



# Divine Mercy

Catholic Church

A Jesuit Parish in St. John's

1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Lent

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## **Mass Intentions**

*February 27 – March 3*

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### **Monday February 27**

*Sheila Hanlon; Special Intention (A&E); Catherine Lannon*

### **Tuesday February 28**

*Loretta Mackey; John Hamilton; David Kirkland*

### **Wednesday March 1**

*Bernard Farewell; Sheila Byrne; Ronald Kelley*

### **Thursday March 2**

*Jim & Sadie Burke; Phonse Corcoran; Ronald Reardon*

### **Friday March 3**

*Special Intention (MM); Donald Gough; Gerard Fitzpatrick*

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

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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:**

Divine Mercy Parish, 340A Newfoundland Drive, St. John's, NL A1A 3R9

709-726-9924 [www.divinmercynl.com/](http://www.divinmercynl.com/) email: [info@divinmercynl.com](mailto:info@divinmercynl.com)

Facebook: Facebook.com/divinmercyparishnl

Fr. John Sullivan, S.J. Pastor Email: [john@ekon.ca](mailto:john@ekon.ca) Telephone 416-417-1513

# Pastor's Note

I came to St. John's in September 2021. Since then, a major focus and concern for us has been the fall-out from the abuse scandal, the Archdiocese's declaration of bankruptcy protection, church closures and the establishing new parishes. During this time, especially, last year, with the closing St. Pius X, about every two or three months I have tended to do the same thing - I panic. I think to myself, "I don't know what to do, I don't know what the future will be. So, I just have to do something." I once spoke with the Archbishop while in full panic mode. He listened and then said that my work was to be with the people in this difficult time and to trust in the Lord. These past thirty plus years have certainly been a challenge to the practice of our faith but there is also present a most extraordinary grace. It is the grace of greater trust in Him. God never leaves us empty handed. God always gives.

This week we hear St. Matthew's version of the three temptations. In each of his responses to the "tempter," the Lord reveals his focus – he always points to the

Father. To the first temptation, he says, "Man does not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God." To the second, he says, "Do not put the Lord your God to the test." And, to the third, he responds, "Worship the Lord your God, and serve only him." In each response, Christ points to the Father. Due to the human nature of the Lord (perfectly God and perfectly human), the temptations Jesus experienced were real. But in every case, he pointed to the Father, he trusted in the Father. The grace of greater trust we have been offered flows from our relationship with the Father. If we are the children of the Father, then we can trust in His fidelity to us, that is, we can trust in Him always. Whatever tough times in which one finds oneself, such as the uncertainty of establishing a new parish and Christian community, there is much that is unknown. No need, however, to panic (as I often do). We can absolutely trust in Him because He is absolutely faithful to us.

God bless and take care,  
Fr. John

## Parish News: Looking for your feedback!

I mentioned months ago, at our "town hall" meeting, that I would investigate the possibility of getting pews for our "St. Paul's" site. I've looked at pews available from former churches and those from St. John Bosco would fit our space perfectly. The pews are free and a person has offered his truck for free to transport them. We probably would pay a few hundred dollars for gas and a couple of extra hands to assist with the installation. From the measurements done at St. John Bosco, it seems that our seating capacity is more or less the same. To my mind, there are positives for keeping the chairs and for adding pews. Keeping the chairs allows for flexibility and the possibility of moving them for occasions of fellowship or banquet style gatherings. On the other hand, pews would allow us to kneel during the Mass, private prayer or adoration of the Blessed Sacrament. Pews also may make the space feel a bit more "churchy." This could help attract more people to our wonderful parish. To me, the question for our prayer and reflection is: Which will help the most in service of our mission as a new and vibrant parish? All this being said, I would appreciate your opinions as to whether we should keep the chairs or move to pews. You can email me ([john@ekon.ca](mailto:john@ekon.ca)), phone or text (416-417-1513), to speak to me in person.

# Parish Notes & Upcoming Events

## Lenten Morning Reflections with Fr. John

Join us for three Lenten reflections, Thursdays, after the morning Mass in the church (St. Paul's site).

**March 2: The Gift of the Eucharist**

**March 16: St. Ignatius Loyola's Examen Prayer**

**March 30: What is Divine Mercy?**

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

## 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 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.

## 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

## 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@divinemercurnl.com](mailto:info@divinemercurnl.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!

## 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 in early March. He will preside at the 11am Mass at Divine Mercy on Sunday, March 5<sup>th</sup>. He will also host a "town hall" gathering at St. Bon's on Monday, March 6<sup>th</sup>, 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.

## Offertory Collection Week of February 19

Offertory	\$ 4,310.00
Initial Offering	\$ 10.00
Donation	\$ 50.00
Ash Wednesday	\$ 150.00
Development & Peace	\$ 50.00
Holy Thursday	\$ 115.00
Good Friday	\$ 100.00
Family Aid	\$ 20.00

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

## 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.

# The Season of Lent

Last week's posting by the American Bishops offered a renewed understanding of Lent; giving us a new attitude different from "dreading the Lenten Season" for one that welcomes Lent's spiritual renewal and deepening faith. We were reminded that at Easter we renew our baptismal promises and not repeat them. We are baptized once for a lifetime and not merely baptized once in a lifetime. Lent is that time set aside by the Church for us to prepare to renew these baptismal promises.

Each time we enter a Catholic Church, we bless ourselves with holy water. Making the sign of the cross, we remember that we are baptized into the life of the Trinitarian God. We believe in one God: Father, Son and Holy Spirit living a perfect communion of love. Our fidelity to baptism's grace draws us more and more into that divine communion of love. Through the Risen Christ, we become more divine by becoming more the person God created us to be. Baptism is not only a great gift from God for each of us personally. Our baptism is a gift to all humanity. We are not baptized only for ourselves. We are baptized for others. In fact we are baptized for all people. Our baptism commits each and all of us to help others come to know the great divine love in the Lord Jesus Christ.

However, it does not take much to see that our world does not always reflect this gift of divine love. Poverty, violence, a growing concern regarding environmental degradation, causing massive human migration throughout the world, and many forms of inequality and injustice effect both our local communities and the world at large. Our faith has spoken out strongly on all these issues. These teachings are neither new nor trendy, but ancient and foundational to who we are as Catholics. They flow from our realization that God is the Creator of everything and there is a moral law to creation. The "common good" is a foundational divine law of creation. This law teaches us that God has provided for the basic needs of all humanity without exception. If people's basic needs are not being met, then the common good must be restored for God's purpose. We as the baptized have a responsibility for this restoration of the common good.

This Lent, we will take a closer look at what Catholic social teaching is, and why it is at the core of who we are as Catholics and not something on the fringes of our teachings. We will focus primarily on papal teaching because popes since Pope Leo XIII in 1891 have placed Catholic social teaching at the center of Catholic identity. The Second Vatican Council embraced and solidified these teachings. We will bring their teachings to our parish level.

# Lent At Home

## Doing the Stations of the Cross with Children:

If you want to introduce your kids to the very heart of the Christian story, praying the Stations of the Cross (or Way of the Cross) with them is an excellent way to start. It's an great way to introduce them to the story of Jesus' Passion (his suffering and death), breaking it down into discrete pieces that kids can more easily memorize. But the Stations are more than the re-telling of a story: it is a prayerful participation in the event that lies at the heart of Christianity. At its best, the Stations engage kids at a spiritual level.

Sometimes, the thought of doing the Stations of the Cross with kids can feel a bit daunting. Here are some things to consider:

1. Don't shy away from joining a public meditation on the Stations of the Cross. Here at Divine Mercy Parish, we pray the Stations on Fridays throughout Lent at 6pm. Join Fr. John for a hot bowl of soup at 5:45pm.
2. Pray the Stations as a Family in the Parish: choose a quiet time to bring your children to the church. Let them ask any questions about what they see and how to pray.
3. Pray the Stations at home: this offers you flexibility and convenience, especially if you have young children. Try the illustrated guide available in our Lenten Family Pack (email us for a copy). If you have very young, or easily distracted children, try doing one station every day over a couple of weeks. You might also let your children lead the stations.
4. Use a video: this might enrich the experience of the Stations of the Cross for your children. There are some great resources available. You might try one of these:

### A Scriptural Way of the Cross from Catholic Kids Media:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IY2hcqxh7IA>

### And A Traditional Way of the Cross for Kids from EWTN:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KoQR30np5us>

# More News & Resources

## Development and Peace: A Movement of Solidarity

Established in 1967, Development and Peace — Caritas Canada is the official international solidarity organization of the Catholic Church in Canada. We partner with organizations in the Global South that promote alternatives to unjust social, political and economic structures and support women in their quest for equality and justice.

With the help of our 11,000+ volunteer members, we inform Canadians about the root causes of impoverishment and mobilize them to act for change. Our Lenten campaign, ***Stand for the Land*** focuses on people's defence of their territories in Colombia and Honduras. To learn more about our movement and to join us, visit [devp.org](http://devp.org).

### 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

### 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. Beginning Ash Wednesday and continuing for each Sunday of Lent, these Lenten reflections can be found on the Archdiocesan webpage: [www.rcsj.org](http://www.rcsj.org) These reflections will be updated each Monday of Lent for the following Sunday's Eucharistic celebration.

### 2022 Tax Receipts:

2022 Donation Receipts are now available for pickup in the foyer. Please check you 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

### Knights of Columbus:

The 4th Degree of EP Roche Assembly will meet in the foyer of Divine Mercy Parish (St. Paul's site) on Tuesday Feb 28 at 7 PM for the Rosary. Fr. Bill Brown S.J. is the guest speaker. All Parishioners and Knights are invited to attend the Rosary and Address.

**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](mailto:scott_t_bartlett@hotmail.com) to receive a Zoom link.

### 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](mailto:acurtis@warp.nfld.net)

### CWL Membership Fee:

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 or handed in the Parish Office. Please include your name, address, phone number and email address.

### 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](mailto:vocations@rcsj.org).