



Divine Mercy

Catholic Church

A Jesuit Parish in St. John's

Solemnity of the Epiphany of the Lord

Mass Intentions

January 9 to 13

Monday January 9

George & Florence Flynn; Ronald Kieley & Margaret Kenny; Catherine & Raymond Walsh

Tuesday January 10

William & Olivia Lambe; Michael Doyle; Clara Jarvis

Wednesday January 11

Robert and Elizabeth Jarvis; Charles & Carmelita Edwards; Rita O'Brien

Thursday January 12

Cecilia Hannon; Maureen Doyle; Michael & Agnes Nash & Deceased Family

Friday January 13

Joan Smith; Patricia Morrissey; William Dicks

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:

Join us for Adoration and Benediction every **Tuesday, 2:00 to 3:30 pm** in the church. Prayer will include the Divine Mercy Chaplet.

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

The hardest thing in our faith also sounds the simplest, almost “childish.” To believe and know that we are each freely and eternally loved by the Father. Though this sounds so good, so attractive and so simple, we understand from the experience of our faith, that it isn't so easy. We have a built-in way to comprehend how to gain something. If we want high marks in school, we are told to study; if we want the promotion, we are told to do better or work harder; and, if we want to make the team, we are told to practice more. In a similar way, many of us extend this understanding of how we gain something to our lives of faith. And, I think, we do so at great damage to our relationship with God.

I remember giving a retreat and a retreatant asked to speak with me. She wanted my help to figure-out, discern, “what God wants from” her? A good question for sure, yet a better one comes first. When I want to take my Christian life more seriously, to sort of “walk the talk,” I immediately focus on which additional practices I should do. It may mean I want to be more faithful and generous in my prayer.

Or, I may think it best to devote more time to reading about our faith. Or, I may decide to be more moral in my life and more loving in my relationships with others. These become like the numbers of a formula – if I just do these things, then I'm good, I'm the real thing, that is, a solid follower of Jesus Christ. But this is a bit like “putting the cart before the horse.” Our faith is fundamentally a response to what has come before. And what has come before is the eternal love of the Father in the Incarnate Lord.

The Solemnity of the Epiphany, with the visit of the three Magi, gives a clear indication of the person of Christ. In addition to their gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh, they also “knelt down and paid him homage.” They recognized him as Lord and God. We too recognize Jesus as our Lord and God and confess all that he reveals and teaches. The Epiphany shows us that God is the God of all, not merely of a few or even some. When we accepted Jesus as our Lord and, thus, seek to hold firm to his word, we do so not partially but fully.

The fullness of his revelation is relational. Christ gives us his relationship with the Father. And the Father gives himself, he gives eternal love to his children. The giving of his love is not a reward for good behaviour or our fidelity. It is given because of who we are. We are his children, children loved by their Father. The Solemnity of the Epiphany reveals that God is the God of all. He isn't the God of some but is the God of everyone. This means that he is the God not just of the “perfect” disciple, but of every disciple. The question is not so much, “what God wants from me,” but is rather, “what God wants for me?” What does God want for us, for you? He wants you to accept his gift. He wants you receive his love. He wants you to receive him.

Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you! For darkness shall cover the earth, and thick darkness the peoples; but the Lord will arise upon you, and his glory will appear over you.

God bless and take care,
Fr. John

Pope Benedict XVI

“Jesus Christ is not just a book. He was and is our brother, our Lord.”

On December 31, 2022, Pope Benedict XVI passed away. His funeral was held this past Thursday, January 5 at St. Peter's Basilica in Rome. He will be remembered as a brilliant thinker who strongly upheld Catholic teaching. What grounded him as a priest, bishop, theologian and pope was a deep and vibrant faith. He was true spiritual leader who wanted to help people grow deeper in a relationship with Jesus Christ. In his 2005 document *Deus Caritas Est* (God is Love) he wrote: *“Being Christian is not the result of an ethical choice or a lofty idea, but the encounter with an event, a person, which gives life a new horizon and a decisive direction.’ Keep that clear, and all will be well; lose sight of it, and nothing else in the long run will matter.”*

As a Church let us trust in the Lord of life and pray for the repose of the soul of our brother in faith, Pope Benedict. May he see God face to face.

For more information about Pope Benedict here are two links that you might like:

Farewell to Pope Benedict:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VucUHNqvBdk>

5 Enduring Lessons from Pope Benedict XVI

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ohZc_hl8gAk

Parish Notes & Upcoming Events

Thank you!

Our warmest and most sincere gratitude to everyone who joined us and participated in the celebrations throughout Christmas and New Year's. It was a true blessing to see the church so filled with joy and friendship. Thank you to everyone who served at the Masses, especially those who worked so hard behind the scenes to prepare for these beautiful celebrations. May the Christ Child bring you abundant joy throughout the year!

Preparing for the Sacraments:

Are your children ready for First Communion and Confirmation. This normally takes place around the age of 7 or 8. Preparation meetings will begin soon. For details on preparation for any of the Sacraments or to start the process, email us at info@divinmercynl.com

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@divinmercynl.com

New Parish Communication:

We have started developing our new website. The initial landing page is up and running. Look for development over the coming weeks and months. The parish also has a new email address and Facebook page. We are currently working on an Instagram page for the parish and will have an address up for next week. Be sure to share the information with family and friends.

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

January is "Celebrate Life" month and the Centre for Life would like to celebrate families on Saturday January 21 at 2pm with family bowling from 2 - 3 pm at Holiday Lanes 27 Elizabeth Avenue. The Centre for Life extends an invitation to all families with special recognition in support of foster and adoptive families. Join us for some bowling fun and pizza in celebrating "the gift of family" with the Centre for Life! There is no cost to attend but registration by January 20 is required! Please call 709 579-1500 for registration and information.

Offertory Collection Week of January 1

Offertory \$3,789.95
New Year's Day \$800.00
Christmas Offering \$760.00
Initial Offering \$285.00
Dues \$100.00
Donation \$1,407.95
Luminary \$138.10

Parish Maintenance \$25.00
Advent Self Denial \$75.00
Cemetery \$20
Family Aid \$50.00
Needs of the Cdn Church \$5.00
World Mission \$5.00

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 Baptism of the Lord
January 9

The Feast of the Baptism of the Lord brings us to the end of the Christmas season. It is also a feast of transition from Jesus hidden life to that of his public ministry. The Baptism of the Lord in the Gospels is notable because it marks the beginning of the Jesus' ministry and confirms his identity as the Son of God.

The Gospel of Mark describes the event as follows:

"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'." (Mark 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.

But why was Jesus baptized? The Gospels tell us that John's baptism is one of repentance and we know that Jesus was without sin. Yet despite John's reluctance, Jesus insists on being baptized, telling John, "Allow it now, for thus it is fitting for us to fulfill all righteousness." (Matthew 3:13-15) By choosing to be baptized, Jesus fulfills all righteousness – preparing himself to be a perfect sacrifice for us.

Writing in the early 4th Century, St. Maximus of Turin connects the waters of Christ's baptism with our own:

"Listen then! Christ is baptized not that he may be sanctified in the waters, but that he himself may sanctify the waters and purify by his own purification the streams he touches... For when the savior is washed, then all water is cleansed for our baptism and the fount is purified, so that the grace of the washing may be administered to the peoples who would come after. Christ takes the lead in baptism, then, so that the Christian peoples might follow with confidence."

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

Jesus was the Son of the Father. Thus, His baptism is a way in which the Father introduced His Son and His Son's mission to the world. As we prepare to begin Ordinary Time, reflect on the words of the Father at the Baptism of Jesus. Hear the Father speaking to You about the divinity of His Son. Turn your eyes to Jesus and prepare yourself to follow Him and to heed every word He speaks. He was sent into this world to draw us to the Father, allow Him to fulfill that mission in your own life.

Lord Jesus,

I believe that You are the Son of the Eternal Father and the Savior of the World.

I believe that You are the Way, the Truth and the Life and that I am called to follow You wherever You lead.

As we begin this liturgical season of Ordinary Time, may it be a time of extraordinary grace in which I daily heed Your voice.

Jesus, I trust in You.

Amen