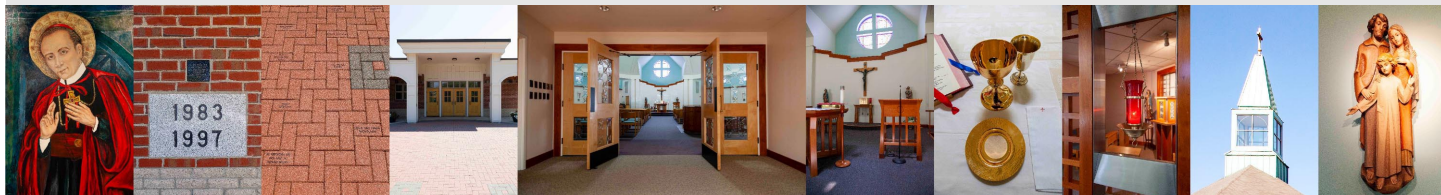


SAINT JOHN NEUMANN PARISH

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



13th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
June 27, 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 (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.

DAME JULIAN

The Lord appeared to us in the past, saying: "I have loved you with an everlasting love; I have drawn you with unfailing kindness." —Jer 31:3

The first excerpt below is from Pope Benedict XVI's General Audience of 1 Dec 2010. The second is from Julian of Norwich's (d. 1430) Revelations of Divine Love. Julian's account of her visions was the first book written by a woman to be published in England.



JULIAN OF NORWICH

THE scant information on [Julian of Norwich's] life in our possession comes mainly from her Revelations of Divine Love in Sixteen Shewings, the book in which this kindly and devout woman set down the content of her visions.

It is known that she lived from 1342 until about 1430. As Julian herself recounts, in May 1373, most likely on the 13th of that month, she was suddenly stricken with a very serious illness that in three days seemed to be carrying her to the grave. After the priest, who hastened to her bedside, had shown her the Crucified One not only did Julian rapidly recover her health but she received the 16 revelations ["shewings"] that she subsequently wrote down and commented on in her book, Revelations of Divine Love. And it was the Lord himself, 15 years after these extraordinary events, who revealed to her the meaning of those visions.

"Would you learn to see clearly your Lord's meaning in this thing? Learn it well: Love was his meaning. Who showed it to you? Love. Why did he show it to you? For Love'. Thus I was taught that Love was our Lord's meaning."

Inspired by divine love, Julian made the



decision to be an anchoress, to live in a cell located near the church called after St Julian, in the city of Norwich [in her time an important urban centre not far from London], adopting the Rule compiled by St Aelred of Rievaulx, devoting her time to prayer, meditation, and study.

We also know that Julian received frequent visitors as is attested by the autobiography of another fervent Christian of her time, Margery Kempe, who went to Norwich in 1413 to receive advice on her spiritual life. This is why, in her lifetime, Julian was called "Dame Julian," as is engraved on the funeral monument that contains her remains. She had become a mother to many.

It was precisely in the solitude infused with God that Julian of Norwich wrote her Revelations of Divine Love. Two versions have come down to us, one that is shorter, probably the older, and one that is longer. This book contains a message of optimism based on the certainty of being loved by God and of being protected by his Providence.

In this book we read the following wonderful words:

"And I saw full surely that ere God made us he loved us; which love was never lacking nor ever shall be. And in this love he has made all his works; and in this love he has made all things profitable to us; and in this love our life is everlasting ... in which love we have our beginning. And all this shall we see in God, without end."

The theme of divine love recurs frequently in the visions of Julian of Norwich who, with a certain daring, did not hesitate to compare them also to motherly love. This is one of the most characteristic messages of her mystical theology. The tenderness, concern and gentleness of God's kindness to us are so great that they remind us, pilgrims on earth, of a mother's love for her children. In fact the biblical prophets also sometimes used this language that calls to mind the tenderness, intensity and totality of God's love, which is manifested in creation and in the whole history of salvation that is crowned by the Incarnation of the Son.

God, however, always excels all human love, as the Prophet Isaiah says: "Can a woman forget her sucking child, that she should have no compassion on the son of her womb? Even these may forget, yet I will never forget you" (Is 49:15).

Julian of Norwich understood the central message for spiritual life: God is love and it is only if one opens oneself to this love, totally and with total trust, and lets it become one's sole guide in life, that all things are transfigured, true peace and true joy found and one is able to radiate it.

I would like to emphasize another point. The Catechism cites the words of Julian of Norwich when it explains the viewpoint of the Catholic faith on an argument that never ceases to be a provocation to all believers: If God is supremely good and wise, why do evil and the suffering of innocents exist? Illumined by faith, Julian of Norwich wrote:

"Here I was taught by the grace of God that I should steadfastly hold me in the Faith and that I

should take my stand on and earnestly believe in that 'all manner of thing shall be well.'"

Yes, dear brothers and sisters, God's promises are ever greater than our expectations. If we present to God, to his immense love, the purest and deepest desires of our heart, we shall never be disappointed. "And all will be well", "all manner of things shall be well": this is the final message that Julian of Norwich transmits to us and that I am also proposing to you today.

IT IS a characteristic of God to overcome evil with good.

Jesus Christ therefore, who himself overcame evil with good, is our true MOTHER. We received our 'Being' from Him—and this is where His Maternity starts—And with it comes the gentle Protection and Guard of Love which will never cease to surround us.

Just as God is our Father, so God is also our MOTHER.

And He showed me this truth in all things, but especially in those sweet words when He says: "It is I".

As if to say, I am the power and the Goodness of the Father, I am the Wisdom of the MOTHER, I am the Light and the Grace which is blessed love, I am the Trinity, I am the Unity, I am the supreme Goodness of all kind of things, I am the One who makes you love, I am the One who makes you desire, I am the never-ending fulfilment of all true desires.

Our highest Father, God Almighty, who is 'Being', has always known us and loved us: because of this knowledge, through his marvelous and deep charity and with the unanimous consent of the Blessed Trinity, He wanted the Second Person to become our MOTHER, our Brother, our Savior.

It is thus logical that God, being our Father, be also our MOTHER. Our Father desires, our MOTHER operates and our good Lord the Holy Ghost confirms; we are thus well advised to love our God through whom we have our being, to thank him reverently and to praise him for having created us and to pray fervently to our MOTHER, so as to obtain mercy and compassion, and to pray to our Lord, the Holy Ghost, to obtain help and grace.

I then saw with complete certainty that God, before creating us, loved us, and His love never lessened and never will. In this love he accomplished all his works, and in this love he oriented all things to our good and in this love our life is eternal.

With creation we started but the love with which he created us was in Him from the very beginning and in this love is our beginning.

And all this we shall see it in God eternally.

MASS INTENTIONS

June 26 (Sat), 5:30 PM	Brian (req. by Alice & Michael Lewis)
June 27 (Sun), 8:00 AM	Bryan Chambers (req. by Butch & Kathy Richards)
June 27, 10:00 AM	Joan Conde (req. by Rita Geringer)
June 28 (Mon), 12:15 PM	Deceased clergy 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).

WEEKLY CALENDAR

27 Jun, 12th WEEK IN ORDINARY TIME

8:00 AM | Mass
10:00 AM | Mass
6:00 PM | Adoration (until 7:00 PM)

28 Jun, MONDAY

8:00 AM | RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE
12:15 PM | Daily Mass
7:00 PM | Choir Rehearsal

29 Jun, TUESDAY

7:00 PM | Scout Meeting

30 Jun, WEDNESDAY

10:00 AM | Faith Sharing
12:15 PM | Daily Mass

1 Jul, THURSDAY

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

2 Jul, FIRST FRIDAY (Day of Penance)

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

3 Jul, FIRST 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 (until 5:00 PM)
5:30 PM | Anticipatory Mass

ANNOUNCEMENTS

FAITH FORMATION REGISTRATION 2021-2022 School Year

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION (RE) is at the heart and center of parish life. Only the LITURGY is more important.

- Diocesan Sacramental Policy—the "Restored

Order"—now provides for FIRST RECONCILIATION during 2nd Grade, and both CONFIRMATION and FIRST EUCHARIST during 3rd Grade. The parish offers a K-thru-5th Grade program, much like previous years, on Sunday mornings and Wednesday afternoons.

- <REGISTRATION FORMS> are available online and from the SJN Faith Formation Office. TO COMPLETE REGISTRATION, parents are asked to attend any of the short FAITH FORMATION BRIEFING offered after all of the weekend Masses in August, or to meet with Fr. Glasgow separately.
- The parish offers a High School program on Sunday nights, as well as a Middle School program on Monday nights.

CHILDREN'S STORY TIME



Join us on Monday mornings July 12 thru August 23 at 10:00 AM for a CHILDREN'S STORY TIME. During the first four sessions, we'll be focusing on *St Joseph*. The remaining sessions will be on *prayer*. We will meet in the Parish Hall and, weather permitting, also gather outside. Please bring a beach towel for the outdoor portion of our gatherings. SIGN UP by emailing Claire at cbryson@sjnh.org.

RCIA

What is the RCIA? The Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA) is for non-Catholic adults seeking to convert to Catholicism or who just want to learn more about the Catholic faith. It is also for anyone baptized Catholic as an infant but who never received religious instruction or the sacraments of Confirmation or Eucharist.

We hope to offer RCIA this year beginning late-September. Should you have an interest in participating, please contact Fr. Glasgow.

PETER'S PENCE 26-27 June

The annual PETER'S PENCE COLLECTION—taken up this year on the weekend of June 26-27—is a gesture of solidarity through which every member of the faithful can participate in the activity of the Pope as Pastor of the universal Church. The faithful's offerings to the Holy Father

through the PETER'S PENCE COLLECTION are destined to Church needs, to humanitarian initiatives and social promotion projects, as well as to the support of the Holy See.

HOLY HOUR

"So you could not keep watch with me for one hour?" —Mt 26:40

HOLY HOUR is scheduled twice each week: on Fridays following the 12:15 PM daily Mass, and on Sundays from 6:00 PM (7:00 PM during the school year).

"The Eucharist is the secret of my day. It gives strength and meaning to all my activities of service to the Church and to the whole world ... Let Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament speak to your hearts. It is he who is the true answer of life that you seek. He stays here with us: he is God with us. Seek him without tiring, welcome him without reserve, love him without interruption: today, tomorrow, forever." —Pope St John Paul II

— NOTICE —

- With the end of most COVID precautions (i.e., the end of the 4:00 PM Outdoor Mass), CONFESSION has moved back to Saturday 4:00-5:00 PM. We are using the Confessional once again.
- The **Sunday 10:00 AM Mass** is live streamed on YOUTUBE.COM. Daily Masses (Mon, Wed thru Fri) are posted to our FACEBOOK.COM page.

To find us on YOUTUBE, search for:
"SJN Merrimack NH Mass".

To find us on FACEBOOK, go to:
[https:// www.facebook.com/sjnnh](https://www.facebook.com/sjnnh).

- PARISH NEWS — WE LOVE BEING IN TOUCH WITH YOU! You can keep in touch with us via email and/or text messaging. Unsubscribe anytime. Choose to get updates from parish groups you're interested in:

Visit > <https://SJNMERRIMACK.flocknote.com>

Text > "SJNMERRIMACK" to 84576 (message and data rates may apply)

EMPLOYMENT OPENINGS

www.catholicnh.org/about/stay-informed/bulletin

The DIOCESE OF MANCHESTER is currently hiring for multiple full-time positions to assist the Bishop of Manchester in serving the parishes, schools and institutions of the Catholic Church in

New Hampshire. For more information, go to the link listed above.

— 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 SJO FOOD PANTRY.

SJN Staff

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PASTORAL COUNCIL

Steve De Beradinis (President)

FINANCE COMMITTEE

Bob Fregault (Chairman)

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

Tom Davis, Grand Knight
gk10896@comcast.net