

# SAINT JOHN NEUMANN PARISH

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



## 4th SUNDAY OF EASTER April 25, 2021

**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

### 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 ..... 4:00 PM - 5:30 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.

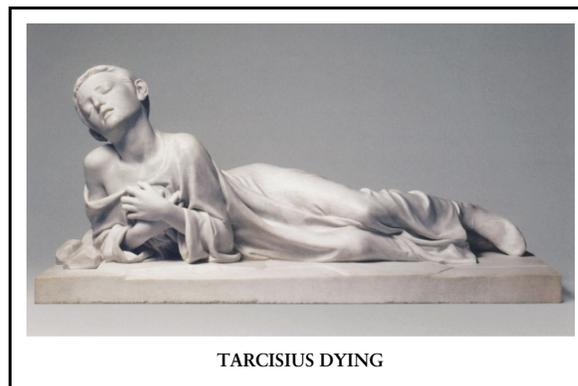
### RITE OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION

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

## SAINT TARCISIUS

I heard a voice from heaven say, "Write this: Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord from now on." "Yes," said the Spirit, "let them find rest from their labors, for their works accompany them." —Rev 14:13

On 4 Aug 2010 Pope Benedict spoke to Altar Servers, boys and girls, who'd come on pilgrimage to Rome from all across Europe accompanied by a stature of St TARCISIUS, boy-martyr of the Eucharist.



by Alexandre Falguière (d. 1900)

TARCISIUS DYING

DEAR ALTAR SERVERS, dear friends, dear pilgrims, welcome to Rome! How many of you there are! The statue of St TARCISIUS has come to us after a long pilgrimage. Let us greet it festively today, glad at being able to become better acquainted with this figure of the early Church.

The hope that I express to all is that this statue, may become a reference point for Altar Servers, boys and girls, and for all who wish to follow Jesus more closely.

May they all be able to look at this strong and courageous boy and renew their commitment to friendship with the Lord, to learn to live with him always, following the path he points out to us with his word and the witness of so many Saints and Martyrs whose brothers and sisters we have become through Baptism.

WHO WAS SAINT TARCISIUS? We do not have much information about him. We are dealing with the early centuries of the Church's history or, to be more precise, with the third century. It is said that he was a boy who came regularly to the Catacombs of St Calixtus [Pope, 218-222 AD] here in Rome and took his special Christian duties very seriously. He had great



love for the Eucharist and various hints lead us to conclude that he was presumably an acolyte, that is, an altar server. Those were years in which the Emperor Valerian was harshly persecuting Christians who were forced to meet secretly in private houses or, at times, also in the Catacombs, to hear the word of God, to pray and to celebrate Holy Mass. Even the custom of taking the Eucharist to prisoners and the sick became increasingly dangerous. One day, when, as was his habit, the priest asked who was prepared to take the Eucharist to the other brothers and sisters who were waiting for it, young TARCISIUS stood up and said: "Send me!" This boy seemed too young for such a demanding service! "My youth," TARCISIUS said, "will be the best shield for the Eucharist." Convinced, the priest entrusted to him the precious Bread, saying: "TARCISIUS, remember that a heavenly treasure has been entrusted to your weak hands. Avoid crowded streets and do not forget that holy things must never be thrown to dogs nor pearls to pigs. Will you guard the Sacred Mysteries faithfully and safely?" "I would die," Tarcisio answered with determination, "rather than let go of them." As he went on his way he met some friends who approached him and asked him to join them. As pagans they became suspicious and insistent at his refusal and realized he was clasping something to his breast that he appeared to be protecting. They tried to prize it away from him, but in vain; the struggle became ever fiercer, especially when they realized that TARCISIUS was a Christian; They kicked him, they threw stones at him, but he did not surrender. While TARCISIUS was dying a Pretoria guard called Quadratus, who had also, secretly, become a Christian, carried him to the priest. TARCISIUS was already dead when they arrived but was still clutching to his breast a small linen bag containing the Eucharist. He was buried straight away in the Catacombs of St Calixtus.

Pope Damasus had an inscription carved on St TARCISIUS' grave; it says that the boy died in 257. The Roman Martyrology fixed the date as 15 August. In the same martyrology a beautiful oral tradition is also recorded:

It claims that the Most Blessed Sacrament was not found on St TARCISIUS' body, either in his hands or his clothing. It explains that the consecrated Host which the little Martyr had defended with his life, had become flesh of his flesh thereby forming, together with his body, a single immaculate Host offered to God.

Dear ALTAR SERVERS, St TARCISIUS' testimony and this beautiful tradition teach us the deep love and great veneration that we must have for the Eucharist: it is a precious good, a treasure of incomparable value; it is the Bread of life, it is Jesus himself who becomes our nourishment, support and strength on our daily journey and on the open road that leads to eternal life; the Eucharist is the greatest gift that Jesus bequeathed to us.

I am addressing those of you who are present here and, through you, all the altar servers of the world! Serve Jesus

present in the Eucharist generously. It is an important task that enables you to be particularly close to the Lord and to grow in true and profound friendship with him. Guard this friendship in your hearts jealously, like St TARCISIUS, ready to commit yourselves, to fight and to give your lives so that Jesus may reach all peoples. May you too communicate to your peers the gift of this friendship with joy, with enthusiasm, without fear, so that they may feel that you know this Mystery, that is true and that you love it! Every time that you approach the altar, you have the good fortune to assist in God's great loving gesture as he continues to want to give himself to each one of us, to be close to us, to help us, to give us strength to live in the right way. With consecration, as you know, that little piece of bread becomes Christ's Body, that wine becomes Christ's Blood. You are lucky to be able to live this indescribable Mystery from close at hand! Do your task as altar servers with love, devotion and faithfulness; do not enter a church for the celebration with superficiality but rather, prepare yourselves inwardly for Holy Mass! Assisting your priests in service at the altar helps to make Jesus closer, so that people can understand, can realize better: he is here. You collaborate to make him more present in the world, in every day life, in the Church and everywhere. Dear friends! You lend Jesus your hands, your thoughts, your time. He will not fail to reward you, giving you true joy and enabling you to feel where the fullest happiness is. St TARCISIUS has shown us that love can even bring us to give our life for an authentic good, for the true good, for the Lord.

Martyrdom will probably not be required of us, but Jesus asks of us fidelity in small things, inner recollection, inner participation, our faith and our efforts to keep this treasure present in everyday life. He asks of us fidelity in daily tasks, a witness to his love, going to church through inner conviction and for the joy of his presence. Thus we can also make known to our friends that Jesus is alive. May the example of St TARCISIUS impel us every day to love Jesus and to do his will, as did the Virgin Mary, faithful to her Son to the end. Thank you all once again! May God bless you in these days and I wish you a good journey home!

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### MASS INTENTIONS

Apr 24 (Sat), 4:00 PM	Ginny Early - LIVING INTENTION
Apr 24, 5:30 PM	George Mossey (req. by Day Away volunteers)
Apr 25 (Sun), 8:00 AM	SJN Parishioners
Apr 25, 10:00 AM	Brennan Blum (req. by the Walker family); Marvin Pearson (req. by Douglas Davidson)

\*No daily Masses 27-28 Apr, 3-5 May

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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).

### WEEKLY CALENDAR

25 Apr, FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

8:00 AM | Mass  
10:00 AM | Mass  
4:00 PM | Confessions (until 5:30 PM)  
6:00 PM | Mass  
7:00 PM | Adoration (until 8:00 PM)

26 Apr, MONDAY

12:15 PM | Daily Mass

27 Apr, TUESDAY

8:00 AM | Red Cross Blood Drive (until 1:30 PM)  
12:15 PM | \*NO DAILY MASS  
7:00 PM | Scout Meeting

28 Apr, WEDNESDAY

10:00 AM | Faith Sharing  
12:15 PM | \*NO DAILY MASS

29 Apr, THURSDAY

10:00 AM | "Blessed Is She" Women's Group  
12:15 PM | Daily Mass

30 Apr, FRIDAY (Day of Penance)

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

1 May, FIRST SATURDAY

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

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

#### SAINT ANDREW DINNERS

Have you ever thought about the Priesthood? St. Andrew was the first of the Apostles to hear Jesus' call to follow Him. If you are a young man considering a vocation to the priesthood or who would simply like some help hearing the Lord's call in your life, join us for two upcoming ST. ANDREW DINNERS featuring a delicious meal, witness from one of our two newly ordained priests, Fr. Josh Livingston and Fr. Ryan Amazeen, prayer, and conversation:

**April 25 (Sunday), 4:00 PM**  
**SACRED HEART CHURCH**  
**(2 Hough St., Lebanon)**

**May 17 (Monday), 6:00 PM**  
**ST. MARTIN CHURCH**  
**(120 Maple St., Somersworth)**

For additional information and/or to RSVP, please contact: Fr. Charles Pawlowski, Assistant Director of Vocations [cpawlowski@rcbm.org](mailto:cpawlowski@rcbm.org) or (603) 448-1262.

"I am often asked, especially by young people, why I became a priest. Maybe some of you would like to ask the same question. Let me try briefly to reply. I must begin by saying it is impossible to explain entirely. For it remains a mystery, even to myself. How does one explain the ways of God? Yet, I know that, at a certain point in my life, I became convinced that Christ was saying to me what he has said to thousands before me: 'COME, FOLLOW ME!' There was a clear sense that what I heard in my heart was no human voice, nor was it just an idea of my own. Christ was calling me to serve him as a Priest. And you can probably tell that I am deeply grateful to God for my vocation to the Priesthood. Nothing means more to me or gives me greater joy than to celebrate Mass each day and to serve God's people in the Church. That has been true since the day of my ordination as a Priest. Nothing has ever changed, not even becoming Pope." —Pope St John Paul II

#### RICE BOWLS

If you haven't had the opportunity to return your Rice Bowl, please do so as soon as possible.

#### — NOTICE —

The 10:00 AM SUNDAY MASS is live streamed on YOUTUBE. To find our channel, search for "SJN Merrimack NH Mass". Or, go to:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCfkbhzzv4yg9mUOnwnJ5dNvA>

The 12:15 PM DAILY MASS (Mon, Wed-Fri) is posted to our FACEBOOK page:

<https://www.facebook.com/sjnh>

#### CCNH ANNUAL APPEAL

Amen, I say to you, whatever you did for one of these least brothers of mine, you did for me. —(Mt 25:40)

The annual Catholic Charities NH (CCNH) Appeal was last weekend (COVID precautions did not allow for the appeal in 2020). Our financial support helps Catholic Charities NH provide

support/services for those most in need. 8.2% NH residents live in poverty. 1-in-5 NH children are growing up in low-income households.

St Louis Guanella said, *"The heart of a Christian who thinks and feels cannot pass by the hardships and deprivations of the poor without stopping to help!"* We are all asked, according to our means, to support CCNH's mission to help those most in need. *Whatever financial help we can offer is deeply appreciated!* Information about CCNH and donation envelopes can be found in the church foyer.

### PARISH INFORMATION

WE LOVE BEING IN TOUCH WITH YOU! Now you can keep in touch with us via email and/or text messaging:

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

Choose to get updates from parish groups you're interested in. Unsubscribe anytime.

### **ST. GIANNA'S PLACE Londonderry, NH**

ST. GIANNA'S PLACE is looking for a part-time RESIDENT ASSISTANT (to stay overnight at our home on Saturday nights) and part-time ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT (Monday, Friday 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM). For more information visit [www.StGiannasPlace.org](http://www.StGiannasPlace.org). Inquiries may be directed to St Gianna's Place (603) 521-8440.

**"St Gianna's Place offers a transitional home and God's healing to pregnant women and their children. We honor the dignity of God-given life from the moment of fertilization. We foster confidence and independence in a nurturing and safe environment."**

### **FACILITATOR COUPLES NEEDED**

The DIOCESE OF MANCHESTER is seeking part time Facilitator Couples for our Diocesan ENGAGED COUPLE COURSES, which may occur remotely or in-person. Couples married at least five years are encouraged to apply for these positions; training will be provided. Couples will collaborate to lead positive, formative weekend experiences for engaged couples based on

Ascension Press' JOY-FILLED MARRIAGE program. Interested parties may visit the following link for more information and the Full Job Description: [www.catholicnh.org/employment](http://www.catholicnh.org/employment).

— 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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SJN Staff

CLAIRE BRYSON  
Children's Ministry (K-5th Grade)  
(603) 880-4689 x114  
cbryson@sjnnh.org

CHERI ANDERSEN  
Youth Ministry (6th-12th Grade)  
(603) 880-4689 x111  
candersen@sjnnh.org

TERI SCHMITT  
Religious Education Secretary  
tschmitt@sjnnh.org

DIANE BONENFANT  
Sacristan

CAROL YETTO  
Music Ministry  
SJNMusic@myfairpoint.net

CAROL HOPFENSPIRGER and EVELYN VERBECK  
Outreach & Food Pantry  
(603) 880-4689 x116

KATHY HOPKINS  
Day Away (Thursday)  
(603) 880-4689  
dayaway@sjnnh.org

PASTORAL COUNCIL  
Steve De Beradinis (President)

FINANCE COMMITTEE  
Bob Fregault (Chairman)

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS  
Tom Davis, Grand Knight  
gk10896@comcast.net