye just ones, so that praise may become the upright. Hear what you already know; reflect upon what you have heard;



love what you believe; proclaim what you love. Since we are celebrating a great anniversary on this day, you may expect a sermon in keeping with the feast. Christ as God was born of His Father, as Man of His Mother; of the immortality of His Father, of the virginity of His Mother; of His Father without a mother, of His Mother without a father; of His Father without limits of time, of His Mother without seed; of His Father as the source of life, of His Mother as the end of death; of His Father ordering all days, of His Mother consecrating this particular day.

God sent John to earth as His human Precursor so that he was born when the days were becoming shorter while the Lord Himself was born when the days were growing longer, that in this minute detail the subsequent words of this same John might be prefigured: "He must increase, but I must decrease." For human life ought to grow weaker in itself and stronger in Christ, that "they who are alive may live no longer for themselves, but for him who died for all and rose again," and that each one of us may say in the words of the Apostle: "It is now no longer I that live, but Christ lives in me." For "he must increase, but I must decrease."

All His angels worthily praise Him, for He is their everlasting food, nourishing them with an incorruptible feast. He is the Word of God, by whose life they live, by whose eternity they live forever, by whose goodness they live happily forever. They praise Him worthily, as God with God, and they render glory to God on high. May we, "his people and the sheep of his hand," reconciled to Him by our good will, merit peace in consideration of the limited measure of our weakness. For these words to which the angels themselves gave utterance in jubilation at the birth of our Savior are their daily tribute: "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among men of good will." Therefore, they praise Him duly: let us praise Him in obedience. They are His messengers; we, His sheep. He filled their table in heaven; He filled our manger on earth. He is the fullness of their table because "in the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God; and the Word was God." He is the fullness of our manger because "the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us." so that man might eat the Bread of angels the Creator of the angels became man. The angels praise Him by living; we, by believing; they by enjoying, we by seeking; they by obtaining, we by striving to obtain; they by entering, we by knocking.

What human being could know all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge hidden in Christ and concealed under the poverty of His humanity? For, "being rich, he became poor for our sake that by his poverty we might become rich." When He assumed our mortality and overcame death, He manifested Himself in poverty, but He promised riches though they might be deferred; He did not lose them as if they were taken from Him. How great is the multitude of His sweetness which He hides from those who fear Him but which He reveals to those that hope in Him! For we understand only in part until that which is perfect comes to us. To make us worthy of this perfect gift, He, equal to the Father in the form of God, became like to us in the form of a servant, and refashions us into the likeness of

God. The only Son of God, having become the Son of Man, makes many sons of men the sons of God; and on these men, reared as servants, with the visible form of servants, He bestows the freedom of beholding the form of God. For "we are the children of God, and it has not yet appeared what we shall be. We know that, when he appears, we shall be like to him, for we shall see him just as he is." What, then, are those treasures of wisdom and knowledge? What are those divine riches unless they be that which satisfies our longing? And what is that multitude of sweetness unless it be what fills us? "Show us the Father and it is enough for us." Furthermore, in one of the psalms, one of our race, either in our name or for our sake, said to Him: "I shall be satisfied when thy glory shall appear." But He and the Father are one, and the person who sees Him sees the Father also; therefore, "the Lord of hosts, he is the King of Glory." Turning to us, He will show us His face and "we shall be saved"; we shall be satisfied, and He will be sufficient for us.

Therefore, let our heart speak thus to Him; "I have sought thy countenance; thy face, O Lord, will I still seek. Turn not away thy face from me." And let Him reply to the plea of our hearts: "He who loves me keeps my commandments; and he who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I will love him and manifest myself to him." Indeed, those to whom He addressed these words did see Him with their eyes; they heard the sound of His voice with their ears; they regarded Him as a man in their human heart. But, what eye has not seen, what ear has not heard, and what has not entered into the heart of man He promised to show to those who love Him. Until this favor is granted to us, until He shows us what will completely satisfy us, until we drink to satiety of that fountain of life, while we wander about, apart from Him but strong in faith, while we hunger and thirst for justice, longing with an unspeakable desire for the beautiful vision of God, let us celebrate with fervent devotion His birthday in the form of a servant. Since we cannot, as yet, understand that He was begotten by the Father before the day-star, let us celebrate His birth of the Virgin in the nocturnal hours. Since we do not comprehend how His name existed before the light of the sun, let us recognize His tabernacle placed in the sun. Since we do not, as yet, gaze upon the Son inseparably united with His Father, let us remember Him as the "bridegroom coming out of his bride-chamber." Since we are not yet ready for the banquet of our Father, let us grow familiar with the manger of our Lord Jesus Christ.



The formal announcement of the NATIVITY OF THE LORD [[Roman Martyrology](#)] is read or sung before the start of the Christmas Masses:

TODAY, the twenty-fifth day of December, unknown ages from the time when God created the heavens and the earth and then formed man

ANNOUNCEMENTS

and woman in his own image.

Several thousand years after the flood, when God made the rainbow shine forth as a sign of the covenant.

Twenty-one centuries from the time of Abraham and Sarah; thirteen centuries after Moses led the people of Israel out of Egypt.

Eleven hundred years from the time of Ruth and the Judges; one thousand years from the anointing of David as king; in the sixty-fifth week according to the prophecy of Daniel.

In the one hundred and ninety-fourth Olympiad; the seven hundred and fifty-second year from the foundation of the city of Rome.

The forty-second year of the reign of Octavian Augustus; the whole world being at peace, JESUS CHRIST, eternal God and Son of the eternal Father, desiring to sanctify the world by his most merciful coming, being conceived by the Holy Spirit, and nine months having passed since his conception, was born in Bethlehem of Judea of the Virgin Mary.

Today is the nativity of our Lord Jesus Christ according to the flesh.

CHRISTMAS MASSES

- 24 Dec, Vigil Mass (Children's) 5:30 PM
24 Dec, Vigil Mass 7:00 PM
24 Dec, "Midnight" Mass 10:00 PM
25 Dec, Christmas Day Mass 10:00 AM

ADVENT WREATH BLESSING

The following prayer is repeated each day. All four candles are lit.

- V. Our help is in the name of the Lord.
R/. Who made heaven and earth.
V. O God, by whose Word all things are sanctified, pour forth Your blessing upon this wreath and grant that we who use it may prepare our hearts for the coming of Christ and may receive from You abundant graces. We ask this through Christ our Lord.
R/. Amen.
V. O Lord, stir up Thy might, we beg Thee, and come, That by Thy protection we may deserve to be rescued from the threatening dangers of our sins and saved by Thy deliverance. Through Christ our Lord.
R/. Amen.

MASS INTENTIONS

- Dec 19 (Sat), 5:30 PM FOR HEALING: Ginny Early (req. by friends)
Dec 20 (Sun), 10:00 AM Kathleen N. Mogum (req. by Margaret & Bill O'Neill); Mario Lopez (req. by Barbara & Gail Dunn)
Dec 20, 6:00 PM Barbara Thurston (req. by Barbara & Gail Dunn)
Dec 21 (Mon), 6:00 PM John Snyder (req. by the Connolly Family)
Dec 24 (Thu), 4:00 PM John & Lorraine Berube (req. by Mark & Joanne Kenna)
Dec 24, 5:30 PM Eugene Mooney (req. by family)
Dec 24, 7:00 PM Eugene Mooney (req. by family)
Dec 24, 10:00 PM Joseph Krynski (req. by family)
Dec 25 (Fri), 10:00 AM Anne McCain (req. by her husband, John & 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).

MEMORIAL CHRISTMAS FLOWERS

Those who receive offering envelopes will notice a special envelope labeled "Christmas Decoration Offering". A DONATION can be made in the name of a loved one(s). If so, please print their name(s) on the envelope. Those not receiving offering envelopes are welcome to DONATE towards our Christmas altar decorations as well, just use a plain envelope (and if in memory of a loved one, print their name or names on the envelope).

IN MEMORIAM

Donations for Christmas Flower were made in memory of:

- Alfred & Elizabeth Garneau, Joel Meltzer, Chuck Yocum, Joe Cazarro; John & Mary Teague, Thomas & Mary Early; Arsenault Family (Roland, Carmel, Lucie); Michaelina & Dionizy & Slazto & and all deceased from our [Bielecki] family; Anna

Oleksa; deceased members of the Maresco & Ammirati Families; Stefan Wojcicki, Hanna Wojcicki; Russ & Edna Durkee, Paul & Alice Lowney, Durkee-Lowney Family; George Ritz, Mary Jane Ritz; Dick & Kathleen Horn; Kelly Family; Mary & Lary Boudrana, Rainy & Mary; Raymond & Lurena Lemery; Maryann Belanger; Joseph DuBois, Earl Stimson; Theresa Dowling; Roy Klumpp, Jeryl Bacon, Theresa Klumpp; Mr. & Mrs. A. J. Kobak, Mr. and Mrs. D. Cafaro; Larry Hardy; George A. Ritz; Jennie Pinelle & George A. Ritz; Syseskey & Krysiak Families; Anna Oleksa; Elizabeth Hetzler (Mom); Michael Mercier; Carlos Carrasquilla, Carlos Mulino; Bill & Sean Doherty; McKee & Fagan Families; Anne McCann; Alice & Joe Giordano; Rick Boucher; Lawrence Fletcher.



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.

— NOTICE —

- Due to the Saturday 4:00 PM Outdoor Mass, CONFESSION has moved temporarily to Sundays following the 10:00 AM Mass = 11:15 AM - 1:00 PM.
- The Sunday 10:00 AM Mass continues to be LIVE STREAMED at:
<https://www.facebook.com/112258683764613/live>
- The 12:15 daily Mass is posted Monday, and Wednesday thru Friday to:
<https://www.facebook.com/sjnnh>
- PLEASE NOTE: the 4:00 PM Outdoor Mass affords the greatest pandemic precautions for those most at risk.

SACRAMENTAL CERTIFICATES

PLEASE NOTE: The CONFIRMATION and FIRST HOLY COMMUNION certificates are available for pickup (w/ photos included).

NEW MISSALETTES

The NEW LITURGICAL YEAR began with the First Sunday of Advent. NOTE: Due to COVID

precautions, the NEW MISSALETTES cannot be placed in the pews. So, we've placed them in the foyer. PARISHIONERS ARE WELCOME TO TAKE ONE OF THE NEW MISSALETTES FOR USE THROUGHOUT THE YEAR.

— AMAZON SMILE —

Please consider supporting our St John Neumann FOOD PANTRY whenever you purchase items through AMAZON.COM. 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.

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Bob Fregault (Chairman)

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