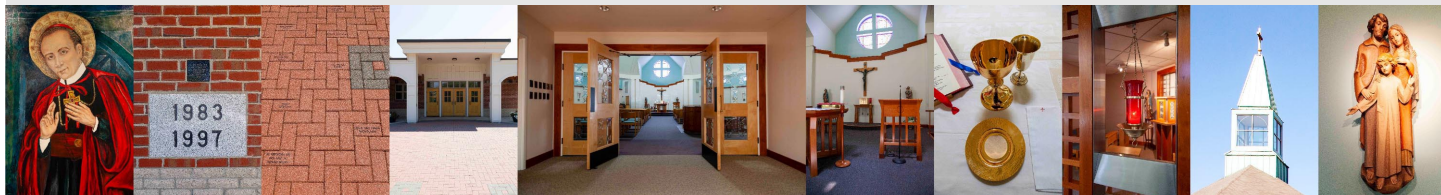


SAINT JOHN NEUMANN PARISH

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



SOLEMNITY OF CHRIST THE KING
34th—and last—SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
November 21, 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.

Q. Where in Scripture do we find the first promise of a Messiah/Redeemer? [See answer below.]

INRI

Thomas said to him, "My Lord and my God!" —John 20:28

The following is excerpted from a homily by Pope Benedict XVI on the Solemnity of Christ the King, 21 Nov 2010.



THE CRUCIFIXION [detail]
by Peter Paul Rubens (d. 1640)

Luke 23:38-43 | ABOVE him there was an inscription that read, "This is the King of the Jews." Now one of the criminals hanging there reviled Jesus, saying, "Are you not the Messiah? Save yourself and us." The other, however, rebuking him, said in reply, "Have you no fear of God, for you are subject to the same condemnation? And indeed, we have been condemned justly, for the sentence we received corresponds to our crimes, but this man has done nothing criminal." Then he said, "Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom." He replied to him, "Amen, I say to you, today you will be with me in Paradise."

DEAR Brothers and Sisters, the primary service of the Successor of Peter is that of the faith. In the New Testament, Peter becomes the "rock" of the Church insofar as he is the bearer of Faith: the "we" of the Church begins with the name of the first man who professed faith in Christ, it begins with his faith; a faith that was at first immature and still "too human". Then, however, after Easter it matured and made him capable of following Christ even to the point of giving himself; it developed in the belief that Jesus is truly King; that he is so precisely because he remained on the Cross, and in that way gave his life for sinners.

In the Gospel we see that everyone asks



Jesus to come down from the Cross. They mock him, but this is also a way of excusing themselves from blame as if to say: it is not our fault that you are hanging on the Cross; it is solely your fault because if you really were the Son of God, the King of the Jews, you would not stay there but would save yourself by coming down from that infamous scaffold.

Therefore, if you remain there it means that you are wrong and we are right. The tragedy that is played out beneath the Cross of Jesus is a universal tragedy; it concerns all people before God who reveals himself for what he is, namely, Love. In the crucified Jesus the divinity is disfigured, stripped of all visible glory and yet is present and real. Faith alone can recognize it: the faith of Mary, who places in her heart too this last scene in the mosaic of her Son's life. She does not yet see the whole, but continues to trust in God, repeating once again with the same abandonment: "Behold, the handmaid of the Lord" (cf. Lk 1:38).

Then there is the faith of the Good Thief: a faith barely outlined but sufficient to assure him salvation: "Today you will be with me in Paradise". This "with me" is crucial. Yes, it is this that saves him. Of course, the good thief is on the cross like Jesus, but above all he is on the Cross with Jesus. And, unlike the other evildoer and all those who taunt him, he does not ask Jesus to come down from the Cross nor to make him come down. Instead he says: "remember me when you come into your kingdom". The Good Thief sees Jesus on the Cross, disfigured and unrecognizable and yet he entrusts himself to him as to a king, indeed as to the King. The good thief believes what was written on the tablet over Jesus' head: "The King of the Jews". He believed and entrusted himself. For this reason he was already, immediately, in the "today" of God, in Paradise, because Paradise is this: being with Jesus, being with God.

So here is the first and fundamental message that the word of God clearly tells us today: It calls us to be with Jesus, like Mary, and not to ask him to come down from the Cross but rather to stay there with him.

We know from the Gospels that the Cross was the critical point of the faith of Simon Peter and of the other Apostles. It is clear and it could not be otherwise: they were men and thought "according to men"; they could not tolerate the idea of a crucified Messiah. Peter's "conversion" is fully achieved when he stops wanting "to save" Jesus and accepts to be saved by him. He gives up wanting to save Jesus from the Cross and allows Jesus' Cross to save him. "I have prayed for you that your faith may not fail; and when you have turned again, strengthen your brethren" (Lk 22:32), the Lord says. Peter's ministry consists first of all in his faith, a faith that Jesus immediately recognizes, from the outset, as genuine, as a gift of the heavenly Father; but a faith that must pass through the scandal of the Cross to become authentic, truly "Christian", to become a "rock" on which Jesus can build his Church.

Participation in the lordship of Christ is only brought

about in practice in the sharing of his self-abasement, with the Cross. It is from this that our wisdom derives: *sapientia Crucis*. On this St Paul reflected profoundly. He was the first to outline Christian thought in an organized way, centered precisely on the paradox of the Cross (cf. 1 Cor 1:18-25; 2:1-8). In the Letter to the Colossians, of which today's Liturgy proposes the Christological Hymn—the Pauline reflection, made fertile by the grace of the Spirit, already reaches an impressive level of synthesis in expressing an authentic Christian concept of God and of the world, of personal and universal salvation; and it is all centered on Christ, the Lord of hearts, of history and of the cosmos: "In him the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in Heaven, making peace by the blood of his Cross" (Col 1:19-20).

Dear Brothers, we are always called to proclaim this to the world: Christ "the image of the invisible God", Christ "the first-born of all creation", and "the first-born from the dead", as the Apostle writes, so "that in everything he might be preeminent" (Col 1:15. 18). In the Letter to the Ephesians, St Paul speaks explicitly of the lordship of Christ and sets it in relation to the Church. He formulates a prayer of praise to the "greatness of the power of God" who raised Christ and made him the universal Lord and concludes, "and he [God] has put all things under his feet and has made him the head over all things for the Church, which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all" (Eph 1:22-23). Here, Paul attributes to the Church the very word "fullness", which applies to Christ, for participation: the body, in fact, participates in the fullness of the Head. This, Venerable Brother Cardinals this is what our joy is: participating, in the Church in the fullness of Christ through the obedience of the Cross, of being qualified "to share in the inheritance of the saints in light", of being "transferred" to the Kingdom of the Son of God (cf. Col 1:12-13). For this reason we live in perennial thanksgiving, and even in trials do not lack the joy and peace that Christ bequeathed to us as a guarantee of his Kingdom which already exists among us, who wait with faith and hope, and of which we have a foretaste in love. Amen.

LAST WEEK

Attendance 368/Offering \$5,601.38

Christmas Flowers \$633.00

Thank you for your generosity!

WEEKLY CALENDAR

21 Nov, SUNDAY — 34th (and last) WEEK IN
ORDINARY TIME

8:00 AM | Mass

10:00 AM | Mass

6:00 PM | Mass

7:00 PM | Adoration

22 Nov, MONDAY

12:15 PM | Daily Mass

23 Nov, TUESDAY

7:00 PM | Scout Meeting

24 Nov, WEDNESDAY

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

10:00 AM | Faith Sharing

10:00 AM | "Return" Video Course

12:15 PM | Daily Mass

6:00 PM | Finance Committee Meeting

6:30 PM | "Return" Video Course (Repeat)

25 Nov, THURSDAY — THANKSGIVING DAY
SJM offices closed today and Friday.

9:00 AM | *MASS OF THANKSGIVING

26 Nov, FRIDAY (Day of Penance)

10:00 AM | *NO FOOD PANTRY

12:15 PM | *NO DAILY MASS

27 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

Offering". A DONATION can be made in the name of a loved one(s). If so, please print their name(s) on the envelope. Those not receiving offering envelopes are welcome to DONATE towards our Christmas altar decorations as well, just use a plain envelope (and if in memory of a loved one, print their name or names on the envelope).

CHOIR REHEARSALS

The SEASONAL CHOIR continues to meet Tuesday evenings, 7-9 PM.

The CHILDREN'S CHOIR will meet Sunday mornings starting November 28, 9:00-9:45 AM.

CANTATA rehearsals will meet on Sundays starting November 28, time TBD (it will be either 11:30 AM or 4:00 PM).

"RETURN" VIDEO COURSE Wed 10:00 AM and 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

MASS INTENTIONS

Nov 20 (Sat), 5:30 PM	Richard Blais (req. by Mike & Linda Marolla)
Nov 21 (Sun), 8:00 AM	Bp. Leo O'Neill (d. 30 Nov 1997)
Nov 21, 10:00 AM	Bp. Odore Gendron (d. 16 Oct 2020)
Nov 21, 6:00 PM	Bp. John McCormack (d. 21 Sep 2021)
Nov 25 (Thu), 12:15 PM	Paul & Alice Lowney (req. by Russ & Edna Durkee)
Nov 26 (Fri), 12:15 PM	Mike & Judy Hardy - LIVING INTENTION (60th Wedding Anniv.)

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.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

MEMORIAL CHRISTMAS FLOWERS

Those who receive offering envelopes will notice a special envelope labeled "Christmas Decoration

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)

TURKEY RAFFLE



THANKS to all who participated!
Your support helps us meet our yearly monetary commitment to the St John Neumann FOOD PANTRY. This year's winners are:

1. Jim Belanger
2. Stacey Pippenger
3. Roger Blais
4. Joe Cinque
5. Russ Durkee
6. Tom Indelicato
7. Janet Bryant
- 8-10. Dino Quintero

RECLAIM: God's Plan for Sexual Health

RECLAIM: God's Plan for Sexual Health is a professional, science-based, Catholic, online program. It carries an Imprimatur and Nihil Obstat. RECLAIM Sexual Health offers private, anonymous, online help for overcoming pornography and other unhealthy sexual behaviors. Combining brain science, insights from Pope St John Paul II's Theology of the Body, and the full support of the faith, it is a powerful tool for holiness and rediscovering joy. For more information, visit the RECLAIM website:

<https://reclaimsexualhealth.com>

Additional resource:

<http://chastityproject.com>

— 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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FINANCE COMMITTEE
Bob Fregault (Chairman)

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS
Leo Bobek, Grand Knight
lbobek63@gmail.com

- A. The PROTOEVANGELIUM (i.e., first Gospel) is God's first promise of a Messiah/Redeemer: "I will put enmity between you [the Serpent] and the woman, and between your offspring and hers; they will strike at your head, while you strike a their heel" (Gen 3:16). In a mysterious way God heralds the coming victory over evil and man's restoration. As St John says: "The Son of God was revealed to destroy the works of the devil" (1 Jn 3:8).