



Divine Mercy

Catholic Church

A Jesuit Parish in St. John's

Third Sunday of Advent

Mass Intentions

Week of December 17 to 23

Monday December 18

*Sheila & James Hanlon; Larry Maritn;
Marilyn Lawlor; Edward & Agnes Byrne*

Tuesday December 19

*Gerlad, Philomena & Ed Nolan;
Tom & Mary Lawlor; Thomas & Elizabeth Lawlor*

Wednesday December 20

*Elizabeth & James Byrne; Ruby Sharpe;
Deceased Members of the Lambe Family*

Thursday December 21

*Deceased Members of the Parrell Family;
Philip Flynn; Roche Lambe*

Friday December 22

*Frank & Constance Costigan; David Mercer,
Gerry Carey & Deceased Family Members*

Please Pray for the Recently Deceased:

Dr. Robert & Josephine Lawton

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

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

Pastor's Note

“Rejoice always.” As we draw nearer to the celebration of the Lord’s Nativity, rejoicing is the only response that makes sense. To contemplate the meaning of the Lord taking on human flesh, of making his home among us is to come to a new understanding of the infinite vastness of the love of God. Advent moves us to greater attention to this central mystery of our faith, that is, the Incarnation. In preparation to celebrate his first coming at Bethlehem and for his return, the beauty of God draws us to a more intense focus on Jesus Christ.

If you have ever looked closely at the image of Our Lady of Guadeloupe, you notice that Mary is looking somewhat towards the ground. She does this because she is in prayer to God. It’s like she’s saying, “Don’t worship me, but worship the one I worship.” Our Lady always points to the Son. So too, does John the Baptist point to Christ. Responding to the Pharisees as to his identity, the Baptist tells them that “Among you stands one whom you do not know, the one who is coming after me; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandal.” Despite his prominence

among the people, the Baptist is clear, he is not the Messiah. He is the Lord’s herald, he prepares the way by making “straight the way of the Lord,” he points to him. In trying to live our faith everyday, maybe you’re experience is like mine. While I don’t point to anyone else, I do sometimes point to myself. I make myself into the centre, I make myself number one. Then I get lost, I lose myself. My heart shrinks. I become less loving and merciful, more judgmental, less patient and less able to empathize with the suffering of others. Gradually, however, I remember, “I need a Saviour because I need to be saved.” “Rejoice always” because we have been given one, once for all. And he is Jesus Christ. “I will greatly rejoice in the Lord; my soul shall exult in my God; for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation.”

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 for the Joyful Singing!

Our gratitude goes out to everyone who joined in our Parish Carol Singing last Sunday. What a joyful noise and a great community spirit. A special thanks to the Divine Mercy combo choir who helped animate the singing.

An Afternoon at the Movies

Join us for two seasonal classics at our double feature matinee this 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.

Usher Schedules Ready for Pick-up

The Ushers schedule for the Christmas Masses are available for pick up in the foyer.

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

The complete series is 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 10

Offertory	\$ 6,580.00
Dues	\$ 1,525.00
Flowers	\$ 225.00
Christmas Offering	\$ 1,130.00
Christmas Hampers	\$ 155.00
Food Bank	\$ 750.00
World Missions	\$ 5.00

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.

Thank You for Your Support:

The Centre for Life extends a BIG THANK YOU to the Catholic Women’s League and parishioners of Divine Mercy for all of the baby donations that were lovingly contributed to help mothers in need. From the Centre for Life and the families that will benefit from such generous and caring hearts – we extend sincere gratitude and wishes for a joyous Christmas season.

Archdiocesan Marriage Preparation Course

The next course is scheduled for **May 4, 2024**, at the Archdiocesan Pastoral Center, 200 Military Rd, St. John’s. Couples can register using the following link: <https://rcsj.org/chancery/marriage-preparation/register>

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.

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

This Week in the Faith

Third Sunday of Advent Gaudete Sunday



**Rejoice in the
Lord always;
again I say, rejoice.
Indeed the Lord is
near.**

A Joyful Sunday. The Third Sunday of Advent is also known as *Gaudete* Sunday. The word “*gaudete*” is derived from the Latin words “*gaudium*,” joy, and “*gaudeo*,” to rejoice or be glad. *Gaudete* Sunday occurs eight to thirteen days before Christmas, and the nearness of the feast is reason for great joy.

The Term “*Gaudete*.” *Gaudete* is taken from the Entrance Antiphon: “Rejoice in the Lord always; again I say, rejoice. Indeed, the Lord is near” (paraphrase, Phil 4:4-5). Advent is a time of joyful expectation and eager preparation for the Solemnity of Christmas.

Multiple Reasons for Joy. There is joy in looking forward to the annual celebration of Christmas, but there is also joy in recalling the birth of Jesus on the first Christmas. The joy is heightened because he was born to save us from our sins (Mt 1:21b). The joy also extends to anticipation of the Second Coming, either at the end of physical life or the end of the world, the time when believers will be given the crown of righteousness (2 Tm 4:8) and a place in the Father’s house (Jn 14:2) to dwell with God and his angels and saints for all eternity.

A Joyful Color. Rose represents joy and may be used as the liturgical color for *Gaudete* Sunday. Violet remains the official color for the Season of Advent, the Third Sunday included, because all of Advent has a penitential tone, a time to be absolved of sin and be in the state of grace for Christmas. *Gaudete* Sunday offers a brief respite to focus on the uplifting, upcoming joyful celebration of the Nativity.

Joyful Adornments. The priest may wear a rose chasuble and the deacon may wear a rose dalmatic. Church decorations may include roses or other flowers, a rose-colored altar cloth, drapery on the pulpit or ambo, chalice veil, tabernacle curtain, or wall hangings. The third candle of the Advent wreath is rose.

Joyful Prayers. The prayers in the *Roman Missal* on the Third Sunday of Advent convey a joyful message. The immediacy of Christmas is addressed in the Collect, “O God, who see how your people faithfully await the feast of the Lord’s Nativity,” followed by two explicit references to joy: “enable us ... to attain the joys of so great a salvation” and “to celebrate them with ... glad rejoicing.” Preface II of Advent says, “we rejoice at the mystery of his Nativity” and that we are “exultant in his praise.” The Communion Antiphon contains the joyful message, “Behold, our God will come, and he will save us” (cf. Is 35:4). Two invocations in the Solemn Blessing for Advent refer to joy: the second, “may he make you ... joyful in hope,” and the third, “So that, rejoicing now with devotion at the Redeemer’s coming.”

Joyful Scripture Texts. In the first reading Isaiah says that he was sent “to bring glad tidings” (Is 61:1) and that “my God is the joy of my soul” (Is 61:10); in the Responsorial Psalm the Blessed Virgin Mary prays, “My spirit rejoices in God my Savior” (Lk 1:47); and in the second reading St. Paul insists that we should “rejoice always” (1 Thes 5:16). The gospel is John the Baptist’s joyful declaration that he was sent by God to testify to the light, the one who is coming after him, the Christ! (Jn 1:7,27).

(The above commentary on *Gaudete* Sunday is by Fr. Michael Van Sloun, from <http://thecatholicspirit.com>)

