



# Divine Mercy

## Catholic Church

A Jesuit Parish in St. John's

27<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time

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### **Mass Intentions**

*Week of October 8<sup>th</sup> to 14<sup>th</sup>*

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#### **Monday October 9**

*Jack Walsh; Catherine Lawlor;  
Julia McCormick*

#### **Tuesday October 10**

*Special Intention (ER); Nathan Gibbons;  
Gary Bradshaw*

#### **Wednesday October 11**

*Special Intention (LC); Thomas McGrath;  
Catherine O'Neill*

#### **Thursday October 12**

*Thomas Blyde; Mary Dunphy;  
Grace Saunders*

#### **Friday October 13**

*John Lewis; Clara Thomas;  
Graham Hillier*

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

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

# Reflecting on the Sunday Readings

*Fr. John is away this week and unable to give his weekly Pastor's Note. In lieu of this, we offer these brief commentaries on the Sunday Readings from St. Joseph's Catholic Church in Indiana, along with some reflective questions to stir our minds and spirits.*

**First Reading:** Isaiah 5:1-7

**Commentary:**

The story in this first reading foreshadows the parable Jesus shares in today's Gospel. Here God is speaking and illustrating the situation of His people, the Israelites. God had prepared a promised land for them and given them the holy city of Jerusalem. As the passage explains, "The vineyard of the LORD of hosts is the house of Israel, and the people of Judah are his cherished plant." God planted His people in the promised land to bear good fruit, but all that came about was wild grapes. In other words, although God did everything correctly in preparing, planting, and tending His vineyard, good fruit was not yielded. Why? Because the people were hard-hearted and resistant. They rejected God's grace and did not allow themselves to bear good fruit. As a result, God promises to destroy the vineyard. He will let it become overgrown and lay in ruin. This may seem harsh but will make more sense when we read the Gospel reading. This passage from Isaiah ultimately points forward to the time of Christ when the leaders will reject God's own son, resulting in their ruin and a new beginning in God's vineyard.

**Second Reading:** Philippians 4:6-9

**Commentary:**

Can you imagine a life with no anxiety? That's what the Apostle Paul calls us to in today's reading, and he indicates that it is, in fact, possible. Anxiety results from a lack of trust in God. But if we bring our requests, our needs, our petitions, to God and bathe everything in prayer and thanksgiving, then we can be relieved of anxieties and have peace. The peace that God offers is not merely circumstantial, fleeting peace, based on feelings, but it is true peace that goes deeper than emotion and surpasses our situations, offering us security throughout any

challenges we may face. How do we find this peace? It comes through a loving personal relationship with God. We can invite Him into our whole lives and entrust all that we are and all that we have to Him. Paul calls us to fill our minds with everything true, good, and beautiful. We can so easily get distracted and caught up in things that are harmful to our souls. But if we think about 'whatever is true, honorable, just, pure, lovely, gracious, etc.,' we welcome God's peaceful presence in our lives.

**Gospel Reading:** Matthew 21:33-43

**Commentary:**

Like in the first reading, in this parable, Jesus speaks of a vineyard. The landowner here represents God, and the vineyard represents the kingdom of God and the city of Jerusalem, in particular. Like in the first reading, God prepared everything in the vineyard. He then leased it to tenants, who represent the leaders of Israel. They were given charge of God's kingdom and called to be good stewards that would bring about good fruit. But they were hard-hearted and rejected God's messengers. The servants who were sent represent the prophets of the Old Testament, who were persecuted and even killed for warning the Israelites of their sins. The son, then, represents Jesus Christ, the only Son of God. Not only were God's prophets rejected but His son, the Messiah. Jesus was rejected. The parable, in fact, foreshadows His own crucifixion. Jesus, the son, would be seized, thrown out of the city of Jerusalem, and crucified outside its gates. As a result, Jesus says that the kingdom of God will be taken and given to another people to tend it and bear good fruit.

**Taking it Home:**

*In what areas of your life do you struggle to trust God? Reflect on how this prevents you from bearing good fruit. Then, bring any anxiety you are struggling with to God in prayer, asking Him to bring you 'the peace of God that surpasses all understanding.' Finally, take time to meditate on and thank God for the many blessings you have been given.*

# Parish Notes & Upcoming Events

## Calling Parents of Children of Sacramental Age!

If you have a child or children 7 years of age or more, you are invited to register them for our sacramental preparation programs for Reconciliation, Confirmation and First Holy Communion.

Our program for the Sacrament of Reconciliation will begin on Saturday, October 14 at 1pm with a meeting for children and parents in the church at our St. Paul's site. Our Confirmation Program will begin in mid-January and our First Holy Communion Program will begin in the Spring. You can get registration form by calling or emailing the Parish Office. Please fill out the registration form and return to the Parish Office.

## Blessing of the Animals

In honour of St. Francis of Assisi, whose feast we celebrate this week, we will be having a **Blessing of the Animals at our St. Francis site on Saturday, October 14<sup>th</sup> at 1pm on the lawn area.** Everyone is most welcome to bring their pets to be blessed. To ensure the safety of all our furry loved ones, we ask you to secure them on a leash. Be sure to invite any family and friends who might like to join.

## Daily Readings:

### Week of October 8-14

#### Sunday, October 8

Isaiah 5:1-7  
Philippians 4:6-9  
Matthew 21:33-43

#### Monday, October 9

Jonah 1:1-2:1-2, 11  
Luke 10:25-37

#### Tuesday, October 10

Jonah 3:1-10  
Luke 10:38-42

#### Wednesday, October 11

Jonah 4:1-11  
Luke 11:1-4

#### Thursday, October 12

Malachai 3:13-20b  
Luke 11:5-13

#### Friday, October 13

Joel 1:13-15; 2:1-2  
Luke 11:15-26

#### Saturday, October 14

Joel 4:12-21  
Luke 11:27-28

## Offertory Collection Week of October 1

Offertory	\$ 5,875.00
Dues	\$ 535.00
Food Bank	\$ 150.00
Needs of the Cdn Church	\$ 155.00
Students for the Priesthood	\$ 642.00

*E-transfers can be made through*

[dmparishnl@outlook.com](mailto: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!*

## Grand in Your Hand Winner:

The Knights of Columbus (St. Paul's Council) are pleased to announce September's Grand in Your Hand Winner: Patrick Chafe, Ticket #00043. Thank you to all who helped in any way.

## Praying the Rosary in the Month of October

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 October, dedicated to the devotion of the Rosary. All are welcome to join in this most beautiful devotion.

## Catholic Women's League Baby Shower

There will be a BABY SHOWER in the church foyer (St. Paul's site) before and after Saturday and Sunday Masses, October 14-15, organized by Catholic Women's league members. It is not a "shower" in the usual way. Instead, you are invited to drop a gift for a newborn to 2-year-old in a basket in the foyer. Monetary donations are also welcome. All the gifts will be donated to the Centre for Life and Single Parents Association. Thank you for your support.

## Parish Family News:

- This week in our community, we celebrate the Baptism of Nora Winifred Roche. With Nora's family, we rejoice in the gift of faith and pray that she and her family might all grow in the light of God's grace.

# This Week in The Faith

## Fall Family Activities That Celebrate God's Creation



### **Appreciate the Autumn**

Take a walk with family and friends: consider the beauty of autumn, the cooler air, the changing colours, the wonderful fruits, and vegetables of the season. With your family, design a wreath or decoration that you can hang on your door, or place it in your family prayer space. Bring it to the parish and have Father bless it before you hang it. Share the beauty of God's season by designing something beautiful for your community to enjoy, to honour God's creation and remind others to appreciate the wonder of God's natural world.

### **Leaf Sort**

This is a great activity for including younger children. Take a walk through your yard, visit a nearby hiking trail, or simply take a walk through your neighbourhood. Bring a small bag along and collect leaves of different kinds with your child or grandchild. Ask them questions as you collect the leaves, such as "Why do you think this one is red instead of green?" or "Can you find a leaf that is smaller (or bigger) than this one?" Encourage the conversation and questioning. Finally spread out the leaves and sort them. Group them in any way you like. Consider together the uniqueness of each leaf and your collected efforts. Explore and enjoy the wonderful beauty and diversity of God's creation.

### **Put it to Rest**

In the Fall, the earth prepares for winter's sleep. Genesis 8:22 reminds us that all of God's creation experiences the cycles of life. Use the Fall as an opportunity to talk about these cycles: the change of seasons, the growth and harvesting of fruits and vegetables, the life and death of Jesus. Pick an old habit or behaviour you would like to put to rest. Make a family pledge to end a habit and replace it with something new, to renew your faith and celebrate the wonderful life that God has given you.

### Enjoy the Harvest

The Fall is a time of harvest, of gathering and reaping the benefits of hard work. Take a trip to your local market, farm or orchard. Discuss the different types of fruits and vegetables that you see and talk about the beauty of God's creation. Together thank the Lord for the beauty and abundance of the harvest. You might pray this prayer together:

### **Harvest Prayer:**

Lord, thank you for this plenty,  
For the harvest great and small,  
For the beauty of this season,  
For the wonder that is Fall.

Amen

*(Fall Family Activities that Celebrate God's Creation made available from Sadlier Religion Catechetical Resources)*



## Happy Thanksgiving!

This weekend, we join with other Canadians in giving thanks for the blessings we receive. Thanksgiving is obviously a secular holiday, but with many religious, and Catholic overtones. As Catholics, we celebrate Thanksgiving every time we go to Mass. The very word eucharist comes from the Greek word for thanksgiving and is a reminder that as followers of Christ we have so very much to be thankful for. We are thankful for his love and his mercy. We are thankful for the Catholic faith that has been passed on to us by the Communion of Saints. In our gratitude, we find peace and joy. The Lord has made a feast for ALL PEOPLES; let us not rest until there is room at the table for all of God's Children. For the many blessings and graces God has given to our Parish Community, let us be truly thankful. Happy Thanksgiving!