

JANUARY 5

Saint John Nepomucene Neumann, Bishop

Memorial

JOHAN 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, being 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 9000. 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.

A worthy son of St. Alphonsus, like him, 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 friend of sinners, and now he is the glory of all emigrants."

Entrance Antiphon 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 (Ps 16: 5-6).

OPENING PRAYER

**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

Brothers and sisters, if I proclaim the gospel, this gives me no ground for boasting, for an obligation is laid on me, and woe to me if I do not proclaim the gospel! For if I do this of my own will, I have a reward; but if not of my own will, I am entrusted with a commission. What then is my reward? Just this: that in my proclamation I may make the gospel free of charge, so as not to make full use of my rights in the gospel. For though I am free with respect to all, I have made myself a slave to all, so that I might win more of them. To the weak I became weak, so that I might win the weak. I have become all things to all people, that I might by all means save some. I do it all for the sake of the gospel, so that I may share in its blessings.

The Word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

(Ps 23)

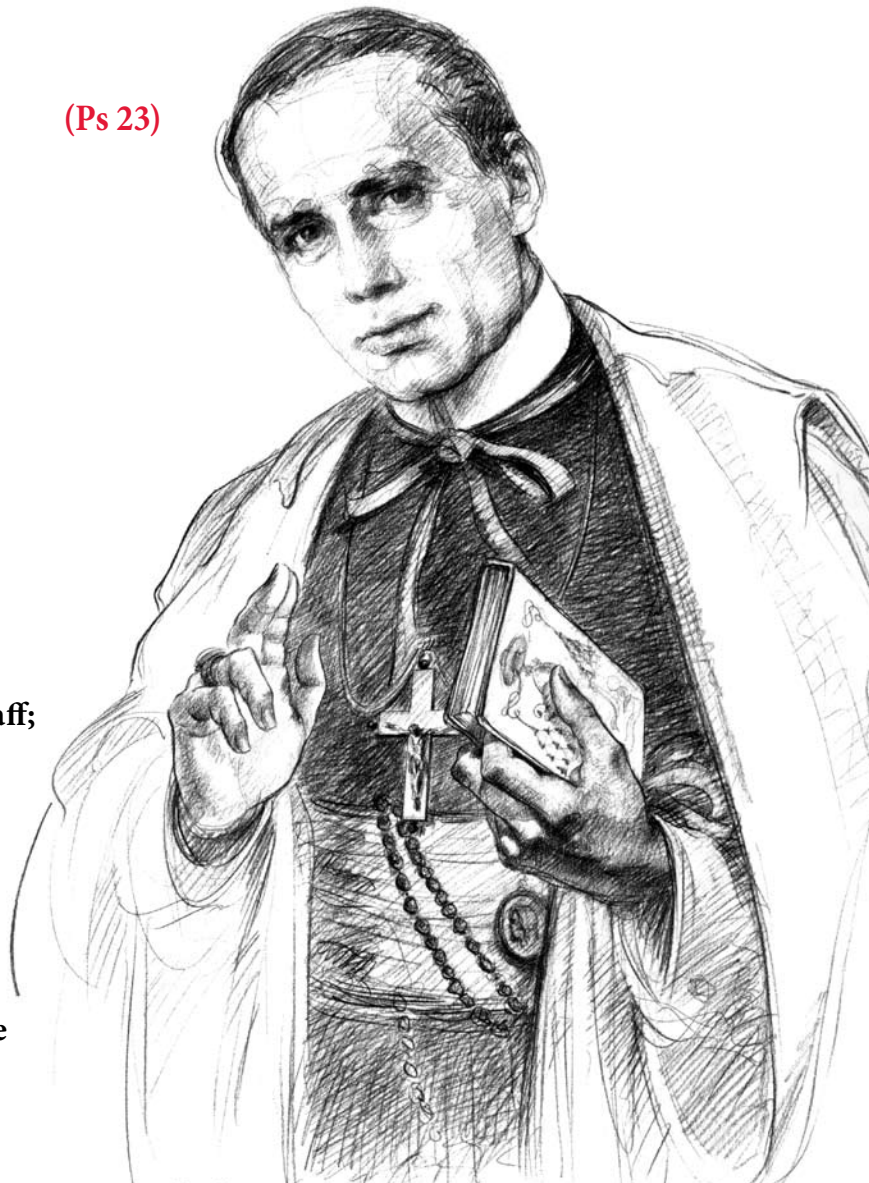
R. The Lord leads us on the path of peace.

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, who is not the shepherd and does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and runs away—and the wolf snatches them and scatters them. The hired hand runs away because a hired hand does not care 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 the sheep. I have other sheep that do not belong to this fold. I must bring them also, and they will listen to my voice. So there will be one flock, one shepherd.

The Gospel of the Lord.

PRAYER OVER THE GIFTS

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 aflame.
We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

PREFACE

Priest: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

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 to give him thanks and praise.

**Father, all powerful and ever-living God,
we do well always and everywhere to give you thanks.**

**You give the Church this feast
in honor of Saint John Nepomucene Neumann.
You inspire us by his holy life,
instruct us by his preaching,
and give us your protection in answer to his prayers.**

**We join the angels and the saints
as they sing their unending hymn of praise: Holy, Holy...**

Communion Antiphon Truly I tell you, you who have left everything and followed me,
will receive a hundredfold, and will inherit eternal life (Mt 19:28.29).

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.**