



Divine Mercy

Catholic Church

A Jesuit Parish in St. John's

4th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Mass Intentions

January 30 to February 3

Monday January 30

Special Intention (H.H.); Special Intention; John & Catherine Roche

Tuesday January 31

John, Margaret & Thomas Waterman; John Bambrick

Wednesday February 1

Donald Smith; David Hurley; Celine King

Thursday February 2

Earle & Bridget Hickey & deceased family; Joseph Barron; Patricia Bennett

Friday February 3

Clara Jarvis; Mary Doyle; Nalvenia Buott

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

In high school religion class, I remember being taught “the Beatitudes.” I understood them as a sort of “Ten Commandments, Part II.” The Beatitudes, I thought, articulated the moral life in the New Testament, as the Ten Commandments did in the Old Testament, though with a difference. The difference can be seen with how each was expressed – the Ten Commandments told us what not to do while the Beatitudes told us what ought to be done. My understanding, as usual, was far from complete. The Beatitudes, which we are given this week from Saint Matthew’s gospel, are not merely moral instructions, part II, rather they offer a path towards union and communion.

When we are baptized, we receive the indwelling of God the Holy Spirit in a unique way. Through the Holy Spirit, we are given participation in the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. This “participation” can remain just a descriptive title without the power of experience.

But how do we experience this “participation,” how do we experience and feel the union and communion to which it points? When the Lord teaches his disciples (and us), that “Blessed are the poor in spirit, . . . , Blessed are those who mourn, . . . , Blessed are the meek, . . . Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, . . . , Blessed are the merciful, . . . , Blessed are the pure in heart, . . . , Blessed are the peacemakers, . . . , Blessed are those persecuted for righteousness’ sake, . . . , [and], Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account,” what or whom is he describing. He is not just describing the Christian moral life. He is describing himself; he is describing his life in which we now can participate.

We have been given a “pearl of great value.” We have been given Christ himself. An older Jesuit once shared a personal prayer with me. He would pray, “Lord, grant that my life may become your life, and your life may become my life.”

With the Incarnation, the Nativity we celebrated at Christmas, God assumed human flesh in Jesus Christ, God became one of us. Our lives have become his life. And with the Resurrection, the Risen Lord calls us his brothers and sisters, and so Christ has made us the children of the Father, sharing in his relationship with the Father. The “pearl of great value” is Jesus Christ. We are not meant to merely follow moral instructions. God gives us even more. God gives us himself. Through God’s free gift, God’s very life, GOD’S VERY LIFE, can become our life. We pray to accept God’s gift of union and communion. We seek to make his gift real in our daily lives by living the Beatitudes. We are “born again” as the person God wills. We are his children – “for they will be called children of God.”

God bless and take care,
Fr. John

Offertory Collection Week of January 22

Offertory \$1,095.00
New Year’s Day \$35.00
Christmas Offering \$160.00
Initial Offering \$35.00

Advent Self-denial \$20.00
Flowers \$10.00
Food Bank \$40.00

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: Meeting Today!

The first meeting for our candidates for First Holy Communion and Confirmation will take place today, Sunday, January 29 following the 11am Mass. The meeting will take place in the body of the church.

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.

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

Knights of Columbus

E.P. Roche assembly of the Knights of Columbus meets 7:00pm Tuesday, January 31, 2023. Rosary at 7:00pm; Guest Speaker Archbishop Hundt, meeting to follow. All parishioners and K of C are invited to attend.

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.

More News & Resources

Welcoming Mass at the Basilica

On Sunday, February 5th at the 11AM Mass, there will be a "Welcoming Mass" for the parishioners from Parishes that have come together to form the St. John the Baptist Cathedral Basilica Parish. His Grace, Archbishop Peter Hundt will preside at the Mass, a reception will follow the Mass.

St. Bonaventure's College Accepting Applications for 2023-2024

St. Bonaventure's College is now accepting applications for Kindergarten to Grade 12 for the 2023-24 school year. Join a school community where educating the whole child – heart, mind, body and spirit – is central to everything we do as a Jesuit, Catholic school. Our students graduate as global citizens with a passion to make the world a better place. To learn more, please email admissions@stbons.ca.

Celebrate Families Rescheduled:

Centre for Life's Celebrate Families bowling has been rescheduled for Sunday February 12th at Holiday Lanes at 27 Elizabeth Avenue from 2:30 - 3:30 for bowling with pizza to follow. Registration is still ongoing to Friday February 10th by calling 579-1500. All families are welcome to attend but registration is required.

Centre for Life Senior's Outreach:

Seniors technology outreach will commence on Friday February 3rd from 12 - 1 pm . If you would like more information or would like to register please call 579-1500.

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

The Presentation of the Lord February 2



As faithful Jews, Mary and Joseph carried out two ritual acts after the birth of their first-born son, Jesus. Mary, as the mother of a newborn son was ritually unclean for seven days, and then she was to “spend thirty-three more days in a state of blood purity” (Leviticus 12). During these forty days Mary would not touch anything sacred nor was she able to enter the temple. For this reason, today’s feast has at times been called the **“Purification of Mary.”** Joseph, as the father of a firstborn son was to “redeem” the child by making an offering to the priest so that the priest would then present the child to the Lord (see Numbers 18:16). This was to remember the plague of the firstborn while the Israelites were slaves in Egypt. The offering made by Joseph for the firstborn son in the Temple was a way of ritually redeeming him in commemoration of that plague. Since Jesus was presented in the Temple for this redemption, this feast is now referred to as the **“Presentation in the Temple.”**

“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.” Lastly, this Feast has been referred to as the **“Feast of the Holy Encounter”** because God, in the Person of Jesus, encountered Simeon and Anna in the Temple.

At the heart of this celebration is the encounter of Simeon and Anna with the Christ Child in the Temple. It is in that holy encounter that Jesus’ divinity is manifested by a human prophet for the first time. At His birth, the angels proclaimed His divinity to the shepherds, but in the Temple, Simeon was the first to understand and proclaim Jesus as the Savior of the World.

He also prophesied that this salvation would be accomplished by a sword of sorrow that would pierce the Immaculate Heart of Mary. Anna, a prophetess, also came forward and “gave thanks to God and spoke about the child to all who were awaiting the redemption of Jerusalem” (Luke 2:38). Thus, these ritual acts were also a moment in which Jesus’ divine mission was made manifest to the world.

As we celebrate Mary’s ritual purification and Jesus’ ritual redemption, we should see them as acts in which we are called to participate. First, each of us is unworthy of entering the true Temple of the Lord in Heaven. Yet we are invited to enter that Temple in union with Mary, our Blessed Mother. It was her consent to the will of God that opened the door of God’s grace to us all, enabling us to spiritually become Jesus’ “mother” by allowing Him to be born in our hearts by grace. With her, we are now able to appear before God, purified and holy in His sight.

We must also see Saint Joseph redeeming us as he presented Jesus in the Temple because in offering Christ Jesus to the priest to offer Him to the Father, Saint Joseph also presents all who strive to live in union with Jesus. The hope is that, like Simeon and Anna, others will see God alive within us and experience the Savior of the World through us.

Take some time to reflect on this holy encounter. Think about your soul being the new temple of the Lord and acknowledge your need to be purified and offered to the Father in Heaven. As Christ continues to enter the temple of your soul, pray that He will shine forth for others to see so that, like Simeon and Anna, they will encounter our Lord within you.

“God enters the temple not as a powerful ruler but as a little child in his Mother’s arms. The King of glory comes not with a show of human force and power, not with a great fanfare and noise, not causing fright and destruction. He comes into the temple as he came into the world, as an infant in silence, in poverty, and in the company of the poor and the wise.”

– Pope John Paul II