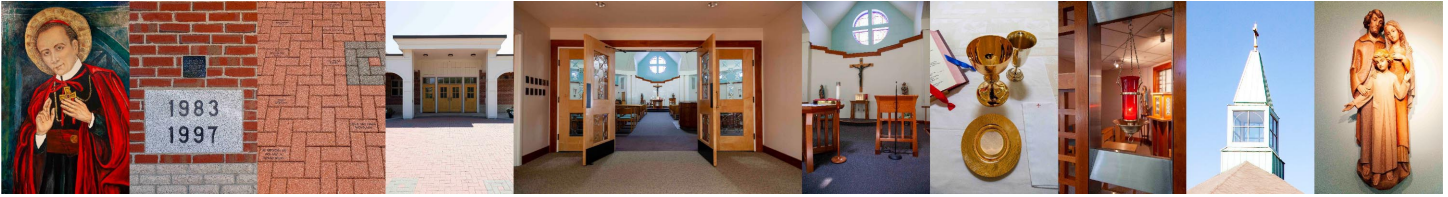


**SAINT JOHN NEUMANN PARISH**  
708 Milford Rd (Rte 101A), Merrimack, NH 03054 — SJNNH.ORG



**PENTECOST SUNDAY**  
May 19, 2024

**Very Rev. Robert Glasgow, V.F.**  
Chaplain (LTC) USA (Ret.)  
(603) 880-4689 x113, [pastor@sjnnh.org](mailto:pastor@sjnnh.org)

**Deacon Brian Lester**  
[deacon@sjnnh.org](mailto:deacon@sjnnh.org)

**Teri Schmitt**  
Office Manager  
(603) 880-4689 x110, [office@sjnnh.org](mailto:office@sjnnh.org)

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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.

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**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.

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**"FIRST INSTALLMENT"**

You will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, throughout Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth. —Acts 1:8

The excerpt below is from the Little Catechism of the Curé of Ars (St John Vianney, d. 1859), Chapter 3: On the Holy Spirit.



THE PENTECOST [detail]  
by El Greco (d. 1614)

St Paul speaks of the Holy Spirit as the "first installment" (Eph 1:14) [alt., earnest, pledge, guarantee] of our Salvation?

"11 IN him we were also chosen, destined in accord with the purpose of the One who accomplishes all things according to the intention of his will, 12 so that we might exist for the praise of his glory, we who first hoped in Christ. 13 In him you also, who have heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and have believed in him, were SEALED with the promised holy Spirit, 14 which is the FIRST INSTALLMENT [i.e., guarantee/pledge] of our inheritance toward redemption as God's possession, to the praise of his glory."

In his Commentary on Ephesians St Augustine (d. 430) says the Holy Spirit is the "first installment" [alt., pledge/guarantee] of our inheritance of eternal life until the day of complete redemption is arrived. So long as we are in this world our warfare is sustained by hope, and therefore this pledge is necessary; but when the possession itself shall have been obtained, the necessity/use of the pledge will then cease.



O MY children, how beautiful it is! The Father is our

Creator, the Son is our Redeemer, and the HOLY SPIRIT is our Guide. Man by himself is nothing, but with the HOLY SPIRIT he is very great. Man is all earthly and all animal; nothing but the HOLY SPIRIT can elevate his mind, and raise it on high. Why were the saints so detached from the earth? Because they let themselves be led by the HOLY SPIRIT. Those who are led by the HOLY SPIRIT have true ideas; that is the reason why so many ignorant people are wiser than the learned. When we are led by a God of strength and light, we cannot go astray.

The HOLY SPIRIT is light and strength. He teaches us to distinguish between truth and falsehood, and between good and evil. Like glasses that magnify objects, the HOLY SPIRIT shows us good and evil on a large scale. With the HOLY SPIRIT we see everything in its true proportions; we see the greatness of the least actions done for God, and the greatness of the least faults. As a watchmaker with his glasses distinguishes the most minute wheels of a watch, so we, with the light of the HOLY SPIRIT, distinguish all the details of our poor life. Then the smallest imperfections appear very great, the least sins inspire us with horror. That is the reason why the most Holy Virgin never sinned. The HOLY SPIRIT made her understand the hideousness of sin; she shuddered with terror at the least fault.

Those who have the HOLY SPIRIT cannot endure themselves, so well do they know their poor misery. The proud are those who have not the HOLY SPIRIT.

Worldly people have not the HOLY SPIRIT, or if they have, it is only for a moment. He does not remain with them; the noise of the world drives Him away. A Christian who is led by the HOLY SPIRIT has no difficulty in leaving the goods of this world, to run after those of Heaven; he knows the difference between them. The eyes of the world see no further than this life, as mine see no further than this wall when the church door is shut. The eyes of the Christian see deep into eternity. To the man who gives himself up to the guidance of the HOLY SPIRIT, there seems to be no world; to the world there seems to be no God. We must therefore find out by whom we are led. If it is not by the HOLY SPIRIT, we labor in vain; there is no substance nor savor in anything we do. If it is by the HOLY SPIRIT, we taste a delicious sweetness ... it is enough to make us die of pleasure! Those who are led by the HOLY SPIRIT experience all sorts of happiness in themselves, while bad Christians roll themselves on thorns and flints. A soul in which the HOLY SPIRIT dwells is never weary in the presence of God; his heart gives forth a breath of love. Without the HOLY SPIRIT we are like the stones on the road. Take in one hand a sponge full of water, and in the other a little pebble; press them equally. Nothing will come out of the pebble, but out of the sponge will come abundance of water. The sponge is the soul filled with the HOLY SPIRIT, and the stone is the cold and hard heart which is not inhabited by the HOLY SPIRIT.

A soul that possesses the HOLY SPIRIT tastes such sweetness in prayer, that it finds the time always too short; it never loses the holy presence of God. Such a heart, before our good Savior in the Holy Sacrament of the Altar, is a bunch of grapes under the wine press. The HOLY SPIRIT forms thoughts and suggests words in the hearts of

the just. Those who have the HOLY SPIRIT produce nothing bad; all the fruits of the HOLY SPIRIT are good. Without the HOLY SPIRIT all is cold; therefore, when we feel we are losing our fervor, we must instantly make a novena to the HOLY SPIRIT to ask for faith and love. See, when we have made a retreat or a jubilee, we are full of good desires: these good desires are the breath of the HOLY SPIRIT, which has passed over our souls, and has renewed everything, like the warm wind which melts the ice and brings back the spring. You who are not great saints, you still have many moments when you taste the sweetness of prayer and of the presence of God: these are visits of the HOLY SPIRIT. When we have the HOLY SPIRIT, the heart expands—bathes itself in divine love. A fish never complains of having too much water, neither does a good Christian ever complain of being too long with the good God. There are some people who find religion wearisome, and it is because they have not the HOLY SPIRIT.

If the damned were asked: Why are you in Hell? they would answer: For having resisted the HOLY SPIRIT. And if the saints were asked, Why are you in Heaven? they would answer: For having listened to the HOLY SPIRIT. When good thoughts come into our minds, it is the HOLY SPIRIT who is visiting us. The HOLY SPIRIT is a power. The HOLY SPIRIT supported St Simeon on his column; He sustained the martyrs. Without the HOLY SPIRIT, the martyrs would have fallen like the leaves from the trees. When the fires were lighted under them, the HOLY SPIRIT extinguished the heat of the fire by the heat of divine love. The good God, in sending us the HOLY SPIRIT, has treated us like a great king who should send his minister to guide one of his subjects, saying, "You will accompany this man everywhere, and you will bring him back to me safe and sound." How beautiful it is, my children, to be accompanied by the HOLY SPIRIT! He is indeed a good Guide; and to think that there are some who will not follow Him. The HOLY SPIRIT is like a man with a carriage and horse, who should want to take us to Paris. We should only have to say "yes," and to get into it. It is indeed an easy matter to say "yes"! Well, the HOLY SPIRIT wants to take us to Heaven; we have only to say "yes," and to let Him take us there.

The HOLY SPIRIT is like a gardener cultivating our souls. The HOLY SPIRIT is our servant. There is a gun; well you load it, but someone must fire it and make it go off. In the same way, we have in ourselves the power of doing good ... when the HOLY SPIRIT gives the impulse, good works are produced. The HOLY SPIRIT reposes in just souls like the dove in her nest. He brings out good desires in a pure soul, as the dove hatches her young ones. The HOLY SPIRIT leads us as a mother leads by the hand her child of two years old, as a person who can see leads one who is blind.

The Sacraments which Our Lord instituted would not have saved us without the HOLY SPIRIT. Even the death of Our Lord would have been useless to us without Him. Therefore Our Lord said to His Apostles, "It is good for you that I should go away; for if I did not go, the Consoler would not come." The descent of the HOLY SPIRIT was

required, to render fruitful that harvest of graces. It is like a grain of wheat—you cast it into the ground; yes, but it must have sun and rain to make it grow and come into ear. We should say every morning, "O God, send me Your Spirit to teach me what I am and what You are."

### WEEKLY CALENDAR

May 19, SUNDAY — Pentecost Sunday  
 8:00 AM | Sunday Mass  
 10:00 AM | Sunday Mass  
 6:00 PM | Sunday Mass  
 7:00 PM | Eucharistic Adoration

May 20, MONDAY — Mary, Mother of the Church  
 12:15 AM | Daily Mass  
 6:15 PM | Monday Women's Group

May 21, TUESDAY  
 7:00 PM | Scouts Meeting

May 22, WEDNESDAY  
 9:30 AM | Knitting Group (meets every other Wednesday)  
 10:30 AM | "EPIC: The Early Church" Study  
 12:15 PM | Daily Mass  
 6:00 PM | "EPIC: The Early Church" Study  
 6:30 PM | Grief Share

May 23, THURSDAY  
 9:00 AM | Day Away  
 10:00 AM | Thursday Women's Group  
 12:15 PM | Daily Mass

May 24, FRIDAY  
 10:00 AM | Food Pantry  
 12:15 PM | Daily Mass

May 25, SATURDAY  
 8:30 AM | Men's Group  
 9:30 AM | Widow's Group (2nd Sat of month)  
 4:00 PM | Confession (until 5:00 PM)  
 5:30 PM | Anticipatory Sunday Mass

### OFFERING

5 May '24 (6th Sunday Easter): \$11,474  
 Ascension Thursday: \$859  
 12 May '24 (7th Sunday Easter): \$7,776  
**THANK YOU for your generosity!**

### MASS INTENTIONS

May 18 (Sat), 5:30 PM James Gallagher (req. by Tom & Cynthia Sullivan)  
 May 19 (Sun), 8:00 AM Anne Barnard (90th B'day) - LIVING INTENTION (req. by Barnard Family)  
 May 19, 10:00 AM Joseph Oertel (req. by Alice Lewis)  
 May 19, 6:00 PM William Anderes (req. by the Gavert Family)  
 May 20 (Mon), 12:15 PM Paula Super (req. by Denis & Claudette Odesse)  
 Wed 22 (Wed), 12:15 PM Barbara Pothier (req. by Bob & Denise Fregault)

May 23 (Thu), 12:15 PM Leon Parsons - LIVING INTENTION (req. by Robert Sheehan)  
 May 24 (Fri), 12:15 PM Gloria Sicat - LIVING INTENTION (req. by Linda Ray)  
 May 25 (Sat), 5:30 PM Florence Loughran (req. by Kathy Hopkins)  
 May 26 (Sun), 8:00 AM Robert Allard (req. by Maureen Mooney)  
 May 26, 10:00 AM Charles Mann (req. by John & Mary Mann)  
 May 26, 6:00 PM Pope Francis I (req. by Creation Care Ministry)

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



### **2024 NEW HAMPSHIRE CATHOLIC APPEAL**

This past weekend we kicked off the annual NEW HAMPSHIRE CATHOLIC APPEAL (NHCA) an initiative begun last year to help the diocese expand essential services and ministries across New Hampshire. Everyone in our parish will receive a copy of the NHCA materials so that you can learn more about the NHCA and how you can participate. The Diocese has set our PARISH GOAL at \$47,000, essentially a tithe (10%) of our yearly revenue.

Copies of the Annual Report of the 2023 NH Catholic Appeal are available in the foyer. It is also posted online:

<https://www.catholicnh.org/about/get-involved/giving/nhca/>

### THURSDAY WOMEN'S GROUP

The Thursday Morning Women's Group invites women of all ages and stages to join us for a new series beginning on June 6th. We will be reading

and discussing WOMEN OF THE CHURCH: What Every Catholic Should Know by Bronwen McShea. Our group meets on Thursday mornings at 10:00 AM. Please email Claire at [cbryson@sjnnh.org](mailto:cbryson@sjnnh.org) should you have any questions. All are welcome!

### TOTUS TUUS

After a wildly successful first year, **TOTUS TUUS will return to St John Neumann this Summer (July 7-12)**. All youth, Grades 1-12 are encouraged to attend this very special week led by a team of college aged young adults.

- **Rising 1st thru 6th Graders** will gather during the daytime Monday-Friday (July 8-12) from 9:00 AM-3:00 PM for songs, games, Mass, lots of learning and lots of fun.
- **Rising 7th-12th Graders** will gather in the evenings Sunday-Thursday (July 7-11) from 6:30-8:30 PM for fellowship: socializing, play, music, snacks and prayer: Adoration, Evening prayer, Confession and more.

Please email Claire ([cbryson@sjnnh.org](mailto:cbryson@sjnnh.org)) with any questions. Sign up form is available in the gathering space and online at [SJNNH.ORG](http://SJNNH.ORG).

### GRADUATION MASS

It's time again to get ready to congratulate our High School Seniors. If you have a teen that is graduating HS and can attend the Graduation Mass (10:00 AM Mass on June 9), please email Cheri ([youth@sjnnh.org](mailto:youth@sjnnh.org)) by Memorial Day, so preparations can be done for this Mass. Please indicate which High School your teen is graduating from, along with plans for the upcoming year (e.g. attending college, entering military service, etc. ... and, if possible, attach a photograph.

To add someone to the PRAYER LINE, please contact Teri at the parish office: (603) 880-4689, [tschmitt@sjnnh.org](mailto:tschmitt@sjnnh.org). PLEASE PRAY FOR:

For those in our Grief Share Ministry (Sheryl, Mike, Samantha, Don, Angela, John, Jo, Diane, Cheryl, Theresa, Priscilla), Cindy & Family. Jim. Leon. Diane. Chase. Thomas. Rita. Soul of Christopher and Thomas. Red. Timmy. Andres. Caitlin. Hazel. Dean. Alyssa. Rose. Angelo. Sue. Maria Elena. Margaret. Sue. Phyllis. Jake. Roseanne. Steve. Kathleen. Tom. Cheri'. Tracy. Robert. Patti. Pat. Eileen. Richard. Tom. David. Beverly. Barbara. Carter Family. Avery. Vivian. Melanie. Tony. Steve. Ed. Brandy & Family. Theresa. Eileen. Betty. Andy. Peter. Ken. Gay. Joe. Jan. Margaret. Noah. Soraia. Mark. Thanksgiving

for Riley. Ruff. Those that have stepped away from the faith. All our priests. Holy Souls in Purgatory. Those that have stepped away from the faith. For vocations. All of our parishioners and their needs.

## PARISH *online*

For monthly parish updates, subscribe to FLOCKNOTES by going to:

<https://SJNMERRIMACK.flocknote.com>

— or texting —

"SJNMERRIMACK" to 84576

(message/data rates may apply)

INSTAGRAM: sjnmerrimack

FACEBOOK: St John Neumann-Merrimack

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## ONLINE *giving*

St John Neumann Parish offers ONLINE GIVING for families to easily give one-time as well as recurring donations. You can make a secure donation via Electronic Check or Debit/Credit Card by visiting the parish website <SJNNH.ORG> and scrolling to the bottom of the homepage and clicking on <ONLINE-DONATION>.

<https://sjnnh.org/online-donation>

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### SJN Staff

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CAROL HOPFENSPIRGER & EVELYN VERBECK

Outreach & Food Pantry

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KATHY HOPKINS

Day Away (Thursday)

dayaway@sjnnh.org | (603) 880-4689

PARISH COUNCIL

Keith Faucher (President)

parishcouncil@sjnnh.org

FINANCE COMMITTEE

Bob Fregault (Chairman)

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

kofc@sjnnh.org

Arvid Skogsholm (Grand Knight)