



Divine Mercy

Catholic Church

A Jesuit Parish in St. John's

Feast of Mary, Mother of God

Mass Intentions

January 2nd to 5th

Monday January 2

Donna Marie Connolly; Constance Kielef; Phyllis Dunn

Tuesday January 3

Thomas & Mary Lawlor; John & Richard Roche; John & Christine Molloy

Wednesday January 4

*Deceased members of the Burke Family; Deceased members of the Neary Family;
William Connors*

Thursday January 5

John, Ann & John Kenny; Miriam & Harry Renouf; Sister Johanna Howlett

Friday January 6

Eric Christensen; Joan Higgins; Patricia Morrissey

Please pray for the Recently Deceased:

Parish Schedule:

Sunday Mass:

Saturday 4:00pm St Paul's

Sunday 9:00am St Francis

11:00am St Paul's

Daily Mass:

Monday to Friday 9:30am

Daily Masses take place at our St. Paul's Site

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament:

Please note there will be no Adoration on December 27 and January 3. Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament will resume on January 10.

Sacrament of Reconciliation:

Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays:

8:30 to 9:15 am

Saturdays 3-3:45pm

By appointment:

Please call 709-726-9924 or email

info@divinmercynl.com

Sacrament of the Sick & Home Visits

Do you know someone in hospital or who is, perhaps homebound with health concerns? Arrange a visit for the Sacrament of the Sick or to receive Holy Communion. Call the Parish Office at 709-726-9924

Divine Mercy Parish Contact Information:

Divine Mercy Parish, 340A Newfoundland Drive, St. John's, NL A1A 3R9

709-726-9924 www.divinmercynl.com/ email: info@divinmercynl.com

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

Pastor's Note

When I was a teenager in religion class, I remember being told that Jesus called the Father "Abba," which is similar to "Daddy." I wasn't impressed or taken by the use of "Abba." If anything, I found it kind of an embarrassing aspect of our faith. According to my childish perspective, it was too earnest, sentimental and just plain corny. But over the years, especially in the past few, addressing the Father as "Abba" has become more and more important, true and reflective of my heart. "Abba" perfectly expresses the relationship the Father desires to have with us. It perfectly expresses who we are for him. The Father always gives of himself for us, we are his main preoccupation and concern. And this is because he has made us his children.

It is extraordinary and really "mind-blowing" to begin to grasp what God

has done for us in Christ. Before the Fall with the first sin in the Garden of Eden, humanity enjoyed closeness with God and a "worry-free" life. Yet, disobedience and selfishness slithered into our souls. We were tempted and surrendered to an evil impulse to replace God with ourselves. In different ways, this same temptation still lurks within us. This being the case, what did God do? Though his love is eternal and infinite, somehow, God loved even more – the Father sent the Son and through the Son sent the Spirit. The Spirit cries-out "Abba! Father!" From within us. It and we cry-out not due to any separation but because God has made it a true statement of our new reality.

The Incarnate and Risen Lord has drawn us into his relationship with the Father.

This means we have become the sisters and brothers of Jesus Christ. Just think about those words from Revelation. You are the sister or the brother of Christ. And this makes you the daughter or son of the Father. As the saying goes, "It can't get better than this." It truly can't. With the Solemnity of "Mary, the Holy Mother of God," we know that all we have received in Christ has been through this young girl's unshakeable "yes" to God. For the new life we have been given in Christ; for being shown an eternal love; for having our hearts filled with the Holy Spirit; and, for being made the child of the Father - we offer Our Lady, our mother, thanks, love, devotion and trust.

God bless and take care,
Fr. John

Foodbank News from Fr. John

The St. Paul's Foodbank has asked to merge with the Mary Queen of Peace Foodbank which is based in the former parish hall at MQP. The current clients of the foodbank at the St. Paul's location will continue to be served at the hall location. This is not a "merger," rather it is the founding of a new parish foodbank for the new parish of Divine Mercy. On behalf of our parish, I would like to thank the volunteers of the St. Paul's Foodbank for their compassionate and committed service to those in need.

The foodbank has served people for decades and has been an example of Christians putting their faith in action. While change and transition is always difficult, we pray and hope that our new foodbank will be an instrument of mercy in caring for others and a means of forming Christians in discipleship. Thank you, St. Paul's volunteers, and may God continue to bless you and your service of your neighbour.

Parish Notes & Upcoming Events



New Parish Communication:

New Website: <http://divinemeracynl.com/>
 New Parish Email: info@divinemeracynl.com
 Facebook page:
facebook.com/divinemeracyparishnl

Preparing for the Sacraments:

Are you hoping to have your child baptized soon? Are your children ready for First Communion and Confirmation? Are you looking to prepare for the Sacrament of Marriage? For details on preparation for any of the Sacraments or to start the process, email us at info@divinemeracynl.com

Simbang Gabi-Christmas Novena: Thank you!

Our Deepest Gratitude! Thank you to everyone who organized, served and took part in our Simbang Gabi - Christmas Novena. Simbang Gabi, is Filipino for "Night Mass- a devotional nine-day series of Mass in anticipation of Christmas. The nine evenings were joyful and praise-filled. There was a friendly and warm community spirit shared by all who attended. What a beautiful way to prepare for the coming of the Lord.

Perhaps you, or someone you know is considering becoming a Roman Catholic. The **Rite of Catholic Initiation for Adults** or RCIA is for you. The RCIA offers a communal program of preparation for those considering the Sacraments of Initiation (Baptism, Confirmation & the Eucharist) and Reception into the Roman Catholic Community. Adults normally receive the sacraments of Initiation at the Easter Vigil. If you would like to know more, please email us at info@divinemeracynl.com

Divine Mercy Parish Skating Party: Postponed!

The planned Skating Party for on December 27 unfortunately had to be cancelled due to a double booking at Yetman Arena. We are sorry for any inconvenience this has caused, and we will look to plan and reschedule what promises to be a fun-filled parish gathering.

Offertory Collection

Week of December 18

Offertory \$7,020	MQP Food Bank \$870
Dues \$2,980	St. Paul's Food Bank \$440
Christmas Offering \$960	Christmas Hampers \$1,470.
Flowers \$90	MacMorrin Centre \$15
Advent Self Denial \$140	Students to the Priesthood \$20
Cemetery \$25	Gathering Place \$20
Garden Party \$20	
Development & Peace \$50	

Week of December 25

Offertory \$8,502.20
 Christmas Offering \$3,645
 Dues \$1,150
 Advent Self Denial \$240
 Flowers \$50
 MQP Food Bank \$305
 St. Paul's Food Bank \$85

Thank you for your continuing generosity. God Bless!

Please Note: Effective December 27 we no longer be able to accept e-transfers to our current account. A new system will be set up in January. We apologize for any inconvenience. Thank you!

This Week in the Faith

Feast of the Most Holy Name of Jesus
January 3

The Feast of the Holy Name of Jesus is historically associated with the Presentation in the Temple (Luke 2:22-40), when, according to Jewish law, on the 8th day after his birth, a male child was circumcised and received his name, becoming a full member of God's covenant people. The name 'Jesus' means 'God Saves'. It is the name that the angel instructed St. Joseph to name the holy child when he told him to not be afraid and to take Mary as his wife (Matthew 1:21). The Gospel provides for us the beginnings of the Christology of the name of Jesus; affirming Jesus as saviour and emphasizing that the choice of the name was based on a heavenly command.

From the earliest times, Christians have invoked the Holy name of Jesus and have believed in the saving power in the name of Jesus. In the letters of St. Paul, reverence for the name of Jesus is emphasized: "That in the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those that are in heaven, on earth and under the earth." (Philippians 2:10) And in the Letter to the Romans, Paul writes of the salvific nature of the Holy name by stating that those who "call on the name of the Lord" will be saved.

The power of the name of Jesus is also mentioned in the Gospels and is stressed in the Gospel of John when Jesus states: "If you ask the Father anything in my name he will give it to you." So powerful is this understanding and reverence of name of Jesus, that even today, many of our prayers will conclude with the words: "Through our Lord Jesus Christ."

Devotion to and veneration of the IHS monogram, derived from the first three letters in the Greek word for Jesus, IHΣΟΥΣ also dates back to the early days of Christianity. Official recognition of the Holy Name was made at the Council of Lyons in 1274 and popular devotions developed and increased through the Middle Ages.

In the 16th century, the Jesuits made the IHS monogram the emblem of their society, by adding a cross over the H and by showing three nails underneath it. Constructed in Rome in 1568 the Church of the Gesù, formally called *Chiesa del Santissimo Nome de Gesù* (the Church of the Most Holy Name of Jesus) is the Mother Church of the order.

We honour the Name of Jesus, because the Name of Jesus reminds us of all the blessings and graces we receive through our Redeemer and Lord. When we call on the name of Jesus, we are brought into His presence – into proximity with the mercy of His saving love.



IHS Monogram over the main altar in the Church of the Gesù, Rome

The Jesus Prayer:

Also called the "*Prayer of the Heart*" the Jesus prayer consists simply of uttering the single word "*Jesus*" or "*Lord Jesus Christ, have mercy on me, a sinner.*"

This simple, repetitive prayer goes back to the early Desert Fathers who would repeat the prayer either aloud or silently while keeping count on small stones or beads. It can be used in any situation and at any place. The most widely accepted form of the prayer, "Lord Jesus Christ, have mercy on me, a sinner" reflects the biblical understanding that the name of God is sacred and that its invocation implies a direct meeting with the divine.

Dr. Peter Kreeft, on praying the Jesus prayer wrote: "There is only one prerequisite, one presupposition: that you are a Christian. If you have faith in Christ, hope in Christ, and love of Christ, you can pray the most powerful prayer in the world, because you have real contact with the greatest power in the universe: Christ himself, who assured us, in his last words to his apostles, that "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me" (Mt 28:18). It is also the simplest of all prayers. It is not one of the many "methods", because it bypasses methods and cuts right to the heart of practicing God's presence, which is the essence of prayer, the secret of which has been given to us by God the Father. The secret is simply God the Son, God incarnate, the Lord Jesus."