



Divine Mercy

Catholic Church

A Jesuit Parish in St. John's

3rd Sunday in Ordinary Time

Mass Intentions

January 23 to 27

Monday January 23

*Melinda & Gerald Doyle & Deceased family; Gerry Carey & Deceased family;
Samuel & Annie Lambe & Deceased family*

Tuesday January 24

Frank & Constance Costigan; All souls in Purgatory; Celeste Maddigan

Wednesday January 25

Deceased members of the Nolan Family; Amy Bogdan, Michael Finn

Thursday January 26

*Ted, Gary & Angela Burke; Deceased members of the Neary Family;
Special Intention (Y&J)*

Friday January 27

Myles Philpott; William & Olivia Lambe; Michael Doyle

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@divinemergynl.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.divinemergynl.com/ email: info@divinemergynl.com

Facebook: Facebook.com/divinemergyparishnl

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

Pastor's Note

I sometimes think to myself – “I’ve had enough! This is it! No more fence-sitting for me. I’m not going to give into temptation again.” And then a little time passes and familiar thoughts and actions return. I then feel frustrated, disappointed and saddened. Why does it feel that my faith, my following of Jesus Christ, is like one step forward and two steps back? In this week’s gospel, with the call of the first four disciples, we have a story that can help us in our discipleship.

From the Gospel of Matthew, we see Peter and his brother Andrew casting a net into the sea. Jesus calls them to join him. The Lord says, “Come, follow me, and I will make you fishers of people.” Peter and Andrew did not ask for more information, they didn’t negotiate. Rather, they immediately “left their nets and followed him.” A short time later, Christ sees two more brothers, James and John, mending their father’s nets in his boat. He calls them too to follow him. James and John “left the boat and their father, and followed him.” The response of Peter and Andrew, and James and John makes me feel a little envious. I wish I could respond as they did. They seemed

to answer the Lord’s call fully and perfectly. No “one step forward and two steps back” for them. This may seem correct on the surface but we also know how these first followers will behave in later parts of the Gospel.

Remember the story involving James and John, and their mother? Hearing Jesus speak of the Kingdom of God, the “sons of thunder” allow their mother to go to Jesus and ask for a position of honour and privilege in his kingdom. She wants her sons to sit at the right and left side of Christ. With a misplaced confidence in their own fidelity and an allusion to his crucifixion, the brothers say that they are able to drink from the same cup that Jesus will drink. Their request for status and privilege seems the opposite to the teaching of Christ, when he taught, “the Son of Man came to serve and not be served.” So much for the “sons of thunder” and their full, perfect response to the Lord’s call.

Peter has several examples in which his fidelity to Christ faltered. Be it his attempted correction of the Lord that the Messiah was to suffer, or most

powerfully, his denial of Christ three times on the night of the Lord’s arrest. Maybe we, with our own struggles in faith, are not so different from the first four disciples. They, like us, have moments in which it is “one step forward and two steps back.” But, like them, we do not despair because of our failures, because Jesus Christ has given us the gift of the Cross.

St. Paul calls the Cross “foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.” The Cross of Christ is an inviolate power of the eternal constancy of the Father’s love and mercy. Christ did not “trade in” Peter, James and John when they were unfaithful to him. On the contrary, he continued to redeem and save them. Likewise, the Lord does the same with us. If we take “two steps back,” the Lord simply loves even more. The Cross isn’t a source of “eloquent wisdom.” It is the power of love, an eternal love given by the Father, through the Son, to us, to you. And so indeed, “The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? The Lord is the stronghold of my life; of whom shall I be afraid.”

God bless and take care,
Fr. John

Offertory Collection Week of January 15

Offertory \$5,267.00
New Year’s Day \$273.00
Christmas Offering \$25.00
Initial Offering \$320.00

Ash Wednesday \$100.00
Easter Flowers \$50.00
Food Bank \$45.00

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!

Parish Notes & Upcoming Events

Preparing for the Sacraments: Upcoming Meeting

All parents, grandparents and guardians of children who wish to prepare for the sacraments of First Communion and Confirmation are invited to an information meeting, next Sunday, January 29 following the 11am Mass. The meeting will take place in the body of the church. If you have any questions or would like to register your child, please see Maria in the foyer after the 4pm Saturday and 11am Sunday Masses (St. Paul's site).

Download our new Parish app

We invite you to try out our new parish app. When used to it's fullest, this app is as personal as it is universal. 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 and check out the weekly Divine Mercy Parish schedule and bulletin. Groups and committees within the parish can also enrol to use it 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. If anyone needs assistance uploading the App or has questions on how to use it, please speak to our friendly parish volunteers after Mass today:

- ✠ St. Paul's site: after the Saturday 4pm and Sunday 11am Masses – See Robyn in the foyer
- ✠ St. Francis Site: after the 9am Mass – See Ward

World Day of Prayer for the Sick: Healing Mass: February 11 the World Day of Prayer for the Sick. In anticipation of this special day of prayer, Divine Mercy Parish will celebrate a **Healing Mass with the Anointing of the Sick at 11 am on Wednesday February 8.** Everyone is most welcome. If you know someone who is need of the Sacrament of the Sick, please share this invitation with them. If you know someone who is homebound or in hospital who would like to receive the sacrament, please be in contact with the parish by calling 709-726-9924 or email us a info@divinemerlynl.com

Mea Culpa, Mea Culpa... maybe

Recently, I have become concerned that people may have signed up to serve in some of our liturgical ministries but may not have found themselves on the new schedules. It is possible that I have misplaced some of the many registration forms that were handed to me (my own unique style of organization). If by chance this has happened to anyone, I apologize and ask that you fill in a new form (found in the foyer or email us a info@divinemerlynl.com Sorry for any inconvenience. – Fr. John

Catholic Women's League



A General Meeting of the Catholic Women's League is scheduled for Tuesday, January 31, 10:30am in the Church at Divine Mercy Parish (St. Paul's Church). All CWL

members, prospective members and all women of the Divine Mercy Parish are invited to attend. A Social will follow the meeting.

If you would like to join the CWL at Divine Mercy, membership forms are available at the Welcome Desk in the foyer.

Does Anyone need a Freezer? We have three freezers that we no longer need. If anyone is interested in them, please contact Marion in the Parish Office at 709-726-9924.

Week of Prayer for Christian Unity 2023: Sponsored by the St. John's and Area Council of Churches, an Ecumenical Worship Service will take place at 2:30 P.M on Sunday, January 22 at **The Crossing Church** (Baptist), 314 Topsail Road, St. John's NL. This year's theme is "**Do Good, Seek Justice**" (Isaiah 1:17). The Rt. Revd. Sam Rose (Anglican bishop) will give the Sermon. Donations received will be presented to the Fiona Recovery Fund.

Grief Support Group

Eastern Health's Pastoral Care, Ethics & Bereavement Services Department invites people grieving the loss of a loved one to join an 8-week "Living with Grief Support Program." This information & support group is available in-person and virtually. For info or to register, call 777-6959, or email griefandbereavement@easternhealth.ca.

Development and Peace – St. John's Diocesan Council Meeting and Share Lent Workshop, Saturday, February 11, 2023, 9:30 am – 12:30 pm. Members and those interested in learning more about the work of Development and Peace – Caritas Canada are welcome to join our Winter Meeting at the Murphy Centre. For more information please contact Pat Kennedy, patrickjnk@yahoo.com.

This Week in the Faith

Feast of the Conversion of St. Paul January 25

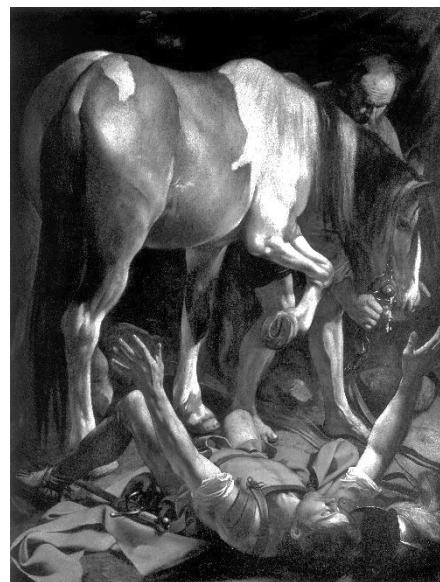
St. Paul was born a Jew in the Roman city of Tarsus, in modern-day Turkey and was named Saul. At a young age, he began to study the Law of Moses in Jerusalem under Gamaliel, one of the most respected Pharisees and Doctors of the Law of his time. Saul would have been in his early twenties when Jesus began His public ministry. We know from the Book of Acts that he was present at the stoning of Saint Stephen, the earliest documented martyrdom in the Church after Jesus' death and that those who stoned Stephen laid their cloaks at Saul's feet as Saul looked on. After that, Saul received a letter of permission from the high priest in Jerusalem to go beyond the city, searching from house to house to arrest those who followed Jesus, bringing them back in chains to stand trial in Jerusalem. As he took this letter of permission with him on a journey to Damascus, Saul had an experience that would not only change his life forever but also change the entire world. On his journey, as he was nearing Damascus, a light from the sky suddenly flashed around him. He fell to the ground and heard a voice saying to him, 'Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting me?' He said, 'Who are you, sir?' The reply came, 'I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting'" (Acts 9:3-5). With that, Saul was blinded and had to be led into the city of Damascus, where he stayed for three days, fasting, praying, and pondering this encounter.

The feast this week not only celebrates St. Paul, but it is also specifically celebrates his conversion. Think about that overwhelming experience of meeting the crucified and risen Lord in his glory. This was followed by three days that Saul would spend in Damascus blind to everything but that encounter with Christ. During those three days, he pondered Jesus' words, fasted, prayed, listened, thought, and changed. Facing the truth within his soul might not have been easy, but he did it. From that time on, the zeal that he had poured into persecution became zeal for the spreading of the Gospel. For Christians, the conversion of Paul, is seen as evidence of the power of Divine Grace, where no sin is so deep that it can separate us from the love of God that has been revealed through Jesus Christ (Romans 8:31-39). It also demonstrates God's ability to use everything, even the hostile persecutor, to achieve the divine purpose.

Looking at the experience of conversion in hindsight, as an isolated moment in time, might make it seem like the time before was wasted. But when we think of the past in the light of grace, connections emerge to reveal the hand of God at work in us, even in the moments of our worst mistakes.

Saint John Chrysostom, writing on St. Paul, sees this ability of Paul to see himself as loved by Christ as the very hallmark of St Paul's holiness: "[Paul] had the greatest possession of all in himself—the love of Christ. With this love he considered himself more blessed than all people... With this love he wished more to be among the most lowly of the punished than, apart from it, among the elite and honored." This love freely given to him by the same God "who loved me and gave himself for me" (Galatians 2:20) is St Paul's powerful justification for moving ahead from his past: "Forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus." (Philippians 3:13-14) This is the imperative of someone who has received God's gift of merciful love as freely as it was given him. Time is only wasted if we never recognize the extent that we are loved by Him—because Christ's love is the only thing that can change us.

For I am the least of the apostles, not fit to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God. But by the grace of God I am what I am, and his grace to me has not been ineffective. Indeed, I have toiled harder than all of them; not I, however, but the grace of God [that is] with me. Therefore, whether it be I or they, so we preach and so you believed. ~1 Corinthians 15:9-11



The Conversion of St. Paul, Caravaggio, 1600