

# Divine Mercy

## Catholic Church

A Jesuit Parish in St. John's

The Fourth Sunday of Advent/  
Christmas: Solemnity of the Nativity of the Lord

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### **Mass Intentions**

*Week of December 24 to 30*

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#### **Monday December 25**

*Christmas Day*

#### **Tuesday December 26**

*Holy Souls; Peter & Elizabeth Rodgers & Family;  
William & Agnes Allen & Family*

#### **Wednesday December 27**

*William, Eleanor & Selwyn Manning;  
Francis Neary; William Fitzpatrick*

#### **Thursday December 28**

*Deceased Members of the Fagan & Cahil Family;  
Marilyn Lawlor & Deceased Family Members; Tom Mills*

#### **Friday December 29**

*Special Intention (RD); Robert Kirkland Jr.;  
Tom Cooper & Deceased Family Members*

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### **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

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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@divinemergynl.com](mailto:info@divinemergynl.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.divinemergynl.com/](http://www.divinemergynl.com/) email: [info@divinemergynl.com](mailto:info@divinemergynl.com)

Facebook: Facebook.com/divinemergyparishnl

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

# Pastor's Note

I remember reading once from St. Bernard of Clairvaux. He wrote that all humanity held its breath waiting for Mary's response to the Archangel – "Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be done to me according to your word." The *fiat* of Mary gave permission to God to labour for our salvation in a particular way. God could have chosen any of an innumerable different ways to work our salvation, but from God's perfection, he chose the way of love.

God did not send the Archangel to a palace nor was he sent to the Temple in Jerusalem. God chose an unimportant teenage girl in the insignificant little town of Nazareth. As Mary will soon exclaim in her *Magnificat*, God "has cast down the mighty from their thrones, he has lifted up the lowly." After having walked from Nazareth to Bethlehem, Mary and Joseph must stay in something like a barn where the animals were kept. And with his birth, the Lord Jesus was "wrapped . . . in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger." A manger was a trough from which the animals ate. In his "Contemplation on the Nativity," St. Ignatius of Loyola invites the one praying to reflect that God has done all this "for me."

I understand the way in which the Lord came to me and to us as a consequence of his personal love. It wasn't that God preferred to come in a humble manner, but that his personal love meant that he would come to us wherever and however we are. When I think of my life, I can imagine it to be a bit messy. My faith and following of the Lord are certainly imperfect. So, I am like one of the lowly Mary spoke about. Because of my lowliness, God became incarnate in a lowly, humble and poor way. He had to be wherever I was. All this "for me," for us. The birth of the Lord reveals to us a truth we must always remind ourselves of – the Father's love shown in Christ is personal and without end. He will go wherever we are. The Nativity of Jesus Christ allows us to see more clearly, that in both word and truth, we are the "apple of his eye."

God bless and take care,

Fr. John

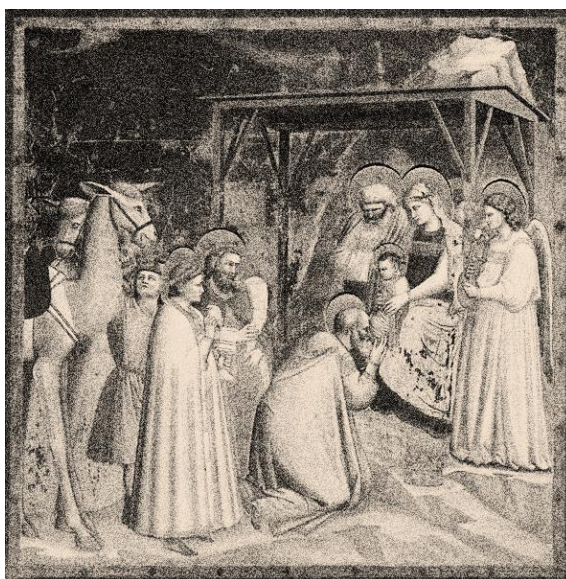
## Divine Mercy Parish Christmas Mass Schedule

### Christmas Eve

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

### Christmas Day

Monday, December 25  
11am (Newfoundland Drive)



"Adoration of the Magi" by Giotto di Bondone

## 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

## A Special Thank You:

On behalf of our Parish Foodbank, thank you for your wonderful support over the past year. In a year of increased need, your generosity has been greatly appreciated. Everyone on our Foodbank teams wish you a very Merry Christmas and a Healthy New Year.

## Thanks for Joining us last Sunday!

Thank you to everyone who joined us for the fun and popcorn at our Christmas movie double feature. It was an enjoyable afternoon for everyone who attended, with lots of tasty treats to share. We are grateful to everyone who made it possible.

## Congratulations to the Maligaya Family!



The **Family of the Year award 2023** for the Knights of Columbus of Divine Mercy Parish St. Paul's Council 11776 was presented to Romel and Rochelle Maligaya and their daughters at the first night of the Simbang Gabi Christmas Novena. Congratulations to the Maligaya family. Also in the picture is Father John Sullivan and Grand Knight Gerry Puddister.

## Offertory Collection Week of December 17

|                    |    |          |
|--------------------|----|----------|
| Offertory          | \$ | 6,150.00 |
| Dues               | \$ | 465.00   |
| Christmas Offering | \$ | 700.00   |
| In Memoriam        | \$ | 500.00   |
| Flowers            | \$ | 13.00    |
| Parish Maintenance | \$ | 80.00    |
| Christmas Hampers  | \$ | 520.00   |
| Food Bank          | \$ | 565.00   |

*E-transfers can be made through*

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

## 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.

# Archbishop's 2023 Christmas Message

Dear People of the Archdiocese of St. John's:

***How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of the messenger who announces peace,  
who brings good news, who announces salvation, who says to Zion,  
“Your God reigns.”***

(Isaiah 52:7)

This is the opening line of the first reading of the “Mass during the Day” on Christmas. Through it, the prophet Isaiah speaks to us of a God who wishes his people to find in Him great joy and peace and to be messengers of that joy and peace to our world.

With all the challenges, conflicts and difficulties presently facing individuals, societies and the international community, messengers and agents of joy and peace are needed now as much as ever.

In this year's “Living with Christ” missalette Christmas reflection, Bernadette Gasslein shares that her mind and heart are “boggled” at the depth and breadth of the mystery of the incarnation, and she then goes on to state:

***In response I can only cradle our God, whose flesh today is the refugee child; the homeless young adult searching for a dwelling place; the nurse tending the dying; the parent working three jobs; my limited, sinful self. And join the angels and shepherds in praise and thanks for grace upon grace.***

Christmas can be a time of great joy and peace and happiness, but it can also be a time of great sadness, loneliness and despair. So much depends, not only on our situation, but also on our openness to the “great light” of God's love in our lives, and to the many ways, large and small, that this love is made manifest.

That “first Christmas” was not an easy one for Mary and Joseph and yet it was wonderful! They had each other, they had a new, healthy, baby boy, they had the visit of the shepherds, and they had a faith so deep and strong that they were able to see and trust in God's presence and work in all of it.

In celebrating Christmas, we celebrate a God who has come among us as one of us; a God who has shared our human condition and all the joys and sorrows, hopes and fears that are so much a part of it. Christmas is a time for us to bask in the light of His love and to recommit ourselves to sharing this love with others, especially those who seem to be “walking in darkness” and/or living through a time of sadness, hopelessness and fear.

With prayers and best wishes for God's blessings upon you during this Christmas season and always,

+Peter Hundt

Archbishop of St. John's.