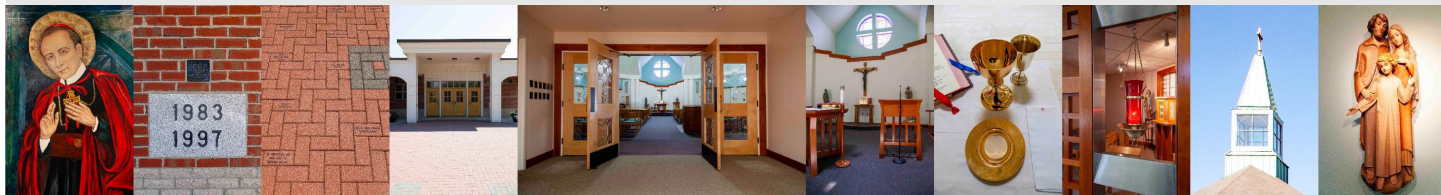


SAINT JOHN NEUMANN PARISH

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



1st SUNDAY OF ADVENT November 28, 2021

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

Eileen Buckley
Business Manager / Parish Secretary
880-4689 x110, office@sjnnh.org

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.

By Faith She Believed; by Faith, Conceived

And the angel being come in, said unto her: "Hail, full of grace, the Lord is with thee: blessed art thou among women." —Luke 1:28

The excerpt below is from a homily by Saint Augustine (d. 430) in which he says Mary is more blessed in her discipleship than her motherhood.



The **IMMACULATE CONCEPTION** is the title of the Blessed Virgin as sinless from her first moment of existence. In the words of Pope Pius IX's solemn definition, made in 1854,

"The most holy Virgin Mary was, in the first moment of her conception, by a unique gift of grace and privilege of almighty God, in view of the merits of Jesus Christ the Redeemer of mankind, preserved free from all stain of original sin."

This means that since the first moment of her human existence the mother of Jesus was preserved from the common defect of estrangement from God, which humanity in general inherits through the sin of Adam. Her freedom from sin was an unmerited gift of God or special grace, and an exception to the law, or privilege, which no other created person has received. Neither the Greek nor Latin Fathers explicitly taught the Immaculate Conception, but they professed it implicitly in two fundamental ways. Mary, they said, was most perfect in purity of morals and holiness of life. St Ephrem (d. 373) addressed Christ and Mary with the words "You and Your mother are the only ones who are totally beautiful in every way. For in You, O Lord, there is no stain, and in Your mother no stain." Mary was described as the antithesis of Eve. Again in Ephrem, "Mary and Eve [were] two people without guilt. Later one became the cause of our death,

the other cause of our life." While implicit in the early writers, the IMMACULATE CONCEPTION had to be clarified before becoming explicit dogma. Main credit for this goes to the Franciscan John Duns Scotus (d. 1308), who introduced the idea of pre-redemption in order to reconcile Mary's freedom from original sin with her conception before the coming of Christ.

STRETCHING out his hand over his disciples, the Lord Christ declared: *Here are my mother and my brothers; anyone who does the will of my Father who sent me is my brother and sister and my mother.* I would urge you to ponder these words. Did the Virgin Mary, who believed by faith and conceived by faith, who was the chosen one from whom our Savior was born among men, who was created by Christ before Christ was created in her—did she not do the will of the Father? Indeed the blessed Mary certainly did the Father's will, and so it was for her a greater thing to have been Christ's disciple than to have been his mother, and she was more blessed in her discipleship than in her motherhood. Hers was the happiness of first bearing in her womb him whom she would obey as her master.

Now listen and see if the words of Scripture do not agree with what I have said. The Lord was passing by and crowds were following him. His miracles gave proof of divine power. and a woman cried out: *Happy is the womb that bore you, blessed is that womb!* But the Lord, not wishing people to seek happiness in a purely physical relationship, replied: *More blessed are those who hear the word of God and keep it.* Mary heard God's word and kept it, and so she is blessed. She kept God's truth in her mind, a nobler thing than carrying his body in her womb. The truth and the body were both Christ: he was kept in Mary's mind insofar as he is truth, he was carried in her womb insofar as he is man; but what is kept in the mind is of a higher order than what is carried in the womb.

The Virgin Mary is both holy and blessed, and yet the Church is greater than she. Mary is a part of the Church, a member of the Church, a holy, an eminent—the most eminent—member, but still only a member of the entire body. The body undoubtedly is greater than she, one of its members. This body has the Lord for its head, and head and body together make up the whole Christ. In other words, our head is divine—our head is God.

Now, beloved, give me your whole attention, for you also are members of Christ; you also are the body of Christ. Consider how you yourselves can be among those of whom the Lord said: *Here are my mother and my brothers.* Do you wonder how you can be the mother of Christ? He himself said: *Whoever hears and fulfils the will of my Father in heaven is my brother and my sister and my mother.* As for our being the brothers and sisters of Christ, we can understand this because although there is only one inheritance and Christ is the only Son, his mercy would not allow him to remain alone. It was his wish that we too should be heirs of the Father, and co-heirs with himself.

Now having said that all of you are brothers of Christ, shall I not dare to call you his mother? Much less would I dare to deny his own words. Tell me how Mary became

the mother of Christ, if it was not by giving birth to the members of Christ? You, to whom I am speaking, are the members of Christ. Of whom were you born? "Of Mother Church," I hear the reply of your hearts. You became sons of this mother at your baptism, you came to birth then as members of Christ. Now you in your turn must draw to the font of baptism as many as you possibly can. You became sons when you were born there yourselves, and now by bringing others to birth in the same way, you have it in your power to become the mothers of Christ.

MASS INTENTIONS

Nov 27 (Sat), 5:30 PM	Eleanor Coyne (req. by SJN Knitting Group)
Nov 28 (Sun), 8:00 AM	SJN Parishioners
Nov 28, 10:00 AM	Steve Mroz (req. by Trish Mroz)
Nov 28, 6:00 PM	Holy Souls
Nov 29 (Mon), 12:15 PM	Rev. Richard Lower
Dec 2 (Thu), 12:15 PM	Deceased clergy of the diocese
Dec 3 (Fri), 12:15 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

28 Nov, SUNDAY — 1st Sunday of Advent

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

29 Nov, MONDAY

12:15 PM | Daily Mass

30 Nov, TUESDAY

7:00 PM | Scout Meeting

1 Dec, WEDNESDAY

9:30 AM | Knitting Group (meets every other Wednesday)
 10:00 AM | Faith Sharing
 12:15 PM | Daily Mass

2 Dec, THURSDAY

12:15 PM | Daily Mass

3 Dec, FIRST FRIDAY (Day of Penance)

10:00 AM | Food Pantry
 12:15 PM | Daily Mass (Adoration following)

4 Dec, FIRST SATURDAY

8:30 AM | Men's Group

8:45 AM | Rosary & 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

Holy Day of Obligation
IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

7 Dec, VIGIL MASS
 5:30 PM

8 Dec, HOLY DAY MASSES
 12:15 & 7:00 PM

CONFESSION

6:00-8:00 PM 3, 10, 17 Dec (Fri)
 4:00-5:00 PM (Sat)
 and before/after daily Mass

ADVENT WREATH BLESSING

PURPLE CANDLES are lit the First and Second Sundays of Advent. The ROSE CANDLE is lit the Third Advent [Gaudete Sunday]. The last PURPLE CANDLE is lit the Fourth Sunday of Advent. The following prayer is repeated each day:

- V. Our help is in the name of the Lord.
- R/. Who made heaven and earth.
- V. O God, by whose Word all things are sanctified, pour forth your blessing upon this wreath and grant that we who use it may prepare our hearts for the coming of Christ and may receive from you abundant graces. We ask this through Christ our Lord.
- R/. Amen.
- V. O Lord, stir up your might, we beg you and come, that by your protection we may deserve to be rescued from the threatening dangers of our sins and saved by your deliverance. Through Christ our Lord.
- R/. Amen.

MEMORIAL CHRISTMAS FLOWERS

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

CHRISTMAS GIVING TREE

We ask you help in continuing the St John Neumann tradition of making this Christmas a little brighter for area families-in-need by donating a GIFT CARD that will be distributed on December 17th along with Food Baskets to families served by our SJN Food Pantry. In the Spirit of Christmas, GIFT CARDS in the amount of \$25.00+ would be very much appreciated. Suggested local vendor GIFT CARDS: Target, Walmart, CVS, Market Basket, Shaw's, Kohl's, Marshall's, Home Goods, TJMaxx, etc. A COLLECTION LOCK BOX is available after all Masses beginning December 4th, or they can be dropped off at the office.

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)

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.

— 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.

ADDRESS CHANGE?

If your mailing address, email, or phone number has changed PLEASE NOTIFY the parish office at (603) 880-4689. Keeping our parish register data up-to-date saves the parish both time and money. Thanks!

SJN Staff

CLAIRE BRYSON

Children's Ministry (K-5th Grade)
(603) 880-4689 x114
cbryson@sjnnh.org

CHERI ANDERSEN

Youth Ministry (6th-12th Grade)
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TERI SCHMITT

Religious Education Secretary
tschmitt@sjnnh.org

DIANE BONENFANT

Sacristan

CAROL YETTO

Music Ministry
SJNMusic@myfairpoint.net

CAROL HOPFENSPIRGER and EVELYN VERBECK

Outreach & Food Pantry
(603) 880-4689 x116

KATHY HOPKINS

Day Away (Thursday)
(603) 880-4689
dayaway@sjnnh.org

PASTORAL COUNCIL

Steve De Beradinis (President)

FINANCE COMMITTEE

Bob Fregault (Chairman)

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

The principle MARIAN FEASTS (w/ Solemnities capitalized) are:

1 Jan	MARY, MOTHER OF GOD
11 Feb	Our Lady of Lourdes
25 Mar	THE ANNUNCIATION
14 May	Our Lady Help of Christians
31 May	The Visitation
16 Jul	Our Lady of Mount Carmel
15 Aug	THE ASSUMPTION
22 Aug	Queenship of Mary
15 Sep	Our Lady of Sorrows
7 Oct	Our Lady of the Rosary
21 Nov	Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary
8 Dec	THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION
Moveable	The Immaculate Heart of Mary