



Divine Mercy

Catholic Church

A Jesuit Parish in St. John's

Second Sunday of Lent

Mass Intentions

Week February 25 to March 2

Monday February 26

Gus Gosse;

Special Intention (KT); Rosemary Trimble

Tuesday February 27

Special Intention (KK); Gisela Sahn;

Mary Codner

Wednesday February 28

Special Intention (PC);

Dorothy Halleran; Margaret Carew

Thursday February 29

Eileen wall; Sharon Dolliment;

Special Intention (MC)

Friday March 1

Special Intention (JM);

Special Intention (MM); Kenneth Smith

Please Pray for the Recently Deceased:

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.divinemergynl.com/ email: info@divinemergynl.com Facebook.com/divinemergyparishnl 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 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@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

Pastor's Note

Sometimes I imagine life and faith as being like a fork in the road. One road leads to virtue, growing holiness and God's presence. The other road leads to the opposite – immorality, sinfulness and the absence of God. When one takes the wrong road, according to this faulty image, God then remains on the right road, waiting for a person to make the directional change and find their way back. We may understand and speak of periods in our lives in just this way, of having made a bunch of wrong decisions and take bad actions. But God does not leave us to get lost or find our way back on our own. It is an incredible moment in faith to realize that wherever one goes, right road or wrong, so too does God go.

In the late 19th Century, Francis Thompson wrote the poem "The Hound of Heaven." He realized that he had gone down the wrong road, trying to flee from God. He wrote,

I fled Him, down the nights and down the days;
 I fled Him, down the arches of the years;
 I fled Him, down the labyrinthine ways
 Of my own mind; and in the mist of tears
 I hid from Him, and under running laughter.

Saint Paul, in this week's Second Reading, teaches us the we cannot be separated from God. This is not fanciful thinking but is derived from the life, Passion and Resurrection of Jesus Christ. Paul writes, "If God is for us, who is against us? He who did not withhold his own Son, but gave him up for all of us, will he not with him also give us everything else?" He continues, "Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will hardship, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us." Through Christ, we can know that we are never truly lost, that we are never living a life in which God is completely absent. God will not permit it. In love the Lord follows us, he seeks us and, if we allow him, he finds us. This is our faith. This is what Christ gives each of us. And so, the Father commands, "This is my Son, the Beloved; listen to him!"

God bless and take care,

Fr. John



Parish Notes & Upcoming Events

Divine Mercy Parish in Lent

Way of the Cross

Fridays throughout Lent:

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 (Revised Date):

Tuesday, March 19 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

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!

Centre for Life is offering virtual income tax preparation for seniors with modest incomes who qualify under the guidelines of the Community Volunteer Income Tax Program. For any inquiries or to make an appointment please contact the office at 709 579-1500.

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. On this Second Sunday of Lent, Bishop Hero provides a reflection on the Transfiguration. Visit www.cccb.ca/lent for this video and a new reflection every Monday on the readings for the following Sunday

Catholic Women's League at Divine Mercy

Parish: You are invited to attend a General Meeting, scheduled for Tuesday, February 27, after the 930 Mass. The focus of the meeting will be on the new Theme "Here I am Lord, Send me" and the focus for 2024, mental health.

The **4th Degree of the Knights of Columbus** will hold its monthly meeting on Monday 26 February in the foyer of St. Paul's at 7 pm. We will begin with the Rosary at 7pm followed by our Guest Speaker at 7:30 pm, Shanie Duff on the O'Brien Farm as well as the culture and heritage of the City of St. John's. Our Business Meeting follows at 8:15 pm. All Knights and parishioners are invited to attend. Business meeting for members only. Dues are again due in the amount of \$20 for 2024. Hope to see you there.

Offertory Collection

Week of February 18

Offertory	\$	2,421.15
Initial Offering	\$	15.00
New Year's Day	\$	10.00
Ash Wednesday	\$	626.00
Food Bank	\$	655.00

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!

Development and Peace — Caritas Canada: a movement of solidarity

Last chance to sign the *Stand for the Land* petition.

Today is the deadline for signing a letter to Honduran ambassador to Canada asking her government to protect those who are fighting to defend forests and rivers in a Honduran national park against pollution from a mine. The letter is part of Development and Peace — Caritas Canada's last fall campaign.



Entering Lent: The Sacrament of Reconciliation

As we're in Lent, parishes everywhere are having Lenten Penance Services. Whether you've gone to confession recently, or haven't been for many years, this is a great chance to prepare for the coming of Lord.

But why go? What happens in Sacrament of Reconciliation, or Penance? In the Sacrament, we do not go to the priest just to list our sins, have them forgiven, and receive a penance (although this all happens in Confession). Rather, and most importantly, we come to the priest to celebrate the forgiveness of God that we experience in our lives. We come to the Sacrament with a sense of joy for what God has already done through Jesus Christ in our lives and what God continues to do – fill us with his mercy and love.

When we go to Confession, the forgiveness that flows from God's mercy in our lives is ritualized. The Sacrament is celebrated, so that we experience the gift and power of the Lord's saving Grace. It is also a moment when we place our lives, and God's involvement in our lives within the context of the Church – the Body of Christ.

In the Sacrament, the Priest "stands in" for both the believing community and for Christ. Our sins separate us from the person that God has created us to be. As we tell the priest our sins, we are mindful of how those sins hurt our relationships with God and others. We live in community. Our lives always touch the lives of others.

Telling our sins to a Priest, hearing our sins from our own lips, helps us to be real and to acknowledge our weakness and our dependence upon God. It is so easy to rationalize our sinfulness when we talk to ourselves "in our heads." It is an entirely different experience when we hear ourselves verbalize our sinfulness. Those sins become much more real! We become much more aware and sensitive of our responsibilities to others. But this is not something to fear. Like the Prodigal Son's father, our loving Father in heaven waits patiently and then rejoices in his child's return.

In the Sacrament, the priest also "stands in" for Christ. Hearing the words of absolution, the forgiveness of God, from the lips of the priest is indeed comforting. You know how wonderful it feels when a family member or friend says, "I love you!" In the Sacrament of Reconciliation, we allow God to say those words to us in and through the person of the priest.

The Sacrament of Reconciliation is not something to be feared but to be celebrated with trust and confidence because of God's unconditional love for us.

We hope you will join us **on Tuesday, March 19 at 6:30 pm in the church (St. Paul's site) for our Lenten Penitential Service.** Several Priests will be available for individual confessions. Come, experience once again, the mercy and forgiveness of the Father.