



Divine Mercy

Catholic Church

A Jesuit Parish in St. John's

7th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Mass Intentions

February 20-24

Monday February 20

Uriel Fagan; Harris & Betty Cull; Special Intention (P&D)

Tuesday February 21

Gloria White; Ann Woodford; Barb Ryan

Wednesday February 22

Samuel Barry; Peter John; Robert Kirkland, Jr.

Thursday February 23

Paul Long; Alice Felix; Althea Bradbury

Friday February 24

Mary Kirkland; Harry Phelan; Reg Basha

Please pray for the Recently Deceased:

Bill Wheeler

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

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.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

This week we are given a most demanding call to love. Jesus Christ teaches us that “if anyone strikes you on the right cheek, turn the other also; . . .; and if anyone forces you to go one mile, go with them also the second mile.” He continues, “I say to you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, so that you may be children of your Father in heaven.” These words of the Lord should make us “stop in our tracks.” They are shocking, startling and sound impossible. Yes, we may be able to them for a time, but, at least for me, I don’t see myself being able to do them consistently nor continuously. At some point my selfishness will raise its “ugly head,” or my pride will seduce me to denigrate another so that I can feel better about myself, or I may “hit back” as a way of hiding any pain someone has caused me. What, then, are we to do?

In the Psalm for this week’s Mass, King David writes, “The Lord is merciful and

gracious, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love. He does not deal with us according to our sins, nor repay us according to our inequities.” I remember being on a retreat in November 2011. I can’t recall what the prayer was supposed to be about, but I started to rehearse in my mind all the grievances I had against another person. I thought of previous interactions and confrontations. I definitely wasn’t “turning the other cheek.” At some point, I began to think of all the ways I had wronged and harmed him – I hadn’t always included him in things, I gossiped and spoke badly about him, and I took pleasure when things didn’t work out for him. Clearly, I was far from being perfect “as your heavenly Father is perfect.” As I thought of my sinfulness, I realized, at the same time, that when I was sinning the eternal love of the Father was poured into my heart. That even though my thoughts, words and actions were far from the perfection

of the Father, the Father still gave his infinite love. To become aware that one is loved all the time, no matter what, is to experience the mercy and compassion of God. Indeed, God does not “repay us according to our inequities.” God’s mercy and compassion, his love, can, if we allow it, overflow from our hearts to the world. The person I had been angry with, I now wanted to go and apologize for my behaviour. As children of the Father and brothers and sisters of Christ, we are to love as God loves. We are to forgive as God forgives. Through God’s grace, we are to be perfect as our “heavenly Father is perfect.” How incomparably beautiful is the Christian life.

God bless and take care,
Fr. John

Offertory Collection Week of February 12

Offertory	\$ 6,198.00	Cemetery	\$ 1,850.00
New Year’s Day	\$ 130.00	Development & Peace	\$ 25.00
Initial Offering	\$ 50.00	Flowers	\$ 25.00
Funeral Stipend	\$ 1,100.00	Advent Self Denial	\$ 5.00
Ash Wednesday	\$ 25.00	Family Aid	\$ 275.00

Thank you for your continuing generosity. God Bless!

Parish Notes & Upcoming Events

Ash Wednesday

Return to the Lord your God, for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love. (Joel 2:13)

Mass with the Distribution of Ashes February 22, 2023

9:30 am (St. Paul's site with Fr. John)
7:00 pm (St. Paul's site with Fr. Joe Schuck)
7:00 pm (St. Francis site with Fr. John)

Way of the Cross

The Stations, or Way, of the Cross began in the days of the early Church when pilgrims would journey to Jerusalem to retrace the final steps taken by our Lord Jesus. Late, when it became too difficult to make the trip to the Holy Land, the practice developed of Praying the Way of the Cross at one's home church or a nearby shrine. It has become a custom to include the Stations in our Lenten observances because it is a season in which we are called to deeper prayer and reflection upon Christ's Passion, death and resurrection.

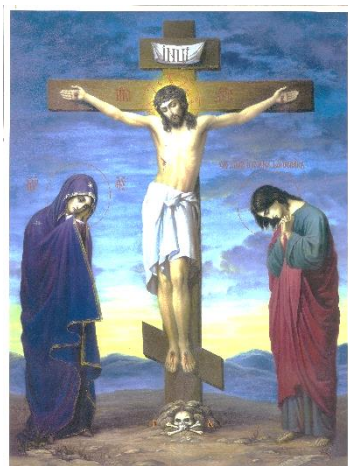
Our Parish prays the Way of the Cross every Friday throughout Lent. Everyone is invited to join Fr. John for a hot bowl of soup in the foyer before our communal prayer begins in the church (St. Paul's site).

Fridays throughout Lent:

Feb 24, Mar 3, 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.

Parish Lenten Bookmark:



Be sure to pick up a copy of our Lenten bookmark as you leave the church today.

It has a full listing all the activities for Lent taking place here at Divine Mercy Parish, including Morning Reflections with Fr. John, our Lenten Parish Mission, with Fr. Chris Collins, S.J. and our Lenten Penance Service.

Please share the information with friends and family.

Bishops and Catholic Organizations in Canada Launch Turkey/Syria Earthquake Aid Campaign

With the support of the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops (CCCCB), four organizations: Aid to Church in Need (ACN), Canadian Jesuits International (CJI), Catholic Near East Welfare Association (CNEWA) Canada and Development and Peace-Caritas Canada (DPCC) are launching an emergency aid campaign in response to the destructive earthquake that hit Turkey and Syria last Monday. They have pledged nearly one million Canadian dollars.

Encouraging and inviting the Catholic faithful to contribute to any of these four organizations, Bishop Poisson, president of the CCCC said "As Catholics we are compelled to come to the aid of our brothers and sisters in dire circumstances like the thousands of families that have lost loved ones or are injured and have lost their homes due to the earthquake."

Funds received will be used now and in coming months for food, medical supplies, shelter and other essentials to meet human needs. These funds will also serve to meet long term needs to help families go back to a more stable life. To donate, contact any one of the four organizations listed below:

- ACN: web: <https://bit.ly/acn-donate-syria>
Toll free #: 1-800-585-6333 Ext 228
- Canadian Jesuits International:
web <https://canadianjesuitsinternational.ca>
Toll free #: 1-800-448-2148
- CNEWA Canada: web: www.cnewa.ca
Toll free #: 1-866-322-4441
- DPCC: web www.dev.org
Toll free #: 1-800-494-1401

Please keep all those who have been affected by this tragedy and devastation in your prayers.

The Season of Lent

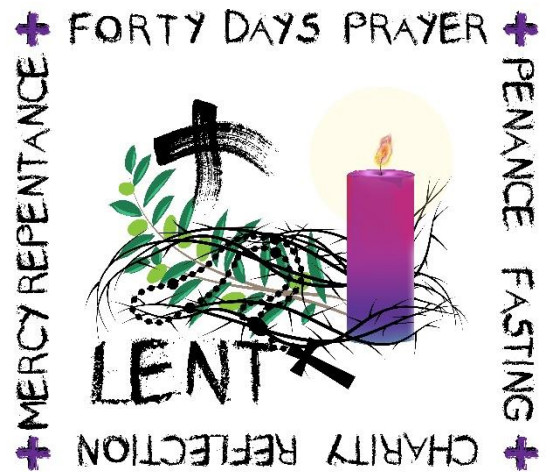
We will begin the Lenten Season on Ash Wednesday February 22nd. While many look forward to this time for opportunities for spiritual growth and renewal, quite often many of us see it as a liturgical season to dread. We focus on “What am I going to give up?” “How long can I live without whatever it is I am going to give up?” “How many more days before I don’t have to give up whatever it is that I am giving up?” Who wouldn’t dread a liturgical season with such a narrow focus?

Over these next few weeks, we are all encouraged to begin reflecting anew on the real purpose of Lent, the power such a season can be for us, and the real potential for a deeper commitment to our Catholic faith, and most important, a deeper communion of love with God. Such a deeper understanding could give us a new attitude for Lent.

Baptism is one of Lent’s foundational focus. At the Easter Vigil, the catechumens (referred to as “the elect”) will be fully initiated as Catholics through the Sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist. It is no coincidence that on Easter Sunday, all the baptized will renew our baptismal promises. Note that emphasis on the fact that we are going to “renew” our baptismal promises and not merely “repeat” them. “Repeating” simply recalls something that happened in the past. “Renew” is entirely different. “Renewing” our baptismal promises recognizes something still foundational in our life.

Renewing our baptismal promises opens our hearts to God’s grace. Grace reveals God’s great love for us and God’s purpose for our life. This great divine love energizes our own love and leads us to a deeper commitment to live these promises more faithfully. Easter is one time in the liturgical year for us to remember that we are baptized once for a lifetime and not merely once in a lifetime. Lent is the time set aside to prepare us to make that renewal faithfully.

Our world, our country and our Church all need us to rediscover the beauty and power of baptism and our call to be co-redeemers with the Lord Jesus Christ. Our baptism calls us to a life of holiness that reveals Jesus’ great and merciful love to all humanity and all creation. Our faith also commits us to restoring the human community and all creation to a life of justice, peace, and solidarity. In the next article, we will continue this opportunity to renew our understanding of Lent so that we can more fully renew our baptismal promises at Easter.



Lent At Home

Lent is a season of simple living. During Lent, we as Catholics prepare our hearts for the great celebration of Easter. We can also prepare our classrooms and homes for the great celebration of Christ’s Paschal Mystery of dying and rising to new life that will be celebrated during the Easter Triduum.

Sharing the meaning of Lent with children and families, adorning our learning and living spaces with signs of the season, and taking part in the Lenten practices of prayer, penance, and almsgiving helps us understand the important preparation of this liturgical season.

Divine Mercy Parish has pulled together family friendly resources to use at home. If you would like an electronic copy, just email us at info@divinemerlyn.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
- A selection of fun, creative and inspirational handouts for children of different ages.

The road through Lent leads us towards the promise of Christ’s new and abundant life. Each step along the way brings us closer to the Paschal Mystery and to the light and grace that rises from an empty tomb.

More News & Resources

2022 Tax Receipts:

2022 Donation Receipts are now available for pickup in the foyer. Please check your name and address as we have a number of people with the same name. The receipts can also be picked up from the Parish Office Monday through Friday. Donation Receipts for 2022 for the churches which closed in 2022 can be picked up from the following locations:

West Zone – St. Theresa's;

Central Zone – The Basilica;

East Zone – Divine Mercy

Ashes to Fire: Lenten - Easter Journey in Ignatian Spirituality

The Atlantic Ignatian Spirituality ministry is offering a free six-session on-line series in Lent 2023 with Fr. Charles Pottie, S.J. and Fr. Earl Smith, S.J.

The 2023 Lenten Series will be offered on Thursdays from 7:00 to 8:15 pm Atlantic time (AT), that is 7:30 to 8:45 pm Newfoundland Time (NT). February 23, March 02, 09, 16, 23, and 30.

If you are interested in participating in this Lenten Series, or would like more information, you can send a note to lentenjourney2023@gmail.com

An Ignatian Prayer Adventure:

This is an adapted version of the Spiritual Exercises. Materials are modified from the longer retreat in ***The Ignatian Adventure*** by Kevin O'Brien, SJ. The eight-week schedule makes it perfectly timed as a Lent and Easter retreat. Join in a flexible experience of daily prayer and reflection. Choose to commit to a regular period of prayer each day or start with only one day a week. Use as much or as little of the material as helps you in your Ignatian adventure. For Lent 2023, Fr. Joseph A. Tetlow, SJ, author of the new book, ***Considering Jesus***, will offer weekly video reflections based on themes of the retreat. <https://www.ignatianspirituality.com/ignatian-prayer/the-spiritual-exercises/an-ignatian-prayer-adventure/>

Catholic Women's League

A General Meeting of the Catholic Women's League is scheduled for Tuesday, February 21, 10:30am in the Church at Divine Mercy Parish (St. Paul's site). The guest speaker is Susan Walsh, Senior Advocate for NLA Social will follow the meeting.

The CWL Luncheon is scheduled for Wednesday, March 15 at 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

Ash Wednesday Mun Mass

There will be a Mass at Mun on Ash Wednesday, February 22, 2023 at 12:15pm in UC 3016, The Landing.

Centre for Life:

Seniors virtual income tax clinics under CVITP for those who have modest incomes will be starting on March 1st. For information or to make an appointment please call 579-1500.

The 2023 CWL Membership fee (\$30.00) for new and renewing members can be placed in an envelope, clearly labelled **CWL Membership fee**, and placed in the weekend Collection. Please include your name, address, phone number and email address.

Reader's Schedule:

A new Reader's Schedule, covering the calendar from February 18 to March 25 has been emailed. Lector's are asked to please check your inbox or spam. Printed copies are also available on the bulletin board.

Could God be calling you to become a priest? Come and see.

A vocation discernment group, led by Fr. James Fleming, meets regularly on the last Sunday of every month at the Basilica. Single Catholic men, 18 years and older, who are open to considering a call to the priesthood are invited to attend. The group meets at 6:30pm to pray, share a meal, and discuss a topic related to discerning a call to the priesthood. To register or find out more, please contact Fr. James Fleming at (709) 834-9481 or vocations@rcsj.org.