



# Divine Mercy

## Catholic Church

A Jesuit Parish in St. John's

Feast of the Ascension of the Lord

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### **Mass Intentions**

*Week of May 21-27*

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#### **Monday May 22**

*Clotilda & Richard White; Michael, Anton & Victoria Valencic;  
Leo & Elizabeth White*

#### **Tuesday May 23**

*Deceased Members of the Molloy & Walsh Families;  
Thomas & Mary Lawlor; Deceased Members of Lawlor & Dobbin Families*

#### **Wednesday May 24**

*Albert Walsh; William & Mary Hearn;  
John & Elizabeth Dunne*

#### **Thursday May 25**

*Christine Hynes; Jiahua Sun; Irene & Eric Purcell*

#### **Friday May 26**

*Deceased Members of the Neary Family;  
Deceased Members of the Gilis Family*

***Please pray for the Recently Deceased:***

***Laura Goss***

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### **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

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### **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](mailto: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:**

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709-726-9924 [www.divinmercynl.com/](http://www.divinmercynl.com/) email: [info@divinmercynl.com](mailto:info@divinmercynl.com)  
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# Pastor's Note

Bernini's sculpture called the "Ecstasy of Saint Teresa of Avila," presents an image of a woman covered and infused by Divine love. She is in prayer and experiencing union with God. Her face reveals the depth of love she is both receiving and giving. When I look at her face, I feel two things. On the one hand, I see a level of faith that is attractive, I want what she has. On the other, I feel stuck and frustrated. I want what she has, union with God, but I don't know what to do. When I pray, I often do so from my head – I pray because I'm supposed to, I pray because our submission is owed to God. How do I have a relationship with God that is not merely from my head, but also captures and covers my heart? To have a relationship with God that is from both one's "head and heart," implies seeing and knowing God more clearly, and loving God "more dearly," as Saint Ignatius of Loyola said. We can deepen our love of God through many ways. On this Solemnity of the Ascension of the Lord, the way of God's beauty can captivate and capture our hearts even more.

In the First Reading from the Acts of the Apostles, Saint Luke describes what he saw. After the Risen Lord had told the Apostles that they would receive the Holy Spirit and that they would be his witnesses "in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth," the Risen Lord ascended to the Father. St. Luke wrote, "as they were watching, he was lifted

up, and a cloud took him out of their sight." How does the Ascension connect with our daily faith, with our desire to love God more? When the Risen Lord ascended to the Father, what did he bring with him? He brought in his risen body, glorified humanity, that is, resurrected humanity. Within the life of the Triune God, after the Ascension, there is in God a beating glorified human heart. I realize this sounds a little crazy, but it is our faith. Imagine the union God desires to have with us. Everything in God is eternal, infinite, and so then is his desire for you. God's love is incomprehensible. Within his perfection and eternity, he wills to have a beating glorified human heart. He wants us with him always. He wants you with him always. The Beauty of God, as we grow in our knowledge of his love, can indeed captivate and capture our hearts. Maybe someday, as we look at an image like the "Ecstasy of Saint Teresa," it won't seem so strange or beyond our grasp. Rather than saying "I want what she has," we will each say, "I know exactly what she's feeling."

God bless and take care,  
Fr. John

## Daily Readings: Week of May 21-27

### Sunday, May 21

Acts 1:1-11  
Ephesians 1:17-23  
Matthew 28:16-20

### Monday, May 22

Acts 19:1-18  
John 16:29-33

### Tuesday, May 23

Acts 20: 17-27  
John 17:1-11a



*The Ecstasy of Saint Teresa*  
by Gian Lorenzo Bernini

### Wednesday, May 24

Acts 20:28-38  
John 17: 11b-19

### Thursday, May 25

Acts 22:30; 23:6-11  
John 17:20-26

### Friday, May 26

Acts 25:13b-21  
John 21:15-19

### Saturday, May 27

Acts 28:16-20, 30-31  
John 21: 20-25

# Parish Notes & Upcoming Events

## The Crowning of Mary

May is the month of Mary – a month dedicated to devotion to the Blessed Mother. A traditional devotion at this time is the Crowning of Mary – symbolic of Mary as Queen of Heaven and of our lives. Join us today, Sunday, May 21 at our 11am Mass (St. Paul’s site) when we will crown the statue of Mary in our Church. The Mass will be livestreamed on Facebook.com/divinemercuryparishnl

## Praying the Rosary in the Month of May

The Catholic Women’s League and members of our parish will gather in the church (St. Paul’s site) following the 9:30 am weekday Mass to pray the Rosary throughout the month of May. All are welcome to join in this beautiful devotion.

## The Knights of Columbus 4th Degree May Meeting:

Sir Knights meet on May 30 in the Foyer of Divine Mercy Parish at 7 pm. The agenda is Rosary at 7pm, guest speaker Archbishop Hundt follows, and business meeting begins at 8pm. This a very important meeting because we have nominations for 2023 - 2024. All Sir Knights are urged to attend. All Knights and parishioners are invited to attend the Rosary and presentation. "

## 2023 Knights of Columbus State Lottery Draw

Winner: Sylvia Raymond  
 Ticket # 6831  
 Jackpot; \$72,637.50  
 Thanks to all who helped in the Lottery.

## Knights of Columbus Divine Mercy Council Dinner Dance

Saturday June 3, 2023, 6:30 for 7:00 pm  
 At Royal Canadian Legion, Pleasantville  
 Choice of Stuffed Chicken or Fish & Chips  
 \$35 per person  
 To Reserve your tickets, call  
 Ray English @ 709-754-0780 or  
 Marion Dalton @ 709-726-9924

## Indian Orthodox Church in St. John’s

The Indian Orthodox Church Community will be using our St. Francis site every Saturday evening for their Mass.

## Offertory Collection Week of May 14

Offertory	\$ 6,756.60	Papal Charities	\$ 20.00
Donation	\$ 250.00	Development & Peace	\$ 100.00
Parish Maintenance	\$ 419.00	Food Bank	\$ 460.00
Easter Offering	\$ 135.00	Cemetery	\$ 10.00

*Thank you for your continuing generosity. God Bless!*

# Celebrating the Sacraments



## Reconciliation

'Forgiveness of Sin' expresses our belief and understanding of the experience of the gift of God's mercy within human existence. As human beings we recognize a reality of brokenness or 'sin' that exists within the world, and indeed, within ourselves. Created by God out of love and for love, we recognize that at times we do not act out of this love. This is experienced in a rupture of relationship: relationship between the individual and God, between the individual and others in the human community or the gift of Creation. This fracture emerges out of and contributes to a societal or structural reality of sin. As well, a profound rift exists within our deepest selves.

But deeper than this experience of brokenness is the reality of God's mercy. This divine gift, which, for the Christian, finds its fullest and most profound expression in the Paschal mystery of Christ, pardons, reconciles and heals. The saving act of the self-emptying of Christ on the cross unites divine love and human freedom. This free divine gift recalls us to ourselves, pardons us and strengthens us so that we may respond freely and fully to the love of God. This is what we experience in the Sacrament of Reconciliation or Penance.

God's mercy does not dismiss or ignore our brokenness or sin; rather we are loved through our brokenness and called together in this gift of pardon and healing. While as individuals we are reoriented towards the love of God, the world around us and integrity of self, this gift of pardon and healing has a profound communal dimension. It is within the community of faith that God's forgiveness of sin is concretely and sacramentally experienced. And, once we experience this gift of forgiveness, as a community of faith, we become a people of reconciliation, a sacramental people who become expressions of God's gift of mercy and pardon in our world.

When we go to Confession, the forgiveness that flows from God's mercy in our lives is ritualized. The Sacrament is celebrated, so that we experience the gift and power of the Lord's saving Grace. It is also a moment when we place our lives, and God's involvement in our lives within the context of the Church – the Body of Christ.

In the Sacrament, the Priest "stands in" for both the Church – the believing community – and for Christ.

Telling our sins to a Priest, hearing our sins from our own lips, helps us to be real and to acknowledge our weakness and our dependence upon God. It can be so easy to rationalize our sinfulness when we talk to ourselves "in our heads." It is an entirely different experience when we hear ourselves verbalize our sinfulness. Those sins become much more real! We become much more aware and sensitive of our responsibilities to others. But this is not something to fear. Like the Prodigal Son's father, our loving Father in heaven waits patiently and then rejoices in his child's return.

In the Sacrament, the priest "stands in" for Christ. Hearing the words of absolution, the forgiveness of God, from the lips of the priest is indeed comforting. You know how wonderful it feels when a family member or friend says, "I love you!" In the Sacrament of Reconciliation, we allow God to say those words to us in and through the person of the priest.

In the Sacrament, we do not go to the priest just to list our sins, have them forgiven, and receive a penance (although this all happens in Confession). Rather, and most importantly, we come to the priest to celebrate the forgiveness of God that we experience in our lives. We come to the Sacrament with a sense of joy for what God has already done through Jesus Christ in our lives and what God continues to do – fill us with his mercy and love.

*"Heaven is full of people who started over again,  
often."  
(An Irish Proverb)*