

SAINT JOHN NEUMANN PARISH

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



31st SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
October 31, 2021

Fr. Robert Glasgow
Pastor
Chaplain (LTC) USA, Ret.
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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

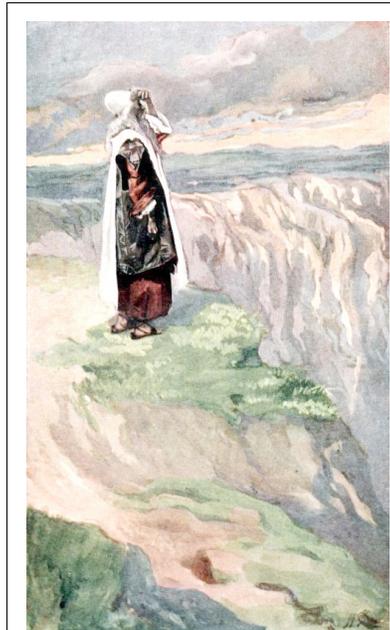
RCIA is the process of formation offered to those who seek to become Catholic. For information, please call the office.

I SPEAK OF PRAYER, NOT WORDS

Rejoice in hope, endure in affliction, persevere in prayer. —Rom 12:12

The first excerpt below is from a treatise by Tertullian (d. 240, apologist) entitled On Prayer.

The second is from a homily by St John Chrysostom (d. 407, bishop). For both, prayer is the supreme good. Tertullian says true worship consists in prayer which proceeds from spirit and truth. Prayer can work no evil, but has all power concerning good, particularly our eternal good. **PRAYER ALONE CONQUERS GOD.** St John Chrysostom says prayer is the longing for God, love too deep for words, a gift not given by man but by God's grace.



MOSES SEES THE PROMISED LAND
FROM AFAR
by James Tissot (d. 1902)

PRAYER is the spiritual offering which has abolished the ancient sacrifices. "What to me is the multitude of your sacrifices?" says the Lord. "I have had enough of burnt offerings of rams; I have no desire for the fat of lambs or the blood of bulls and of goats. Who looked for these from your hands?" We learn from the gospel what God has asked for. "The hour will come," we are told, "when true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth. God is spirit, and so this is the kind of worshiper he wants."

We are the true worshipers and the true priests: praying in spirit, we make our sacrifice of prayer in spirit, an offering which is God's own and acceptable to him. This is the offering which he has asked for, and which he has provided for himself. This is the sacrifice, offered from the heart, fed on faith, prepared by truth; unblemished in innocence, pure in chastity, garlanded with love, which we must bring to God's altar, in a procession of good works, to the



accompaniment of psalms and hymns. It will obtain for us from God all that we ask.

What will God deny to a prayer which proceeds from spirit and truth, seeing it is he who demands it? How great are the proofs of its efficacy which we read and hear and believe. The old prayer, no doubt, brought deliverance from fire, wild beasts and hunger, and yet it had not received its form from Christ: how much more fully efficacious then is Christian prayer!

It does not station the angel of the dew in the midst of the fire, nor block the mouths of lions, nor transfer to the hungry the peasants' dinner. It has no special grace to avert the experience of suffering, but it arms with endurance those who do suffer, who grieve, who are pained. It makes grace multiply in power, so that faith may know what it obtains from the Lord, while it understands what for God's name's sake it is suffering.

In the past prayer induced plagues, put to flight the hosts of the enemy, brought on drought. Now, however, the prayer of righteousness turns aside the whole wrath of God, is concerned for enemies, makes supplication for persecutors. Is it surprising that it knows how to squeeze out the waters of heaven, seeing it did have power even to ask for fire and obtain it? Prayer alone it is that conquers God. But it was Christ's wish for it to work no evil: he has conferred upon it all power concerning good.

And so its only knowledge is how to call back the souls of the deceased from the very highway of death, to straighten the feeble, to heal the sick, to cleanse the devil-possessed, to open the bars of the prison, to loose the bands of the innocent. It also absolves sins, drives back temptations, quenches persecutions, strengthens the weak-hearted, delights the high-minded, brings home wayfarers, stills the waves, confounds robbers, feeds the poor, rules the rich, lifts up the fallen, supports the unstable, upholds them that stand.

The angels too pray, all of them. The whole creation prays. Cattle and wild beasts pray, and bend their knees, and in coming forth from their stalls and lairs look up to heaven, their mouth not idle, making the spirit move in their own fashion. Moreover the birds taking flight lift themselves up to heaven and instead of hands spread out the cross of their wings, while saying something which may be supposed to be a prayer. What more then of the obligation of prayer? Even the Lord himself prayed: to him be honor and power for ever and ever.

PRAYER and converse with God is a supreme good: it is partnership and union with God. As the eyes of the body are enlightened when they see light, so our spirit when it is intent on God, is illumined by his infinite light. I do not mean the prayer of outward observance but prayer from the heart, not confined to fixed times or periods but continuous throughout the day and night.

Our spirit should be quick to reach out toward God, not only when it is engaged in meditation; at other times also, when it is carrying out its duties, caring for the needy, performing works of charity, giving generously in the service of others, our spirit should long for God and call him to mind, so that these works may be seasoned with the salt of God's love, and so make a palatable offering to the Lord of the universe. Throughout the whole of our lives we may enjoy the benefit that comes from prayer if we devote a great deal of time to it.

Prayer is the light of the spirit, true knowledge of God, mediating between God and man. The spirit, raised up to heaven by prayer, clings to God with the utmost tenderness; like a child crying tearfully for its mother, it craves the milk that God provides. It seeks the satisfaction of its own desires, and receives gifts outweighing the whole world of nature.

Prayer stands before God as an honored ambassador. It gives joy to the spirit, peace to the heart.

I speak of prayer, not words. It is the longing for God, love too deep for words, a gift not given by man but by God's grace.

The apostle Paul says: *We do not know how we are to pray but the Spirit himself pleads for us with inexpressible longings.*

When the Lord gives this kind of prayer to a man or woman, he gives him riches that cannot be taken away, heavenly food that satisfies the spirit. One who tastes this food is set on fire with an eternal longing for the Lord: his spirit burns as in a fire of the utmost intensity.

Practice prayer from the beginning. Paint your house with the colors of modesty and humility. Make it radiant with the light of justice. Decorate it with the finest gold leaf of good deeds. Adorn it with the walls and stones of faith and generosity. Crown it with the pinnacle of prayer. In this way you will make it a perfect dwelling place for the Lord. You will be able to receive him as in a splendid palace, and through his grace you will already possess him, his image enthroned in the temple of your spirit.

MASS INTENTIONS

Oct 30 (Sat), 5:30 PM	SJN Parishioners
Oct 31 (Sun), 8:00 AM	Paul Lowney (35th anniv., req. by Durkee family)
Oct 31, 10:00 AM	Pete & Bonnie Glasgow (req. by family)
Oct 31, 6:00 PM	Robert K. Lawrence (req. by Music Ministry)
Nov 1 (Mon), 12:15 PM	Earl G. Stimson (req. by Sandra Towne)
Nov 1, 7:00 PM	Deceased clergy of the diocese
Nov 2 (Tue), 12:15 PM	Holy Souls
Nov 2, 7:00 PM	Holy Souls

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). **Masses with no intention are offered for the Holy Souls in Purgatory.**

WEEKLY CALENDAR

31 Oct, SUNDAY — 31st WEEK IN ORDINARY TIME

8:00 AM | Mass
10:00 AM | Mass
6:00 PM | Mass
7:00 PM | Adoration

1 Nov, MONDAY — ALL SAINTS (obligation abrogated)

12:15 PM | Holy Day Mass
7:00 PM | Holy Day Mass

2 Nov, TUESDAY — ALL SOULS

12:15 PM | All Souls Mass
7:00 PM | All Souls Mass
7:00 PM | Scout Meeting

3 Nov, WEDNESDAY

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

4 Nov, THURSDAY

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

5 Nov, FIRST FRIDAY (Day of Penance)

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

6 Nov, FIRST SATURDAY

8:30 AM | Men's Group
8:45 AM | Rosary
9:00 AM | First Saturday Mass
9:30 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 | Mass

ANNOUNCEMENTS

SOLEMNITY OF ALL SAINTS

Holy Day of Obligation, Nov 1

Mass will be offered at 12:15 and 7:00 PM. Because the holy day falls on a Monday this year, the obligation is abrogated.



ALL SOULS

Commemoration of All the Faithful Departed
2 Nov

Mass will be offered at 12:15 PM and 7:00 PM. Both Masses will be offered for the intentions of those attending.



PARISH HARVEST DINNER

Nov 6, following the 5:30 PM Mass.
TICKETS available
after Sunday Masses Oct 24 & 31.

*thank
you*

THANKS to all who participated or donated to this year's Crop Walk!

"RETURN" VIDEO COURSE

Half of young Americans who were raised Catholic no longer identify as Catholic today. Roughly eight in ten (79%) who shed their faith leave before age 23. Few experiences cause more despair than having a child leave the Church. Most parents feel helpless. They're desperate to draw their child back to the Church, but they don't know what to do. We need to understand the landscape and the real reasons why our young people drift away. Then, once we understand the problem, we need a game plan to bring them home. That's precisely what the "RETURN Video Course" will give you.

<https://youtu.be/qeD6zVEhmMc>

How to Draw Young People Back to the Church
w/ Bp. Robert Barron and Brandon Vogt

<https://youtu.be/MPybe4Evj0s>

RESPECT LIFE CONTEST



The New Hampshire KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS is once again sponsoring a STUDENT RESPECT LIFE ESSAY CONTEST. The contest is open to any Junior High (grades 6-8) and Senior High (grades 9-12) student in New Hampshire. The New Hampshire Knights of Columbus will provide up to six cash awards of \$100 each. Visit www.catholicnh.org/koc-respectlife for more information.

PARISH NEWS

The parish uses Flocknotes to keep members updated. To receive emails and/or text messages, see below. Unsubscribe any time. Choose to get updates from just the groups you're interested in.

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

DID YOU KNOW?

Did you know? The Diocese of Manchester requires all those who work with children and youth in our parishes, schools, and camps to complete "SAFE ENVIRONMENT" training. This training teaches adults to recognize and report suspected abuse and boundary violations. Training is also offered free of charge to all NH Catholic adults and is available online at:

<<https://manchester.cmgconnect.org>>

For more information about child safety, visit www.catholicnh.org/safety.

— AMAZON SMILE —

Please consider supporting our St John Neumann FOOD PANTRY whenever you purchase items through AMAZON.COM. This past quarter (Apr-Jun) we received \$102.45 from the AmazonSmile Foundation. To participate, 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.

SAINT GIANNA'S PLACE
"Baby Bottle Campaign" ends 31 Oct

ST. GIANNA'S PLACE—a home for women in crisis pregnancies located in Hudson—will be holding a "BABY BOTTLE CAMPAIGN". Our doors have now been open for two years and we've been able to offer a loving, supportive home to 15 women and many babies and children during this short time! Your financial support is greatly appreciated in order to defray the costs of the day-to-day operations and educational programs we offer to our moms. If you would like to help, simply take home a Baby Bottle, fill it with your donation, and return it to the bin in the entrance of the church by October 31st.

SJN Staff

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PASTORAL COUNCIL
Steve De Beradinis (President)

FINANCE COMMITTEE
Bob Fregault (Chairman)

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS
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