



# Divine Mercy

## Catholic Church

A Jesuit Parish in St. John's

Solemnity of the Epiphany of the Lord

### **Mass Intentions**

*Week of January 7-13*

#### **Monday January 8**

*Ciaran Tracey;  
Eileen Hammond; Ron Kieley*

#### **Tuesday January 9**

*Robert & Elizabeth Jarvis;  
Charles & Carmelita Edwards; Cecilia Hannon*

#### **Wednesday January 10**

*Collen & Arthur George;  
Rita O'Brien; William & Olivia Lambe*

#### **Thursday January 11**

*Michael Doyle; Anne Lambe; Clara Jarvis*

#### **Friday January 12**

*Souls in Purgatory  
Jack Janes, Tom Mills*

### **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/](http://www.divinemicynl.com/) email: [info@divinemicynl.com](mailto:info@divinemicynl.com)  
Facebook: Facebook.com/divinemicyparishnl  
Fr. John Sullivan, S.J. Pastor Email: [john@ekon.ca](mailto: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](mailto: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

I was recently reading a homily by Pope Benedict in which he said that Christianity is not an intellectual system, a collection of dogmas or a moral code. Rather, it is an encounter, an encounter with Jesus Christ. For most of my life, I did not relate to Christ as a person. I saw him as a distant power. He wasn't involved or interested in my life too much, except, of course, when I broke his rules. During my day, I didn't speak to him, in fact, I didn't really think of him at all. At the same time, I had something like a shapeless longing in my heart looking for acceptance, belonging and eternal love. My life resembled a bumper car - I went from one thing to the next. I entered the Jesuits, and still, Jesus remained an impersonal idea. It wasn't until a retreat in November 2011, that the Lord stopped being an idea and became a person for me. He became everything. This week we celebrate the Solemnity of the Epiphany in which God in Jesus Christ is offered as a personal gift to every person.

When the three Magi came from the east to see and pay homage to the one who was born king of the Jews, and to give him gifts, they changed our understanding and experience of God. As the Messiah, most of Jesus's followers would have viewed him as being exclusively for the children of Abraham, for the people of Israel. Remember in the Gospel how the disciples and others were surprised and shocked with the Lord speaking with the Samaritan woman at the well, the request for a healing from the Syrophenician woman or even those who were Jewish but judged to be "unclean" due to illness or lifestyle. Christ's offer of salvation is for everyone. When the Magi paid him homage in the crib, their actions revealed that Jesus Christ is not only the King of the Jews but he is also the King of the Universe. This means that the Lord is your Lord personally. It means that no matter what has happened, is happening or will happen, he is your Lord personally. Our hearts aren't overtaken by an intellectual system, a collection of dogmas or a moral code. Rather, it is through an encounter with a personal God. Our hearts are ignited by Jesus Christ. Our everything.

God bless and take care, Fr. John

## **A Visit from the Jesuit Provincial of Canada:**

Fr. Erik Oland, S.J., the Jesuit Provincial of Canada, will be making his annual visitation to St. John's next week. He will preside at the 11am Mass at Divine Mercy on Sunday, January 14<sup>th</sup>. He will also host a "town hall" gathering at St. Bon's on Sunday, January 14, at 7pm. He will present and discuss the mission of the Jesuits throughout Canada. As parishioners of Divine Mercy parish, you may like to learn a bit more about who the Jesuits are. You are all most welcome. Following the town hall, there will be a reception. All are welcome.

# 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](mailto: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](mailto:info@divinemerlyn.com)

## Daily Readings: Week of January 7-13

Sunday, January 7  
Isaiah 60:1-6  
Ephesians 3:2-3a, 5-6  
Matthew 2:1-12

Monday, January 8  
Isaiah 55:1-11  
1 John 5:1-9  
Mark 1:7-11

Tuesday, January 9  
1 Samuel 1:9-20  
Mark 1:21-28

Wednesday, January 10  
1 Samuel 3:1-10, 19-20  
Mark 1:29-39

Thursday, January 11  
1 Samuel 4:1-11  
Mark 1:40-45

Friday, January 12  
1 Samuel 8:4-7, 10-22a  
Mark 2:1-12

Saturday, January 13  
1 Samuel 9:1-4, 17-19, 10:1  
Mark 2:13-17

## Offertory Collection Week of December 31

Offertory	\$	5,664.15
Dues	\$	450.00
Christmas Offering	\$	725.00
New Year's Day	\$	2,070.00
Initial Offering	\$	583.00
Parish Maintenance	\$	10.00
Food Bank	\$	20.00
Cemetery	\$	22.00
Ash Wednesday	\$	5.00
Papal Charities	\$	2.00

*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!*

## Church Envelops:

Our order of Church envelopes arrived just before Christmas. Many of you have already had the opportunity to pick up your boxes, for which we are grateful. If you recently registered, asking for a box, or if you have yet to pick them up, you will find them located in the foyer of the church. If you have any difficulty finding your box, please let us know. Thank you!

## Catholic Women's League at Divine Mercy Parish:

As a Catholic Women's League member, you are part of an organization of women who act through prayer, faith development, ministry, service, education and advocacy on social justice issues. Choose your action. Join us today. Membership forms available in the church foyer.

## What Happened At The Synod Assembly In Rome? And What's Next?

Wednesday, January 10, 2024, 7:30pm at St. Theresa's Church (120 Mundy Pond Rd)  
In October, 363 delegates- lay and clergy, men and women- gathered in Rome for the first Assembly of the Synod on Synodality. One of those delegates was Sr. Elizabeth Davis, RSM. She will share her experience with us and offer her insights into the unfolding process of the Synod, and how we can be involved. All are warmly welcome to attend!

## 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](mailto: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](https://mcusercontent.com/31f96c66f175ecfa34e8e82e2/files/77c98185-f8a3-cbfe-7a52-bed12cf173ab/e_LIVING_FAITH_December_25_2023.pdf)

# This Week in the Faith



## Feast of the Baptism of the Lord January 8

The Feast of the Baptism of the Lord brings us to the end of the Christmas season. It is also a feast of transition from Jesus hidden life to that of his public ministry. The Baptism of the Lord in the Gospels is notable because it marks the beginning of the Jesus' ministry and confirms his identity as the Son of God.

The Gospel of Mark describes the event as follows:

*"It happened in those days that Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized in the Jordan by John. On coming up out of the water he saw the heavens being torn open and the Spirit, like a dove, descending upon him. And a voice came from the heavens, 'You are my beloved Son; with you I am well pleased'." (Mark 1:9-11)*

Christ's baptism remarkably shows all three Persons of the Trinity at the same time: the Son being baptized, the Holy Spirit descending, and the Father speaking from the heavens. In this event, the Father and the Holy Spirit confirm the deity of Christ, and Jesus submits to his Father's will.

But why was Jesus baptized? The Gospels tell us that John's baptism is one of repentance and we know that Jesus was without sin. Yet despite John's reluctance, Jesus insists on being baptized, telling John, *"Allow it now, for thus it is fitting for us to fulfill all righteousness."* (Matthew 3:13-15) By choosing to be baptized, Jesus fulfills all righteousness – preparing himself to be a perfect sacrifice for us.

Writing in the early 4<sup>th</sup> Century, St. Maximus of Turin connects the waters of Christ's baptism with our own:

*"Listen then! Christ is baptized not that he may be sanctified in the waters, but that he himself may sanctify the waters and purify by his own purification the streams he touches... For when the savior is washed, then all water is cleansed for our baptism and the fount is purified, so that the grace of the washing may be administered to the peoples who would come after. Christ takes the lead in baptism, then, so that the Christian peoples might follow with confidence."*

As we reflect on Christ's baptism, we are reminded of our own. Speaking on the Feast of the Baptism of Our Lord in 2006, Pope Benedict said: *"[Baptism] is communion with the One who conquered death and holds in his hand the keys of life. Belonging to this circle, to God's family, means being in communion with Christ, who is life and gives eternal love beyond death."*

Jesus is the Son of the Father. Thus, His baptism is a way in which the Father introduced His Son and His Son's mission to the world. As we prepare to begin Ordinary Time, reflect on the words of the Father at the Baptism of Jesus. Hear the Father speaking to You about the divinity of His Son. Turn your eyes to Jesus and prepare yourself to follow Him and to heed every word He speaks. He was sent into this world to draw us to the Father, allow Him to fulfill that mission in your own life.