

SAINT JOHN NEUMANN PARISH

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



HOLY FAMILY December 27, 2020

Fr. Robert Glasgow
Pastor
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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.

BY FAITH SHE BELIEVED; BY FAITH, CONCEIVED

Mary said, "Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord. May it be done to me according to your word." —Luke 1:38

The first excerpt below is from the Dogmatic Constitution on the Church (Vatican Council II, 21 Nov 1964). The second is from a sermon by St Augustine (d. 430, bishop).



MADONNA OF THE STREETS [detail]
by Robert Ferruzzi (d. 1934)

Mary's Role in the Church

MARY'S function as mother of men in no way obscures or diminishes this unique mediation of Christ, but rather shows its power. But the Blessed Virgin's salutary influence on men originates not in any inner necessity but in the disposition of God. It flows forth from the superabundance of the merits of Christ, rests on his mediation, depends entirely on it and draws all its power from it. It does not hinder in any way the immediate union of the faithful with Christ but on the contrary fosters it.

The predestination of the Blessed Virgin as Mother of God was associated with the incarnation of the divine word: in the designs of divine Providence she was the gracious mother of the divine Redeemer here on earth, and above all others and in a singular way the generous associate and humble handmaid of the Lord. She conceived, brought forth, and nourished Christ, she presented him to the Father in the temple, shared her Son's sufferings as he died on the cross. Thus, in a wholly singular way she cooperated by her obedience, faith, hope and burning charity in the work of the Savior in restoring supernatural life to souls. For this reason she is a mother to us in the order of grace.

This motherhood of Mary in the order



of grace continues uninterruptedly from the consent which she loyally gave at the Annunciation and which she sustained without wavering beneath the cross, until the eternal fulfillment of all the elect. Taken up to heaven she did not lay aside this saving office but by her manifold intercession continues to bring us the gifts of eternal salvation. By her maternal charity, she cares for the brethren of her Son, who still journey on earth surrounded by dangers and difficulties, until they are led into their blessed home. Therefore the Blessed Virgin is invoked in the Church under the titles of Advocate, Helper, Benefactress, and Mediatrix. This, however, is so understood that it neither takes away anything from nor adds anything to the dignity and efficacy of Christ the one Mediator.

No creature could ever be counted along with the Incarnate Word and Redeemer; but just as the priesthood of Christ is shared in various ways both by his ministers and the faithful, and as the one goodness of God is radiated in different ways among his creatures, so also the unique mediation of the Redeemer does not exclude but rather gives rise to a manifold cooperation which is but a sharing in this one source.

The Church does not hesitate to profess this subordinate role of Mary, which it constantly experiences and recommends to the heartfelt attention of the faithful, so that encouraged by this maternal help they may the more closely adhere to the Mediator and Redeemer.

Mary, Type/Figure of the Church

By reason of the gift and role of her divine motherhood, by which she is united with her Son, the Redeemer, and with her unique graces and functions, the Blessed Virgin is also intimately united to the Church. As St. Ambrose taught, the Mother of God is a type of the Church in the order of faith, charity, and perfect union with Christ. For in the mystery of the Church, which is itself rightly called mother and virgin, the Blessed Virgin stands out in eminent and singular fashion as exemplar both of virgin and mother. Through her faith and obedience she gave birth on earth to the very Son of the Father, not through the knowledge of man but by the overshadowing of the Holy Spirit, in the manner of a new Eve who placed her faith, not in the serpent of old but in God's messenger without waivering in doubt. The Son whom she brought forth is he whom God placed as the first born among many brethren (Rom. 8:29), that is, the faithful, in whose generation and formation she cooperates with a mother's love.

The Church indeed contemplating her hidden sanctity, imitating her charity and faithfully fulfilling the Father's will, by receiving the word of God in faith becomes herself a mother. By preaching and baptism she brings forth sons, who are conceived of the Holy Spirit and born of God, to a new and immortal life. She herself is a virgin, who keeps in its entirety and purity the faith she pledged to her spouse. Imitating the mother of her Lord, and by the power of the Holy Spirit, she keeps intact faith, firm hope and sincere charity.

But while in the most Blessed Virgin the Church has already reached that perfection whereby she exists without

spot or wrinkle (cf. Eph. 5:27), the faithful still strive to conquer sin and increase in holiness. And so they turn their eyes to Mary who shines forth to the whole community of the elect as the model of virtues. Devoutly meditating on her and contemplating her in the light of the Word made man, the Church reverently penetrates more deeply into the great mystery of the Incarnation and becomes more and more like her spouse. Having entered deeply into the history of salvation, Mary, in a way, unites in her person and re-echoes the most important doctrines of the faith: and when she is the subject of preaching and veneration she prompts the faithful to come to her Son, to his sacrifice and to the love of the Father. Seeking after the glory of Christ, the Church becomes more like her lofty type, and continually progresses in faith, hope and charity, seeking and doing the will of God in all things. The Church, therefore, in her apostolic work too, rightly looks to her who gave birth to Christ, who was thus conceived of the Holy Spirit and born of a virgin, in order that through the Church he could be born and increase in the hearts of the faithful. In her life the Virgin has been a model of that motherly love with which all who join in the Church's apostolic mission for the regeneration of mankind should be animated.

BUT look here, my brothers and sisters, concentrate more, I beg you, on what follows, concentrate more on what Christ the Lord said as he stretched out his hand over his disciples: *This is my mother and these are my brothers; and whoever does the will of my Father who sent me, that person is a brother to me and a sister and a mother* (Mt 12:49-50). Didn't the Virgin Mary do the will of the Father? I mean, she believed by faith, she conceived by faith, she was chosen to be the one from whom salvation in the very midst of the human race would be born for us, she was created by Christ before Christ was created in her. Yes, of course, holy Mary did the will of the Father. And therefore it means more for Mary to have been a disciple of Christ than to have been the mother of Christ. It means more for her, an altogether greater blessing, to have been Christ's disciple than to have been Christ's mother. That is why Mary was blessed, because even before she gave him birth, she bore her teacher in her womb.

Just see if it isn't as I say. While the Lord was passing by, performing divine miracles, with the crowds following him, a woman said: *Fortunate is the womb that bore you*. And how did the Lord answer, to show that good fortune is not really to be sought in mere family ties? *Rather blessed are those who hear the word of God and keep it* (Lk 11:27-28). So that is why Mary, too, is blessed, because she heard the word of God and kept it. She kept truth safe in her mind even better than she kept flesh safe in her womb. Christ is truth, Christ is flesh; Christ as truth was in Mary's mind,

Christ as flesh in Mary's womb; that which is in the mind is greater than what is carried in the womb.

Mary is holy, Mary is blessed, but the Church is something better than the Virgin Mary. Why? Because Mary is part of the Church, a holy member, a quite exceptional member, the supremely wonderful member, but still a member of the whole body. That being so, it follows that the body is something greater than the member. The Lord is the head, and the whole Christ is head and body. How shall I put it? We have a divine head, we have God as our head.

MASS INTENTIONS

Dec 26 (Sat), 5:30 PM SJN Parishioners
Dec 27 (Sun), 10:00 AM Tom Erbland (req. by Pat Flynn)
Dec 31 (Thu), 5:30 PM Mary, Mother of God Vigil
Jan 1 (Fri), 10:00 AM Mary, Mother of God

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

Holy Day of Obligation MARY MOTHER OF GOD

Vigil Mass (31 Dec 2020)
5:30 PM

Holy Day Mass (1 Jan 2021)
10:00 AM

— NOTICE —

The parish offices will be closed Dec 28-thru-Jan 1 with the exception of the two Holy Day of Obligation Masses.

THANKS!

THANKS to everyone who supported this year's Food Pantry Giving Tree!

THANKS as well to everyone who helped decorate the church for the Christmas Masses.

THANKS, too, to all who participated in the Christmas Masses as Lectors, Ministers of Hospitality, Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion, and Altar Servers!

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; Betty Hetzler; Jeryl Bacon, Roy Klumpp, Theresa Klumpp; Dana "Grampy" Hickey; Laurenza and Conte Families; Irene and Vic Fournier, Rick Boucher; Wellman and Vanecek Families; Parents of Mr. & Mrs. Victor Lavallee; William Doherty; Francis X. Cote, Jr., Mr. and Mrs. Robert Flynn; Maryann Belanger; Steve Mroz; Richard Allen.



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.

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 (Nov 30). Due to COVID precautions, the NEW MISSALETTES cannot be placed in the pews. So, we have placed the NEW MISSALETTES in the foyer.

NOTE: parishioners are welcome to take one of

the NEW MISSALETTES for use throughout the year.

— 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.

— 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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