



Divine Mercy

Catholic Church

A Jesuit Parish in St. John's

24th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Mass Intentions

Week of September 17-23

Monday September 18

*Carl Pike; Linda Leonard;
Bill Rees & Deceased Family*

Tuesday September 19

*Mike Davis & Deceased Family;
John & Catherine Wade & Deceased Family;
Special Intention (CK)*

Wednesday September 20

Blanche Stack; Michael Valencic; Bob Crocker

Thursday September 21

*Melinda & Gerald Doyle & Deceased Family;
Mary & Leonard Madden;
Cathy & Gerry Feehan*

Friday September 22

*Michael, Anton & Victoria Valencic;
Chris Gale ; Daphne Burke*

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

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

Pastor's Note

My first assignment as a newly ordained priest was to St. Anne's parish in west Kingston, Jamaica. In anticipation, I often spoke with the Jesuit who would be working there as well. We were both excited for the assignment, and, even more so, because we were good friends. Once we began, however, things started to "off the rails." Unfortunately, we started to compete with each other – Who was the more successful? Who was better liked? Who did people more look up to? As a consequence, we were no longer "good friends." After I left Jamaica, I was on a retreat and I began to think of how this "friend" had treated me badly – How he spoke about me and how he didn't seem to want to collaborate. I dwelt on these for a time and then my reflection changed. It was no longer about what he had done to me but what I had done to him. I too spoke badly about him. I would collaborate as long as I was in charge. While thinking about my sinfulness towards a friend, I felt within my heart the overflowing of God's mercy and love. I realized that at the very moment I was sinning, God was pouring his eternal love into my heart. Through this experience of God's mercy and love, I knew what I had to do – I needed and wanted to apologize. In receiving mercy, we become freer to give mercy.

This week's Gospel sees the Lord responding to a question from Peter. He asks Jesus how many times he should forgive? Peter proposes seven times which would have been viewed at that time as being generous. In a way that must have shocked, Christ says, "Not seven times, but I tell you, seventy-seven times." In other words, the Lord is teaching that there is not to be a limit to one's forgiving, that is, forgive always. We all know that some things are easier to forgive than others. But, if you will, we are to be disposed to forgive. Our freedom to forgive is not something we naturally possess. Rather, it is a response to the mercy that God has first shown us. Being forgiven by God is not like a "get out of jail" card. It is to be integrated or appropriated into one's life and heart. It finds a home within us and thus becomes part of who we are. We give what we have freely received. "It is the Lord who forgives all your iniquity, who heals all your diseases, who redeems your life from the Pit, who crowns you with steadfast love and mercy."

God bless and take care,

Fr. John

Dear Parishioners of Divine Mercy,

Last Saturday we had a wonderful parish BBQ on the beautiful grounds of St. Francis. The event was initiated and organized principally by our Parish Council and was intended to deepen our Community by getting to know more people and to celebrate how we have come together as a new parish. One cannot but be grateful with how we have come and are coming together. Without a doubt, each of you has been so generous in committing to Divine Mercy. We are of different ages; we are from different parts of the world; but, we are united in our faith in Jesus Christ. And last Saturday, God's kingdom got a little bigger. On behalf of all parishioners, thank you everyone who made this day possible and for those who attended.

Fr. John

Parish Notes & Upcoming Events

Divine Mercy Lector's Workshop:

Divine Mercy Parish is hosting a Lector (Reader) workshop at our St. Paul's site on Saturday September 23rd from 10 am to 12 noon. This event is designed for current readers and also for anyone who would to explore this Ministry. Please let Anne Bown at ambown@nl.rogers.com (709-576-4274) know if you would like to attend, so that we can prepare for you.

The Lector Schedule for the period Sept 9 to Oct 29th has been emailed to readers. There is also a copy posted on the main bulletin board (near the hymnbooks) in the church foyer.

Enlarge the Space of Your Tent – women in the Synod

The Catholic Women's League at Divine Mercy invites all its members and women of the parish to attend a reflection on the Synod, with Dr. Anne Walsh, Redemptorist Lay Minister, September 26, 10am -1 pm at the Lantern on Barnes Road. The reflection will prepare us for the month long Synodal Sessions beginning In Rome on October 5. Since space is limited, please let Anne Curtis know by September 18 if you are attending so we can plan for break and lunch – email:acurtis@warp.nfld.net or call 709 753 6457.

Daily Readings:

Week of September 17-23

Sunday, September 17

Sirach 27:30-28:7
Romans 14:7-9
Matthew 18:21-35

Monday, September 18

1 Timothy 2:1-8
Luke 7:1-10

Tuesday, September 19

1 Timothy: 3:1-13
Luke 7:11-17

Wednesday, September 20

1 Timothy: 3:14-16
Luke 7:31-35

Thursday, September 21

Ephesians 4:1-7, 11-13
Matthew 9:9-13

Friday, September 22

1 Timothy: 6:2c-12
Luke 8:1-3

Saturday, September 23

1 Timothy 6:13-16
Luke 8:4-15

Knights of Columbus: Notice of Meeting

The Knights of Columbus will meet for the first meeting of the Columbian year on Tuesday, September 26, 2023 at 7 PM in the foyer of Divine Mercy Church (St. Paul's site). The agenda is as follows: Rosary at 7 PM; 7: 20 Guest Speaker (tba), and the regular Business Meeting from 8-9 PM. All members of the K of C and all Parishioners are invited to attend the Rosary and speaker events. Only members only may attend the business meeting.

Catechetical Sunday:

Today (the third Sunday in September) we celebrate Catechetical Sunday. Started in 1935 as part of a Church initiative to recognize and celebrate the gift that catechists give to their parish communities by giving of their time and talents for the faith education of children and youth. It is a time to come together as a parish and acknowledge those who dedicate themselves to sharing the Faith to children in our parish family.

First, we honor parents and guardians because they are the first true catechists, sharing the Catholic faith with their families. We also, give thanks for the many people who volunteer in the different sacrament preparation programs and children and youth ministries.

The 2023 Catechetical Sunday theme is **“Come to me all you who labor and are burdened”** (Matthew 11:28) As Catholics, we hear these words of Christ as a summons to follow him. This theme reminds us that the primary role of the catechist is to be a disciple of Christ and second to be a witness and accompany others. As we give thanks for the gifts of the many catechists, parents and guardians sharing the Faith, let us take this time to also consider all the ways we are all called to be disciples of and witnesses for Jesus Christ ourselves.

Offertory Collection Week of September 10

Offertory	\$	4,435.00
Dues	\$	4,255.00
Flowers	\$	15.00
Needs of the Cdn Church	\$	5.00

E-transfers can be made through
dmparishnl@outlook.com

(Please remember to include your full name and a message indicating what the E-transfer is for)

Thank you for your continuing generosity. God Bless!

This Week in The Faith

The Devotion to the Sorrows of Mary

Our liturgical Calendar gives shape and meaning to the year, allowing us an opportunity to orient ourselves more towards God and grow closer to the Lord. Since the 16th century, the Church has assigned special devotions to each month of the year. September is dedicated to the Seven Sorrows of Mary.

This Past week, we celebrated two important feasts in the Church: The Exaltation of the Cross, followed by the Feast of Our Lady of Sorrows. As is often said, Mary points continually to her Son and this is certainly true of this devotion. They are all found in the Gospels and help us recall Mary's role in salvation history. The primary biblical references are found in Luke 2:35, Simeon's prediction about a sword piercing Mary's soul, and John 19:26-27, which recalls Jesus' words from the Cross to Mary and the beloved disciple. Many early Church writers interpreted the sword as Mary's sorrows, especially as she saw Jesus die on the cross. Thus, the two passages are brought together as prediction and fulfillment. Saint Ambrose in particular sees Mary as a sorrowful yet powerful figure at the cross. Mary stood fearlessly at the cross while others fled. Mary looked on her Son's wounds with pity, but saw in them the salvation of the world. As Jesus hung on the cross, Mary did not fear to be killed, but out of love for her Son, and in unflinching obedience to the Father, became a primary witness to the outpouring of God's mercy in Jesus Christ.

Here are the seven sorrows and their Gospel references:

1. The Prophecy of Simeon (Luke 2:22-35)
2. The Flight into Egypt (Matthew 2:13-21)
3. The Loss of Jesus for Three Days in the Temple (Luke 2:41-50)
4. The Carrying of the Cross (Mark 15:13-22)
5. The Crucifixion of Jesus (John 19:18-30)
6. Jesus is taken down from the Cross (John 19:39-40)
7. Jesus is Laid in the Tomb (John 19:39-41)

The Seven Sorrows of Mary are important for us to know and pray. Praying with the Seven Sorrows can be as simple as choosing one of the Gospel passages and spending time in quiet reflection on the gift of salvation that God has given us through Jesus, and Mary's cooperation in, and witness to God's mercy and redemption.



Novena to St. Thérèse of Lisieux

***"Let us not grow tired of prayer.
Confidence works miracles."
~ St. Thérèse of Lisieux***



October 1 is the Feast of St. Thérèse of Lisieux. Affectionately known as the "Little Flower," St. Thérèse was named a Doctor of the Church because of the powerful influence of her spirituality, known as the "little Way," which is about being both small and doing the smallest actions with great love for God and for the world. As we near the Feast of this beautiful saint, we offer this novena as a prayer of love and gratitude to God, with a desire to deepen our love for Christ through the actions of our everyday lives.

For each day of the Novena:

1. *Begin with the Sign of the Cross*
2. *Novena Prayer:*

Dearest Saint Thérèse, honored by the Church as saint of the "Little Way," teach me how to transform the every day doings of my day into acts of love for Jesus. I come to you to ask your help, (State your intention clearly and confidently)

You surrendered yourself in loving trust to Jesus. Teach me how to live a life of trust in the mercy of God. You said that you desired to spend your time in heaven by doing good on earth. Please help me by joining your prayers to mine, Saint Therese of the Child Jesus, pray for me.

3. *Quietly Reflect on Selected Scripture and Words from St. Therese – see particular day*
4. *Prayer to St Thérèse – see particular day*
5. *Pray a Glory Be and close with the sign of the Cross*

You will find the scripture passages, along with quotes from St. Therese and prayers for each day of the novena on the following page.

Novena to St. Thérèse of Lisieux

Day One – The “Little Flower”

Scripture:

Consider the lilies of the Field, how they grow: they neither toil nor spin, yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these. But if God so clothes the grass, which is alive in the field today, and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, how much more will he clothe you. (Luke 12:27-28)

From St. Thérèse:

“I understood that every flower created by him is beautiful, that the brilliance of the rose and the whiteness of the lily do not lessen the perfume of the violet or the sweet simplicity of the daisy. I understood that if all the lowly flowers wished to be roses, nature would no longer be enamelled with lovely hues. And so it is in the world of our souls, our Lord’s living Garden.”

Prayer:

Little Flower of Jesus, I want to love our God the way you do, and help others also love God, as I work for the good of all people wherever they may be. Our Lord Jesus has prepared a place for us in His Kingdom. Help me to be worthy to stand in his presence. Amen.

Day Two – Vocation to Love

Scripture:

‘I desire steadfast love and not sacrifice, the knowledge of God rather than burnt offerings.’ (Hosea 6:6)

From St. Thérèse:

“At last I have found my true vocation: It is love!.”

Prayer:

Little Flower of Jesus, may I, like you, always be alive with Christ’s love. O Jesus, Word spoken by God and made Flesh, know that I love you. Loving you, I am drawn into Divine love itself. May you dwell forever in my heart. Amen.

Day Three – Quenching Christ’s Thirst

Scripture:

After this, when Jesus knew that all was now finished, he said (in order to fulfill the scripture), “I am thirsty.” (John 19:28)

From St. Thérèse:

“Thou dwellest a prisoner for me night and day;

And every hour I hear thy voice implore:

“I thirst—I thirst—I thirst—for love always!”

I, too, Thy prisoner am I;

I, too, cry ever unto Thee Thine own divine and tender cry:

“I thirst! Oh, let me die of love for Thee!”

Prayer:

Little Flower of Jesus, you wanted to be captured by the Blessed Trinity. Help us answer the Father’s call by welcoming the Son to live in our hearts and gathering in the communion of the Holy Spirit. May we be joined to all humankind, for our gracious Lord desires to quench the thirst of every person, each created in the image of the one God. Amen.

Day Four – The Little Way

Scripture:

Jesus said, “Let the children come to me, and do not stop them; for it is to such as these that the kingdom of heaven belongs.” (Matthew 19:14)

From St. Thérèse:

For me to become greater is impossible; I must put up with myself just as I am with all my imperfections. But I wish to find the way to go to Heaven by a very straight, short, completely new little way. ... I would like to find an elevator to lift me up to Jesus, for I am too little to climb the rough stairway of perfection... The elevator which must raise me to the heavens is Your arms, O Jesus! For that I do not need to grow; on the contrary, I must necessarily remain small, become smaller. O my God, You have surpassed what I expected, and I want to sing Your mercies.’

Prayer:

Little Flower of Jesus, you showed Christ’s gentleness in your face as you walked your little way to holiness. Lead us from anger, hatred, and fear for we are weak and fragile because our freedom is so often chained by sin. But look at what we strive to do with love and pray to Jesus that we may live in peace with the God, the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen.

Day Five – A Life Totally for Others

Scripture:

Jesus said: “A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another. By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.” (John 13:34-35)

Day Eight – Complete Confidence in God’s Mercy

From St. Thérèse:

“I know now that true charity consists in bearing all our neighbours’ defects—not being surprised at their weakness, but edified at their smallest virtues.”

Prayer:

Little Flower of Jesus, like you, I long to see the face of Jesus with my own eyes. I want nothing more than to gaze at him forever, to live like him and to love like him. Please ask our Lord to leave on me the imprint of his hand so that I may have a heart full of compassion. Then I will be complete and through me, others might be led to him. Amen.

Day Six – A Force of Love in the Church

Scripture:

Now faith, hope and love abide; but the greatest of these is love. (1 Corinthians 13:13)

From St. Thérèse:

My vocation is love, in the heart of the Church, my Mother, I will be love, and then I will be all things.

Prayer:

Little Flower of Jesus, you let yourself be consumed by the holy fire of love. Make us ready to welcome the same Holy Spirit in the simple events of daily life. Let the flames of goodness heal our hearts, so that our thirst for God may grow within us. May we become the Church by living the gospel while on our earthly journey with the divine Trinity. Amen

Day Seven – Perseverance in Suffering

Scripture:

Rejoice in hope, be patient in suffering, persevere in prayer. (Romans 12:12)

From St. Thérèse:

The morrow of this day will be eternity; then Jesus will return you a hundred-fold the lovely, rightful joys that you are sacrificing for him.

Prayer:

Little Flower of Jesus, in your innocence, you wanted everything God has to offer; in your wisdom, you relied on God’s goodness and strength. Help us to trust God in our struggles, and to realize that our sufferings can be transformed in union with Christ’s, for the good of the world. Amen

Scripture: But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved. (Ephesians 2:4-5)

From St. Thérèse:

“It is not because I have been preserved from mortal sin that I lift up my heart to God in trust and love. I feel that even had I on my conscience every crime one could commit, I should lose nothing of my confidence: my heart broken with sorrow, I would throw myself into the Arms of my Saviour. I know that He loves the Prodigal Son, I have heard His words to St. Mary Magdalen, to the woman taken in adultery, and to the woman of Samaria. No one could frighten me, for I know what to believe concerning His Mercy and His Love. And I know that all that multitude of sins would disappear in an instant, even as a drop of water cast into a flaming furnace.”

Prayer:

Little Flower of Jesus, you walked in trust toward God as a child who knew that she was loved. Inspire us, for alone in our emptiness what can we do? We can never receive, return or repay all of God’s love for us. Help us to accept our own fragile selves so that our hearts will be filled beyond measure with the mercy that flows from God as Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen.

Day Nine – Doing Good on Earth from Heaven

Scripture:

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places. (Ephesians 1:3)

From St. Thérèse:

“Upon my death I will let fall a shower of roses; I wish to spend my heaven in doing good upon the earth.”

Prayer:

Little Flower of Jesus, you spend your time in heaven loving us in God’s love. You often wrote of the Father’s mercy, asking us to recognize the beauty of the Son, and to live and smile with the life in the Holy Spirit. Take us by the hand, lead us to our eternal home, as an Easter people gathered in joy, joined with Mary and the angels and saints forever. Amen.