

# SAINT JOHN NEUMANN PARISH

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



32nd SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME  
November 7, 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.

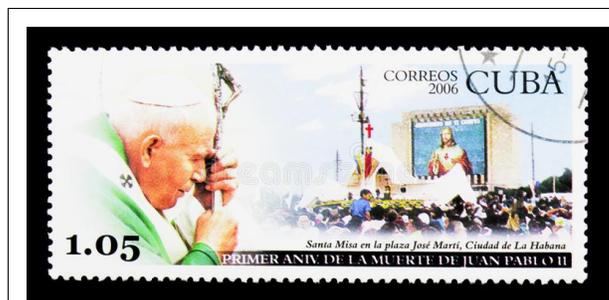
## RITE OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION

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

## INCESSANT PRAYER

Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. —Mt 7:7

The following brief excerpts are from Saint John Paul the Great: His Five Loves (San Francisco: Ignatius Press, 2014).



POPE SAINT JOHN PAUL II (d. 2005)  
Beatified 1 May 2011  
Canonized 27 Apr 2014

BETWEEN 0500 and 0530—and sometimes as early as 0400—Pope John Paul II would arise each morning, keeping virtually the same schedule he had as the bishop of Kraków. Although he enjoyed watching the sunrise, the main reason for his early start was to make time for prayer. He prayed the Rosary prostrate on the floor or kneeling, followed by his personal prayers, and would then go to the chapel in order to prepare for 0730 Mass. According to his press secretary, Joaquín Navarro-Valls, his sixty to ninety minutes of private prayer before Mass were the best part of his day. [And] After going to the sacristy to don his vestments for Mass, he would again kneel or sit for ten to twenty minutes. When visitors arrived to join him for Mass, they would always find him kneeling in prayer. Some said, "he looked like he was speaking with the Invisible." One of the masters of ceremonies added, "it seemed as if the Pope were not present among us." Bishop Andrew Wypych, who was ordained to the diaconate by Cardinal Karol Wojtyła, added, "You could see that he physically was there, but one could sense that he was immersed in the love of the Lord. They were united in talking to each other."

Prayer was the rhythm of the Holy Father's life. He made time to pray before and after his meals, and interspersed his Breviary prayers [the *Liturgy of the Hours*] throughout the day and night, calling it: "very important, very important." At six in the morning, at



noon, and again at six in the evening, he would stop whatever he was doing to pray the Angelus, just as he had done while working in the chemical plant in Poland. He prayed several Rosaries each day, went to confession every week, and did not let a day pass without receiving Holy Communion. Each Friday (and every day in Lent), he prayed the Stations of the Cross, and preferred to do this in the garden on the roof of the Papal Apartments. During Lent, he would eat one complete meal a day, and always fasted on the eve of our Lady's feast days. He remarked, "If the bishop doesn't set an example by fasting, then who will?" The Holy Father knew that his first duty to the Church was his interior life.

He declared, "the shepherd should walk at the head and lay down his life for his sheep. He should be the first when it comes to sacrifice and devotion."

Each night, he looked out his window to Saint Peter's Square and to the whole world, and made the sign of the cross over it, blessing the world goodnight. For many years, he ascended to the roof of the Papal Apartments to offer this nightly blessing. Visitors standing in the square noticed that his light often went off between eleven and one in the morning. One of his biographers noted that he seldom went to bed before midnight. As a priest and bishop, and perhaps as pope, he sometimes slept on the bare floor. In Krakow, his housekeeper knew of this, and noticed that he would crumple his bed sheets to conceal it.

More remarkable than his daily, weekly, and annual traditions of prayer was his habit of incessant prayer. While walking from place to place inside the Vatican or outside, prayer became as natural and vital to him as his breath. While strolling to his next appointment, Archbishop Mieczyslaw Mokrzycki said, "he was immersed in prayer for those five minutes. He was then beyond our reach, turned off. There were dozens of moments like that during the day. We knew that we were not supposed to disturb the Holy Father then because he was with God. They were united in an unusual way." He added that John Paul's mysticism was evidenced by the fact that he would "disconnect" himself from his surroundings and appeared oblivious to external distractions. Cardinal Dziwisz noticed that even times of work were "peppered with prayers, with short bursts of prayer." One member of the Curia noted, "No sooner does he pause than he starts praying." Cardinal Christoph Schönborn observed:

The Holy Father looked as though he never stopped praying. I never saw anyone so constantly immersed in union with Christ and God, as though it were a permanent state that led him to submit everything he did unto the Lord's hands. His attentiveness to others, his gestures, words and readings—everything he did was bathed in prayer, like the great mystics. It could be said that he didn't make time to enter prayer. Rather, he made time for the sake of others to come out of it.

However, what's more fascinating than when the Pope prayed or what he prayed, is how he prayed. While hiking atop the Italian Alps, Dziwisz told the guide, "Lino, the Holy Father wants to be alone for a little while in recollection, let's look for a good spot." They noticed a

large flat rock and guided him over to it. The guide explained what happened next in his book, The Secret Life of John Paul II:

It was then that I witnessed for the first time something I will truly never forget, and that—overcoming my reservations—I am telling here for the first time. I seek to do so accurately and with purity of heart. His head was bowed and he was absorbed in prayer, totally immobile, without even the slightest movement. He was in a sort of trance—or I dare say, ecstasy—which he was modestly hiding from us. In fact, I couldn't see his face or even tell whether his hands were folded or not. Nor if his eyes were open or closed. Instead, I had the very clear sensation that I was observing someone endowed with a spiritual power that was no longer human; someone who no longer belonged to this world, but was living those minutes in complete communion with God, with the saints, and with all the souls of heaven. The unreal sparkle of the snow all around emphasized this impression. A complete silence had descended. Everything was motionless, as if a state of contemplation had taken hold of every element of nature. He never moved so much as a millimeter, his muscles were motionless like everything else around him. Then, the strangest thing occurred. The Pope, after the tiniest imperceptible movement, revived and then slowly got up, and when we looked at our watches, realized that almost an hour had gone by.

Such episodes of deep prayer were commonplace, according to those who spent time with the Holy Father. In 1995, when John Paul visited the Sacred Heart Cathedral—now Basilica—in Newark, he made a visit to the Blessed Sacrament before departing. When he knelt at the priedieu, a cardinal remembered:

It was my hope, my intention to kneel a little behind him. I couldn't. I couldn't. As soon as he knelt, it was like a sacred space, like a tent was around him, and I moved away. I moved three or four yards back and stood by one of the stone pillars of the cathedral. Because you had to leave space there. He went into the deepest prayer. I've rarely seen anyone in that state of such deep prayerfulness. He wasn't with us any more. He was with the Lord. He knelt and then in ten seconds he was gone. It was so holy, I moved back. And he was there, for about maybe seven or eight minutes, lost in total prayer.

Then, Monsignor Dziwisz took his elbow and he gently got up, turned around with a great smile, waved to the people, and walked on.

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## LAST WEEK

Attendance 380 / Offering \$7,121.00

Thank you for your generosity!

## MASS INTENTIONS

Nov 6 (Sat), 5:30 PM	Mark & Ruth Kenna (req. by family)
Nov 7 (Sun), 8:00 AM	SJN Parishioners
Nov 7, 10:00 AM	Donald Davidson (req. by Natale family)
Nov 7, 6:00 PM	Holy Souls
Nov 8 (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). Masses with no intention are offered for the Holy Souls in Purgatory.

## WEEKLY CALENDAR

7 Nov, SUNDAY — 32nd WEEK IN ORDINARY TIME

8:00 AM | Mass

10:00 AM | Mass

6:00 PM | Mass

7:00 PM | Adoration

8 Nov, MONDAY

12:15 PM | Daily Mass

9 Nov, TUESDAY

7:00 PM | Scout Meeting

10 Nov, WEDNESDAY

9:30 AM | Knitting Group (meets every other  
Wednesday)

10:00 AM | Faith Sharing

12:15 PM | Daily Mass

11 Nov, THURSDAY — SJN offices closed in observance  
of the VETERAN'S DAY HOLIDAY

10:00 AM | "BLESSED IS SHE" Women's Group

12:15 PM | \*NO DAILY MASS

12 Nov, FRIDAY (Day of Penance)

10:00 AM | Food Pantry (until 12:30)

12:15 PM | Daily Mass (w/ Adoration)

13 Nov, SATURDAY

8:30 AM | Men's Group

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

### "RETURN" VIDEO COURSE

Wednesdays 10:00 AM & 6:30 PM

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>

An Interview with Brandon Vogt, Author of Return:  
How to Draw Your Child Back to the Church



### EVANGELIZATION COMMITTEE

Related to the above, we'd like to form an EVANGELIZATION COMMITTEE in the parish. The whole purpose of parish life is to make Christ the center of our lives. In the words of St [Mother] Teresa of Calcutta, "To EVANGELIZE means you have Jesus in your heart, and then you carry Him to the heart of others." To do this effectively is a whole-of-the-parish task. Please consider helping in some way.

Of EVANGELIZATION, Pope St Paul VI said:

"The presentation of the Gospel message is not an optional contribution for the Church. It is the duty incumbent on her by the command of the Lord Jesus, so that people can believe and be saved. This message is indeed necessary. It is unique. It cannot be replaced. It does not permit either indifference, syncretism or accommodation. It is a question of people's salvation. It is able to stir up by itself faith, faith that rests on the power of God. It is truth. It merits having the apostle consecrate to it all his time and all his energies, and to sacrifice for it, if necessary, his own life." —EVANGELII NUNTIANDI, 5.

"Evangelizing is, in fact, the grace and

vocation proper to the Church, her deepest identity. She exists in order to evangelize."  
—EVANGELII NUNTIANDI, 14.

## 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](http://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://SJMERRIMACK.flocknote.com>  
Text > "SJMERRIMACK" 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](http://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.

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## SJN Staff

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