

30th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
October 26, 2025

Very Rev. Robert Glasgow, V.F.
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MASS SCHEDULE

Saturday (Anticipatory) 5:30 PM
Sunday 8:00 AM
Sunday 10:00 AM
Sunday 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.

BAPTISM

Parents must attend a Parent Baptism Class before the baptism of their child. The class is offered the first Sunday of each month at 5:00 PM, prior to the 6:00 PM 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.

QUO VADIS?

For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. —1 Cor 1:18

"Quo Vadis" [Lt., Where are you going?] is a proverbial phrase from the Bible (see John 16:5). The most famous use is found in the apocryphal Acts of Peter (ca. late 2nd century). The story, as it is related, has St Peter, pressed by the disciples to escape certain martyrdom in Rome, relent and flee the city in disguise. Just outside Rome, however, he sees Jesus headed back into the city. He asks, "Lord, where are you going?" Jesus' response: "I am going into Rome to be crucified again." Peter follows the Lord back into the city, accepting the manner of death—by crucifixion—by which he will glorify the Lord.

The excerpt below is from Thomas à Kempis Imitation of Christ: the only way to true life and inward peace is the way of the cross.

TO MANY the saying, "Deny thyself, take up thy cross and follow Me" (Mt 16:24), seems hard, but it will be much harder to hear that final word: "Depart from Me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire" (Mt 25:41). Those who hear the word of the cross and follow it willingly now, need not fear that they will hear of eternal damnation on the day of judgment. This sign of the cross will be in the heavens when the Lord comes to judge. Then all the servants of the cross, who during life made themselves one with the Crucified, will draw near with great trust to Christ, the judge.

Why, then, do you fear to take up the cross when through it you can win a kingdom? In the cross is salvation, in the cross is life, in the cross is protection from enemies, in the cross is infusion of heavenly sweetness, in the cross is strength of mind, in the cross is joy of spirit, in the cross is highest virtue, in the cross is perfect holiness. There is no salvation of soul nor hope of everlasting life but in the cross.

Take up your cross, therefore, and follow Jesus, and you shall enter eternal life. He Himself opened the way before you in carrying His cross, and upon it He died for you, that you, too, might take up your cross and long to die upon it. If you die with Him, you shall also live with Him, and if you share His suffering, you shall also share His glory.

Behold, in the cross is everything, and upon your dying on the cross everything depends. There is no other way to life and to true inward peace than the way of the holy cross and daily mortification. Go where you will, seek what you will, you will not find a higher way, nor a less exalted but safer way, than the way of the holy cross.



Arrange and order everything to suit your will and judgment, and still you will find that some suffering must always be borne, willingly or unwillingly, and thus you will always find the cross.

Either you will experience bodily pain or you will undergo tribulation of spirit in your soul. At times you will be forsaken by God, at times troubled by those about you and, what is worse, you will often grow weary of yourself. You cannot escape, you cannot be relieved by any remedy or comfort but must bear with it as long as God wills. For He wishes you to learn to bear trial without consolation, to submit yourself wholly to Him that you may become more humble through suffering. No one understands the passion of Christ so thoroughly or heartily as the man whose lot it is to suffer the like himself.

The cross, therefore, is always ready; it awaits you everywhere. No matter where you may go, you cannot escape it, for wherever you go you take yourself with you and shall always find yourself. Turn where you—above, below, without, or within—you will find a cross in everything, and everywhere you must have patience if you would have peace within and merit an eternal crown.

If you carry the cross willingly, it will carry and lead you to the desired goal where indeed there shall be no more suffering, but here there shall be. If you carry it unwillingly, you create a burden for yourself and increase the load, though still you have to bear it. If you cast away one cross, you will find another and perhaps a heavier one. Do you expect to escape what no mortal man can ever avoid? Which of the saints was without a cross or trial on this earth? Not even Jesus Christ, our Lord, Whose every hour on earth knew the pain of His passion. "It behooveth Christ to suffer, and to rise again from the dead ... and so enter into his glory" (Luke 24:46, 26). How is it that you look for another way than this, the royal way of the holy cross?

The whole life of Christ was a cross and a martyrdom, and do you seek rest and enjoyment for yourself? You deceive yourself, you are mistaken if you seek anything but to suffer, for this mortal life is full of miseries and marked with crosses on all sides. Indeed, the more spiritual progress a person makes, so much heavier will he frequently find the cross, because as his love increases, the pain of his exile also increases.

Yet such a man, though afflicted in many ways, is not without hope of consolation, because he knows that great reward is coming to him for bearing his cross. And when he carries it willingly, every pang of tribulation is changed into hope of solace from God. Besides, the more the flesh is distressed by affliction, so much the more is the spirit strengthened by inward grace. Not infrequently a man is so strengthened by his love of trials and hardship in his desire to conform to the cross of Christ, that he does not wish to be without sorrow or pain, since he believes he will be the more acceptable to God if he is able to endure more and more grievous things for His sake.

It is the grace of Christ, and not the virtue of man, which can and does bring it about that through fervor of spirit frail flesh learns to love and to gain what it naturally hates and shuns. To carry the cross, to love the cross, to

chastise the body and bring it to subjection, to flee honors, to endure contempt gladly, to despise self and wish to be despised, to suffer any adversity and loss, to desire no prosperous days on earth—this is not man's way. If you rely upon yourself, you can do none of these things, but if you trust in the Lord, strength will be given you from heaven and the world and the flesh will be made subject to your word. You will not even fear your enemy, the devil, if you are armed with faith and signed with the cross of Christ.

Set yourself, then, like a good and faithful servant of Christ, to bear bravely the cross of your Lord, Who out of love was crucified for you. Be ready to suffer many adversities and many kinds of trouble in this miserable life, for troublesome and miserable life will always be, no matter where you are; and so you will find it wherever you may hide. Thus it must be; and there is no way to evade the trials and sorrows of life but to bear them.

Drink the chalice of the Lord with affection if you wish to be His friend and to have part with Him. Leave consolation to God; let Him do as most pleases Him. On your part, be ready to bear sufferings and consider them the greatest consolation, for even though you alone were to undergo them all, the sufferings of this life are not worthy to be compared with the glory to come.

When you shall have come to the point where suffering is sweet and acceptable for the sake of Christ, then consider yourself fortunate, for you have found paradise on earth. But as long as suffering irks you and you seek to escape, so long will you be unfortunate, and the tribulation you seek to evade will follow you everywhere. If you put your mind to the things you ought to consider, that is, to suffering and death, you would soon be in a better state and would find peace.

Although you were taken to the third heaven with Paul, you were not thereby insured against suffering. Jesus said: "I will show him how great things he must suffer for My name's sake" (2 Acts 9:16). To suffer, then, remains your lot, if you mean to love Jesus and serve Him forever.

If you were but worthy to suffer something for the name of Jesus, what great glory would be in store for you, what great joy to all the saints of God, what great edification to those about you! For all men praise patience though there are few who wish to practice it.

With good reason, then, ought you to be willing to suffer a little for Christ since many suffer much more for the world.

Realize that you must lead a dying life; the more a man dies to himself, the more he begins to live unto God.

WEEKLY CALENDAR

- Oct 26, SUNDAY — 30th Week in Ordinary Time
8:00 AM | Sunday Mass
10:00 AM | Sunday Mass
6:00 PM | Sunday Mass
7:00 PM | Eucharistic ADORATION
- Oct 27, MONDAY
12:15 AM | Daily Mass
- Oct 28, TUESDAY — SS. Simon and Jude, Apostles

6:00 PM | "Matthew" 24-part Video Series
 7:00 PM | Scouts

Oct 29, WEDNESDAY

8:30 AM | Yarn Ministry
 10:30 AM | "What We Believe: the Beauty of the Catholic Church" Video Series
 12:15 AM | Daily Mass
 6:30 PM | "What We Believe: the Beauty of the Catholic Church" Video Series
 6:30 PM | Grief Share

Oct 30, THURSDAY

9:00 AM | Day Away
 12:15 PM | Daily Mass

Oct 31, FRIDAY

10:00 AM | Food Pantry
 10:30 AM | "Matthew" 24-part Video-Series
 12:15 PM | Daily Mass (followed by ADORATION)

Nov 1, SATURDAY — Solemnity of All Saints

8:30 AM | Men's Group
 8:30 AM | First Saturday Rosary
 9:00 AM | First Saturday Masses (All Saints)
 9:30 AM | Widow's Group (2nd Sat of month)
 5:30 PM | Anticipatory Mass

OFFERING

Oct 5, '25 (27th Sunday OT): \$7,018.00
 Oct 12, '25 (28th Sunday OT): \$8,369.00
 Oct 19, '25 (29th Sunday OT):
 Not available at press time.

THANK YOU for your generosity!

MASS INTENTIONS

Oct 25 (Sat), 5:30 PM	St John Neumann Parishioners
Oct 26 (Sun), 10:00 AM	Carlos Medeiros & Family (req. by Emily Medeiros)
Oct 27 (Mon), 12:15 PM	Rev. David Harris - LIVING INTENTION (req. by Loretta Keaney)
Oct 29 (Wed), 12:15 PM	Holy Souls (req. by Adviges Silva)
Oct 31 (Thu), 12:15 PM	Clara Salon (req. by Lucia Pacheco)
Nov 1 (Sat), 9:00 AM	Carlos Medeiros & Family (req. by Emily Medeiros)
Nov 1, 5:30 PM	All Souls
Nov 2 (Sun), 8:00 AM	Harper Moyski (req. by Annunciation School)
Nov 2, 10:00 AM	Fletcher Merkel (req. by Annunciation School)
Nov 2, 6:00 PM	All Souls

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

NOTE

Because the Solemnity of ALL SAINTS Mass (Nov 1) falls on Saturday this year, the obligation to attend Mass is lifted. The ALL SAINTS Mass will be celebrated at 9:00 AM, preceded by the First Saturday Rosary at 8:30 AM.

Since the Commemoration of ALL THE FAITHFUL DEPARTED (Nov 2) falls on Sunday this year, it takes precedence over the regular Sunday (31st Sunday of Ordinary Time) prayers/readings.

FOOD PANTRY NEEDS

Due to shortages at the NH Food Bank, the St John Neumann Food Pantry needs help filling their Thanksgiving Baskets. They are asking for our help in providing the following:

Cans of Pumpkin + Green Beans + Cake Mix + French Fried Onions + Large Boxes of Instant Potatoes + \$25 Market Basket Gift Cards

They are appreciative of your support!

ALL SOULS REMEMBRANCE

It is customary to offer prayers for family members and to remember them at Mass throughout the whole of November, beginning with the Feast of All Souls (Nov 2). SPECIAL ENVELOPES are available in the foyer if you would like to have family members remembered at Mass throughout November. You may place the envelopes in the Collection Basket.

MUSIC MINISTRY

We will sing as a CHOIR for the Solemnity of Christ the King (34th—and last—Sunday of the Liturgical Year). We will hearse that Sunday (Nov 23) immediately following the 8:00 AM Mass, and then sing for the 10:00 AM Mass. All are welcome and encouraged to participate.

Whether you've had experience singing in a choir or not, you are welcome to join with us to praise God in song. For more info, please contact Artie Carew: music@sjnnh.org.

HIGH SCHOOL BASKETBALL OPEN GYMS

"Come Hoop with Us"

St John Neumann, Fridays at 6:00 PM

High School boys from any parish are invited to come to basketball open gyms weekly.

Come and get ready for school tryouts or learn about joining a CYO High School basketball team this winter or just come with friends and have fun! Open gyms run throughout October and November.

FIFTH SEMINARIAN BRUNCH FUND RAISER

Nov 8 (Sat), 10:00 AM-1:00 PM

You are invited to our 5th annual SEMINARIAN BRUNCH FUNDRAISER from 10:00 AM-1:00 PM (Sat, Nov 8), at the Manchester Country Club in Bedford, NH. Very Rev. Christopher M. Martel, Director of Vocations, is hosting. Great food, live music, silent and live auction items, a new vocations video, and much much more. Sponsorships are available and individual tickets are \$125 per person. For more information on the fundraiser or to sign up to attend the brunch, please visit:

liveinblackandwhite.com

The diocese spends \$500,000+ on tuition and room and board for our seminarians each year, a little more than \$100 a day for each young man studying to be a priest. The annual NH Catholic Appeal provides about half of what we need each year, so we need your support.

PARISH PRAYER LINE

To add someone contact Teri at the parish office: (603) 880-4689, tschmitt@sjnnh.org.

PLEASE PRAY FOR: Our past and present youth volunteers and students. Our new parish Homebound Outreach program volunteers. Past and current members of Grief Share Ministry. Priscilla. Dean. Abbey. Lynne. Miriam. Mike. Dick. Meredith. Jeanine. Gardner. Family & Friends of Paul. Jay. Alan. Frank. Rob. Tom. Rob. Don. Lavoie Family. Lynne. Chase. Nathan. Ramona. Lisa. Joe. Winnifred. June. Dan. Miller Family. Clyde. Claire. Dennis. Sue. Helen. Elaine. John. Cam. Steve. All priests and religious. Those who have no one to pray for them. Family and friends who have stepped away from the faith. Vocations to the priesthood and the consecrated life. All of our parishioners and their needs.

ONLINE *giving*

St John Neumann offers ONLINE GIVING for one-time or recurring donations:

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



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<https://SJNMERRIMACK.flocknote.com>

—or by texting—

"SJNMERRIMACK" to 84576
(message/data rates may apply)

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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)

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PARISH COUNCIL

parishcouncil@sjnnh.org

FINANCE COMMITTEE

Bob Fregault (Chairman)

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

Dino Quintero (Grand Knight)

kofc@sjnnh.org

Saint John Neumann Parish online:

<https://sjnnh.org>

You can find our Facebook and Instagram pages by searching for:
St John Neumann Merrimack NH