



# Divine Mercy

Catholic Church

A Jesuit Parish in St. John's

2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time

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## **Mass Intentions**

*January 16 to 20*

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### **Monday January 16**

*Arthur & Colleen George; Dave Mercer; Thomas & Mary Fennessey*

### **Tuesday January 17**

*Helen & David Roche; John & Florence Lundrigan; Raymond & Mary Lundrigan*

### **Wednesday January 18**

*Dorothy Thomas; Henry Porter; Gerard O'Leary*

### **Thursday January 19**

*Iris Greenham; Sheila Slaney; Celeste Maddigan*

### **Friday January 20**

*Christopher Whalen; Tom Bailey; Celeste Maddigan*

***Please pray for the Recently Deceased:***

***Mary Kirkland & Christopher Kinsella***

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## **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@divinemercynl.com](mailto:info@divinemercynl.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.divinemercynl.com/](http://www.divinemercynl.com/) email: [info@divinemercynl.com](mailto:info@divinemercynl.com)

Fr. John Sullivan, S.J. Pastor Email: [john@ekon.ca](mailto:john@ekon.ca) Telephone 416-417-1513

# Pastor's Note

Saint John Paul II wrote in the first few years of his pontificate that mercy and love are synonyms. When we experience the love of God in this life, we experience it as mercy. The emphasis on mercy is not what we may think. It is not to be only thought of as necessary because all we do is sin and make our mistakes. Rather, it is better understood as the quality of the Father's love – a love which is always offered and given. This week, the Gospel from St. John has St. John the Baptist seeing the Lord and declaring, "Here is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world." Christ "takes away the sin of the world" by loving faithfully in the face of our infidelity. And this sets us free, it gives us life and "life in abundance."

In life, it isn't easy to believe that the Father's love is offered and given, no

matter what. It is easier to believe that once a line has been crossed, then there is no possibility of return. Or, that one's penance can never satisfy God, that reconciliation is impossible. God knows of our difficulty in accepting and receiving his mercy and love. As the Prophet Isaiah writes in the First Reading, God "formed me in the womb." Therefore, God gives the perfect help for our difficulty – he gives himself as the "Lamb of God." To be the "Lamb" is to be offered as the sacrifice, "once for all." It is to reconcile the person, humanity, with God. But our reconciliation is not worked by us, it is offered and given by God.

In the face of our unloving, God loves even more. If we think we can't return to him, that we've

"crossed the line," God's self-offering reveals and proclaims the eternity, the fidelity of God himself and his love. John Paul said that God is faithful to his Fatherhood, that is, he's always Father. And if he's always Father, then it necessarily means that we are always his children, no matter what.

To proclaim Christ as the "Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world," is not to draw attention to the sinfulness of humanity. It releases to our hearts the truth – God's love, God's mercy is eternally offered and given. God refuses not to love. To love always is due both to his nature, "God is love," and of whom he loves. He loves his child. He loves you.

God bless and take care,  
Fr. John

## A Note of Thanks from Fr. John

As part of the development of our new parish of Divine Mercy, I am reconstituting the parish committees of Liturgy, Finance and Parish Council. After the closure of the different parishes, each of our committees saw a decrease in membership. Because this parish is "our" parish, I believe it will be helpful to have a sufficient number of perspectives and opinions to assist in the caring for and guidance of our parish community.

I would like to thank of all those who have served on the various committees, especially during a period that was difficult and marked by loss. We are in good position in the first months of our new parish and this is directly linked to the labour of these committees. Thank you again.

# Parish Notes & Upcoming Events

## A Message from the Catholic Women’s League:

Dear Women of Divine Mercy Parish,

We are pleased to announce that the Catholic Women’s League (CWL) has chosen a new home here at Divine Mercy Parish. The **Mission of the Catholic Women’s League of Canada calls its members to grow in faith, and to witness to the love of God through ministry and service.**

The CWL invites all women in the parish to share their gifts and make a difference by becoming a member of the Catholic Women’s League for the 2023 year. You will be so welcome.

### Why Join?

The CWL means many things to people. Whether its faith, service, social justice or sisterhood, thousands of women have found fulfillment by becoming members. It is:

- An opportunity to live your faith with those who share it;
- A way to act on important social justice issues, such as, palliative care: senior’s long term care; medical assistance in dying (MAiD); guaranteed basic income; care for our planet; violence against women; etc.
- A chance to be of service to your community, to the country, and to God.

Consider joining us today. We look forward to meeting you. For more information, please contact Rita Janes at 722-3860 or email [ritacjanes@gmail.com](mailto:ritacjanes@gmail.com).

## 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@divinemerlynl.com](mailto:info@divinemerlynl.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@divinemerlynl.com](mailto:info@divinemerlynl.com)

## Download our new Parish app

We invite you to try out our new parish app. It will improve communication and connection with and between parishioners. It has lots of direct links to event schedules, devotional, and Catholic learning resources. You can get instant notifications for storm closures and other updates from Fr. John. Groups and committees within the parish can also enrol to use as a platform for member communication. Download it today!

**How to Download the new App:** Type “my parishApp” into your internet browser, press enter, and type in Divine Mercy NL.

## Offertory Collection Week of January 8

Offertory \$6,361.40  
 New Year’s Day \$270.00  
 Christmas Offering \$1,320.00  
 Initial Offering \$570.00

Donation \$295.00  
 Luminary \$78.80  
 Missals \$617.80  
 Food Bank \$75.00

*Thank you for your continuing generosity. God Bless!*

**Please Note: We no longer be able to accept e-transfers to our current account. A new system will be set up at a later date. We apologize for any inconvenience. Thank you!**

# Saint of the Week



St. Anthony of the Desert  
January 17

Also known as St. Anthony the Abbot, Anthony the Great, Anthony of the Fire, Anthony of Egypt and Anthony the Anchorite, St. Anthony was born to wealthy parents in the mid-third century. His radical approach to discipleship would permanently impact the Church and he would come to be seen as one of the founders of Christian monasticism. His parents died when Anthony

was about 20 years old, leaving him 300 acres of land.

Attending church one day, he heard – as if for the first time – Jesus’ appeal to another rich young man: “If you wish to be perfect, go, sell your possessions, and give the money to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; then come and follow me.” (Matthew 19:21). Anthony told his disciples in later years, that it was as though Christ has spoken those words to him directly. He promptly sold everything he owned and donating the proceeds, setting aside a portion to provide for his sister. Although organized monasticism did not yet exist, it was not unknown for Christians to abstain from marriage, divest themselves of possessions to some extent, and live a life focused on prayer and fasting. Anthony's sister would eventually join a group of consecrated virgins.

Anthony survived 20 years in a sealed room, where he was brought bread by friends. His time as a hermit is marked by sacrifice, austerity, and solitude. He is said to have faced great struggles with the Devil who sought his ruin showing him what he could have done had he remained in the world. To these temptations he responded with penance and fasting.

People visited him for healing. They broke into his room finally. He emerged calm and collected. His efforts created the first monastic community with hermits living separately yet gathering for prayer. Anthony addressed these groups but became so popular he went deep into the desert to finish his life in solitude, fasting, and devotion to God through manual labor.

Soon the desert around Egypt’s major cities was filled with people, many who were seeking to leave the distractions pagan cities and the violent persecution of Christians. Many began living in individual cells they had build with their own hands. Their purpose was to live a solitary life solely dedicated to God. At about the age of 54 Anthony emerged from solitude to provide guidance to the growing community of hermits that had developed near him. Although he had not looked to form a community, his decision to become its spiritual father—or Abbot—marked the beginning of monasticism as it is known today.

St Anthony would spend four decades providing spiritual and practical advice to disciples who would ensure the movement’s continued existence.

St. Anthony would live to about the age of 105, sometime between the year 350 and 356. In keeping with his instructions, two of his disciples buried his body secretly in an unmarked grave.

In his lifetime he would see Christianity become the official religion of the Roman Empire, even advising the emperor Constantine who had written to Anthony seeking advice on the administration of the empire. Speaking to his fellow monks, Anthony said: “Do not be astonished if an emperor writes to us, for he is a man. But rather: wonder that God wrote the Law for men and has spoken to us through his own Son.” Anthony wrote back to Constantine, advising him “not to think much of the present, but rather to remember the judgment that is coming, and to know that Christ alone was the true and Eternal King.”