



# Divine Mercy

## Catholic Church

A Jesuit Parish in St. John's

28<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time

### **Mass Intentions** **Week of October 13**

|              |  |
|--------------|--|
| Mon Oct 14   | Catherine & Raymond Walsh +<br>Elizabeth Hannifan +<br>Jim & Margaret Rogers + |
| Tues Oct 15  | Special Intention (Y & J)<br>Ornella Francesco +<br>Gattel Rina +              |
| Wed Oct 16   | Special Intention (HC)<br>Kevin Spearns +<br>Special Intention (ER)            |
| Thurs Oct 17 | Catherine Doyle +<br>Special Intention (AF)<br>Joan Fitzgerald +               |
| Fri Oct 18   | John McGrath, Sr. +<br>Bride McGrath +<br>John McGrath, Jr. +                  |

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

### **Parish Schedule:**

#### **Sunday Mass:**

#### **Saturday**

**4:00pm (Newfoundland Drive Site)**

#### **Sunday**

**9:00am (Newfoundland Drive Site)**

**11:00am (Newfoundland Drive Site)**

**4:00pm (Outer Cove Site)**

#### **Daily Mass:**

**Monday to Friday 9:30am**

Daily Mass takes place at our Newfoundland Drive site

#### **Parish Office Hours:**

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

Friday: 8:30am to 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 **Wednesday and Thursday, 11am to noon** at our St. Francis Site.

#### **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? Arrange a visit for the Sacrament of the Sick or to receive Holy Communion. Call the Parish Office at 709-726-9924

**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) Join our Flocknote by texting 01556 to 514-900-0130 and follow the prompts to enter your email address and preferences.

[Facebook.com/divinemeracyparishnl](https://www.facebook.com/divinemeracyparishnl)

Fr. John Sullivan, S.J. Pastor Email: [john@ekon.ca](mailto:john@ekon.ca) Telephone 416-417-1513

# Pastor's Note

Sometimes it can seem as if life is just a bunch of “ups and downs.” A sort of constant yo-yo experience. When things go well, we feel great, “on top of the world,” but when the inevitable hard times come, we feel the opposite, wondering why it seems we can “never catch a break.” In the Ancient and Medieval world, people often ascribed their changing fate to the “Wheel of Fortune.” Not the game show in which one picks a letter to guess the phrase, but that the wheel is randomly spun, causing griefs or joys until spun again. Although we all know the pitfalls of living in this way, living a life without it being built on rock, to varying degrees, most of us simply go along, trying to minimize the griefs and maximize the joys. I do not believe, however, this is the type and quality of life God offers and dreams for us.

This week's response to the Psalm enlightens us as to a path marked by inner peace even amidst storms. The psalmist prays, “Fill us with your love, O Lord, that we may rejoice and be glad.” Despite the progress and development, we see in the world around us, the human person hasn't really

changed – we still feel a hole in our heart and we painfully want it filled. We can land a person on the Moon, travel from one continent to another in the same day, communicate with someone on the opposite side of the world in an instant and live longer than ever due to incredible advances in medicine. And yet, the ancient “Wheel of Fortune” still seems to control our emotions, psyche and spirit. To be free of its clutches is to know what truly afflicts us and to accept the proper remedy. “Fill us with your love, O Lord, that we may rejoice and be glad.” This is the remedy offered by the physician of our souls. To live life with a perpetual inner, heart knowledge of the tender, passionate and eternal love of God the Father for each and everyone of us. No more bouncing randomly from griefs to joys, rather to live in and through his love – “In you, we live and move and have our being.” This week, let's take his medicine for the hole in our hearts. And the medicine is God himself. This is his will, his dream for you.

God bless and take care,

Fr. John

## To See, To Love, To Serve

What helps to keep Christ as the center of our lives? As Christians, our love for the Lord, and truly in response for all that he has done for us, we can find ourselves longing to know Christ more and striving to follow him. We want to be firmly rooted and living steadfast out of his love for us.

St. Ignatius of Loyola, in the *Spiritual Exercises*, prayed for the grace “to see thee more clearly, love thee more dearly and follow thee more nearly.” With clear and precise insight, St. Ignatius understood that to grow in holiness and be a disciple of Christ, one had to give one's whole self – the mind, the heart, and the will. When we work to deepen our understanding of who Christ is, when we commit ourselves to prayer and when we give of ourselves through service to others, we are responding in love to the One who has loved us first.

We know that growth in holiness takes a lifetime. And, at Divine Mercy Parish we want to be intentional about these three elements of this Christian dynamic: coming to know

Christ, coming to love Christ and coming to serve Christ. This is a vision of the Christian life that helps us become a disciple of Christ or to deepen one's existing discipleship.

The Parish is excited to present different offerings and opportunities available this Fall under the three categories of **To See, To Love, To Serve**. You will be invited to choose something from something from each category. These will include Faith Formation offerings (both in person and on Flocknote); Prayer opportunities (in the church and at home) and Service opportunities in church ministries and in our families, work and community. We know that people are busy and that many of us are already committed to these three elements of the Christian dynamic. Our intention is not to add to the pile of “must do's.” It is rather, to encourage and support everyone in their faith and to grow in our response to the Lord as a person and as a parish community.

**For more details in the individual offerings and how to sign up go to our website: [www.divinemercynl.com/](http://www.divinemercynl.com/)**

# Faith Formation Corner

## **Why do Catholics Venerate Relics?**

From the earliest times of the Church, when the remains of martyrs were collected and understood to be “more valuable than precious stones and finer than refined gold,” we have known the custom of venerating the relics of saints. But to the outside observer, the Catholic practice of collecting, displaying and venerating relics may seem strange, superstitious and, even a little crazy. Who in their right mind would keep tiny bits of bone, hair, drops of blood on display, to say nothing of venerating them?

It may be helpful to consider the experience of own families. It is not rare to honor the people we love and cherish. Consider parents who keep the first teeth of their children, save clippings from a child’s first haircut, or families who keep Grandma’s bible in a special place of honor. We build monuments to great men and women and set up grave markers to memorialize those who have gone before us. It seems second nature for us to honor members of our family and those dear to us as well as the objects that belonged to them. And so why wouldn’t a similar reverence translate into our family of the Church? Saints are men and women from our family of faith who are honored for their lives of spiritual depth and witness. Moreover, they have put on Christ in baptism and become members of his body.

For Catholics, the practice of venerating relics is uniquely tied to our faith in Christ and his loving sacrifice on our behalf. We believe that sacrifice is not some abstract or philosophical idea. Rather, it is concretely lived out, in and through the body. Nowhere is the more evident to us than in the sacrifice of the incarnate God. *The Directory on Popular Piety and the Liturgy* explains this connection in this way:

*[Placing the relics of the Saints under an altar] signifies that the sacrifice of the members has its origin in the Sacrifice of the altar [the Eucharist], as well as symbolizing the communion with the Sacrifice of Christ of the entire Church, which is called to witness, even to the point of death, fidelity to her Lord and Spouse (§237).*

We honor the relics of the saints because we honor their fidelity to Christ, and their imitation of his perfect sacrifice on the Cross.

We understand that relics are meant to be honored and venerated, not worshipped. In fact, the saints lead us to fuller worship of God in spirit and truth. By honoring their memories, bodies and belongings, we give thanks to God for the saint’s holy witness. Relics are physical, tangible, concrete reminders that heaven is obtainable for us — so long as we recognize what made the saints holy and work to apply those qualities to our lives. When venerating relics we express gratitude to God for those members of our spiritual family. In the presence of the relics we recall their holy lives and we pray for the grace to achieve what they’ve achieved — eternity with God in Heaven.

## **Blessed Carlo Acutis Relic Tour St. John’s NL October 24-30**

The first class relic of Blessed Carlo Acutis will be in the Archdiocese from October 23-30. On October 30 the relic will visit Divine Mercy Parish (Newfoundland Dr. site). Join us as we welcome the relic of the first millennial to be beatified.

### **Wednesday, October 30**

The Relic of Blessed Carlo will arrive at Divine Mercy Parish early in the afternoon. Veneration of the relic will be available throughout the day along with the following program of events:

**Recitation of the Rosary: 1pm**  
**Divine Mercy Chaplet: 3pm**

**Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament 6:30pm**  
**Celebration of the Mass 7pm**  
**Reception to follow.**

**Blessed Carlo Acutis (1991-2006)**, a Catholic Italian teenager who died in 2006, was beatified on October 10, 2021 in Assisi. Acutis, a gamer and computer programmer who loved soccer and the Eucharist, has been the subject of interest around the world. Pope Francis referred to Carlo as a model of holiness in a digital age. Carlo’s life should teach today’s young people how to properly use and enjoy technology, including the internet and social media. His motto was “To always be close to Jesus, that’s my life plan.” On July 1, 2024, Pope Francis approved plans for the canonization of Blessed Carlo, the first “millennial” saint.

# Parish Notes & Upcoming Events

## Happy Thanksgiving!

This weekend, we join with other Canadians in giving thanks for the blessings we receive. Thanksgiving is a secular holiday, but with many religious, and Catholic overtones. As Catholics, we celebrate Thanksgiving every time we go to Mass. The very word eucharist comes from the Greek word for thanksgiving and is a reminder that as followers of Christ we have so very much to be thankful for. We are thankful for his love and his mercy. We are thankful for the Catholic faith that has been passed on to us by the Communion of Saints. In our gratitude, we find peace and joy. The Lord has made a feast for ALL PEOPLES; let us not rest until there is room at the table for all of God’s Children. For the many blessings and graces God has given to our Parish Community, let us be truly thankful. Happy Thanksgiving!

## Parish Family News:

This week, in our community, we celebrate Sacrament of Baptism with one of our families: George Anthony Dymond Moore will be baptized at the 9 am Mass this Sunday. With his family, we rejoice in the gift of faith and pray that George and his family might all grow in the light of God’s grace.

## Preparation for Children’s First Confessions begins Next Saturday, October 19

Our Preparation for First Confessions begins next Saturday, October 19 with a Family Catechesis Session at 10am in the church (St. Paul’s site). 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 **Reconciliation, Confirmation and First Holy Communion**.

Register your child online by going to our website: [www.divinemercynl.com/](http://www.divinemercynl.com/) or pick up a registration form available in the foyer. If you have any questions about the requirements or specifics of what is involved in the preparation for the sacraments, please do not hesitate to be in contact with us.

## Offertory Collection Week of October 6

|                         |             |
|-------------------------|-------------|
| Offertory               | \$ 6,080.00 |
| Dues                    | \$ 1,385.00 |
| Food Bank               | \$ 1,265.00 |
| Students to Priesthood  | \$ 748.00   |
| Needs of the Cdn Church | \$ 60.00    |
| World Missions          | \$ 25.00    |

*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!*

## Lector Gathering – Revised Date

We invite all current Lectors and those who would like to consider the ministry, to join us at Divine Mercy Parish - St. Paul's site, on **Saturday, October 26th from 10am to 12pm** for a discussion on the ministry.

## Praying the Rosary in the Month of October

The Catholic Women’s League and members of our parish will gather in the church (St. Paul’s site) before the 9:30 am weekday Mass to pray the Rosary throughout the month of October, dedicated to the devotion of the Rosary. All are welcome to join in this most beautiful devotion.

## Divine Mercy Catholic Women’s League

Divine Mercy Catholic Women’s League General Meeting is scheduled for Sunday, October 20 2 pm, at the parish church Newfoundland Drive. A Social will follow the meeting.

## A Note of Gratitude for the CWL Bake and Craft Sale

We are very grateful to members and parishioners for your generous support of the recent CWL Bake and Craft Sale. Thanks to you it was a great success.

## Knights of Columbus Scholarships:

Available to all students who graduated Grade 12 with Honours in June 2024 and are attending a Post-Secondary institution in September. Application deadline: October 31, 2024. Information and applications under scholarships on the State Council website at [www.kofcni.org](http://www.kofcni.org).

Be sure to visit our website: [www.divinemercynl.com/](http://www.divinemercynl.com/) for more details and information on the many offerings and happenings in our parish and throughout the Church in the city and in the world.