

SAINT JOHN NEUMANN PARISH

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



7th SUNDAY OF EASTER
May 16, 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 (Outdoor) 4:00 PM
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

Sunday 4:00 PM - 5:30 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.

ON PERSEVERANCE

But the one who perseveres to the end will be saved. —Mt 24:13



DANIEL IN THE LIONS DEN
by Briton Rivière (d. 1920)

2 Corinthians 4:7-18

TREASURE IN EARTHEN VESSELS | 7 But we hold this treasure in earthen vessels, that the surpassing power may be of God and not from us. 8 We are afflicted in every way, but not constrained; perplexed, but not driven to despair; 9 persecuted, but not abandoned; struck down, but not destroyed; 10 always carrying about in the body the dying of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may also be manifested in our body. 11 For we who live are constantly being given up to death for the sake of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may be manifested in our mortal flesh. 12 So death is at work in us, but life in you. 13 Since, then, we have the same spirit of faith, according to what is written, "I believed, therefore I spoke," we too believe and therefore speak, 14 knowing that the one who raised the Lord Jesus will raise us also with Jesus and place us with you in his presence. 15 Everything indeed is for you, so that the grace bestowed in abundance on more and more people may cause the thanksgiving to overflow for the glory of God. 16 Therefore, we are not discouraged; rather, although our outer self is wasting away, our inner self is being renewed day by day. 17 For this momentary light affliction is producing for us an eternal weight of glory beyond all comparison, 18 as we look not to what is seen but to what is unseen; for what is seen is transitory, but what is unseen is eternal.



In the excerpt above, Paul is speaking of himself, but he assumes both his faith and his attitude will be shared by all Christians. Our interior/hidden self is being renewed day by day by God's grace, but this is only recognized by faith. The second excerpt is from Divine Intimacy by Fr. Gabriel of St Mary Magdalen (d. 1953). The second excerpt is from Divine Intimacy by Fr. Gabriel of St Mary Magdalen (d. 1953). He too stresses the necessity of perseverance in the life of faith. The Catechism (#162) says this: It is not enough to begin, we must continue. Faith is an entirely free gift that God makes to man—but we can lose this gift:

"Wage the good warfare, holding faith and a good conscience. By rejecting conscience, certain persons have made shipwreck of their faith" (1 Tim 1:18-19).

To live, grow and persevere in the faith until the end we must nourish it with the word of God; we must beg the Lord to increase our faith (see Mk 9:24; Lk 17:5; 22:32); it must be "working through charity," abounding in hope, and rooted in the faith of the Church (see Gal 5:6; Rom 15:13; and Jas 2:14-26).

TO become a saint, it is not enough to be courageous and patient and to practice the other virtues for a few days or a few months, or even for a few years. We must PERSEVERE in these dispositions to the end of our life, never yielding to fatigue, discouragement, or laxity. This is the crucial point for, as St Thomas says, "to apply oneself for a long time to a difficult task—and virtue is almost always difficult—constitutes a special difficulty;" and it is only by overcoming this difficulty that we shall be able to reach perfection. We are not angels, we are human beings. The angel, a pure spirit, is stable by nature; if he makes a resolution, he holds to it; but this is not the case with us. We, being composed of spirit and matter, must suffer the consequences of the instability and fluctuations of the latter. As stability is characteristic of spirit, so instability is characteristic of matter; hence it becomes so difficult for us to be perfectly constant in the good. Although we have formed good resolutions in our mind, we always feel handicapped by the weakness of the sensible part of our nature which rebels against the weariness of sustained effort, and seeks to free itself from it, or at least to reduce it to a minimum. Our bodies are subject to fatigue; our minds are disturbed by emotions which are always fluctuating. That which at one moment fills us with enthusiasm may, at the next, become distasteful and annoying to such a point that we think we can no longer endure it. This is our state while on earth and no one can escape it. However, God calls us all to sanctity, and since sanctity requires a continual practice of virtue, He, who never asks the impossible, has provided a remedy for the instability of our nature by giving us the virtue of PERSEVERANCE, the special object of which is the sustaining of our efforts. Though fickle by nature, we can by the help of grace become steadfast.

There are two types of PERSEVERANCE. The first is so perfect that it never wavers, it is always inflexible, maintained even in the most difficult and unexpected

circumstances. This is the PERSEVERANCE of heroic virtue, of souls who have reached the state of transforming union, who habitually live under the influence of the Holy Spirit. It is the beautiful goal to which we can and should aspire, though we cannot attain to it by the practice of virtue alone; only the continual intervention of the gifts of the Holy Spirit can completely overcome the instability of our nature. The second type is the PERSEVERANCE practiced by fervent or even perfect souls who do not as yet enjoy the habitual motions of the Holy Spirit, and whose PERSEVERANCE, therefore, shows some fluctuations, more or less slight, according to the degree of perfection of the soul. In this case perseverance does not consist in remaining perfectly stable in good, but rather in constantly beginning again as soon as any failure is recognized. Sometimes just a momentary inattention, an unexpected happening, a little weariness or emotion, is enough to make us commit some fault that we had sincerely resolved to avoid at any cost, and here we have failed again! This, however, is no reason for being discouraged or sad; rather it is a motive for humbling ourselves, for recognizing our weakness and begging more insistently for God's help to rise at once and begin again. Because our human nature is so unstable, our PERSEVERANCE will usually consist in continually beginning again. This is the PERSEVERANCE to which we should all attain, because it depends on our good will, in the sense that God has infused this virtue in our soul, giving us at every moment sufficient grace to practice it. It is not in our power to free ourselves from this instability of our nature, and therefore we cannot avoid every slackening in virtue, every negligence, weakness, or fault; but it is within our power to correct ourselves as soon as we perceive that we have failed. This is the kind of PERSEVERANCE that God demands of us, and when we practice it faithfully, and are always prompt in rising after each fall, He will crown our efforts by granting us the supreme grace of final PERSEVERANCE.

MASS INTENTIONS

May 15 (Sat), 5:30 PM	Frances Pierce (req. by Ellie Boucher)
May 16 (Sun), 8:00 AM	Eugene Mooney & Al Poracro (req. by family)
May 16, 10:00 AM	Betty Dudley (req. by Karen & C.J. Bourn)
May 16, 6:00 PM	SJN Parishioners
May 17 (Mon), 12:15 PM	Susan McDonald (req. by Rita Kohari)
May 19 (Wed), 12:15 PM	Joseph DuBois (req. by Sandra Towne)
May 20 (Thu), 12:15 PM	Adam Carron (req. by Agatha)
May 21 (Fri), 12:15 PM	Adam Carron (req. by Agatha)

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).

WEEKLY CALENDAR

16 May, SEVENTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

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

17 May, MONDAY

12:15 PM | Daily Mass

18 May, TUESDAY

8:00 AM | Red Cross Blood Drive
7:00 PM | Scout Meeting

19 May, WEDNESDAY

10:00 AM | Faith Sharing
12:15 PM | Daily Mass

20 May, THURSDAY

10:00 AM | "Blessed Is She" Women's Group
12:15 PM | Daily Mass

21 May, FRIDAY (Day of Penance)

10:00 AM | Food Pantry (until 12:30)
12:15 PM | Daily Mass (followed by Adoration)

22 May, SATURDAY

8:30 AM | Men's Group
9:00 AM | Divine Mercy Cenacle (1st & 3rd Sat)
9:30 AM | Widow's Group (2nd Sat of month)
4:00 PM | Outdoor Mass
5:30 PM | Anticipatory Mass

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CONFIRMATION & FIRST HOLY COMMUNION

CONGRATULATIONS to our 3rd Grade students who will receive the Sacraments of Confirmation and First Holy Communion this weekend:

**Myles Conley, Eleni Fasquelle, Emily Keller,
Evelyn MacGregor, Ashley Quinn, Michael
Schmitt, Annamae Watkins, and Sydney
Winkler**

FAST 2021

The FAST FOR SOCIAL ACTION (FAST) is back! We are looking for people—6th Grade through adults—to fast for 30 hours with us, for people to sponsor the participants, and for people to provide other support for the event. We need parishioners to help with:

**CHECK IN, GREETERS, ADULT
CHAPERONES, FIRST AIDERS, DINNER
HELPERS, FOOD WEIGH-IN, FOOD**

DONATIONS, BREAK-FAST DINNER HELPERS.

You may sign up on line to volunteer your help or to sponsor anyone fasting:

<https://sjnnh.org/fast-volunteer-form>

Or, by calling the SJN office at (603) 880-4689.

LOW-GLUTEN HOSTS AVAILABLE

Holy Communion is validly received under both species, the bread and the wine. However, Holy Communion in the form of LOW-GLUTEN HOSTS (.01%) is available to parishioners by request who are gluten-intolerant.

HEARING ASSIST SYSTEM

The parish just installed a hearing assist system. Those in need can request a receiver and earphone from any of the ushers for use during Mass.

GRADUATE RECOGNITION

The parish would like to recognize those students graduating from High School this year at the 10:00 AM Mass on June 13. Please submit names to our Youth Minister, Cheri Andersen at candersen@sjnnh.org.

PARISH INFORMATION

WE LOVE BEING IN TOUCH WITH YOU! Now you can keep in touch with us via email and/or text messaging:

Visit > <https://SJMERRIMACK.flocknote.com>
Text > "SJMERRIMACK" to 84576 (message and data rates may apply)

Choose to get updates from parish groups you're interested in. Unsubscribe anytime.

SAINT ANDREW DINNERS

Have you ever thought about the Priesthood? St. Andrew was the first of the Apostles to hear Jesus' call to follow Him. If you are a young man considering a vocation to the priesthood or who would simply like some help hearing the Lord's call in your life, join us for two upcoming ST. ANDREW DINNERS featuring a meal, a talk on priesthood, and conclude with night prayer.

**May 17 (Monday), 6:00 PM
ST. MARTIN CHURCH
(120 Maple St., Somersworth)**

**May 24 (Monday), 6:00 PM
ST. ANTHONY PARISH
(172 Belmont St, Manchester)**

For additional information and/or to RSVP, please contact: Fr. Charles Pawlowski, Assistant Director of Vocations cpawlowski@rcbm.org or (603) 448-1262.

— NOTICE —

The 10:00 AM SUNDAY MASS is live streamed on YOUTUBE. To find our channel, search for "SJN Merrimack NH Mass". Or, go to:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCfkbhzv4yg9mUOnwnJ5dNvA>

The 12:15 PM DAILY MASS (Mon, Wed-Fri) is posted to our FACEBOOK page:

<https://www.facebook.com/sjnnh>

CCNH ANNUAL APPEAL

Your support of CATHOLIC CHARITIES NH has helped create a better path forward for more than 130,700 New Hampshire residents over the past year through emergency assistance, mental health counseling, senior support services, support for homeless veterans and so much more. As the demand for services—and calls for help—continue to rise, it's because of you that Catholic Charities NH is able to help those facing hardship and crisis build the lives they want to live. Visit www.cc-nh.org/everything to make a gift and see the many ways it's put into action.

— AMAZON SMILE —

Please consider supporting our St John Neumann FOOD PANTRY whenever you purchase items through AMAZON.COM. 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.



THANKS to the Watkins family for making the large Rosary for our K-5th Grade Religious Education year-end event!

SJN Staff

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PASTORAL COUNCIL
Steve De Beradinis (President)

FINANCE COMMITTEE
Bob Fregault (Chairman)

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS
Tom Davis, Grand Knight
gk10896@comcast.net

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