



Divine Mercy

Catholic Church

A Jesuit Parish in St. John's



To See ✠ To Love ✠ To Serve

The Fourth Sunday of Advent: December 21, 2025

Mass Intention Week of December 21

Monday, December 22

9:30am Peter & Sadie Manning +
Frank & Constance Costigan +
Charles John +
Martin Melvin +
6:30pm Simbang Gabi/Christmas Novena Intentions

Tuesday, December 23

9:30am David Mercer & Deceased Family +
Deceased Members of Butler Family +
Clarence & Ann Costigan +
Gerald Winston Stone & Family +
6:30pm Simbang Gabi/Christmas Novena Intentions

Wednesday, December 24 Christmas Eve

9:30am **LAST ADVENT MASS**
Robert Furlong +
Simon & Elsie Corcoran & Family +
Special Intention (CA)
Special Intention (L & B F)

Thursday, December 25 Christmas Day

Friday, December 26

9:30am Melinda & Gerald Doyle +
Wayne & Greg Morris +
Michael Smart +
Chris Whalen +
7:00pm Eugene Coady & Family +
Leo Holden & Family +
Sr. Brendan Lynch +
Robert McGrath +

Please Pray for the Recently Deceased:

Parish Schedule:

Sunday Mass:

Saturday 4:00pm Sunday 9:00am & 11:00am

Daily Mass: Monday to Friday 9:30am
Monday, Wednesday & Friday 7pm

Sacrament of Reconciliation:

Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays: 8:30 to 9:15 am;
Fridays 6:30pm
Saturdays 3-3:45pm
By appointment: email info@divinemercynl.com

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament:

Holy Hour every weekday after the 9:30am Mass

Adoration and Benediction every Tuesday, 2:00 pm.

Contact Information:

Divine Mercy Parish, 340A Newfoundland Drive, St. John's, NL
A1A 3R9 tel. 709-726-9924 email: info@divinemercynl.com
www.divinemercynl.com/

Inquiries for Sacrament Preparation and Faith Formation: email: faith.divinemercynl@gmail.com

Pastor: Fr. John Sullivan, S.J. Email: john@ekon.ca
Tel. 416-417-1513

Associate Pastor: Fr. Joe Mroz, S.J. email: ej_mroz@yahoo.ca

Offertory Collection Week of December 14

Offertory	\$ 7,130
Christmas Offering	\$ 1,890
Easter	\$ 20
Donation	\$ 570
Dues	\$ 480
Flowers	\$ 280
Food Bank	\$ 780
Christmas Hampers	\$ 825

E-transfers can be made through dmparishnl@outlook.com
(Please include your name and
indicate what the E-transfer is for)
Thank you for your generosity. God Bless!

Advent & Christmas

Fr. John was away, giving a retreat to Jesuits in formation at the time of the release of the bulletin and was unable to write the Pastor's Note. In place of it, we offer you this reflection on Advent by Bryan Manning, S.J. recently published in Jesuit Media. Bryan is from Torbay and is currently serving as a prison chaplain in Regina.

Advent Behind Razor Wire

Advent is a season of listening, waiting and responding, a holy tension between promise and fulfilment. It is the Church's long inhale before the Incarnation, the stillness before God moves again in flesh. Like Mary, Joseph and the prophets, we stand poised between fear and trust, invited to say yes to a God who continues to come into the world through our fragile lives. In this way, Advent and vocation are inseparable: Each authentic calling is an echo of the first Annunciation, a space where God desires to dwell among us.

Nowhere have I felt this Advent paradox more deeply than here, as a Jesuit scholastic serving as a jail chaplain in Regina. The men I accompany, especially those in remand, know waiting more intimately than most. They wait for sentencing, for programmes, for visits, for resolution. They also wait in a wider, more spiritual sense: suspended between who they have been and who they might yet become. Innocent until proven guilty, many endure months and even years of profound unknowing, living in a crucible of anxiety, despair, boredom, anger and aching loneliness. Yet within that crucible, something sacred stirs.

One man told me that the lockdown (a period of confinement to inmates' cells for security reasons) felt like a retreat — a time to pray, read and rest undisturbed. For others, it becomes a raw space of introspection: promises remembered and broken, regrets named, the question of God rising from the cracks of despair. In such moments, Advent reveals its hidden face. The jail becomes not only a place of penance (let us remember the root of the word penitentiary here) but a wilderness where conversion is possible, where the Greek hamartia — missing the mark — is recognized and the way of light slowly remembered. Memories of the coming Christ are stirred.

As Advent approached, I felt drawn to the writings of Jesuit martyr Alfred Delp, who penned sermons from his Nazi prison cell before his execution. Delp understood what it meant to wait for Christ in chains, to hear God's call in silence and shadow. He wrote of vocation as "comprehending and fulfilling the vocation of a grain of wheat, this call to be poured out extravagantly, to be sacrificed to give of oneself even unto death, to shine a light from one's very substance for the benefit of others." [1] Delp's vision speaks to the brokenness and hunger for redemption of incarcerated men. But more broadly, he captures the kenotic nature of all vocations — to pour oneself out fully, being refilled with the illuminated Christ, so that others may witness it.

There are no atheists in jail, someone once told me. I have seen men ask to pray the Rosary, quote Scripture, and debate theology with sincerity and depth. One night, walking through the jail yard, I noticed how the razor wire atop the fences shimmered under the guard tower's spotlight. It reminded me of moonlight shining on the tinplate steeples and spires of Quebec churches. And for a moment, the jail appeared like a strange cathedral — crowded with congregants waiting for mercy, aching for light, awaiting the Word.

And is this not Advent? Christ coming quietly into locked cells, trembling hearts and forgotten lives. *Lumen ad revelationem gentium* — light to enlighten the nations. Vocation, here and everywhere, is the courage to believe that even behind bars, even in shame and failure, God still calls, still waits, still entrusts us with the miracle of his coming. Each small "yes," offered in darkness, allows the Incarnation to take flesh again — even where the world least expects it.

[1] Alfred Delp, *Advent of the Heart: Seasonal Sermons and Prison Writings 1941-1944*, trans. Theodore Wiesner (San Francisco: Ignatius Press, 2006), 19.

Divine Mercy Parish Christmas Schedule

Christmas Eve: December 24

5pm, 7pm & 9pm

Christmas Day: December 25

9am (St. Francis, 29 Outer Cove)

11am

(340A Newfoundland Dr.)

**Feast of the Holy Family:
December 28**

Saturday 4pm
Sunday 9am & 11am

**Feast of Mary, Mother of God
December 31 5pm**

January 1 10am



To See To Love To Serve

To See:

Word on Fire: THE EUCHARIST

Discover a deeper understanding of the Eucharist – the Source and Summit of our Christian Life!

6 sessions available through our Flocknote

Wednesdays in January: Begins January 7, 2026

divinemercyparish12.flocknote.com/signup/230081

The CHOSEN

Season 5: 8 Episodes

Begins, Thursday, January 22, 2026 available through our Flocknote Thursdays

divinemercyparish12.flocknote.com/signup/227376

Missed Seasons 1-4? Let us know and we'll catch you up!

Coming Soon:

Horizons of Hope: Palliative Care & End of Life

Issues: 4 video sessions from the Canadian Bishops, offered on Flocknote, with an additional in-person gathering with Dr. David Carroll discussing the Catholic understanding and response to sickness and end of life issues. The series will begin in January (specific dates to be determined).

Anticipating Candlemas: Candle Making

Workshop: The Feast of the Presentation of the Lord takes place 40 days after Christmas. "*Candlemass*" is also a traditional name given to feast because as early as the fifth century, the custom of celebrating this feast with lighted candles developed. The lit candles symbolized Simeon's prophecy that Jesus would be "a light for revelation to the Gentiles." In anticipation of the feast, we will hold a candle making workshop. Watch for details and sign-up opportunities in the new year!

To Serve:

Liturgy of the Word with Children

In January 2026, this ministry will expand by taking place at the 9am Mass as well the 11am. Interested in sharing your creativity and joy in faith – join this dynamic team. Call the parish office or speak with our coordinator, Averil Nunes or a member of our LWC team after Mass today!

To Love:

Ignatian Spiritual Exercises Retreat in Everyday Life

Becoming an Easter People: Considering the Joy of the Lord

Deepen your experience of the Resurrection through Ignatian prayer. Framed by the *Spiritual Exercises* of St. Ignatius of Loyola, this 12-week at home retreat offers a journey of spiritual renewal, focusing on the joy and hope found in Christ's victory over death. **The Retreat begins the week of January 11, 2026.**

The Retreat consists of:

- Daily Prayer –guided by the retreat text "Becoming an Easter People" by Fr. Joseph Tetlow, S.J.
- Presentations on the *Spiritual Exercises* available through Youtube.
- Small Group Faith Sharing

Cost: \$55 to cover the price of the Retreat Manual. However, if you would like to use the manual and return it at the end of the retreat we will waive the cost and provide you with a notebook for your prayer notes.

Sign up through flocknote:

<https://divinemercyparish12.flocknote.com/signup/237906>

or email Anna at

faith.divinemercynl@gmail.com **Simbang Gabi:**

Children's Liturgy of the Word Begins at the 9am in January 2025

A worship experience geared to children; this ministry is a wonderful and vital ministry in the parish. It currently takes place every other Sunday at the 11 am Mass throughout the year. In January this ministry will be extended to our 9am Sunday Mass as well.

Christmas Novena December 15 to 23

'Simbang Gabi' is Filipino for 'Night Mass' a beautiful 9-day series of Masses in anticipation of Christmas. The Novena will take place at 6:30 pm each evening from December 15 to 23. The Masses will also be livestreamed. Find us on Youtube: www.youtube.com/@divinemercy15565

Notes & Upcoming Events

??Which Mass should I attend this Christmas??

We are expecting a large crowd at our 5pm Mass on Christmas Eve, with many visitors and families with young children. (We have the gym reserved with livestream for the overflow). Come early if you want a seat in the church.

The 7pm, 9pm 11pm can all expect good turnouts, but a little lighter in attendance as the night progresses. If you are looking for a less crowded, more peaceful Mass, one of these may be a good choice. Christmas Day Masses should be well attended, but a little less crowded and more relaxed. *Choose the Mass that is best for you.*

Pick Up Our Parish Christmas Schedule

Copies of our Christmas Schedule are available for pick up this weekend. They are printed in bookmark form, making them easy to hold onto, post or share with family and friends.

Schedule Change during the Holidays:

Our Tuesday, 2pm Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament is cancelled for Tuesday, December 23 and Tuesday, December 30. Our Regular schedule will resume on Tuesday, January 6, 2025.

Usher's Schedules:

The Usher's Christmas Schedule and the new Schedule for 2026 are now available. Please pick up your copy today.

Please Pick up Your 2026 Parish Envelops:

Donation Envelopes for 2026 are available for pick up in the foyer. If your box is missing, or you would like to register for a box, please see us in the Parish Office and we will assist you. Thank you.

Archdiocesan Jubilee Closing Celebration

The 2025 Jubilee Year concludes in the Archdiocese of St. John's on Sunday December 28, 2025, feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph, with the celebration of the Eucharist in St. John the Baptist Cathedral-Basilica at 2:00 p.m. All are invited to attend and participate in this joyful and hope-filled closing celebration of the Jubilee Year. Watch it live: www.youtube.com/@BasilicaHeritageFoundation

Archbishop's 2025 Christmas Message

Dear People of the Archdiocese of St. John's:

The solemnity of the Nativity of our Lord is our annual celebration of our God coming to earth and being born as one of us. It is the celebration of our God entering so fully and actively into our humanity that we in turn may share in His divinity forever in heaven.

The message of Christmas is one of God joining us here on earth in the midst of our trials, temptations, difficulties and pains, not to instantaneously remove them or wipe them away, but to be with us in the midst of them, sharing them with us in such a way as to help us to face them, accept them, and conquer them through the power of the beauty, goodness and love that are also present here, and are but a foretaste of the beauty, goodness and love that can be ours forever with Him in heaven.

Emmanuel, "God is with us" is the great message of Christmas: "God with us" as a baby in a manger, the child of travellers so poor and alone that their child is born in a stable; "God with us" in such a profound yet simple way that the course of history is changed forever; "God with us" for all peoples of every time and place no matter what their state, their challenges, their situation; "God with us" as light in our darkness, hope in our struggles and joy in our hearts for ever and always.

Praying that all may know the joy and the peace that can only come from accepting the gift of God's presence in our hearts and in our lives, I remain,

Sincerely yours in Christ,
+Peter Hundt

Archbishop of St. John's