



Divine Mercy

Catholic Church

A Jesuit Parish in St. John's

Feast of the Holy Family/

Solemnity of the Mary, Mother of God

Mass Intentions

Week of December 31 to January 6

Monday January 1

Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God

Tuesday January 2

*Special Intention (SIG);
Marie Ryan; David Trainer*

Wednesday January 3

*Special Intention (JM);
Brian Duggan; Glen St. Croix*

Thursday January 4

*Bruce French; Samuel Howlett
James & Catherine St. Croix & Deceased Family*

Friday January 5

*James March; Cyrus & Madeline Hawco;
Geraldine & Wilf Doyle*

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@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

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

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

Pastor's Note

Chances are that a week after Christmas, we've all had our fill of parties, maybe of gatherings with family, especially the in-laws, and with the variety of ways of eating turkey. In a sense, we're full, we've been fed both bodily and relationally. Today, we celebrate the Feast of the Holy Family and tomorrow, Mary, the Holy Mother of God. With the latter, we, with the shepherds, are given the Lord through Mary, his mother and our mother. While in the former feast, we rejoice with Anna and Simeon because of the one who has been given. Indeed, we are full; indeed, we will never thirst again.

I'm fifty-three now and I don't think I allowed the love of the Lord to be unleashed from my heart until I was forty. It was during a retreat and praying over the crucifixion that I finally understood a foundational truth of our faith – Christ has done all this for me (and you). Consequently, when I read almost any passage from the Gospel, I can only read it through the lens of the Lord's eternal and personal love.

He speaks and acts, is born and dies, and is raised to reveal who we are to the Father, that is, the "apple of his eye," his beloved daughter or son. Our hearts aren't primarily seeking wisdom or moral instruction, we are seeking a person. We are seeking the one whose love never ends. At Christmas, he has found us, he has offered all of himself to us. In giving us her Son, through Mary we are given eternal life because by her Son we are loved eternally. And so, "Glory in his holy name; let the hearts of those who seek the Lord rejoice," "Let all the peoples praise you, O God; let all the peoples praise you," for with the eyes of our hearts, we "have seen your salvation, which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples, a light for revelation to the Gentiles and for glory to your people Israel." Indeed, we are full; we will never thirst again.

God bless, take care and Happy New Year,

Fr. John

A Word of Thanks:

Friends,

Throughout the past year, many in our parish have worked hard to help make our parish a beautiful, welcoming, joyful house of prayer – a place where we and our visitors truly come to encounter Christ. This has been especially true throughout the Christmas season, and we want to express our deepest gratitude to everyone who helped make our celebrations what they have been. Thank you to all those involved in our liturgical ministries, our Lectors, Eucharistic Ministers and our Ushers, who served with warmth and a generosity of spirit. Thank you to our amazing choirs whose gifts and talents enhanced our worship, setting a wonderful tone for our prayer. A special thank you to everyone who worked so hard in decorating the church which added beauty and light to our surroundings. Our gratitude also goes to everyone involved in the coordination and preparation of our Advent and December activities. To those who worked diligently in the background, along with our Parish Office and support staff, your help is invaluable and very greatly appreciated. Blessings to all of you and may the grace of Christ our Saviour be with you and all your families. Merry Christmas!

Parish Notes & Upcoming Events

Sacrament Preparation:

Are you hoping to have your child baptized in the near future? Are you looking to prepare for the Sacrament of Marriage? Perhaps you, yourself are, or someone you know is considering becoming a Roman Catholic? For details on the process of preparation for any of the Sacraments, contact the Parish Office at 709-726-9924 or email us at info@divinemerlyn.com

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 Confirmation and First Holy Communion. Programs will be starting soon! Register by calling the Parish Office at 709-726-9924 or email us at info@divinemerlyn.com

Daily Readings: Week of December 31 to January 1

Sunday, December 31
Genesis 15:1-6; 21:1-3
Colossians 3:12-21
Luke 2:22-40

Monday, January 1
Numbers 6:22-27
Galatians 4:4-7
Luke 2:16-21

Tuesday, January 2
1 John 2: 22-28
John 1:19-28

Wednesday, January 3
1 John 2:29-3:6
John 1:29-34

Thursday, January 4
1 John 3:7-10
John 1:35-42

Friday, January 5
1 John 3:11-21
John 1:43-51

Saturday, January 6
1 John 5:5-13
Mark 1:7-11

Offertory Collection Week of December 24

Offertory	\$ 10,617.95
Dues	\$ 520.00
Christmas Offering	\$ 9,470.00
Flowers	\$ 5.00
Parish Maintenance	\$ 30.00
Christmas Hampers	\$ 1,025.00
Food Bank	\$ 180.00
Development & Peace	\$ 20.00
Students for the Priesthood	\$ 20.00

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 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>

Centre for Life Save the Date:

January is Celebrate Life month and the Centre for Life invites you to celebrate with us with a family bowling event on Sunday January 14 2024 from 4:30-6 PM at Holiday Lanes on Elizabeth Avenue. Come join us to celebrate families with one hour of bowling and pizza to follow. There are a limited number of spaces available. There is no cost to attend but registration is required. To register, please call 709-579-1500 before January 12th.

Living Faith Resource For Families:

The Archdiocese of St. John's offers a weekly Catechetical Resource – Living Faith Resource for Families. You can subscribe to receive it by emailing Familycatechesis@rcsj.org. If you would like to look at a sample issue, here is the link to the Christmas issue: https://mcusercontent.com/31f96c66f175ecfa34e8e82e2/files/77c98185-f8a3-cbfe-7a52-bed12cf173ab/e_LIVING_FAITH_December_25_2023.pdf

This Week in the Faith

The Feast of the Holy Family

Today we celebrate the Feast of the Holy Family. The Feast honors Jesus, the Blessed Mother and St. Joseph as the holiest of families and therefore a model for all Christian families. They were holy because they placed God at the center of their family life, they loved and sacrificed for one another, and they radiated that love to others in the redemptive mission of the Son.

Devotion to the Holy Family began in Bethlehem with the birth of Jesus. In the Gospels we hear how the shepherds, upon hearing the announcement of the angels, went to adore the Child. Later, we hear of the three wise men coming from the East to adore and give honor to the newborn king. Christ himself showed his devotion to His family by submitting himself, in humility, to obedience to his mother and foster father. This is what St. Bernard of Clairvaux said in this regard, “God, to whom angels submit themselves and who principalities and powers obey, was subject to Mary; and not only to Mary but Joseph also for Mary’s sake... God obeyed a human creature; this is humility without precedent. A human creature commands God; it is sublime beyond measure.”

Pope St. John Paul II said, “The Redeemer of the world chose the family as the place for his birth and growth, thereby sanctifying this fundamental institution of every society.” Christ’s humility and obedience to his earthly family must be understood as an act of absolute and divine love.

Let us imitate the Holy Family in our Christian families. Let us pray for our own families, and for families everywhere, that they may be places of love and communion, places where the Gospel nourishes and guides us, places where Christ is always present, making them sacred and part of God’s unfolding plan.

The Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God

The Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God is a liturgical celebration observed on January 1. The use of the word “solemnity” here is not a statement about Mary’s personality. It is a designation used for certain days within the liturgical (church-based) calendar of the Church. Solemnities are the highest rank of liturgical celebration, higher than feast days or memorials. By celebrating a solemnity dedicated to Mary’s motherhood, the Church highlights the significance of her role in the life of Christ.

Way back in 431, there was a bitter controversy among theologians over the role of Mary in the Catholic Church. They debated the question: Who is Mary in God’s plan? In the end, the bishops declared that Mary is really the mother of Jesus and Jesus is really God. So it must be said that Mary is the Mother of God. The oldest Christian greeting of Mary was proclaimed when Mary’s relative Elizabeth called her “Mother of my Lord.” When Elizabeth welcomed Mary, she recognized both the great privilege God had given Mary and Mary’s great faith in accepting it.

For centuries, Mary has been praised because she believed. She is Mother of God because of her faith in God. The Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God, celebrates Mary’s faith and trust in God alone. The Church wants us to imitate her

faith. Pope Paul VI called the Solemnity of Mary “a fitting occasion for renewing adoration of the newborn Prince of Peace, for listening once more to the glad tidings of the angels (Luke 2:14), and for imploring from God, the Queen of Peace, the supreme gift of peace.”

