

SAINT JOHN NEUMANN PARISH

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



3rd SUNDAY OF ADVENT December 12, 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.

ROSARIUM VIRGINIS MARIAE

The greatest method of praying is to pray the Rosary. —St Francis de Sales (d. 1622)

Pope St Pius V's Bull Consueverunt Romani Pontifices (1569) established a form of the Rosary that had taken several centuries to evolve. The first change in nearly 500 years to this form was proposed by Pope John Paul II in his Apostolic Letter Rosarium Virginis Mariae (16 Oct 2002). The Holy Father added five "Mysteries of Light" as described in the excerpt below.



OUR LADY OF THE ROSARY [detail]
by Charles Bosseron Chambers (d. 1964)

21. MOVING on from the infancy and the hidden life in Nazareth to the public life of Jesus, our contemplation brings us to those mysteries which may be called in a special way "mysteries of light". Certainly the whole mystery of Christ is a mystery of light. He is the "light of the world" (John 8:12). Yet this truth emerges in a special way during the years of his public life, when he proclaims the Gospel of the Kingdom. In proposing to the Christian community five significant moments – "luminous" mysteries – during this phase of Christ's life, I think that the following can be fittingly singled out: (i) his Baptism in the Jordan, (ii) his self-manifestation at the wedding of Cana, (iii) his proclamation of the Kingdom of God, with his call to conversion, (iv) his Transfiguration, and finally, (v) his institution of the Eucharist, as the sacramental expression of the Paschal Mystery. Each of these mysteries is a revelation of the Kingdom now present in the very person of Jesus.



- i. The Baptism in the Jordan is first of all a mystery of light. Here, as Christ descends into the waters, the innocent one who became "sin" for our sake (cf. 2 Cor 5:21), the heavens open wide and the voice of the Father declares him the beloved Son (cf. Mt 3:17 and parallels), while the Spirit descends on him to invest him with the mission which he is to carry out.
- ii. Another mystery of light is the first of the signs, given at Cana (cf. Jn 2:1-12), when Christ changes water into wine and opens the hearts of the disciples to faith, thanks to the intervention of Mary, the first among believers.
- iii. Another mystery of light is the preaching by which Jesus proclaims the coming of the Kingdom of God, calls to conversion (cf. Mark 1:15) and forgives the sins of all who draw near to him in humble trust (cf. Mark 2:3-13; Luke 7:47-48): the inauguration of that ministry of mercy which he continues to exercise until the end of the world, particularly through the Sacrament of Reconciliation which he has entrusted to his Church (cf. John 20:22-23).
- iv. The mystery of light par excellence is the Transfiguration, traditionally believed to have taken place on Mount Tabor. The glory of the Godhead shines forth from the face of Christ as the Father commands the astonished Apostles to "listen to him" (cf. Luke 9:35 and parallels) and to prepare to experience with him the agony of the Passion, so as to come with him to the joy of the Resurrection and a life transfigured by the Holy Spirit.
- v. A final mystery of light is the institution of the Eucharist, in which Christ offers his body and blood as food under the signs of bread and wine, and testifies "to the end" his love for humanity (John 13:1), for whose salvation he will offer himself in sacrifice.

In these mysteries, apart from the miracle at Cana, the presence of Mary remains in the background. The Gospels make only the briefest reference to her occasional presence at one moment or other during the preaching of Jesus (cf. Mark 3:31-5; John 2:12), and they give no indication that she was present at the Last Supper and the institution of the Eucharist. Yet the role she assumed at Cana in some way accompanies Christ throughout his ministry. The revelation made directly by the Father at the Baptism in the Jordan and echoed by John the Baptist is placed upon Mary's lips at Cana, and it becomes the great maternal counsel which Mary addresses to the Church of every age: "Do whatever he tells you" (John 2:5). This counsel is a fitting introduction to the words and signs of Christ's public ministry and it forms the Marian foundation of all the "mysteries of light".

KEY DATES in the development of the Rosary:

- "Hail Mary full of grace" prayer employed in a Syriac ritual attributed to Severus, Patriarch of Antioch (c. 513).
- 15th century blessed Fr. Alanus de Rupe (Alain de la Roche) established the "15 Rosary Promises" and started many Rosary confraternities.
- c. 1514 Hail Mary prayer attains its current form.
- 1569 Pope Pius V established the current form of the original 15 mysteries.
- 1587 Rosario Della Sacratissima Vergine Maria by Ven. Luis de Granada is published.
- 1589 Instructions for the use of the beads [the English word bead derives from the Old English noun *bede* which means a prayer] by John Bucke is published.
- 1597 first recorded use of the term "Rosary" to refer to prayer beads.
- 1917 Our Lady of Fatima is said to ask that the Fatima Prayer be added to the Rosary. Her visionaries state that she also asks for the Rosary to be said to stop the war.
- 1974 Pope Paul VI issues the Apostolic Letter *MARIALIS CULTUS* which devotes 14 sections to the use of the rosary within the Roman Catholic Church.
- 2002 Pope John Paul II introduces the Luminous Mysteries as an option for Roman Catholics in an Apostolic Letter on the Rosary, *ROSARIUM VIRGINIS MARIAE*.

WEEKLY CALENDAR

12 Dec, SUNDAY — 3rd SUNDAY OF ADVENT

- 8:00 AM | Mass
- 10:00 AM | Mass
- 4:30 PM | **Confession (until 5:30 PM)**
- 6:00 PM | Mass
- 7:00 PM | Adoration

13 Dec, MONDAY

- 12:15 PM | Daily Mass

14 Dec, TUESDAY

- 7:00 PM | Scout Meeting

15 Dec, WEDNESDAY

- 9:30 AM | Knitting Group (meets every other Wednesday)
- 10:00 AM | Faith Sharing

12:15 PM | Daily Mass
 16 Dec, THURSDAY
 12:15 PM | Daily Mass
 17 Dec, FRIDAY (Day of Penance)
 10:00 AM | Food Pantry
 12:15 PM | Daily Mass (Adoration follows)
 6:00 PM | Confession (until 8:00 PM)
 18 Dec, 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

LAST WEEK

2nd Sunday of Advent, \$5,350.00
 Thank you for your generosity!

MASS INTENTIONS

Dec 13 (Sat), 5:30 PM Susan Flagg (req. by Joan Luke); Anna Lincoln (req. by Maresco family)
 Dec 14 (Sun), 8:00 AM SJN Parishioners
 Dec 14, 10:00 AM Holy Souls
 Dec 14, 6:00 PM Holy Souls
 Dec 15 (Mon), 12:15 PM Deceased clergy of the diocese
 Dec 16 (Thu), 12:15 PM Mary Ann Warpinski (1st Anniv., req. by Stupois 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).

ANNOUNCEMENTS

ADVENT CONFESSION SCHEDULE

6:00-8:00 PM Fri (Dec 3, 10, 17)
 4:00-5:00 PM Sat
 4:30-5:30 PM Sun
 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.

CHRISTMAS MASSES 24

Dec (Fri), Christmas Eve

Vigil Mass (Children's) 4:00 PM
 Vigil Mass 7:00 PM
 "Midnight" 10:00 PM

25 Dec (Sat), Christmas Day

10:00 AM



FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY

(1st Sunday after Christmas)

Sat, 25 Dec (Sat) ... *No 5:30 Anticipatory Mass
 Sun, 26 Dec (Sun) 8:00, 10:00 AM, and 6:00 PM Masses

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, 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://SJNMERRIMACK.flocknote.com>

Text > "SJNMERRIMACK" to 84576 (message and data rates may apply)

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).

HOLY HOUR

FRIDAY, following the 12:15 PM daily Mass and SUNDAY, following the 6:00 PM Mass.

Other than Holy Communion, no act of worship pleases God so much as VISITS TO THE BLESSED SACRAMENT. In the words of Pope St Paul VI (d. 1987), "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).

— 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.

— TAX NOTICE —

If you would like a statement of your 2021 contributions to the parish, please fill out the CONTRIBUTIONS REQUEST CARD (located alongside the bulletins in the foyer) and place it in the collection basket. You can also request a statement by emailing us your:

- Name
- Address
- Phone #
- Envelope #

Statements will go out in February. Your financial support, especially during the past few months, has been very much appreciated!

SJN Staff

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PASTORAL COUNCIL

Steve De Beradinis (President)

FINANCE COMMITTEE

Bob Fregault (Chairman)

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

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