



# Divine Mercy

## Catholic Church

A Jesuit Parish in St. John's

First Sunday of Lent

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### **Mass Intentions**

*Week February 18 to 24*

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#### **Monday February 19**

*Uriel Fagan; Patricia Dunphy-Morrissey;  
William Wiseman*

#### **Tuesday February 20**

*Marie Devine; Francis Cromwell;  
Agnes Janes*

#### **Wednesday February 21**

*Gloria White; Ann Woodford;  
Regina Collier*

#### **Thursday February 22**

*Souls in Purgatory; Donna Connolly;  
Earl McDougall*

#### **Friday February 23**

*Gerald Winston Stone; Nora Andrews; Theresa Buckley*

***Please Pray for the Recently Deceased:***

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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

### **Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament:**

Join us for Adoration and Benediction every **Tuesday, 2:00 to 3:30 pm** in the church at our St. Paul's site and every **Thursday, 11am to noon** and **Friday from 11am to noon** at our St. Francis Site.

### **Divine Mercy Parish Contact Information:**

Divine Mercy Parish, 340A Newfoundland Drive, St. John's, NL A1A 3R9 tel. 709-726-9924 [www.divinemeracynl.com/](http://www.divinemeracynl.com/) email: [info@divinemeracynl.com](mailto:info@divinemeracynl.com) Facebook.com/divinemeracyparishnl Join our Flocknote by texting 01556 to 514-900-0130 and follow the prompts to enter your email address and preferences  
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@divinemeracynl.com](mailto:info@divinemeracynl.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

One of my favourite prayers of Saint Ignatius of Loyola is given in his *Spiritual Exercises* in which he asks for God's grace. He requests of Christ that, one may see the Lord more clearly, love him more dearly and, follow him more nearly. In these first days of Lent, many of us may be struggling to keep our promises and offerings we have made to God. While it's good for us to struggle to be a little freer to see and serve our Lord, at the same time, it is vital that we retain our eyes on the prize, that we do all things in reference to him.

I remember speaking to a person some years ago in Toronto. She was presenting her plans for Lent. What she outlined was incredible – the amount of prayer, acts of charity and abstaining from certain foods surpassed even the early desert monks! Rather than do all she proposed, I encouraged her to do something else. I suggested that she spend the forty days reading the four gospels. It wasn't that I wanted her to do less, but to focus on the one essential thing, that is, to focus on the Lord. When I first entered the Jesuits and had to pray in the style of St. Ignatius, in the contemplations I found that I always positioned myself relatively far from him. I kept my distance, as it were.

Maybe this was appropriate for someone like me who was new to prayer and to a personal relationship with Christ in a conscious way. But Jesus Christ is not an idea, nor merely a mouthpiece giving us moral instruction. He is both God and a person. And as both, he doesn't want or desire that we keep our distance. He wants and desires that we allow him to always be present with each of us, and for each of us to always be present with him. Whatever we have decided to do or focus on during these forty days, their value and helpfulness is solely given by how they aid us in drawing closer to him. I love Lent because in Lent we may have lots of different things we're doing, but we only have one prayer – "Grant that I may see thee more clearly, love thee more dearly and follow thee more nearly."

God bless and take care,

Fr. John

## Parish Notes & Upcoming Events

### Postponed Parish Ministry Fair

Due to the weather forecast this weekend, and a concern that we will have fewer in number gathered together in our community, we have decided to postpone our Parish Ministry Fair scheduled for this weekend. We will let you know once we have a new date. In the meantime, you might like to become more involved in the parish through one of our active ministries or groups. Contact us at [info@divinemercyparishnl.com](mailto:info@divinemercyparishnl.com) and we will connect you with someone who can help.

- ✦ Lectors ✦ Eucharistic Ministers ✦ Ushers ✦ Music Ministry
- ✦ Hospitality ✦ Counting Ministry ✦ Children's Liturgy
- ✦ Baptism Preparation ✦ Sacrament Preparation ✦ RCIA
- ✦ Bereavement ✦ Parish Food Bank
- ✦ Catholic Women's League ✦ Knights of Columbus

### The Creed Divine Mercy Parish Faith Formation Series

In the Creed, a film series blending both documentary footage and dynamic talks, Bishop Robert Barron guides viewers into the depths of the Nicene Creed. The Creed will help you rediscover the great spiritual depths of Christian dogma and reclaim the unity, clarity and conviction of the Christian faith.

*Our Faith Formation Series and Word on Fire are available to you through our flocknote. Subscribe today!*

# Parish Notes & Upcoming Events

## Divine Mercy Parish in Lent

### Way of the Cross

Fridays throughout Lent:

Feb 16, 23, Mar 1, 8, 15, & 22

5:45 pm: Join Fr. John for a hot bowl of soup

6:30 pm: Stations of the Cross begin in the church.

### Lenten Penance Service:

Wednesday March 13 at 6:30pm

### Open for Private Prayer:

Divine Mercy Parish is open daily at both our sites throughout Lent for private Stations of the Cross and other devotions.

#### At our St. Paul's Site:

Monday to Thursday 8:30 am to 4:00 pm

Friday: 8:30 am to 12 pm

With Daily Mass at 9:30 am

#### At our St. Francis of Assisi Site:

Monday to Friday 8:00 am to 4:00 pm

## Annual Ocean Ranger Memorial Prayer Service

Gonzaga High School will be holding its annual Ocean Ranger Memorial Prayer Service to remember those who lost their lives in the tragedy 42 years ago. Due to the winter storm and a scheduling conflict, the service will now be held on Monday, February 19, 2024 1:00 pm at Gonzaga High School gymnasium.

## Offertory Collection Week of February 11

Offertory	\$	5,940.00
Initial Offering	\$	20.00
New Year's Day	\$	30.00
Ash Wednesday	\$	180.00
Food Bank	\$	105.00

*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!*

## Healing Mass with the Anointing of the Sick Change of Date: Tuesday February 20, 11am

Divine Mercy Parish (St. Paul's site) will gather for a Healing Mass with the Anointing of the Sick on Tuesday, February 20 at 11am. Everyone is most welcome.

If you know someone who is in need of the Sacrament of the Sick, please share this invitation with them. Also, if you know someone who is homebound or in hospital who would like to receive the sacrament, please be in contact with the parish by calling 709-726-9924 or email us a [info@divinemercynl.com](mailto:info@divinemercynl.com)

## Journey Through Lent with the Canadian Bishops

The Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops presents "Journey through Lent" with the Most Rev. Stephen Hero, Bishop of Prince Albert and the Most Rev. Mark Hagemoen, Bishop of Saskatoon. Join them as they reflect on the Scriptures for the Sundays of Lent. Visit [www.cccb.ca/lent](http://www.cccb.ca/lent) for this video and a new reflection every Monday on the readings for the following Sunday.

## Development and Peace — Caritas Canada: a movement of solidarity

Established in 1967, Development and Peace — Caritas Canada is the official international solidarity organization of the Catholic Church in Canada. We address the root causes of poverty, oppression, and inequality by working with partners in the Global South and by mobilizing Canadians in the common struggle for justice and dignity. We champion women and social movements as key agents of lasting change. Our transformative work is possible **thanks to the generosity and support of our members** and Canadians who stand by us. **Join the movement** of over 12,000 members and help us bring our campaigns to life in your community. Visit [devp.org/membership](http://devp.org/membership).

# Entering Lent

As we begin this season of repentance and reflection, let's look at what this time means and how the three pillars of Lent lead us to a closer relationship with God.

The word Lent comes from an old English word meaning "spring," or "a new birth." This time of year helps us to renew our lives as Catholics and renew our life in Jesus, his Church, and his Father. These 40 days allow us to journey with Jesus through his passion and death leading us to rejoice in his resurrection. This is the reality of the Paschal Mystery, the essence of our sacramental life in the Church.

In order to be fully immersed in the Lenten experience, the Church gives us three extraordinary ways to draw closer into this mystery: Prayer, Fasting, and Almsgiving.

**Prayer:** Prayer is conversation with God. It is essential for fasting and almsgiving because prayer gives us the strength to fast. Pope Francis said, "Lent is a privileged time for prayer." In prayer, we draw closer in relationship with God. Relationship with God makes us grateful for the blessings we have received. Prayer is the cornerstone of our Lenten journey and is vital to all of our actions in life.

**Fasting & Abstinence:** Fasting and abstinence are old traditions and early Lenten practice. Found in the Scriptures, they offer a way of growing closer to God. Pope Francis reminds us, "Fasting makes sense if it really chips away at our security and, as a consequence, benefits someone else..."

**Almsgiving:** Almsgiving (giving) is a response to God, one that we can come to through prayer and fasting. It is a way to live out our gratitude for all that God has given us, reflecting the realization that we are the Body of Christ, responsible for each other. Justice, mercy, and charity are integral elements of our baptism that call us to be disciples of Jesus.

## Praying the Stations of the Cross with Children:

If you want to introduce your kids to the very heart of the Christian story, praying the Stations of the Cross (or Way of the Cross) with them is an excellent way to start. It's a great way to introduce them to the story of Jesus' Passion (his suffering and death). But the Stations are more than the re-telling of a story: it is a prayerful participation in the event that lies at the heart of Christianity. At its best, the Stations engage kids at a spiritual level. Families are always welcome at Divine Mercy Parish for our Stations of the Cross on Fridays throughout Lent at 6:30pm. Join Fr. John for a hot bowl of soup at 5:45pm.

## Praying Lent: Experiencing his love and following him more deeply.

Looking for some prayer resources to use through Lent? Creighton University Online Ministries offers a wonderful Lenten exercise of praying through Lent at home with the daily readings. Each day includes prayer and a meditation and reflection on the readings.

<https://onlineministries.creighton.edu/CollaborativeMinistry/Lent/firstweek.html>

### *From the Introduction to The First Week of Lent:*

It is wonderful to see the early weeks of Lent as a catechism for those who are on a journey toward Baptism at the Easter Vigil. Each liturgy offers a new "lesson in the faith" for these new believers. Viewed this way, Lent can be a journey of renewal in faith for us all. We listen, with the hearts of children, learning old lessons, as though for the first time.

And each day, we pray these special prayers that simply help us keep turning to God for the graces we need for the day. Throughout the day, we find moments, perhaps "in the background" while we are doing other things, that help us remember what we are asking for. Our desire grows as we make changes to our daily patterns. As we make sacrifices, in order to experience freedom *from* self-directed needs, we also experience a freedom *for* other-directed love and generosity.

*Creighton University is a Jesuit university in Omaha Nebraska. Its Online Ministries offers a wealth of resources for prayer, spirituality, and growth in faith.*



Looking for resources to use at home? There are some great family resources available. You might try one of these:

**A Scriptural Way of the Cross from Catholic Kids Media:**  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IY2hcqxh7IA>

**And A Traditional Way of the Cross for Kids from EWTN:**  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KoQR30np5us>