



Divine Mercy

Catholic Church

A Jesuit Parish in St. John's

3rd Sunday of Lent

Mass Intentions

March 13 to March 17

Monday March 13

Gary, Ted & Angela Burke; Connie Lake; Peg Bowdring

Tuesday March 14

Special Intention; Gerald Leahey; Francis Neary

Wednesday March 15

Special Intention (JS); Michael Valencic; Richard & Clotilda White

Thursday March 16

Cathy & Gerry Feehan; Tom Cooper; Mary Kearney

Friday March 17

Anne Lambe; Constance Lake; Margaret Bowdring

Please pray for the Recently Deceased:

John & Brenda Stamp

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@divinmercynl.com

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

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

Facebook: Facebook.com/divinmercyparishnl

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

Pastor's Note

In most of what we do, rewards follow hard work, success and a determination to stay with something for the “long-haul.” To get the promotion at work often entails long hours demonstrating one’s commitment. Or, making the hockey team involves showcasing one’s skills. It is our common sense that dictates to our understanding that there’s “no such thing as a free lunch.” Our common sense understands that things have to be earned, given as a result of the good, the skill or the commitment we have demonstrated. This common sense can influence and even infect our understanding of how and why God acts.

Saint Paul writes in the Second Reading: “For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. . . . But God proves his love for us in that while we still were sinners Christ died for us.” In the Gospel, we are given the story of the Woman at the Well. Because of the woman’s past, she had had five husbands and was currently with a man who was not her husband,

others seem unwilling to be around her. So, in the heat of the day, she walks to the well with her heavy jars to get enough water for the day. The Lord offers her “living water,” a water that will quench her thirst forever. Christ knows her past and present, and offers her “living water,” which is, as Paul describes, “God’s love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit.” The woman was so overcome by the love of Jesus Christ that she left the jars she had carried and returned to her village and told the people that she had found the Messiah.

We speak of God’s forgiveness and mercy. These are not acts by God in which he “rights the ship.” Rather, these are words we use to describe a loving that is occurring, a Divine Loving. With God, much of our common sense fails us. The Father’s love is not due to our success, skillfulness, or commitment. It is a pouring forth from the Father to his beloved children. To stop and think, really think of the immeasurable depth of the Father’s

love for each of us, that it is eternally given regardless of our imperfections. This is to taste and know the “living water” the Lord offers. The water that always quenches, that never runs dry is the Father’s love. And so, “let us sing to the Lord; let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation! Let us come into his presence with thanksgiving; let us make a joyful noise to him with songs of praise!”

God bless and take care,

Fr. John



Parish Notes & Upcoming Events

Lenten Parish Mission

Join Divine Mercy Parish for our first Lenten Mission. Fr. Christopher Collins, S.J. will be the Mission Speaker for these insightful evenings. The Mission will take place at our St. Paul's site.

Thursday March 23 6pm
Habits of Freedom:
Resting Daily in the Lord

Friday March 24 6:30pm
Following Christ in Uncertain Times

Fr. Christopher Collins, SJ is the Vice President for Mission at the University of St. Thomas in St. Paul's Minnesota. For five years he served as the chief mission officer at Saint Louis University and became very active in community engagement initiatives related to urban Catholic education, criminal justice reform and workforce development. He serves on the boards of Boston College, Creighton University, Catholic Charities of St Paul and Minneapolis and Interfaith Action Network of St Paul. He is the author of *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.

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.

Lenten Morning Reflections with Fr. John

Our Lenten Morning Series continues following the morning Mass (St. Paul's site)

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/divinemercuryparishnl](https://www.facebook.com/divinemercuryparishnl)

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 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.

Offertory Collection Week of March 5

Offertory	\$ 8,444.00	Ash Wednesday	\$ 150.00
Initial Offering	\$ 29.00	Holy Thursday	\$ 5.00
Funeral Stipend	\$ 1,200.00	Good Friday	\$ 5.00
Flowers	\$ 35.00	Easter Offering	\$ 10.00
		Foodbank	\$ 1,210.00

Thank you for your continuing generosity. God Bless!

The Season of Lent

Here we are at the Third Sunday of Lent already? How is your Lent going? Have you found a good rhythm to the season with Lenten practices that are sharpening your focus on the Lord and deepening your desire for the joy that is Easter? Or are you feeling a little bit stalled? If you are feeling the need for restart, here are 6 Tips from Ruth Kennedy at CatholicLink.org to help you reengage with Lent.

1. **Practice Gratitude in the Moment:** Sometimes when we think we need to create the perfect moment or environment to reignite our focus. But the perfect moment never comes. If you feel your drifting through Lent, don't wait for the "perfect time" to restart. Wherever you are, stop, give yourself a few spare moments, and thank God for, say ten things about your day or your life right now. Gratitude helps turn our hearts back to God when we don't know where to begin.
2. **Ask yourself what you have learnt so far.** When the road ahead looks long, it's easy to forget how far we've already come. So ask yourself, what have you learnt so far this Lent? If the answer is 'nothing': ask yourself again! Maybe God has been working in your life in a way you didn't realise. Maybe there is something nagging you in the back of your mind that He wants you to look at. Or maybe you learnt something through what you have given up or taken up that has surprised you. Remind yourself why you started and rejoice in what you have learnt so far!
3. **Enter the Desert: Give yourself a retreat:** Not everyone is going to be able to go away on a retreat between now and Easter. But is there a day, half day, or even just an evening between now and then that you could turn into a mini retreat for yourself? If you have a busy family life, this may not be possible- or you might wish to include them in your plans too. Ideas could include: a special visit to Adoration, making time for Confession, going on a walk (without your headphones on) journaling, reading the Sunday gospel, spending some time in silence, and of course, prayer. Put all the distractions (TV, radio, internet, phone, music etc) away for a set period of time and enter into some quality time with God.
4. **Have a Movie Night:** Watching something- whether it's a movie about the Easter story - or some online talks or retreats can be a powerful way to leave the lethargy behind. Whatever you watch, watch it actively, not passively, engage with the material, make notes if necessary and always follow it up with prayer time. If you're watching a movie on the Crucifixion of Christ, it's always good to reread the Gospel stories too. Movies can be a powerful way to imagine and feel exactly what it was like in the moment, but nothing is as powerful as simplicity of the words of the Gospel. Some resources to try: Bishop Barron's Word on Fire: www.wordonfire.org or the Catholic Streaming app Wild Goose: <https://wildgoose.tv>
5. **If You didn't' start Lent with a Plan, make one now.** Lent isn't meant to be a competition of who can give up the most or be the most holy. It is meant to be a time of renewal, of clearing out the junk in our lives and letting Springtime enter our hearts. But let us also not forget that it is a time of friendship, of walking with Christ through His time in the desert. So ask yourself, "how can I plan my day so that there is a way that I can best grow in time spent with Christ?". Are there distractions that you can cut down on? Is there an empty space in your day that you could spend it prayer? Could you put down your phone and engage in conversations more?
6. **Finally, just walk quietly and humbly with your God.** As we get ever nearer to Holy Week, remember God wants us as much as we want Him. As good and wonderful all the extra things we may be doing or giving up for Lent are, remember to get to the heart of what this is. Read the Gospel passages of Christ's return to Jerusalem, the Last Supper, and the Way of the Cross. Come into Christ's embrace, and grow in His love, so that together, we can walk through the events of Holy Week with Him and rejoice with Him on the other side!

Saint of the Week

Saint Patrick Feast Day: March 17

St. Patrick is one of the world's most well known and popular saints. There are many stories and legends told of St. Patrick. But perhaps two qualities in him – his humility and his courage – show us most clearly who he was. His determination to accept both suffering and success with equal indifference led him to open himself to becoming God's instrument for converting most Ireland to Christ. Born around the year 387, in what was then Roman Britain, Patrick was captured by Irish pirates when he was about 14 years of age. He was taken to Ireland as a slave to herd and tend sheep. At the time, Ireland was a land of Druids and pagans, but Patrick turned to God and wrote in his memoir, *The Confession*: "The love of God and his fear grew in me more and more, as did the faith, and my soul was rosed, so that, in a single day, I have said as many as a hundred prayers and in the night, nearly the same. I prayed in the woods and on the mountain, even before dawn. I felt no hurt from the snow or ice or rain."

Patrick's captivity lasted until he was twenty, when he escaped after having a dream from God in which he was told to leave Ireland by going to the coast. There he found some sailors who took him back to Britain and was reunited with his family. Another vision would lead him to study for the priesthood and later be ordained a bishop and sent to Ireland to take the Gospel. In the vision it seemed "all the children of Ireland from their mothers' wombs were stretching out their hands" to him. He understood the vision to be a call to do mission work in pagan Ireland. Despite opposition from those who felt his education had been defective, he was sent to carry out the task. He went to the west and north—where the faith had never been preached—obtained the protection of local kings and made numerous converts.

Patrick preached and converted all of Ireland for 40 years. He worked many miracles and wrote of his love for God in Confessions. He suffered much opposition from pagan druids and was criticized in both England and Ireland for the way he conducted his mission. In a relatively short time, the island had experienced deeply the Christian spirit, and was prepared to send out missionaries whose efforts were greatly responsible for Christianizing Europe. After years of living in poverty, traveling and enduring much suffering, he died March 17, 461.



One essential characteristic about St. Patrick was the depth of his prayer life. Descriptions of St. Patrick, and his own writings, create the impression of a person for whom breathing and praying were one action. Thanks to his teachings and writings, the Catholic tradition still maintains some of the prayers of St. Patrick, perhaps the best-known prayer being St. Patrick's Breastplate.

Here are two prayers from St. Patrick which a person might easily include their daily prayers:

St. Patrick's Morning prayer

May the shield of God defend us. May the host of God guard us against the snares of evil and the temptations of the world. May Christ be with us, Christ before us, Christ in us, Christ over us. May your salvation, O Lord, be always ours this day and forevermore. Amen.

St Patrick's Evening prayer

Dwell with us this night, O God, Dwell with us in love. Blessed are you, Lord God of our salvation, to you be praise and glory for ever. In the darkness of our sin, you have shone in our hearts to give the light of knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ. Amen.

Introducing children to St. Patrick:

Here are links to two lovely story books read aloud on YouTube. One is a little more historical and the other more legendary, but both are worth a read.

Patrick: Patron Saint of Ireland by Tomie de Paola
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oLoUbH6hbzQ>

The Last Snake in Ireland – a Story of St. Patrick by Sheila MacGill-Callahan (Mrs Clark's Reading Corner)
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=T2ImYwiSwXs>

More News & Resources

MESSAGE TO ALL PARISHES FROM THE KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

The State Executive for Newfoundland and Labrador Knights of Columbus, and its 33 Councils are sponsoring a tour of a **Relic of BLESSED FATHER MICHAEL J MCGIVNEY, founder of the Knights of Columbus**. He founded the worldwide Fraternal Order in New Haven in 1882 in New Haven, Connecticut, USA, to look after the needs of the poor especially orphans, widows and immigrants. He was Beatified (declared Blessed) by Pope Francis in 2020, another step in declaring him a Saint. The Relic of Blessed Michael has only been out of the United States once before to Poland. The relic of Blessed Michael will arrive in Newfoundland and Labrador on March 15, 2023.

There will be a **Liturgy of Reception – a Prayer Service to be held at the Basilica on Wednesday, March 22, 2023 at 7:00 pm**. This will be followed by Veneration of the Relic, Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament and opportunity for the Sacrament of Reconciliation (Confession). The following Wednesday there will be a **Founder's Day Mass (celebrating the date when Blessed Father McGivney founded the Knights of Columbus) on Wednesday, March 29, 2023 at 7:00 pm**. The public are invited to both events.

The province-wide tour of the Relic will be from March 30, 2023 – December 03, 2023, during which the various Knights of Columbus Councils in Newfoundland and Labrador will host the relic. It is our hope that all who attend events during the Blessed Father McGivney's relic tour will have a personal encounter with Jesus Christ. Those who attend these scheduled events will be able to venerate the relic. All are welcome.

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!

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

Legion of Mary

"The Legion of Mary will hold its annual Acies Ceremony for all Active and Auxiliary members at 2:30 pm on Sunday, March 19th, 2023. The ceremony will take place at Our Lady, Queen of Families Church (formerly St. Peter's), Mount Pearl."

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. **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.

Development and Peace: *Columbia: defence of land and territory*

Colombia is home to nearly 10 per cent of the planet's biodiversity, yet it is also one of the most dangerous countries for people defending their land and territory against exploitation.

Development and Peace — Caritas Canada's partner, the *Asociación Campesina de Antioquia* (ACA, Peasant Association of Antioquia) supports peasant communities affected by armed conflict in defending their lives and territories and in building a culture of peace through filmmaking and art.

This Lent, meet our solidarity visitor Raquel Soto, a participant in ACA's documentary filmmaking school. Learn more at devp.org/lent.