



Divine Mercy

Catholic Church

A Jesuit Parish in St. John's

Second Sunday of Advent

Mass Intentions

Week of December 10 to 16

Monday December 11

*Special Intention (JG); Deceased Members of the Slaney Family;
Tom Cooper and Deceased Family Members*

Tuesday December 12

*Ron Kieley; Conrad Short;
Souls in Purgatory*

Wednesday December 13

*Michael, Thomas & Frank Kennedy; William and Mary White;
Mary & Denis Daley*

Thursday December 14

*Laura & Henry Fitzpatrick & Deceased Family Members;
Mary Lou Lonett; Cathy Ann Clarke*

Friday December 15

*Souls in Purgatory; Michael & Catherine Christopher;
Paul Perry*

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.

Divine Mercy Parish Contact Information:

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

709-726-9924 www.divinemicynl.com/ email: info@divinemicynl.com

Facebook: [Facebook.com/divinemicyparishnl](https://www.facebook.com/divinemicyparishnl)

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

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@divinemicynl.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

Pastor's Note

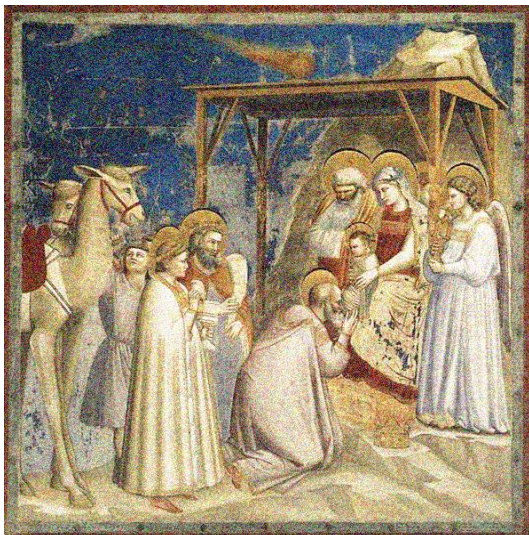
Most times we want our lives of faith to be something like a sprint. We see the problems and prescribe a remedy. Our hoped-for recovery, however, often, or even always, seems to fall short. The rough edges of our faith and life may appear to remain, even though, perhaps less noticeable. We can grow frustrated with our "lack of progress" and fatigued by engaging in a seemingly unwinnable struggle. We want to turn away from sinfulness once and for all, to leave the old life fully behind and embrace the new life of perfect faith. Our hearts race when we hear the hopeful expectation from the Prophet Isaiah: "In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord, make straight in the desert a highway for our God. Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill be made low; the uneven ground shall become level, and the rough places a plain." Yes! This is what we want and, honestly, want it now. But there is one problem – the life of faith is not a sprint; it is more like a marathon.

In the Second letter of Saint Peter, we are given a vital spiritual teaching. Peter writes, "with the Lord one day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like one day. Peter writes, "with the Lord one day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like one day. The Lord is not slow about his promise, as some

think of slowness, but is patient with you, not wanting any to perish, but all come to repentance." Our frustration with our continued struggles is not a prolonged moment of difficulty and defeat, rather an eternal moment of loving by God. How amazing is it to realize, understand and accept that Almighty God is tenderly patient with each of us because he wants us with him forever. He wants us to enjoy life in abundance, not merely a sliver. And so, God patiently waits for one's response. He sends his grace every moment of every day, hoping that today will be the day one says "yes" to eternal love. If today turns out not to be the day, the Father will simply try again. The Old Testament tells us that God is a jealous God, that is, God is jealous for each of you. God wants you and, therefore, will never give-up on you. His love is indeed patient, he will wait until he gets what he wants, and that is you. "He will feed his flock like a shepherd; he will gather the lambs in his arms, and carry them in his bosom."

God bless and take care,
Fr. John

Divine Mercy Parish Christmas Mass Schedule



4th Sunday of Advent

Saturday, December 23
4pm (Newfoundland Drive)

Sunday, December 24
9am (Outer Cove)
11am (Newfoundland Drive)

Christmas Eve

Sunday, December 24
5pm, 7pm & 9pm
(Newfoundland Drive)
11pm (Outer Cove)

Christmas Day

Monday, December 25
11am (Newfoundland Drive)

Feast of the Holy Family

Saturday, December 30
4pm (Newfoundland Drive)

Sunday, December 31
9am (Outer Cove)
11am (Newfoundland Drive)

Feast of Mary, Mother of God

Sunday, December 31
5pm (Newfoundland Drive)

Monday, January 1
11am (Outer Cove)

Parish Notes & Upcoming Events

Thank You!

Thank You to everyone who helped make our Christmas Bazaar such a fun and successful event. There was a great spirit of friendship and generosity, and we are grateful to everyone who took part. A special thanks to everyone who baked and donated goods, and to those who volunteered and took leadership in the coordination, setting up and clean up for the event.

Here we go a-Caroling!

Join us in the sounds of the season with our Carol sing-along this weekend, Sunday, December 10 from 2pm to 4pm at our Outer Cove site in the annex. Refreshments will be served. Do come and bring a friend for some festive singing.

An Afternoon at the Movies

Join us for two seasonal classics at our double feature matinee next Sunday, December 17 from 2pm to 4pm at our Outer Cove site. Showing are **A Charlie Brown Christmas** and **How the Grinch stole Christmas**. Fun for the whole family! Hope to see you there.

Advent Faith Formation Series

Adventus Domini – The Coming of the Lord.

The series is divided into three sessions – available at

https://www.divinemeracynl.com/?page_id=1418

Sessions I & II are available online now.

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.



Offertory Collection Week of December 3

Offertory	\$ 8,577.10
Dues	\$ 370.00
Flowers	\$ 1,028.00
Christmas Offering	\$ 600.00
Christmas Bazaar	\$ 2,743.25
Christmas Hampers	\$ 930.00
Food Bank	\$ 650.00
Cemetery	\$ 20.00
Needs of Canadian Church	\$ 40.00
Students to the Priesthood	\$ 40.00
World Missions	\$ 50.00

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!

Schedule Change during the Holidays:

Adoration and Benediction, including the Divine Mercy Chaplet will be cancelled for Tuesday, December 26 and Tuesday, January 3. Our Regular schedule will resume on Tuesday, January 9, 2024.

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!

Information Night at St. Bon’s – Change of Date

St. Bonaventure’s College is holding an Information Night on Thursday, January 25th for perspective new families. For more info call 709-726-0024 or go to www.stbonaventurecollege.ca

Canadian Bishops Video Series

The Canadian Bishops “Journey through Advent” series is available online: <https://www.cccb.ca/evangelization-catechesis-catholic-education/video-resources/journey-through-advent/> Be sure to check it out.

From the Pews

In this week's From the Pews, we have Part III of Mike Bautista's look at his experience of the Spiritual Exercises of St. Ignatius of Loyola. If you missed Part I (October 15 Bulletin) or last week's Part II, you will find the bulletins on our website www.divinemercynl.com/

The Two Standards – Part II

The setting of this reflection is to imagine two armies opposing each other, and their encampments. The first step is to imagine Christ and how he calls people to come under his flag, or standard. And then to imagine Lucifer calling people to come under his standard. Imagine that Christ's army is on the field of Jerusalem, peaceful and attractive. Then imagine Lucifer's army on the field with horrifying fire and smoke.

The following are excerpts from this meditation, the first on Lucifer, the second on Christ:

*“The third point is to listen to the harangue which [the evil chieftain, Lucifer] delivers to [the countless demons], how he spurs them on to ensnare men and to bind them in chains. He bids them to first to tempt men with the **lust of riches** (as he is most accustomed to do) that they may thereby more easily gain the empty honour of the world, and then come to unbounded pride. The first step in his snare is that of riches, the second honour, and the third pride. From these three steps Satan leads on to all other vices...”*

*‘The third point is to listen to the discourse which **Christ our Lord** makes to all His servants and friends whom He sends on this mission, charging them that they should first see to help all men; first, by encouraging them to **embrace the most spiritual poverty**, and if it should please His Divine Majesty, to choose them for it, also to embrace actual poverty. Secondly, by encouraging them to desire insults and contempt, for from these two things comes humility. So then there are three steps: the first, poverty opposed to riches; the second, scorn or contempt, opposed to worldly honour; the third, humility, opposed to pride. From these three steps, let them lead men to all virtues...’*

‘These two reflections encourage the retreatant to consider and choose Christ our supreme Captain and Lord, versus Lucifer the mortal enemy of our human nature.’

It is Ignatius' insight into the attraction of wealth upon which Lucifer capitalizes that is the big eye opener. Wealth brings status, and eventually that sense of independence when there is no need for anyone else's help, and therefore no need for God - a false sense of security and a trap so easily fallen into, to “Do It My Way” for my own self-satisfaction and security. This “pride”, this proud independence, leads to all other vices.

In contrast, Christ calls us to “the most spiritual poverty”, that is to depend not on wealth or possessions for security, but on God. Our eventual development of humility is not self-humiliation, or belittlement of ourselves, but an acceptance of who we truly are, talented in many ways, maybe not so talented in others. By centering on God, (and not myself, building my own security and stature,) and trusting and depending on God, one is led to be virtuous, walking in step with Christ.

Notice this statement: “... **and if it should please His Divine Majesty**, to choose them for it, also to embrace actual poverty.” His Divine Majesty will call us to actual poverty if it should please Him. This is consistent with the Principal and Foundation – not to seek riches or poverty, sickness or health. Our possessions can be means to help others, and to find God.

The Two Standards is a reflection that keeps us aware of the role of our interior discernment of spirits in helping us to return to the God who made and loves us.

Saints Speak

It is a time of sowing, not of harvesting.

God is sowing; one day He will harvest again.

I will try to do one thing.

I will try at least to be a fruitful and healthy seed,
falling into the soil.

And into the Lord God's hands.

Fr. Alfred Delp
(Jesuit Priest and Martyr)