

Memorial JANUARY 5

SAINT JOHN NEPOMUCENE NEUMANN, Bishop

JOHN NEUMANN WAS BORN IN PRACHATITZ IN BOHEMIA (Czech Republic) on March 28, 1811. He studied theology at the seminary of Budweis. Zealous for the missionary life and wanting to lead souls to Christ, he decided to leave his homeland to dedicate himself to the European immigrants in America, who were deprived of spiritual support.

He was ordained a priest by the bishop of New York, and gave himself to the pastoral care of people in the vast area around Niagara Falls. Since he wanted to live in a religious community that corresponded more closely to his missionary vocation, he entered the Congregation of the Most Holy Redeemer. He was professed on January 16, 1842. He was a tireless missionary, busying himself in particular with the German immigrants, first in Baltimore, then in Pittsburgh. He filled the role of vice-provincial of the Redemptorists from

1846 to 1849, after which he became the parish priest of St. Alphonsus Church in Baltimore. In 1852, at the age of forty-two, he was named bishop of Philadelphia. He had a strong effect on the religious life of the United States by founding Catholic schools and promoting devotion to the Eucharist. In two years, the number of students in the parochial schools went from 500 to 9,000. He founded a new religious institute: The Sisters of the Third Order of St. Francis. In the brief space of seven years, he built eighty-nine churches as well as several hospitals and orphanages.

As a worthy son of St. Alphonsus, he made a vow never to lose a minute of time. As a bishop, he was holy and tireless. Uninterruptedly he visited his vast diocese, on one occasion travelling more than twenty-five miles of mountain roads by mule in order to confirm a young boy who was sick.

On January 5, 1860, he died suddenly of a heart attack on a street in Philadelphia. He was beatified during the Second Vatican Council on October 13, 1963, and was canonized on June 19, 1977. In the homily on

the occasion of his canonization, Paul VI summarized the activity of the new saint in these words: “He was close to the sick, he loved to be with the poor, he was a friend of sinners, and now he is the glory of all emigrants.”



Entrance Antiphon

Ps 16:5-6

The Lord is my chosen portion and my cup;
you hold my lot. The boundary lines have
fallen for me in pleasant places; I have a
goodly heritage

COLLECT

O God, you wished your bishop, Saint John
Neumann, to shine forth for his pastoral
ministry among the most abandoned. Grant,
that imitating his untiring zeal for holiness in
the discharge of daily works, we may be able
to serve your church fruitfully.

We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ,
your Son, who lives and reigns with you and
the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.
Amen.

FIRST READING 1 Corinthians 9:16-19,22-23

Woe to me if I do not proclaim the gospel.

A reading from the First Letter of Paul to the
Corinthians

I do not boast of preaching the gospel, since it
is a duty which has been laid on me; I should

be punished if I did not preach it! If I had chosen this work myself, I might have been paid for it, but as I have not, it is a responsibility which has been put into my hands. Do you know what my reward is? It is this: in my preaching, to be able to offer the Good News free, and not insist on the rights which the gospel gives me.

So though I am not a slave of anyone, I have made myself the slave of everyone so as to win as many as I could. For the weak I made myself weak. I made myself all things to everyone in order to save some at any cost; and I still do this, for the sake of the gospel, to have a share in its blessing.

The Word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Ps 23

R. The Lord leads us on the path of peace.

The Lord is my shepherd
there is nothing I shall want
Fresh and green are the pastures
where he gives me repose.

Near restful waters he leads me,
to revive my drooping spirit. **R.**

He guides me along the right path;
He is true to his name.
If I should walk in the valley of darkness
no evil would I fear.
You are there with your crook and your staff;
with these you give me comfort. **R.**

You have prepared a banquet for me
in the sight of my foes.
My head you have anointed with oil;
my cup is overflowing. **R.**

Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me
all the days of my life.
In the Lord's own house shall I dwell
for ever and ever. **R.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Jn 10:14

R. Alleluia, alleluia.
I am the good shepherd, says the Lord;
I know my own and my own know me.
R. Alleluia, alleluia.

GOSPEL

John 10:11-16

The good shepherd gives his life for the sheep.

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to John

Jesus said: "I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. The hired hand, since he is not the shepherd and the sheep do not belong to him, abandons the sheep and runs away as soon as he sees a wolf coming, and then the wolf attacks and scatters the sheep; this is because he is only a hired hand and has no concern for the sheep.

I am the good shepherd; I know my own and my own know me, just as the Father knows me and I know the Father; and I lay down my life for my sheep. And there are other sheep I have that are not of this fold, and these I have to lead as well. They too will listen to my voice, and there will be only one flock, and one shepherd.

The Gospel of the Lord.

PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL

Presider :

As we celebrate the feast of St. John Neumann, let us follow his example of faithful discipleship and ask God to deepen our own commitment to give our lives to plentiful redemption.

Response : *Lord, deepen our faith.*

1. For the Redemptorists, that they may share St. John Neumann's passion and dedication for the poor and abandoned in our society. Let us pray. **R.**
2. For leaders of nations, that their policies towards migrant workers and refugees be compassionate and just. Let us pray. **R.**
3. For the community, that our faith may inspire us to embrace the poor, the marginalized, and the foreigner who live amongst us. Let us pray. **R.**

4. For Church ministries, that we will be committed to prayer, service, and building the community. Let us pray. **R.**

5. For the faithful departed, that with the saints they will enjoy the rewards of eternal life promised to them. Let us pray. **R.**

Presider :

Heavenly Father, instill in us a yearning to reach out to others in our everyday circumstances so that they, too, may come to experience your redemptive power. We ask this in Jesus' name.

Amen.

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

Graciously look down, O Lord, upon the Sacrifice which we offer you and ignite within us the fire of your love with which the holy bishop John was a flame.

We ask this through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

PREFACE

Priest : The Lord be with you.

People : And with your spirit.

Priest : Lift up your hearts.

People : We lift them up to the Lord.

Priest : Let us give thanks to the Lord our
God.

People : It is right and just.

It is truly right and just, our duty and our salvation, always and everywhere to give you thanks, Lord, holy Father, almighty and eternal God, through Christ our Lord.

For, as on the festival of St. John Neumann, you bid your Church rejoice, so, too, you strengthen her by the example of his holy life, teach her by his words and preaching, and keep her safe in answer to his prayers.

And so, with the company of Angels and Saints, we sing the hymn of your praise, as without end we acclaim:

Communion Antiphon

Mt 19:28-29

Truly I tell you, you who have left everything and followed me, will receive a hundredfold, and will inherit eternal life.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Gracious God, refreshed with the body and blood of your beloved Son, we humbly pray that through the merits of your blessed Bishop John Neumann, we may follow on earth our chief Shepherd himself and come to the eternal banquet of heaven. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

Amen.