

SAINT JOHN NEUMANN PARISH

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



ASSUMPTION OF MARY (20th Sunday in Ordinary Time) August 15, 2021

Fr. Robert Glasgow
Pastor
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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.

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.

BLESSED IS SHE WHO BELIEVED

"When Jesus saw his mother and the disciple there whom he loved, he said to his mother, 'Woman, behold, your son.' Then he said to the disciple, 'Behold, your mother.' And from that hour the disciple took her into his home." —John 19:26-27

The following excerpt is from Pope Benedict's homily on the Solemnity of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary, 15 Aug 2012.

ON 1 November 1950, Venerable Pope Pius XII proclaimed as Dogma that the Virgin Mary "having completed the course of her earthly life, was assumed body and soul into heavenly glory".

This truth of faith was known by Tradition, was affirmed by the Fathers of the Church, and was a particularly important aspect in the veneration of the Mother of Christ.

Precisely this devotional element, so to speak, was the driving force behind the formulation of this Dogma. The Dogma appears as an act of praise and exaltation of the Holy Virgin. It also emerges from the text of the Apostolic Constitution, where it affirms that the Dogma is proclaimed for "the honor of her Son ... for the increase of the glory of that same august Mother, and for the joy and exultation of the entire Church". What was already celebrated in the veneration and devotion of the People of God as the highest and most permanent



ASSUMPTION OF THE VIRGIN
by Tiziano Vecelli (d. 1576)



glorification of Mary was thus expressed in the form of a dogma; the act of the proclamation of the Assumption was presented almost as a liturgy of faith. And in the Gospel which we have just heard, Mary herself prophetically pronounces a few words that orientate us in this perspective. She says: "*For behold, henceforth all generations will call me blessed*" (Lk 1:48). It is a prophecy for the whole history of the Church. These words of the Magnificat, recorded by St Luke, indicate that praising the Blessed Virgin, Mother of God, intimately united to Christ her Son, regards the Church of all ages and of all places. The fact that the Evangelist noted these words presupposes that the glorification of Mary was already present in the time of St Luke and he considered it to be a duty and a commitment of the Christian community for all generations. Mary's words tell us that it is a duty of the Church to remember the greatness of Our Lady for the faith. This Solemnity is an invitation to praise God, and to look upon the greatness of Our Lady, for we know who God is in the faces of those who belong to him.

But why is Mary glorified by her Assumption into Heaven? St Luke, as we have heard, sees the roots of the exaltation and praise of Mary in Elizabeth's words: "*Blessed is she who believed*" (Lk 1:45). And the Magnificat, this canticle to God, alive and active in history is a hymn of faith and love, which springs from the heart of the Virgin.

She lived with exemplary fidelity and kept in the inmost depths of her heart the words of God to his people, the promises he made to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, making them the content of her prayer: the Word of God in the Magnificat became the word of Mary, the lamp for her journey, thus preparing her to receive even in her womb the Word of God made flesh. Today's Gospel passage recalls this presence of God in history and in the unfolding of events; in particular, there is a reference to the Second Book of Samuel (6:1-15), in which David moves the Holy Ark of the Covenant. The comparison is clear to the Evangelist: Mary expecting the birth of her Son Jesus is the Holy Ark that contains the presence of God, a presence that is a source of consolation, of total joy. John, in fact, leaps in Elizabeth's womb, just as David danced before the Ark. Mary is the "visit" of God that creates joy. Zechariah, in his song of praise says explicitly: "*Blessed be the Lord God of Israel, for he has visited and redeemed his people*" (Lk 1:68). The house of Zechariah experienced the visit of God by the unexpected birth of John the Baptist, but above all by the presence of Mary, who bore within her womb the Son of God.

But now let us ask ourselves: how does the Assumption of Mary help our journey? The first answer is: in the Assumption we see that in God there is room for man, God himself is the house with many rooms of which Jesus speaks (cf. Jn 14:2); God is man's home, in God there is God's space. And Mary, by uniting herself, united to God, does not distance herself from us. She does not go to an unknown galaxy, but whoever approaches God comes closer, for God is close to us all; and Mary, united to God, shares in the presence of God, is so close to us, to each one of us.

There is a beautiful passage from St Gregory the Great on St Benedict that we can apply to Mary too. St Gregory the Great says that the heart of St Benedict expanded so

much that all creation could enter it. This is even truer of Mary: Mary, totally united to God, has a heart so big that all creation can enter this heart, and the *ex-votos* in every part of the earth show it. Mary is close, she can hear us, she can help us, she is close to everyone of us. In God there is room for man and God is close, and Mary, united to God, is very close; she has a heart as great as the heart of God.

But there is also another aspect: in God not only is there room for man; in man there is room for God. This too we see in Mary, the Holy Ark who bears the presence of God. In us there is space for God and this presence of God in us, so important for bringing light to the world with all its sadness, with its problems. This presence is realized in the faith: in the faith we open the doors of our existence so that God may enter us, so that God can be the power that gives life and a path to our existence. In us there is room, let us open ourselves like Mary opened herself, saying: "*Let your will be done, I am the servant of the Lord*". By opening ourselves to God, we lose nothing. On the contrary, our life becomes rich and great.

And so, faith and hope and love are combined. Today there is much discussion on a better world to be awaited: it would be our hope. If and when this better world comes, we do not know, I do not know. What is certain is that a world which distances itself from God does not become better but worse. Only God's presence can guarantee a good world. Let us leave it at that.

One thing, one hope is certain: God expects us, waits for us, we do not go out into a void, we are expected. God is expecting us and on going to that other world we find the goodness of the Mother, we find our loved ones, we find eternal Love. God is waiting for us: this is our great joy and the great hope that is born from this Feast. Mary visits us, and she is the joy of our life and joy is hope.

What is there to say then? A great heart, the presence of God in the world, room for God within us and room for us in God, hope, being expected: this is the symphony of this Feast, the instruction that meditating on this Solemnity gives us. Mary is the dawn and the splendor of the Church triumphant; she is the consolation and the hope of people still on the journey, it says in today's Preface.

Let us entrust ourselves to her Motherly intercession, that she may obtain that he strengthen our faith in eternal life; may she help us to live the best way the time that God has given us with hope. May it be a Christian hope, that is not only nostalgia for Heaven, but a living and active desire for God who is here in the world, a desire for God that makes us tireless pilgrims, nourishing in us the courage and the power of faith, which at the same time is the courage and the power of love. Amen.

MASS INTENTIONS

Aug 15 (Sat), 5:30 PM John & Lorraine Berube

(req. by Mark & Joanne Kenna)
 Aug 16 (Sun), 8:00 AM SJN Parishioners
 Aug 16, 10:00 AM Ann Matson
 Aug 17 (Mon), 12:15 PM Deceased clergy of the diocese
 Aug 18 (Wed), 12:15 PM Susan McDonald (req. by Rita Kohari)

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

15 Aug, SUNDAY — 20th WEEK IN ORDINARY TIME

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

16 Aug, MONDAY

10:00 AM | CHILDREN'S STORY TIME
 12:15 PM | Daily Mass
 7:00 PM | Choir Rehearsal

17 Aug, TUESDAY

8:00 AM | Red Cross Blood Drive
 7:00 PM | Scout Meeting

18 Aug, WEDNESDAY

10:00 AM | Faith Sharing
 12:15 PM | Daily Mass
 6:30 PM | "CATHOLICISM" Series

19 Aug, THURSDAY

10:00 AM | "BLESSED IS SHE" Women's Group
 12:15 PM | Daily Mass

20 Aug, FRIDAY (Day of Penance)

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

21 Aug, 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

PARENT HANDBOOK — "LIFE IN CHRIST"

"My people are destroyed
 for lack of knowledge" (Hos 4:6).

The last of the four Catechetical Series Parent Handbooks will be available before the end of the month. The four handbooks are concise yet thorough summaries of each of the four parts of the Catechism of the Catholic Church: CREED, SACRAMENTS, LIFE IN CHRIST, and

CHRISTIAN PRAYER. This last handbook explains how, enabled and led by the Holy Spirit, we live a life worthy of the Lord. The primary purpose is to help parents talk to their children in a systematic way about the Faith. Together with the Life in Christ Series Parent Handbooks, they detail what everyone should know about the Faith by 17 years-of-age.

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.

Please sign up as soon as possible to assist us in planning for the upcoming year. Classes this year will be held in person every other week. Families can choose Sunday morning sessions or Wednesday afternoons. MORE INFORMATION: dates, Sacrament information, and REGISTRATION FORM go to our website <SJNNH.ORG>.

- <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 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. For more info, email Claire at cbryson@sjnnh.org.

ST. JOSEPH'S HOSPITAL REQUEST

Saint Joseph's Hospital in Nashua is seeking volunteers to serve as Eucharistic Ministers, tending to the spiritual needs of their patients. Point of contact: Tara Collins, Mission Integration and Pastoral Care Office: tacollins@sjnnh.org; (603) 884-3306.

HOLY HOUR

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

"Visits to the BLESSED SACRAMENT are a proof of gratitude, an expression of love, and a duty of adoration toward Christ our Lord."—Pope St Paul VI (d. 1987)

SJN MASSES ONLINE

SUNDAY MASS is live streamed at 10:00 AM on YOUTUBE page. To find us, search for:

"SJN Merrimack NH Mass"

DAILY MASSES (Mon, Wed-Fri) are posted to our FACEBOOK page. 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)

"REST AND RENEW"
YOUNG ADULT RETREAT
Sep 10-12 (Register by Sep 3)

All YOUNG ADULTS aged 21-35 are invited to join us for a retreat at Camp Marist (Effingham, NH) 10-12 September for a time of rest, reflection,

prayer and socializing. The deadline for REGISTRATION is Friday, September 3. For more information or to REGISTER visit: yaretreat2021.eventbrite.com.

— 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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