

708 Milford Road (Route 101A) Merrimack, New Hampshire 03054

We Live + as we Believe + as we Worship

5th SUNDAY OF EASTER May 18, 2025

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

> Rev. Ethelbert Orabuche Priest Associate

Deacon Brian Lester deacon@sjnnh.org

Teri Schmitt
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MASS SCHEDULE

Saturday (Anticipatory)	5:30 PM
Sunday	8:00 AM
Sunday	10:00 AM
Sunday	
Daily (Mon, Wed-Fri)	

CONFESSION

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.

ORDER OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION

OCIA is the process of formation offered to those who seek to become Catholic. For information, please call the office.

ON HUMILITY

He leads the humble in what is right, and teaches the humble his way. —Ps 25:9

The first excerpt below is from St Dorotheus' (d. 565) <u>Directions on Spiritual Teaching</u>. He says that humility—i.e., self accusation, an acute awareness of our inclination to sin—is the only solid ground on which to combat our sinfulness, let alone grow in holiness. The second excerpt is from a homily by St Augustine, who says grace leads to

good works [which are actually God's work in/through us] as we humbly walk the narrow road that leads to salvation.

LET us examine, my brothers, how it happens that many times a person hears something unpleasant and goes away untroubled, as if he had not heard it; and vet on some occasions he is disturbed and troubled as soon as he hears such words. What is the cause of this inconsistency? Is there one reason for it or many? I recognize a number of them, and one in particular is the source of all the others. As someone has put it:

Occasionally this



SAINT DOMINC SAVIO Canonization (12 June 1954) Portrait

St Dominic Savio's FIRST HOLY COMMUNION RESOLUTIONS at age 8:

- I will go often to confession and communion as often as my confessor will allow.
- 2. I will keep feast days holy.
- 3. Jesus and Mary shall be my friends.
- 4 Death rather than sin

results from the condition in which the person happens to be.

If a person is engaged in prayer or contemplation, he can easily take a rebuke from his brother and be unmoved by it. On other occasions affection toward a brother is a strong reason; love bears all things with the

utmost patience. Another reason may be contempt; if a person despises the one who is trying to trouble him and acts as if he is the vilest of all creatures and considers it



beneath his dignity even to look at him, or to answer him, or to mention the affront and insults to anyone else, he will not be moved by his words.

The result of this is, as I have said, that no one is disturbed or troubled if he scorns or disregards what is said. But on the other hand, it is also possible that a person will be disturbed and troubled by his brother's words, either because he is not in a good frame of mind, or because he hates his brother. There are a great number of other reasons as well. Yet the reason for all disturbance, if we look to its roots, is that no one finds fault with himself.

This is the source of all annoyance and distress. This is why we sometimes have no rest. We must not be surprised when we are rebuked by holy men. We have no other path to peace but this.

We have seen that this is true in many cases, and, in our laziness and desire for rest, we hope or believe that we have entered upon a straight path when we are impatient with everyone, and yet cannot bear to blame ourselves.

This is the way we are. It does not matter how many virtues a man may have, even if they are beyond number and limit. If he has turned from the path of self-accusation, he will never find peace. He will always be troubled himself, or else he will be a source of trouble for others and all his labors will be wasted.

The man who finds fault with himself accepts all things cheerfully—misfortune, loss, disgrace, dishonor and any other kind of adversity. He believes that he is deserving of all these things and nothing can disturb him. No one could be more at peace than this man.

The man who thinks that he is quiet and peaceful has within him a passion that he does not see. A brother comes up, utters some unkind word and immediately all the venom and mire that lie hidden within him are spewed out. If he wishes mercy, he must do penance, purify himself and strive to become perfect. He will see that he should have returned thanks to his brother instead of returning the injury, because his brother has proven to be an occasion of profit to him. It will not be long before he will no longer be bothered by these temptations. The more perfect he grows, the less these temptations will affect him. For the more the soul advances, the stronger and more powerful it becomes in bearing the difficulties it meets.

Happy are we if we do the deeds of which we have heard and sung. Our hearing of them means having them planted in us, while our doing them shows that the seed has borne fruit. By saying this, I wish to caution you, dearly beloved, not to enter the Church fruitlessly, satisfied with mere hearing of such mighty blessings and failing to do good works.

For we have been saved by his grace, says the Apostle, and not by our works, lest anyone may boast; for it is by his grace that we have been saved. It is not as if a good life of some sort came first, and that thereupon God showed his love and esteem for it from on high, saying: "Let us come to the aid of these men and assist them quickly

because they are living a good life." No, our life was displeasing to him. He will, therefore, condemn what we have done but he will save what he himself has done in us.

We were not good, but God had pity on us and sent his Son to die, not for good men but for bad ones, not for the just but for the wicked. Yes, Christ died for the ungodly. Notice what is written next: One will hardly die for a righteous man, though perhaps for a good man one will dare even to die. Perhaps someone can be found who will dare to die for a good man; but for the unjust man, for the wicked one, the sinner, who would be willing to die except Christ alone who is so just that he justifies even the unjust?

And so, my brothers, we had no good works, for all our works were evil. Yet although men's actions were such, God in his mercy did not abandon men. He sent his Son to redeem us, not with gold or silver but at the price of his blood poured out for us. Christ, the spotless lamb, became the sacrificial victim, led to the slaughter for the sheep that were blemished – if indeed one can say that they were blemished and not entirely corrupt. Such is the grace we have received! Let us live so as to be worthy of that great grace, and not do injury to it. So mighty is the physician who has come to us that he has healed all our sins! If we choose to be sick once again, we will not only harm ourselves, but show ingratitude to the physician as well

Let us then follow Christ's paths which he has revealed to us, above all the path of HUMILITY. which he himself became for us. He showed us that path by his precepts, and he himself followed it by his suffering on our behalf. In order to die for us because as God he could not die - the Word became flesh and dwelt among us. The immortal One took on mortality that he might die for us, and by dying put to death our death. This is what the Lord did, this the gift he granted to us. The mighty one was brought low, the lowly one was slain, and after he was slain, he rose again and was exalted. For he did not intend to leave us dead in hell, but to exalt in himself at the resurrection of the dead those whom he had already exalted and made just by the faith and praise they gave him. Yes, he gave us the path of HUMILITY. If we keep to it we shall confess our belief in the Lord and have good reason to sing: We shall praise you, God, we shall praise you and call upon your name.

WEEKLY CALENDAR

May 18, Sunday — 5th Week of Easter

8:00 AM | Sunday Mass 10:00 AM | Sunday Mass

3:00 PM | Adult Faith Formation BBQ

6:00 PM | Sunday Mass

7:00 PM | Eucharistic Adoration

May 19, Monday

12:15 AM | Daily Mass

May 20 Tuesday

7:00 PM | Scouts

May 21, Wednesday

12:15 AM | Daily Mass 6:30 PM | Grief Share

May 22. Thursday

9:00 AM | Day Away

12:15 PM | Daily Mass

May 23, Friday

10:00 AM | Food Pantry

12:15 PM | Daily Mass (followed by Adoration)

May 24, Saturday

8:30 AM | Men's Group

9:30 AM | Widow's Group (2nd Sat of month)

5:30 PM | Anticipatory Mass

OFFERING

4 May '25 (3rd Sunday Easter): \$8,641.00 11 May '25 (4th Sunday Easter): not available at press time.

THANK YOU for your generosity!

MASS INTENTIONS

May 17 (Sat), 5:30 PM	James Gallagher (req. by Tom & Cindy Sullivan)
May 18 (Sun), 8:00 AM May 18, 10:00 AM	Leon Parsons (req. by Robert Sheehan) In Thanksgiving (req. by Felix Fernandez)
May 19 (Mon), 12:15 PM	A Personal Intention for a 5th Grade Class
May 21 (Wed), 12:15 PM	Ethnea Daniels (req. by John Reedy)
May 22 (Thu), 12:15 PM	Ron DuBois - LIVING INTENTION (req. by Robert Sheehan)
May 23 (Fri), 12:15 PM	Henrique Silva Family (req. by Adviges Silva)
May 24 (Sat), 5:30 AM	William Anderes (req. by the Gavert Family)
May 25 (Sun), 8:00 AM	Alan Green - LIVING INTENTION (req. by Robert Sheehan)

The <u>Code of Canon Law</u> 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

Holy Day of Obligation THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD

Vigil Mass

w/ NH Eucharistic Pilgrimage Monstrance 5:30 PM (Wed, May 28)

Holy Day Masses 12:15 and 7:00 PM (Thu, May 29)

NEW HAMPSHIRE CATHOLIC APPEAL 2025

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.



Should you have any questions, please call the NHCA office at (603) 663-0170.

The Diocese has set our PARISH GOAL at \$47,000, essentially a tithe (10%) of our yearly revenue. Together, as the One Body of Christ in New Hampshire—recalling our Lord's words: "As you did it to one of the least of these, you did it to me" (Mt 25:45)—, we can make a difference in both the material and spiritual welfare of many people! With gratitude!

-Fr. Robert Glasgow

ADULT FAITH FORMATION BBQ

May 18 (this Sunday), 3:00-5:30 PM

Our "school year" is ending and we'll be heading into summer in no time ... so we'd love for all to join us for an evening of fellowship at our Adult Faith Formation BBQ. Over the last three years we've spent time learning about our faith together, so it's time that we share in some fun social time together too. Please bring a side dish or dessert. The parish will provide the hot dogs and hamburgers, water and lemonade.

If you know anyone that might be interested in learning more about our upcoming studies/activities, please invite them to join us!

2025 EUCHARISTIC PILGRIMAGE



The EUCHARISTIC
PILGRIMAGE will arrive at
St John Neumann parish
on May 28 (Wednesday)
and depart the following
morning. The Vigil Mass
for ASCENSION
THURSDAY will be
celebrated that evening at
5:30 PM. In addition, we
hope to organize an ALL-

NIGHT VIGIL before the Processional Monstrance. More to follow.

PRAYER LINE

To add someone to the Parish Prayer Line, contact Teri at the parish office: (603) 880-4689, tschmitt@sjnnh.org. PLEASE PRAY FOR:

Youth volunteers and students (past, present, & future). The Grief Share Group. Bernie. Jay. Ron. Dan & Brianna. Barbara & Elaine. Ben. Alex. Joyce. Stephen. Jan. Honey. Tom. Fred. Sue. Steve Q. Tom. Soul of Lauren's Family & Friends. Dick. Hannah. Paul. Helen. Miriam. Mary. Maggie. Carolina. Mark. Sean. Tony. Nathan & Family. Evelyn. Augusta. Souls of Leon, Michael, Steve K, Steve, and Kathy. Jenny. Peg. Deloris. Mary. Miriam. Mark. Ryan. Macy. Delphine. Ron. Mary. Betsy. Ricky. Chase. Alan. George. Martha. Dennis. Arte. Betsy. Claire. Chase. Laura. Devo. Brandon. Matthew. For the Soul of Pope Francis. For the Church in this time of transition. Family and friends who have stepped away from the faith. Family and friends who have stepped away from the faith. Vocations. All of our

parishioners and their needs.

PARISH online

For parish updates, subscribe via FLOCKNOTES:

https://SJNMERRIMACK.flocknote.com Or, by texting "SJNMERRIMACK" to 84576 (message/data rates may apply)

ONLINEgiving

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-DOANATION>.

https://sjnnh.org/online-donation

SJN Staff

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SHEILA BURNETT — Pastoral Associate

CAROL HOPFENSPIRGER & EVELYN VERBECK Outreach & Food Pantry outreach@sjnnh.org | (603) 880-4689 x116

KATHY HOPKINS — Day Away (Thursday) dayaway@sjnnh.org | (603) 880-4689

PARISH COUNCIL parishcouncil@sjnnh.org

FINANCE COMMITTEE Bob Fregault (Chairman)

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS Arvid Skogsholm (Grand Knight) kofc@sjnnh.org