



Divine Mercy

Catholic Church

A Jesuit Parish in St. John's

2nd Sunday of Lent

Mass Intentions

March 6 to March 10

Monday March 6

John Janes, Tom Cooper & Deceased Family; Elizabeth Cole

Tuesday March 7

Frank & Constance Costigan; Special Intention (SLP); Jia Hua Sun

Wednesday March 8

George Kirk, Gloria Heymans, John Williams

Thursday March 9

Joanne Demant; Gertrude Roche; Fred Power

Friday March 10

Evelyn Maher; Blanche Stack; James Darcy

Please pray for the Recently Deceased:

Elizabeth Kinsella

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

Parish Office Hours:

Monday – Thursday:

8:30am - 4:00pm

Friday: 8:30am -12:00pm

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@divinercynl.com

Sacrament of the Sick & Home Visits

Do you know someone in hospital or who is 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.divinercynl.com/ email: info@divinercynl.com

Facebook: Facebook.com/divinercyparishnl

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

Pastor's Note

I have a peculiar interest. I love to read about the American Civil War and to visit different battlefields, usually in Pennsylvania and Virginia. When I was assigned to the Jesuit parish in Toronto, it was an easy eight-hour drive. I would plan to go for five or six days. As somewhat of an introvert, I also looked forward to being alone. And so off I excitedly went for a week of loud music on the radio, McDonald's twice a day, walking several battlefields and I got to be by myself. "Can't wait," I would think. The first and second days were perfect. I got to do all the things I like to do. But usually by the third day or so, I began to miss people. Although I was visiting places I really love, there was no one with me to share the experience. No one to ask what they thought, to comment on learning something new or just to enjoy the beauty of the natural setting. Consequently, almost without fail, I would end my road trip early. We know that it is meaningful when one shares what one loves with another, in fact, it is meaningful for both the one giving and the one receiving. My little road trip custom can help to understand exactly what is being given through the Transfiguration.

The Transfiguration of the Lord reveals Jesus Christ as the fulfillment of the Law (Moses) and Prophets (Elijah), and it shows us that he is Divine. We are told, "his face shone like the sun, and his clothes became dazzling white" and "from the cloud a voice said, 'This is my Son, the Beloved; with him I am well pleased; listen to him!'" We firstly understand the Transfiguration as a revelation of Christ as "perfectly God and perfectly human." This is fundamental for Christian faith. So too, can we understand it in terms of one's personal relationship with the Father, that is, to receive the gift of God the Father in God the Son. The Father has given us the Son, his "Beloved." Stop for a moment and let your hearts think – "Who must I be for the Father if he shares, gives me his 'Beloved?'" It seems so unsatisfactory to even call this "love." In truth, it is a love beyond description or comprehension. We don't know what to say or do – "Then Peter said to Jesus, 'Lord, it is good for us to be here; if you wish, I will make three dwellings here, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah.'" If we feel a bit overwhelmed and uncertain how to respond to God's generosity in giving himself to us, then there is only one thing for us to do. With most grateful hearts and minds,

we receive the gift of the Lord and the love of the Father in giving us his "Beloved." It is to receive perfect love through perfect love.

God bless and take care,
Fr. John



"The Transfiguration" in the Church of the Transfiguration, Mount Tabor, Israel (Shutterstock)

Parish Notes & Upcoming Events

Lenten Morning Reflections with Fr. John

Our first Morning Reflection scheduled for last Thursday unfortunately had to be postponed. We have rescheduled it for this Tuesday, March 7. The second and third reflections will still take place on Thursdays, after the morning Mass in the church (St. Paul's site).

Tuesday, March 7: The Gift of the Eucharist

Thursday, March 16:

St. Ignatius Loyola's Examen Prayer

Thursday, March 30: What is Divine Mercy?

These reflective talks will also be livestreamed on our Facebook page: [Facebook.com/divinemercyparishnl](https://www.facebook.com/divinemercyparishnl)

Way of the Cross

Our Parish prays the Way of the Cross every Friday throughout Lent. Everyone is invited to join Fr. John for a hot bowl of soup in the foyer before our communal prayer begins in the church (St. Paul's site).

Fridays throughout Lent:

Mar 10, 17, 24 & 31

5-5:45 pm: Join Fr. John for a hot bowl of soup

6pm: Stations of the Cross begin in the church.

Lenten Penance Service

Our **Lenten Penance Service** will take place on **Wednesday, March 29 at 6:00pm**. We will have several priests available for individual confession. Join us in celebration of the gift of God's faithful and merciful love through the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

Offertory Collection Week of February 26

Offertory	\$ 5,784.00
Initial Offering	\$ 10.00
Ash Wednesday	\$ 1,701.00
Foodbank	\$ 1,460.00

Thank you for your continuing generosity. God Bless!

Lenten Parish Mission

Thursday March 23 6pm

Friday March 24 6:30pm

Mission Speaker: Fr. Chris Collins, S.J.

Fr. Christopher Collins, SJ is the Vice President for Mission at the University of St. Thomas in St. Paul's Minnesota. He served from 2012 to 2020 at Saint Louis University as a faculty member in the Department of Theological Studies, Director of the Catholic Studies Program and as Assistant to the President for Mission and Identity. His publications include *The Word Made Love: The Dialogical Theology of Joseph Ratzinger/ Benedict XVI* (Liturgical Press, 2013), *Three Moments of the Day: Praying with the Heart of Jesus* (Ave Maria Press, 2014), and *Habits of Freedom: 5 Ignatian tools for Clearing Your Mind and Resting Daily in the Lord* (Ave Maria Press 2022). He regularly gives retreats based on the Spiritual Exercises of St. Ignatius of Loyola.

Open for Private Prayer:

Divine Mercy Parish is open daily at both our sites throughout Lent for private Stations of the Cross and other devotions.

At our St. Paul's Site:

Monday to Thursday 8:30 am to 4:00 pm

Friday: 8:30 am to 12 pm

With Daily Mass at 9:30 am

At our St. Francis of Assisi Site:

Monday to Friday 9:00 am to 4:00 pm

A Visit from the Jesuit Provincial of Canada:

Fr. Erik Oland, S.J., the Jesuit Provincial of Canada, will be making his annual visitation to St. John's this week. He will preside at the 11am Mass at Divine Mercy on Sunday, March 5th. He will also host a "town hall" gathering at St. Bon's on Monday, March 6th, at 7pm. He will present and discuss the mission of the Jesuits throughout Canada. As parishioners of Divine Mercy parish, we are all working together to establish a new parish and Christian community. You may like to learn a bit more about who the Jesuits are. You are all most welcome. Following the town hall, there will be a reception.

The Season of Lent

Over the past two weeks this column has offered a deeper understanding of the Lenten Season through a deeper understanding of our baptism. The Triune God (Father, Son and Holy Spirit) welcomes and draws us into divine passionate love and perfect communion of life. This communion also unites us to all humanity and all creation. Our baptism commits us to sharing this divine love and communion with all. Lent prepares us to renew our baptismal promises at Easter. Catholic social teaching is at the core of our identity as God's People. The "common good" is a divine law of creation recognizing that God has provided for the basic human needs of all people. When people are denied their basic human needs, creation is distorted. We call this distortion "sin". As God's People, we are responsible for restoring creation to its divine intention.

The Lenten Season is also a season especially for the candidates and catechumens preparing for the Sacraments. Lent is their final time of spiritual preparation before entering into the full sacramental life at the Easter Vigil. Throughout Lent, The Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA) celebrates several rites in preparation for the Sacraments. Some of these rites are for those preparing for baptism and are described as "rites for self-searching and repentance and above all a spiritual purpose. The scrutinies are meant to uncover, then heal all that is weak, defective, or sinful in the hearts of the elect; to bring out, then strengthen all that is upright, strong and good. For the scrutinies are celebrated in order to deliver the elect from the power of sin and Satan, to protect them against temptation, and to give them strength in Christ, who is the way, the truth, and the life." (#141)

For those already baptized and preparing for Confirmation and Full Reception into the Church, the Rite of Lenten Renewal is celebrated. This rite welcomes Candidates for confirmation into the community and faith and encourages and supports them in their final preparations. The Catholic faithful are called to walk with them in their journey of spiritual cleansing and growth. Through the ancient penitential practices of prayer, fasting, and charitable works, we search our own hearts and souls for those areas of darkness still in need of God's bountiful mercy and healing.

As the elect and candidates pray that their sins and weaknesses be removed to embrace the life of faith, so we make the same journey, removing any spiritual darkness in our own lives. At Easter the whole Church stands renewed in the waters and the promises of baptism for our salvation and the salvation of the world. The Church calls us to extend this moral evaluation to our society, culture and nation. Every nation, culture and society has their own strengths, virtues, and cultural expressions that build dignity into the human community. As the RCIA states, "bring out, then strengthen all that is upright strong and good". Every one of these same nations and cultures, contains cultural symbols and messages that tear at human dignity and break down human communities. Again from the RCIA, "uncover, then heal all that is weak, defective, or sinful..."



A Special Note:

This Sunday at Divine Mercy Parish we will celebrate the Rite of Lenten Renewal with two young people in the parish who have been part of the RCIA, preparing for the Sacraments of Confirmation and Holy Eucharist at the Easter Vigil. As a community, let us pray for them that this final stage of preparation will be grace-filled, as we join them in this journey of spiritual renewal and growth.

More News & Resources

Development and Peace: The Courage to Create Hope

To delegates at the 4th World Meeting of Popular Movements, Pope Francis said, "...you have the ability and the courage to create hope where there appears to be only waste and exclusion."

These are the words that inspired the choice of "Create Hope" as a five-year guiding theme at Development and Peace — Caritas Canada.

The courage to Create Hope is rooted in actions big and small. For to drive away anguish and despair, it is best to act. Every action we take has a positive effect on us, our neighbours, our great human family, our children and their descendants. What will you do this Lent to Create Hope? Join our campaign at devp.org/lent.

Get Your Lenten Family Resource Pack!

Divine Mercy Parish has drawn together some family friendly Lenten resources to use at home. If you would like an electronic copy, just email us at info@divinemercynl.com and write "family pack" in the subject line. Printed copies are available through the Parish Office. Our Family Pack includes a variety of Lenten resources including: a Lenten Calendar, a family friendly Stations of the Cross that can be prayed at home, a Whole Family Catechesis Event handout, a Lenten Preparation Checklist for families and more!

Parking Notice:

Drivers are asked to kindly refrain from parking in the fire lane at the front of the school, near the sheds due to fire regulations. Your cooperation is greatly appreciated.

OPEN INVITATION to join a **ZOOM ROSARY** each Wednesday evening at 8:30 p.m. The prayer intention will be "For the good of the Archdiocese of St. John's, the Archbishop and his co-workers, and the priests and religious of the diocese" as well as the participants' own personal intentions. Please email scott_t_bartlett@hotmail.com to receive a Zoom link.

Journey Through Lent Video Series

This Lent, the Canadian Bishops will be providing a video series, *Journey through Lent*. Reflections will be delivered by His Eminence Gérald Cyprien Cardinal Lacroix, Archbishop of Quebec and Primate of Canada, and the Most Reverend Brian Joseph Dunn, Archbishop of Halifax-Yarmouth. These Lenten reflections can be found at: www.rcsj.org These reflections will be updated each Monday of Lent for the following Sunday's Eucharistic celebration.



Catholic Women's League Luncheon:

The CWL Luncheon is scheduled for Wednesday, March 15 at 11:30am for 12. The luncheon will take place at the Legion on the Boulevard. The cost to each member is \$30. You have a choice of codfish or turkey. To sign up, please email Anne Curtis at acurtis@warp.nfld.net

St. Patrick's Day Dinner & Dance

Friday, March 10, 2023,
6:30 for 7:00pm

Royal Canadian Legion, Branch 56
Pleasantville (Front Entrance)
Stuffed Chicken Breast Dinner
\$35 per person

Music by Brian Finn

Sponsored by The Knights of
Columbus

Tickets available in the church foyer:
Feb 18 – Mar 5 in the parish office or
contact Ray English 754-0780

Great Big Book Collection/Sale

The Canadian Federation University Women (CFUW) of St. John's is collecting gently used books from **March 2 to March 22, 2023** for the annual sale. Please drop off at the former Bouclair store adjoining the Phoenix Restaurant, Kenmount Rd, Avalon Mall Parking lot. Hours: 11am – 3pm, seven days a week. Save the Date for the **Great Big Book Sale** to be held at the same location (Masks required at the sale): March 30th 1:00-9:00 pm; March 31st 10:00 am - 9:00 pm; April 1st 10:00 am - 1:00 pm (Half price day). The sale supports CFUW scholarships and community outreach.

<http://www.cfuwstjohns.org>
[facebook/cfuwstjohns](https://facebook.com/cfuwstjohns)