



Divine Mercy

Catholic Church

A Jesuit Parish in St. John's

First Sunday of Advent

Mass Intentions

Week of December 3 to 9

Monday December 4

*Jim & Sheila Hanlon; Catherine Humphries;
Special Intention (RC)*

Tuesday December 5

*Peter & Sadie Manning; Eileen Hammond;
Special Intention*

Wednesday December 6

*Mass of Thanksgiving; Special Intention (RT);
Thomas & Mary Fennessey*

Thursday December 7

*Special Intention (HB); Special Intention (JM);
Helen & David Roche*

Friday December 8

*Carl Pike; Annie & Pat McCarthy;
Isaac Montes*

Parish Schedule:

Sunday Mass:

Saturday 4:00pm
(Newfoundland Drive Site)

Sunday 9:00am
(Outer Cove Site)

11:00am
(Newfoundland Drive Site)

Daily Mass:

Monday to Friday 9:30am

Daily Mass takes place at
our Newfoundland Dr. 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

Advent is the season of waiting and preparing. It is not, however, a “waiting and preparing” for the Lord’s birth in Bethlehem, that’s already happened, rather it is focused on his return in glory. For most of my life, I didn’t know this. I thought the Advent season was the “church” way of preparing, of getting ready for Christmas. Consequently, we are told by the Lord that we are to prepare now – “And what I say to you I say to all: Keep awake.” How are we to begin or preparation, not so much about what we are to do, but more about our approach, the disposition of our hearts?

There can be a sense of foreboding from this week’s Gospel. Christ tells his disciples, “Beware, keep alert; for you do not know when the time will come.” If one is told to “beware,” one cannot but feel a trepidation, a fear due to danger. I do not believe, however, that the Lord wants fear to be a foundational motivation in our relationship with God. Fear usually leads a person to avoidance. In the revelation of God in Jesus Christ can we correctly conclude that it appears God does not want a close and personal relationship with each of us? I think we would have to answer with a resounding “No!”. Jesus directs his prayer to his “Father” and with the Resurrection, we now relate to God as Father too. The foundation of our relationship with the Father is the Father’s love, not fear. The language the Lord uses is to convey the importance and urgency of keeping our “eyes on the prize.” Of not smothering the impulse of our hearts towards Eternal Love. His coming and his return are a big deal, in fact, he is the most important reality in one’s life. Our preparation and readiness are not from fear or anxiety but from love. It is like when I go and visit my family in Halifax. As soon as I open

the door, I am told “there is lobster in the fridge, chowder on the stove and pie on the counter.” In the days before my arrival, my mom and sister do a lot of work and feel some worry for things to turn out perfectly. Their work and even their worry are not from fear, but from love. We “keep awake” not to avoid getting in trouble but because we don’t want to miss it, that is, we don’t want to miss him.

God bless and take care,
Fr. John

Saints Speak

“The liturgy of Advent...helps us to understand fully the value and meaning of the mystery of Christmas. It is not just about commemorating the historical event, which occurred some 2,000 years ago in a little village of Judea. Instead, it is necessary to understand that the whole of our life must be an ‘advent,’ a vigilant awaiting of the final coming of Christ. To predispose our mind to welcome the Lord who, as we say in the Creed, one day will come to judge the living and the dead, we must learn to recognize him as present in the events of daily life. Therefore, Advent is, so to speak, an intense training that directs us decisively toward him who already came, who will come, and who comes continuously.”

– St. John Paul II

Parish Notes & Upcoming Events

Pick Up Our Parish Christmas Schedule

Copies of our Christmas Schedule are available for pick up this weekend. They are printed in bookmark form, making them easy to hold onto, post or share with family and friends. You can also pick up a copy of our December Events bookmark, highlighting all of our Advent events.

Christmas Bazaar – Today!

Don't miss our Christmas Bazaar, today, December 3 at our Newfoundland Drive Site. Stop by for a hot drink and sweet treat. There will also be a table of baked goods for sale and a children's area of non-stop fun. We will even have some Christmas music! Cash or cheque only and don't forget to bring a bag to take your goodies home.

Divine Mercy Giving Tree

Divine Mercy Food Bank has placed our giving tree in the foyer (Newfoundland Drive site) back of the Church (Outer Cove site) again this year. We have placed tags for gift cards for children. Please drop all gift cards in the collection plate or return to the parish office by December 10th. We would like to thank you for all your generosity.

Divine Mercy Annual Turkey Drive:

The parish is collecting turkeys for our Christmas hampers. Each year the Food Bank teams distribute between 100 - 150 hampers. Please consider donating a turkey. Donated turkeys will be accepted in the foyer of the church on Tuesday, December 12 from 8:30 – 12:00 or 1- 3. Many thanks for your help!

Catholic Women's League Advent Lunch – Tuesday, December 12

All Ladies Welcome. The Luncheon will take place from 11:30 to 2:30 at the Legion, The Boulevard. Choice of a full turkey dinner or deep-fried cod and fries. Desert choice of cheese or carrot cake. The cost is \$23.95 plus tax and gratuity (to be paid individually at the Legion). Register for the Luncheon by December 8, including your choice of meal, with Anne Curtis: acurtis@warp.nfld.net

Information Night at St. Bon's

St. Bonaventure's College is holding an Information Night on Thursday, December 7 for perspective new families. For more information call 709-726-0024 or go to www.stbonaventurescollege.ca

Parish Family News:

Throughout this week. in our community, we have three families celebrating the Sacrament of Baptism: Lucy Stratton, Axl Sarsaba and Thomas Parrell will all be baptized. With all of their families, we rejoice in the gift of faith and pray that they and their families might all grow in the light of God's grace.

Offertory Collection Week of November 26

Offertory	\$	5,609.50
Dues	\$	300.00
Flowers	\$	65.00
Christmas Hampers	\$	315.00
Food Bank	\$	60.00
Food Bank In Memoriam	\$	20.00
Cemetery	\$	25.00

E-transfers can be made through

dmparishnl@outlook.com

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

Thank you for your generosity. God Bless!

From the Pews

In this week's From the Pews, we have Part II of Mike Bautista's look at his experience of the Spiritual Exercises of St. Ignatius of Loyola. If you missed Part I, you will find it in the October 15 issue of our Bulletin. Visit our website www.divinemercynl.com/ to access it.

The Two Standards

After the Principal and Foundation, I think the second most impactful reflection for me of the Spiritual Exercises is the Two Standards. This binary decision-making strategy of Ignatius simplifies each decision and each action we choose as a choice of moving closer or moving away from God, or as a choice of good or evil. It reveals the graciousness of God to have given us the free will to choose Him, rather than have us merely obedient zombies; so, like the person who discovers treasure buried in a field and buys the field, we experience that discovery with great joy, but have the shrewdness to commit and follow through on the purchase.

What is very important in the Two Standards was the internalization of the decision, requiring a "discernment of spirits", with an interiorized concept of good and evil versus the idea that "the devil made me do it" to quote the comedian from long ago, Flip Wilson. The Spiritual Exercises is the

director's guidebook to help the retreatant develop the skills to reach as much as possible, clarity in choices to make the choice of choosing God or the devil, one way or the other, even in reflection afterwards. After all, if you discover you are going down the wrong path, it is never too late to turn around; indeed, what other choice is there – turn around! With the guidance attained through the Spiritual Exercises, there exists for each of us our own unique pathway, our own discernment of the spirits, that leads us to God. We each journey to God on our own path in our own time

One cannot mistake our decisions to seek and find God as the expectation that through our actions we will earn our way to God. God cannot be obligated to serve us because of our actions; he is in our corner because he loves us infinitely. However, as we journey, we discover choosing the direction God shows us includes right steps and those will include actions.

Essential to the Spiritual Exercises, and to the reflection of the Two Standards, is the recognition that truly there is evil, and it is animated by Lucifer, Satan, or whatever term identifies the devil. The idea that there is no evil, just mistakes or bad decisions, accomplishes what our mortal enemy would want most – denial or ignorance of his existence.

Part III will continue looking at the Two Standards and how it assists our awareness of the role of our interior discernment of spirits.

Advent Faith Formation Series

Adventus Domini – The Coming of the Lord.

The series is divided into three sessions – available at https://www.divinemercynl.com/?page_id=1418 beginning on December 3, the first Sunday of Advent.

Advent Reconciliation Service

Tuesday, December 5 at 7:00pm

(Newfoundland Drive site)

Several priests available for individual confession. Join us in celebration of the gift of God's mercy through the Sacrament of Reconciliation.
All are welcome.

Simbang Gabi-Christmas Novena

December 15 to December 23

(Newfoundland Drive site)

Mass begins each evening at 6:30 pm

Reception to follow.

'Simbang Gabi' is Filipino for 'Night Mass' a devotional nine-day series of Masses in anticipation of Christmas.

