

SAINT JOHN NEUMANN PARISH

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



21st SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
August 22, 2021

Fr. Robert Glasgow
Pastor
Chaplain (LTC) USA, Ret.
880-4689 x113, pastor@sjnnh.org

Eileen Buckley
Business Manager / Parish Secretary
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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.

ON PURGATORY

So be perfect, just as your heavenly Father is perfect. —Mt 5:48

The following excerpts—the whole of Chapters 7-10—are from St Catherine of Genoa's (d. 1510)

Treatise on Purgatory.

In 1472, while in Confession, Catherine suddenly experienced the first of her visions: she saw God's love for her and the wretched state of her own soul.

Immediately repentant, she devoted the remainder of her life to caring for the poor and the sick. In 1499, assisted by a priest, she began to describe what she had seen and learned in her visions.

Two works were subsequently

published: her *Life* [entitled Dialogues of the Soul and the Body] and the Treatise on Purgatory. When the cause for her beatification/canonization was proposed, the Holy See cited these two works as sufficient proof of her sanctity.



PRAYER FOR THE
HOLY SOULS IN PURGATORY

+ ETERNAL rest grant unto them, O Lord; 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.

7. Of God's admirable wisdom in making Purgatory and Hell.

AS the clean and purified spirit can find rest only in God, having been created for this end, so there is no place save Hell for the soul in sin, for whose end Hell was ordained by God. When the soul as it leaves the body is in mortal sin, then, in the instant in which spirit and body are separated, the soul goes to the place ordained for it, unguided save by the nature of its sin. And if at that moment the soul were bound by no ordinance proceeding from God's justice, it would go to a yet greater hell than that in which it abides, for it would be outside



His ordinance, in which divine mercy has part so that God gives the soul less pain than it deserves. The soul, finding no other place to hand nor any holding less evil for it, casts itself by God's ordinance into Hell as into its proper place.

To return to our matter which is the Purgatory of the soul separated from the body when it is no longer clean as it was created. Seeing in itself the impediment which can be taken away only by means of Purgatory, it casts itself therein swiftly and willingly. Were there not the ordinance it thus obeys, one fit to rid it of its encumbrance, it would in that instant beget within itself a hell worse than Purgatory, for it would see that because of that impediment it could not draw near to God, its end. So much does God import that Purgatory in comparison counts not at all, for all that it is, as has been said, like Hell. But compared to God, it appears almost nothing.

8. Of the necessity of Purgatory. How terrible it is.

When I look at God, I see no gate to Paradise, and yet because God is all mercy he who wills enters there. God stands before us with open arms to receive us into His glory. But well I see the divine essence to be of such purity, greater far than can be imagined, that the soul in which there is even the least note of imperfection would rather cast itself into a thousand Hells than find itself thus stained in the presence of the Divine Majesty. Therefore the soul, understanding that Purgatory has been ordained to take away those stains, casts itself therein, and seems to itself to have found great mercy in that it can rid itself there of the impediment which is the stain of sin.

No tongue can tell nor explain, no mind understand, the grievousness of Purgatory. But I, though I see that there is in Purgatory as much pain as in Hell, yet see the soul which has the least stain of imperfection accepting Purgatory, as I have said, as though it were a mercy, and holding its pains of no account as compared with the least stain which hinders a soul in its love. I seem to see that the pain which souls in Purgatory endure because of whatever in them displeases God, that is what they have willfully done against His so great goodness, is greater than any other pain they feel in Purgatory. And this is because, being in grace, they see the truth and the grievousness of the hindrance which stays them from drawing near to God.

9. How God and the souls in Purgatory look at each other. The saint acknowledges that in speaking of these matters she cannot express herself.

All these things which I have surely in mind, in so much as in this life I have been able to understand them, are, as compared with what I have said, extreme in their greatness. Beside them, all the sights and sounds and justice and truths of this world seem to me lies and nothingness. I am left confused because I cannot find words extreme enough for these things.

I perceive there to be so much conformity between God and the soul that when He sees it in the purity in

which His Divine Majesty created it He gives it a burning love, which draws it to Himself, which is strong enough to destroy it, immortal though it be, and which causes it to be so transformed in God that it sees itself as though it were none other than God. Unceasingly He draws it to Himself and breathes fire into it, never letting it go until He has led it to the state whence it came forth, that is to the pure cleanliness in which it was created.

When with its inner sight the soul sees itself drawn by God with such loving fire, then it is melted by the heat of the glowing love for God, its most dear Lord, which it feels overflowing it. And it sees by the divine light that God does not cease from drawing it, nor from leading it, lovingly and with much care and unfailing foresight, to its full perfection, doing this of His pure love. But the soul, being hindered by sin, cannot go whither God draws it; it cannot follow the uniting look with which He would draw it to Himself. Again the soul perceives the grievousness of being held back from seeing the divine light; the soul's instinct too, being drawn by that uniting look, craves to be unhindered. I say that it is the sight of these things which begets in the souls the pain they feel in Purgatory. Not that they make account of their pain; most great though it be, they deem it a far less evil than to find themselves going against the will of God, whom they clearly see to be on fire with extreme and pure love for them.

Strongly and unceasingly this love draws the soul with that uniting look, as though it had nought else than this to do. Could the soul who understood find a worse Purgatory in which to rid itself sooner of all the hindrance in its way, it would swiftly fling itself therein, driven by the conforming love between itself and God.

10. How God uses Purgatory to make the soul wholly pure. The soul acquires in Purgatory a purity so great that were it well for it still to stay there after it had been purged of sin, it would no longer suffer.

I see, too, certain rays and shafts of light which go out from that divine love towards the soul and are penetrating and strong enough to seem as though they must destroy not only the body but the soul too, were that possible. Two works are wrought by these rays, the first purification and the second destruction.

Look at gold: the more you melt it, the better it becomes; you could melt it until you had destroyed in it every imperfection. Thus does fire work on material things. The soul cannot be destroyed in so far as it is in God, but in so far as it is in itself it can be destroyed; the more it is purified, the more is self destroyed within it, until at last it is pure in God.

When gold has been purified up to twenty-four carats, it can no longer be consumed by any fire; not gold itself but only dross can be burnt away. Thus the divine fire works in the soul: God holds the soul in the fire until its every imperfection is burnt away and it is brought to perfection, as it were to the purity of

twenty-four carats, each soul however according to its own degree. When the soul has been purified it stays wholly in God, having nothing of self in it; its being is in God who has led this cleansed soul to Himself; it can suffer no more for nothing is left in it to be burnt away; were it held in the fire when it has thus been cleansed, it would feel no pain. Rather the fire of divine love would be to it like eternal life and in no way contrary to it.

MASS INTENTIONS

Aug 21 (Sat), 5:30 PM James Doyle (req. by Rita Geringer)
 Aug 22 (Sun), 8:00 AM SJN Parishioners
 Aug 22, 10:00 AM Deceased clergy of the diocese
 Aug 23 (Mon), 12:15 PM Lucille DuBois (req. by Sandra Towne); Jacqueline Bozzuto (req. by 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).

WEEKLY CALENDAR

22 Aug, SUNDAY — 21st WEEK IN ORDINARY TIME

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

23 Aug, MONDAY

12:15 PM | Daily Mass
 7:00 PM | Choir Rehearsal

24 Aug, TUESDAY

7:00 PM | Scout Meeting

25 Aug, WEDNESDAY

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

26 Aug, THURSDAY

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

27 Aug, FRIDAY (Day of Penance)

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

28 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 is now available. 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.

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@sjnh.org; (603) 884-3306.



TAB & CAP DRIVE

The Quintero family is collecting [the Collection Box is in the Coat Closet]: (1) ALUMINUM TABS in support of the Shriners Hospital for Children, and (2) Coca Cola bottle caps in support of Merrimack High School. Aluminum has a recycling value. COCA COLA BOTTLE CAPS have a code which when entered into their product website is worth 5¢. The Collection Box is in the Coat Closet. THANKS to all who can help out!



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/sjnh](https://www.facebook.com/sjnh)

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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