



Divine Mercy

Catholic Church

A Jesuit Parish in St. John's

Third Sunday of Lent

Mass Intentions

Week of March 3 to 10

Monday March 4

*Jeffrey Murrin; Olua Macquire;
Lurley Browne*

Tuesday March 5

*Jack Jones; Tom Cooper & Deceased Family;
Special Intention (CC)*

Wednesday March 6

*Gerald Leahy; Patrick Dawe;
Shelia Benson*

Thursday March 7

*Frank & Constance Costigan; Patrick Dawe;
Craig Power*

Friday March 8

*Claudia O'Connor; Jeffrey Murrin;
Thomas Nemec*

***Please Pray for the Recently Deceased:
Gregory Wight & Geroge White***

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.divinemercynl.com/ email: info@divinemercynl.com Facebook.com/divinemercyparishnl 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@divinemercynl.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

Growing up, the Cross was central in my faith. Be it making the Sign of the Cross when I hit the ice to begin a hockey game; wearing a Cross around my neck; or, hanging one in my bedroom. I viewed the Cross as a symbol of the suffering the Lord had to experience due to sinfulness and, in particular, my sins. So, in a way, I understood the Cross negatively, that is, tragically. There was no interior correspondence with the words of Saint Paul, "the Cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God," or "we proclaim Christ crucified." While the Cross remains central in my faith, I know longer see it tragically, rather, I cannot imagine anything more beautiful.

The Cross, to our amazement, gives life and life in abundance. To look upon the Cross is to see clearly. No ambiguity, no greyness, only clarity. And what can be seen clearly is the extent of the personal love of God. I imagine Christ preaching and then looking towards me. With my face and eyes, I say, "pretty good but still

confused." He then does an act of power, a miracle. Again, he looks at me and I convey, "Incredible! Much clearer but still a bit unsure." And then he goes to the Cross, and as I see him hanging and dying, I understand. I understand God has been with me and loved me every moment of my life. I understand my place within the heart of God. As we try to keep God at the centre, what a wondrous revelation to begin to realize that God has placed us at the centre of his heart. This is the power and wisdom of God and "more to be desired are they than gold, even much fine gold; sweeter also than honey, and drippings of the honeycomb." We proclaim Christ crucified, not tragically but joyfully. His Cross is our life.

God bless and take care,

Fr. John

New Mass Schedule A Message from Fr. John

Having received significant input from parishioners through hundreds of surveys and numerous conversations with our Parish Council, we are able to announce our new Mass schedule. **The new Mass schedule will begin on the weekend of Divine Mercy Sunday, April 6 and 7, 2024.** Our parish has been blessed with consistent growth. It is not uncommon to see "standing room only" on Sunday morning at the 11am Mass. As parishioners of Divine Mercy parish, we are likely both surprised and grateful for this unexpected gift. The new Mass schedule is part of our attempt to be more welcoming of people, that is, to allow more places for people to sit. It is also part of our vision to be a "mission" oriented parish. We want more people to hear God's word, to believe in him and to live in a conscious relationship with him. Like anything "new" that is a "change," certainly not everyone will be pleased or satisfied. I recognize the discomfort change brings and understand the "shake-up" this will entail for many of our parishioners and volunteers, especially those who worship at the St. Francis site. We are growing, however, and so we must change. We are wading into the deep, seeking not only his glory but his "greater glory."

New Mass Schedule Beginning April 6 & 7

Saturday	4pm (St. Paul's site)
Sunday	9am (St. Paul's site)
	11am (St. Paul's site)
	3pm (St. Francis site – Mass will begin at 3:15 following the Chaplet of Divine Mercy with Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament)

Parish Notes & Upcoming Events

Divine Mercy Parish in Lent

Way of the Cross

Fridays throughout Lent:

Mar 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

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 Third Sunday of Lent, Bishop Hagemoen provides a reflection on freedom from false gods. Visit www.cccb.ca/lent for this video and a new reflection every Monday on the readings for the following Sunday.

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.

Development and Peace — Caritas Canada: a movement of solidarity

Denouncing oil pollution in Nigeria

Nigeria is Africa's largest economy and biggest oil producer. Despite oil exports worth billions of dollars, millions of Nigerians remain in poverty and face food insecurity. In the south, pollution and contamination by the oil industry are causing great hardship. Development and Peace — Caritas Canada's partner Health of Mother Earth Foundation (HOMEF) defends farmers' rights and helps protect their lands. To learn more about the work of HOMEF, read our [Mini-magazine](#) and watch the video at devp.org/lent.

Catholic Women's League at Divine Mercy

Do you recognize the human dignity in all people? Do you feel motivated to do something to help others? Catholic Women's League members embark on many projects that directly impact those who are disadvantaged in society. Presently we are advocating for more support for people suffering from mental illness. How can you help? Become a member and be part of the solution. Membership Forms available in the church foyer.

The 4th Degree of the Knights of Columbus will hold its monthly meeting on Monday, March 4 in the foyer of our St. Paul's site at 7pm. We will begin with the Rosary, followed by guest speaker, Steven Handrigan, President of St. Bon's who will update us on the college. All knights and parishioners are welcome. Business meeting to follow is for members only. KoC's 2024 activity plan is on the agenda. Dues for 2024 are again due in the amount of \$20.

Offertory Collection Week of February 25

Offertory	\$	5,537.30
New Year's Day	\$	15.00
Ash Wednesday	\$	370.00
Food Bank	\$	1,667.00
Development & Peace	\$	100.00

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!

Preparing for the Sacrament of Reconciliation

By the nourishing light of the Holy Spirit, we can prepare for the Sacrament of Reconciliation by examining our consciences to identify those ways in which we are not in right relationship with God and with others. It also allows us to see where we have participated or been complicit in a culture of sin that degrades the lives and the dignity of those around us and ourselves.

Through the Sacrament of Reconciliation, God offers his abundant mercy and forgiveness. In response to this gift, we are called to become vehicles of Christ's love, making amends, and restoring the bonds of love that have been broken. Healed and forgiven, we are sent out into the world, carrying His mercy, peace, and justice into the world.

To help prepare for the Sacrament, you might like to use the following examination of Conscience. Take some quiet time as you reflect on each question, letting the mercy of God lead you.

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

Novena of Grace:

Attached to our bulletin this week is the Novena of Grace. The novena began in the 17th century by Fr. Marcello Mastrilli, a Jesuit who, while working in Naples, sustained serious head injuries in an accident. Prayers were offered to St. Francis Xavier and Fr. Mastrilli was healed. Fr. Mastrilli is credited with recovering the body of Francis Xavier from Sancian Island off the coast of China. Fr. Mastrilli would go on to be martyred in 1637 in Nagasaki Japan. The Novena is traditionally prayed March 4 to 12 (the day St. Francis Xavier died).

This novena is nine days of prayer in the company of St. Francis Xavier through the letters he wrote. As a Jesuit, he underwent and then, in turn, led others through the Spiritual Exercises of his great friend St. Ignatius of Loyola. His writings reflect the spiritual insights and preoccupations of the *Spiritual Exercises*. We pray to know ourselves better, to discern the will of God in our daily lives, to hear and generously respond to Christ's call to follow him, whatever the cost and to understand that everything is an unmerited gift from God, poured out lavishly upon his children "as rays from the sun or waters from the spring." (Ignatius of Loyola *Spiritual Exercises* n.237)

Examination of Conscience

Do I center my life on God, on fidelity to the Gospel and the Commandments as Christ taught us?

Do I behave as a Christian in my daily life? Have I lived the values of this world, rather than those of the gospel?

Do I spend time in prayer, do I attend Mass regularly?

Have I failed to forgive?

Have I failed to be patient and understanding? Do I act selfishly at times, seeking my own gain?

Have I honored my body, as God's gift, through thoughts and actions compatible with Christian life?

Have I been truthful and fair, or have I injured others by deceit?

Can others see the grace of Baptism at work in my life? Do I sometimes fail to love?

Pray the novena by following the daily reflection and ending with the Novena Prayer, an Our Father, a Hail Mary and the Glory be.

Novena Prayer:

O most kind and loving saint, in union with you I adore the most divine majesty. The memory of the favours with which God blessed you during life, and your glory after death, fills me with joy. And I unite with you in offering to him my humble tribute of thanksgiving and praise. I implore you to secure for me, through your powerful intercession, the all-important blessing of living and dying in a state of grace. I also ask you to obtain the favour I ask in this novena....

(here pause to ask the favour you seek)

But if what I ask is not for the greater glory of God, or the good of my soul, obtain for me what is most conducive to both. Amen.

O God who was pleased to gather to your Church the peoples of the East by the preaching and miracles of St. Francis Xavier, mercifully grant that we, who honour his glorious merits, may also imitate the examples of his virtues, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Our Father.....

Hail Mary.....

Glory be to the Father.....

Novena of Grace:

Day 1:

"May our Lord increase the days of [your] life for many years and may he grant you to feel in this present life, his most holy will and the spiritual strength to fulfill it, so that you do and accomplish that which, at the hour of your death, you will wish to have done."

For Reflection:

- What are the things in my life of which I am most proud?
- Which of these things will I be most pleased to place before God at the close of my life?
- What do I need to do more of, or less of, if I am to present my best self to God my Lord?

Prayer:

Lord, each day you give me new life, new graces, new opportunities to feel your presence. Give me the gift of attentiveness to notice you in the people and your creation which surround my life; that I may grow in faith, and hope and love. Amen.

Day 2:

"I therefore ask God our Lord to grant us to know and experience his most holy will and, once we have experienced it, great strength and much grace to fulfil it with charity in this life."

For Reflection:

- What does God ask of me in my day-to-day life?
- As God for the strength to do and to be this.
- Who or what do I find it most difficult to be charitable towards, even to love?

Prayer:

Father, each day you show me the love of a parent for its child: watchful of my every step, eager for me to thrive; you delight in my happiness and console me in my sadness. May the constant love in which you enfold me give me the confidence to show that same love to others. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Day 3:

"May God our Lord grant us in time the gift to perceive his holy will. He wishes that we should always be ready to fulfil it whenever he manifests it to us and lets us feel it within our souls. To fare well in this life, we must be pilgrims ready to go wherever we can to serve God our Lord the more."

For Reflection:

- Do I look for signs of what God wants of me: in my prayer, in moments of silence, in what others say?

- Am I ready to follow where God leads?
- Or do I always set the agenda for everything I do?

Prayer:

Father, you speak to me in the silence and in the empty spaces of my life. Give me ears to hear your voice in stillness; eyes to see your presence in things that seem so insignificant at the time. Free me from the relentless whirl of activity, from the obsessions which limit me and snatch away my freedom to answer your call. Like St. Francis, may I too become a pilgrim, called to walk the path you set before me, wherever it may lead but always safe in the knowledge that Christ walks beside me unseen. Amen.

Day 4:

"I have decided to go to the Moro Islands to assist the Christians in spiritual matters, exposing myself to every danger of death, placing all my confidence and hope in God our Lord, desiring to conform myself, in keeping with my slight and feeble strength, to the saying of Christ our Redeemer and Lord that 'whoever wishes to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will save it.'"

For Reflection:

- What activities, pastimes, possessions, and relationships in my life are non-negotiable?
- Do any of these things get in the way of my relationship with God?
- What do I need to relinquish to be free to be my true self in following God's calling?

Prayer:

Lord, before I ever came into being you knew and loved me. You have knit me together the way I am, and given me life and laughter, friends and the faces of strangers and world of wonder and new discovery. Grant me the freedom and the courage to discover you anew each day. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Day 5:

"God our Lord gives to all sufficient grace to serve him and preserve themselves from sin... all our good and evil consists in making good and evil use of his grace."

For Reflection:

- Reflect on the strengths of character with which God has blessed you.
- How do you use these strengths for the good?
- How do you sometimes use them for evil?

Prayer:

Lord Jesus, it is easy to be tempted as you were tempted in the desert; to make poor decisions for quick gains and satisfaction; to turn from the wonderful gifts of your generosity. Give me, day by day, the same Spirit of strength with which you faced down those temptations of power, wealth and honour; that my desires and motives, my words and actions may always be for the greater glory of God, my Lord. Amen.

Day 6

“At night before you go to sleep, you should retire to some place and examine the things which happened to you that day, your thoughts, words and actions, examining your conscience with great diligence... and at the end say an Our Father and a Hail Mary. After this is has been finished, you should lie down, occupying yourself with the thought of how you are to amend yourself on the following day.”

For Reflection:

- Take a few moments think back over your day.
- What were the thoughts, words and actions of which you are most pleased?
- Were there any thoughts, words or actions which you regret?

Prayer:

Father, as I look back on this day, there are so many thoughts, such babble of words, and such a blur of activity, that it is difficult to see you gently presence amid it all. Show yourself to me today and every day. Amen.

Day 7

“There is reason for giving infinite praise and thanks to God at the sight of a king who is so well and piously inclined towards the things of God, and to such an extent that if I were not a witness of it all, as I am, I would not be able to believe what I have seen in him.”

For Reflection:

- Do I look for the goodness in other people?
- Do I take the trouble to give credit where it is due?
- Do I notice and copy the good example that others set for me?

Prayer:

God our Father, praise to you! I am surrounded by so many good people: people who speak your word of compassion and kindness; people who act to give body to your justice and reconciliation; people whose lives are good seed growing in rich soil.

Give me too, the grace to live in your Spirit, and to be your presence for those I meet as I go about my day. Amen.

Day 8

“O my God, almighty and merciful Father, creator of all things of the world: I firmly believe in you, my God and Lord, since you are my entire good. You, Lord, created me and you have given me body and soul and all that I have. And you, my God have made me in your likeness. Thanks be to God!”

For Reflection:

- Take time to consider the gifts God has given you.
- Count the blessings he has poured out on you, today, and over the course of your life.
- Give thanks!

Prayer:

Father, you are entire goodness, and you are goodness for me. Creator of all things, who hold all things in being for me, give me faith in you and in myself, your creation. Amen.

Day 9

“I therefore ask you to base all that you do entirely upon God and not to trust your own abilities, knowledge, or reputation; and in this way, I shall know that you are ready for all the great trials, spiritual as well as worldly, which can afflict you. For God raises up and supports the humble, especially those who in small and lowly matters have seen, as in a polished mirror, their own weaknesses and have conquered them.”

For Reflection:

- Do you trust your own abilities and judgements more than you trust God?
- Have you noticed God raising you up and supporting you?
- If you look at your life and personality in a polished mirror, do you see a person who is loved and forgiven by God?

Prayer:

God our Father, as St. Francis Xavier travelled to the ends of the earth, impelled by love of Christ and on fire with his good news, give me the trust and grace to base all I do upon you alone, safe in knowing that you raise the lowly and fill them with good things. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.