



# Divine Mercy

Catholic Church

A Jesuit Parish in St. John's

3rd Sunday of Easter

## **Mass Intentions**

*Week of April 24*

### **Monday April 24**

*Jack Walsh; Robert & Emma Kelly; Richard Molloy*

### **Tuesday April 25**

*John, Ann & John Jr. Kenny; Deceased Members of the Foley Family; Stephen Payne*

### **Wednesday April 26**

*Ann William & Conrad Short; Cecilia & James Flynn; George & Florence Flynn*

### **Thursday April 27**

*Angela & Marie Devine; Margie Kenny; Elizabeth & Jack White*

### **Friday April 28**

*Constance Costigan; Linda Leonard; Vilma Smith*

***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

### **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](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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# Pastor's Note

In my second year of theology studies, one year before being ordained a Deacon, I took a course on how to preside at the different Sacraments. The biggest section was, of course, on how to say Mass. During one class, each Jesuit student had to take the role of the presiding priest and lead the Communion Rite. I remember when it was time to break the host in two, put a small piece of the host in the chalice and then to elevate the host and say, "Behold the Lamb of God, behold him who takes away the sins of the world. Blessed are those called to the supper of the lamb." When it was my turn, I raised the host, but had put the two pieces back together so it looked nicer, cleaner, more impressive. I thought I did it perfectly. The teacher, however, asked, "If God allowed himself to be broken, why have you put him back together?" Other than saying, "I thought it would look better," I had no substantive answer. It is hard for us to get our heads and hearts around it, but it is only with seeing our God broken that we are able to recognize and know God.

This week's gospel from Saint Luke presents the familiar story of "On the Road to Emmaus." We see the two disciples dejected and disappointed. The Risen Lord joins them on the road but they are unable to recognize him. They said to him, "our chief priests and leaders handed him over to be condemned to death and crucified him. But we had hoped that he was the one to redeem Israel." Christ then reveals to them how all that had happened had been prophesied in the Old Testament. And once having reached the town of Emmaus, the two disciples invite the Risen Lord to stay with

them for supper and the night. At the meal, "when he was at the table with them, he took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them. Then their eyes were opened, and they recognized him." Why was it that the disciples only recognized the Risen Lord when he broke the bread? The reason is, this is who he is. Our God is broken, the Risen Lord retains the wounds of the crucifixion in the glorified body.

Maybe we unconsciously want God to be unbroken, to be pristinely perfect. The Risen Lord is perfect but he is perfect in his brokenness. His brokenness and wounds remind us that God allowed himself to be broken on the Cross due to his love for humanity and for each of you. His love for you is not an embarrassment, but is like a trophy for God. His brokenness reveals that God is love and eternally loving, and, therefore, that we each are loved eternally. We must accept God on his own terms, not the ones we may try to impose on him. And what are his terms? "God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten Son." Our response to this gift of God's self echoes the psalmist, "Therefore, my heart is glad, and my soul rejoices."

God bless and take care,  
Fr. John

## Celebrating the Sacraments

Easter is a season of sacraments — baptisms, confirmations, and first Holy Communions, both of those entering the Church and of Catholics receiving further sacraments of initiation. Ordinations, too, often take place in these months.

What is a sacrament? According to the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*, "The sacraments are efficacious signs of grace, instituted by Christ and entrusted to the Church, by which divine life is dispensed to us" (CCC 1131). In other words, Jesus has given us the sacraments through His Church as the means by which He desires to give us a share in His own life. They are both a "sign" of our future participation in God's life in heaven and the "efficacious" means through which we receive, here in this world, that same life of God.

On the night of His Last Supper, Jesus exhorted His apostles, "Believe Me that I am in the Father, and the Father is in Me" (John

14:11a). The Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit are so united, mutually dwelling within one another, that They are one God. This divine love, fully poured out for the world through the Cross is the grace that God wants to pour into each of us through the sacraments.

Over the next few weeks, we will visit each of the seven sacraments here in the bulletin. Together we will consider how the beauty and gift of each sacrament draws us into the Paschal mystery and the life of Grace.

Through the sacraments we receive the grace God has won for us through Christ's passion, death, and resurrection and are open to the grace He desires to shower upon us for all eternity. Let us live this Easter season in joyful gratitude for the gift of God's life given to us in the sacraments. May all see from our joy that we know we have been saved and raised to new life in His Son Jesus.

# Parish Notes & Upcoming Events

## Preparing for the Sacraments

Please keep in your prayers the young people who will be celebrating the Sacraments of Confirmation and the Eucharist in our Parish this Spring. May the blessing of God’s gifts be profoundly experienced by all of them and their families at this wonderful time and may their faith continue to grow and deepen throughout their lives.

Are you hoping to have your child baptized in the near future? Are you looking to prepare for the Sacrament of Marriage? Perhaps you, yourself are, or someone you know is considering becoming a Roman Catholic? For details on the process of preparation for any of the Sacraments, contact the Parish Office at 709-726-9924 or email us at [info@divinemeracynl.com](mailto:info@divinemeracynl.com)

**Divine Mercy Food Bank Volunteers** are invited to attend a meeting on Thursday, April 27 at 1:30pm at Divine Mercy Church (St. Paul’s Site). Hope to see you there.

Daily Mass at MUN is currently cancelled. Fr. Joe Mroz, S.J. is currently working in hospital chaplaincy. He will be available by phone or email.

## CWL Bake & Craft Sale

The Catholic Women's League will be holding a bake and craft sale on April 29th and 30th, before and after Masses on Saturday and Sunday, at Divine Mercy Parish (St. Paul's site). We would greatly appreciate any donations of baked goods and crafts from members and parishioners who love to bake, sew, knit or crochet. Please drop off donations after 1:00 p.m. on Saturday, April 29th. Thanking you in advance.

## Our Lady of Good Counsel Prayer Service

April 26 is the feast day of Our Lady of Good Counsel, the patron saint of the Catholic Women’s League. All members and parishioners are invited to a short prayer service and social after the 9:30am Mass, followed by a Social in the church foyer.

## Offertory Collection Week of April 16

Offertory	\$ 5,372.00	Flowers	\$ 100.00	Christmas Offering	\$ 300.00
Holy Thursday	\$ 115.00	Parish Maintenance	\$ 105.00	Christmas Hampers	\$ 50.00
Good Friday	\$ 299.00	Family Aid	\$ 385.00	Development & Peace	\$ 45.00
Easter Offering	\$ 829.00	Cemetery	\$ 25.00	Papal Charities	\$ 25.00

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

## Holocaust Memorial Service

Sunday, May 7 3pm

Bruneau Centre Auditorium (IC2001) on the Memorial University Campus.

This year is the 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Warsaw Ghetto uprising. To mark the occasion, special guest, Pinchas Gutter, will speak about his experience via Zoom. Mr. Gutter was in the Warsaw ghetto as a young boy and is a survivor of several camps and a death march from Colditz, in Northern Germany, to Terezin, in the Czech Republic. Please RSVP by replying to [holmemserv@gmail.com](mailto:holmemserv@gmail.com)

## SBC Military Tribute Dinner

May 9 at Legion Branch 56, Pleasantville.

Special guest: General Rick Hillier

Doors open: 6:30pm 6:00 pm For VIP’s  
Dinner 7pm

Tickets \$150 (\$50 tax receipt for each ticket sold)  
To reserve tickets, contact

Br. Gerry Puddister 709 685 4785

# Saint of the Week

## St. Mark the Evangelist April 25

Much of what we know about St. Mark, the author of the Second Gospel, comes from the New Testament and early Christian traditions. Mark the Evangelist is believed to be the 'John Mark' referred to in the Acts of the Apostles. He was the son of Mary of Jerusalem (Acts 12:12) whose home became a meeting place for the apostles. He is also the cousin of St. Barnabas (Colossians 4:10).

Mark joined St. Paul and St. Barnabas on their first missionary journey to Antioch in 44 A.D. When the group reached Cyprus, Mark left them and returned to Jerusalem, possibly because he was missing his home (Acts 13:13). This incident may have caused Paul to question whether Mark could be a reliable missionary. This created a disagreement between Paul and Barnabas and led Paul to refuse Mark's accompaniment on their second journey to the churches of Cilicia and the rest of Asia Minor. However, it can be assumed the troubles between Paul and Mark did not last long, because when Paul was first imprisoned, Mark, who was at the time in Rome with plans of visiting Asia Minor, visited him as one of his trusted companions (Col 4:10).

According to Christian tradition, Mark also held a close relationship with St. Peter, who referred to Mark as 'his son' in his letter addressed to several churches in Asia Minor (1 Peter 5:13). Clement of Alexandria, Irenaeus and Papias all indicate that Mark was an interpreter for Peter.

Mark's Gospel was probably written between 60 and 70 A.D. and was based upon the teachings of St. Peter. Probably written for gentile converts in Rome—after the death of Peter and Paul sometime between A.D. 60 and 70—Mark's *Gospel* is the gradual revelation of a "scandal": a crucified Messiah. It is believed Mark provided both Luke and Matthew with basic sources for their Gospels.

Mark is thought to be the first bishop of Alexandria, Egypt and the founder of the Church of Alexandria. St. Mark lived for years in Alexandria, where he died as a martyr while being dragged through the streets.

St. Mark's symbol is a winged lion. This is believed to be derived from his description of St. John the Baptist, as "a voice of one crying out in the desert" (Mark 1:3). The wings come from Ezekiel's vision of four winged creatures as the evangelists.



### The Gospel According to Mark:

The oldest and the shortest of the four *Gospels*, the *Gospel of Mark* emphasizes Jesus, the Son of God, is misunderstood and rejected by humanity. Even the disciples are characterized as not fully recognizing who Jesus is, and only gradually come to understand what it means to be the Messiah – the Christ. The Gospel emphasises the need to see through the eyes of faith and that it takes time to learn to live by the values of the Kingdom of God. Followers of Jesus should inspire others to faith through their lives.

### As you read through the Gospel of Mark consider the following:

- Only Mark records the parable of the growing seed (4:26-29). How does it contribute to your understanding of discipleship and of God's work in your life of faith?
- In his account of the healing of the woman who touched the garment of Jesus, Mark alone adds details about the woman's search for a cure (5:26-27). How do these details make you feel about the woman? What does it say of your own longing for God's mercy?
- In his account of the healing of the boy (9:14-29), Mark alone includes an extended dialogue between Jesus and the boy's father. What does this dialogue add to the account for you?
- Only Mark's account of the Lord's passion includes the scene about the young man who flees (14:51-52). What does this scene mean to you?