Divine Mercy
Catholic Church
A Jesuit Parish in St. John's

To See ✠ To Love ✠ To Serve

The Baptism of the Lord: January 11, 2026

Mass Intention
Week of January 11

Monday, January 12

9:30am Marilyn Lawlor +
Tessie Merner +
Joseph & Catherine Gough +
Nicholas, Agnes & Simon Roche +

7:00pm Ignatius Nash +
Helen Melloy +
Michael Jerome +
Craig Quigley +

Tuesday, January 13

9:30am Angela Philpott +
Theresa Marshall +
Special Intention (LG)
Special Intention (RA)

Wednesday, January 14

9:30am Frank O'Leary +
Ellen Hickey +
May Bartlett +
Walter & Helen Wade & Deceased Family +

7:00pm Edward Murphy +
Libby Holwell +
Mabel Kirby +
David Billard +

Thursday, January 15

9:30am Lloyd Kelly +
Sheila Connolly +
Michael Fewer +
Alejandro Ortiz +

Friday, January 16

9:30am Betty Neary +
Annie & Tina Roche +
Patsy & Jim Oliver +
Special Intention (Yvonne McGrath)

7:00pm Rosemarie Devereaux +
Ethel Tapper +
Mary Ryan +
Molly Stacey +

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 January 4

Offertory	**$ 6,435**
Christmas New	**$ 1,890**
Year's Day	**$ 2,610**
Initial Offering	**$ 1,460**
Donation	**$ 130**
Dues	**$ 280**
Food Bank	**$ 1,694**

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!

Pastor's Note

We probably see ourselves as a pain for the Father, a source of frustration or regret. How about seeing and knowing oneself as the "delight" of the Father? More than twenty years ago, I made a summer retreat with Fr. Soo. Fr. Soo had assigned to me the Baptism of the Lord. I prayed with it and told him of my experience in prayer. Fr. Soo listened and then emphasized the words spoken by the Father of God the Son, "This is my Son, the Beloved, with whom I am well pleased." Fr. Soo told me to repeat the prayer, but this time ask the Holy Spirit that I may hear the words of the Father directed to me. He also changed the wording a bit to echo what we hear from the Prophet Isaiah. And so, I was to ask to hear the Father proclaim of me, "This is my child, the beloved, in whom my soul delights."

How can we see and know ourselves as the "delight" of the Father? It seems improper, surely incorrect and completely presumptuous. Our faith has been focused on the Incarnation, God assuming human flesh in Jesus Christ, since the beginning of Advent. Having celebrated the Lord's Nativity and the Epiphany, God is communicating. On the one hand, we can look at the Incarnation and interpret it as a Divine corrective. It is as if God says, "Enough! I'll do it myself. If you want a job done right, do it yourself." In this scenario, God must "grin and bear" the Incarnation, the sharing in human life. On the other hand, we can see the Incarnation as the revelation of the Father's eternal love. The joy expressed by the angel and the heavenly hosts to the Shepherds mirrors God's joy. Surprisingly, it may be easier for us to think ourselves as a pain or regret for God. We can be convinced of our need to "pull up my socks" or just make oneself better. While there's always room for improvement in this life, those things are always secondary to God's judgement. And in Christ, God's judgment shows us to be his "delight." This is difficult for us to believe. Nevertheless, it is the truth. The life, Passion and Resurrection of Jesus Christ say so. Don't take my word for it, listen to God's words: "I am the Lord, I have called you in righteousness, I have taken you by the hand and kept you."

God bless and take care,

Fr. John

Catechesis on
The Feast of the Baptism of the Lord

In the liturgical calendar, the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord marks the end of the Christmas season. The Baptism of the Lord is notable because it marks the beginning of Jesus' ministry and confirms his identity as the Son of God. This event is documented in all the gospels except John.

The Trinity Displayed in the Baptism of the Lord

The Gospel of Mark describes the event, saying:

It happened in those days that Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized in the Jordan by John. On coming up out of the water he saw the heavens being torn open and the Spirit, like a dove, descending upon him. And a voice came from the heavens, "You are my beloved Son; with you I am well pleased." (Mk 1:9-11)

Christ's baptism remarkably shows all three Persons of the Trinity at the same time: the Son being baptized, the Holy Spirit descending, and the Father speaking from the heavens. In this event, the Father and the Holy Spirit confirm the deity of Christ, and Jesus submits to his Father's will.

Why Is Jesus Baptized?

When Jesus comes to John, John hesitates to baptize him. John's is a baptism of repentance, and Jesus has nothing for which he needs to repent. Why then does Jesus insist on being baptized? By choosing to do so, Jesus fulfills all righteousness – preparing himself to be a perfect sacrifice for us. The Gospel of Matthew demonstrates this:

Then Jesus came from Galilee to John at the Jordan to be baptized by him. John tried to prevent him, saying, "I need to be baptized by you, and yet you are coming to me?" Jesus said to him in reply, "Allow it now, for thus it is fitting for us to fulfill all righteousness." Then he allowed him. (Matth 3:13-15)

What Does Baptism Mean for Us?

As we reflect on Christ's baptism, we are reminded of our own baptism. Pope Benedict XVI said on the Feast of the Baptism of Our Lord in 2006:

[Baptism] is communion with the One who conquered death and holds in his hand the keys of life. Belonging to this circle, to God's family, means being in communion with Christ, who is life and gives eternal love beyond death.

Thanks be to God, who has redeemed us from our sins and given us eternal life through Jesus Christ.

(From the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington, DC)

To See To Love To Serve

To See:

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 Caroll discussing the Catholic understanding and response to sickness and end of life issues. Tuesdays, beginning January 13.
https://divinemercyparish12.flocknote.com/signup/240268

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 on **Saturday, January 24 from 12 pm to 3pm**. In order to ensure we have enough materials and people on hand to assist, we ask that you register for the workshop.
divinemercyparish12.flocknote.com/signup/241192

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!

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

Children's Liturgy of the Word
Has Begun at the 9am in January 4, 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. The next session takes place January 18.

To Serve:

Liturgy of the Word with Children

Beginning this weekend, Liturgy of the Word with Children will expand to 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!

Notes & Upcoming Events

Divine Mercy Parish

Sacrament Preparation for Children Age 7 +

Reconciliation
Preparation Program
Ongoing throughout 2026

Confirmation
Preparation Program
January-February 2026

Holy Eucharist
Preparation Program
February-March 2026

For More info or to register:

www.divinemercynl.com

"See what the Father has given us, that we should be called children of God; and that is what we are."
1 John 3:1

Faithful Giving, Made Simple

"What shall I return to the Lord
for all His bounty to me?"
-Psalm 116:12

Pre-Authorized Giving (PAG) helps you give regularly and intentionally to Divine Mercy Parish, even when you are away. Your monthly donation is transferred directly from your bank account – secure, confidential, and easy to set up.

Every contribution helps sustain our parish ministries, outreach, and worship throughout the year.

Brochures with Forms are available in the foyer, through our website, **www.divinemercynl.com/** or by emailing info@divinemercynl.com to enroll. Thank you for helping our parish grow in generosity and faith.

Faithful giving. Sustaining our parish mission.

Divine Mercy Council of the Catholic Women's League

Membership Drive: January 17th and 18th.
Are you looking for a way to connect with other women in your parish and make a difference in your community? The Catholic Women's League of Canada invites you to join us. Maybe, you were a member in a previous council and would like to resume your membership with a Council that is active. Our core purpose is uniting Catholic Women to grow in Faith and to promote Social Justice through service to the Church, Canada and the World. We are grassroots, parish-based organization that serves God and Canada through Faith, Service and Social Justice. We work Locally, Provincially Nationally and Internationally. Membership provides opportunities for spiritual growth, social connection, and to make your voice heard on important issues. We believe in the indispensable role of women in our Church and Society. We welcome every lady in the parish, 16 years of age and older to join us. For more information, please contact – Victoria Jalloh, Vice President and Membership Coordinator, at (709) 769-4661. Drop by our table. We would love to have a chat with you.

Membership Dues for 2026, in the amount of $30.00, are due by February 28. They can be placed in the weekly Offertory Collection, marked "CWL Membership Dues" along with your contact information inside the envelope. They can also be mailed to Terri Hanlon, Treasurer at 4 Carman Lane, Portugal Cove – St. Philip NL, A1M 0K6 or passed ON to any member of the Executive. Membership Dues for 2026, in the amount of $30.00, are due by February 28.

The January General Meeting of the Divine Mercy CWL will be taking place on Sunday, January 18th from 1:30 p.m. – 3:30 p.m. A social will follow.

Saints Speak:

"See, Fire and Spirit in the womb that bore you!
See, Fire and Spirit in the river where you were baptized!
Fire and Spirit in our Baptism;
In the Bread and the Cup, Fire and Holy Spirit!

Christ, the Light of the World, dwelt first in the womb of the Virgin—who was thus "baptized" by her Son—and then in the womb of the Jordan; he emerged from both as the Incarnate Word, the Savior of mankind. Those who are baptized thus become the children of Mary and partakers of the body, blood, soul, and divinity of her Son."

~ St. Ephrem (d.373)