



Divine Mercy

Catholic Church

A Jesuit Parish in St. John's

Feast of the Presentation of the Lord

Mass Intention Week of February 2

Monday, February 3

9:30am Special Intention (CA)
Special Intention (Benedict Montes & Family)
Mary Dunphy +
7pm Walter Vere-Holloway +
Jerome Conway +
Ethel Lawton +

Tuesday, February 4

9:30am Nancy Walsh +
Julis McCormick +
Greg Thorne +

Wednesday, February 5

9:30am Frank & Constance Costigan +
Jason Hogan +
Special Intention (AT)
7pm J. Craig Power +
Jeanette Dunphy +
Mary Dunphy +

Thursday, February 6

9:30am Deceased Members of Pottle Family +
Deceased Members of Walsh Family +
Fred & Lucy Curran +

Friday, February 7

9:30am Gary Burke +
Special Intention (ED)
Corey Sampson +
7pm Vernon Carey +
Heinz Rotman +
John Hamilton +

Please Pray for the Recently Deceased:

Parish Schedule:

Sunday Mass:

Saturday
4:00pm (St. Paul's Site)
Sunday
9:00am (St. Paul's Site)
11:00am St. Paul's Site)
4:00pm (St. Francis Site)

Daily Mass:

Monday to Friday 9:30am
(St. Paul Site)

Monday, Wednesday & Friday 7pm (Mondays & Fridays at St. Paul's site, Wednesdays at St. Francis site)

Sacrament of Reconciliation:

Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays: 8:30 to 9:15 am; Saturdays 3-3:45pm
By appointment:
Call 709-726-9924 or email info@divinemeracynl.com

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament:

Adoration and Benediction every Tuesday, 2:00 in the church at our St. Paul's site.

Contact Information:

Divine Mercy Parish, 340A Newfoundland Drive, St. John's, NL A1A 3R9
tel. 709-726-9924 email: info@divinemeracynl.com
www.divinemeracynl.com/

Parish Office Hours:

Mon to Thurs: 8:30am -4:00pm and
Fri 8:30 am-12pm

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)

Pastor: Fr. John Sullivan, S.J.
Email: john@ekon.ca
Tel. 416-417-1513

Associate Pastor:
Fr. Joe Mroz, S.J.
email: ej_mroz@yahoo.ca

Inquiries for Sacrament Preparation and Faith Formation: email: faith.divinemeracynl@gmail.com

Sacrament of the Sick & Home Visits: Know someone in hospital or who is homebound? Arrange a visit: call 709-726-9924

Pastor's Note

It's not for me to disagree with anything in the Bible, but this week's passage from the *Letter to the Hebrews* causes a moment in which one stops and asks, "What did I just hear?" The author of *Hebrews* writes, "It was fitting that God, for whom and through whom all things exist, in bringing many sons and daughters to glory, should make the source of their salvation perfect through sufferings." For something to be "fitting" means it is proper or appropriate. Why was it fitting or proper that the Lord Jesus Christ, the Incarnate God, would suffer in offering salvation to humanity and each person? Wouldn't it be more fitting for God to have appeared from his heavenly throne and simply pronounced his forgiveness? It would have been a brief moment in time and there would have been no need for the Second Person of the Holy Trinity to assume human flesh all the way to the Cross on Calvary. This appears more fitting to my understanding – God acts like God; he is not treated as a criminal. But as always, I'm wrong and God is right.

If I think of my sinfulness I can identify a pattern. Let's say I lost my temper in a heated discussion. I likely said things not merely to prove my point but to hurt or humiliate the person. Not good enough to only win the day but also to crush the foe. After a time of feeling good about myself – "I really showed them," I begin to feel guilt, embarrassment and shame. This feeling is hard, so I can double-down on why I was right and, therefore, right to have used whatever strategy was necessary to win the argument. Or, maybe my embarrassment leads me to the response of the "silent treatment." The distance

between me and the other person snowballs, each waiting (and hoping) for the other to take the first step. There is the hidden fear that things not only aren't ok between us, but, perhaps, will never be again. Enter God's suffering.

The suffering of Christ is the most perfect and most powerful proclamation God could make to our hearts. Sinfulness in our lives creates a self-imposed distance from God. God doesn't enforce a separation as a punishment, rather we assume it must be the result. And so, we can double-down or give God the silent treatment. We fear that our actions have formed a permanent rift. To demonstrate unequivocally that this is not the case, God allows himself to suffer. His suffering is the most gentle and tender words spoken to our hearts – "You are my child. You are my beloved. You are my delight. You are the apple of my eye. You cannot be separated from me because I will not permit it." Salvation is not just about a state, that is, eternal life, it is also about one's being, that is, the transformation of one's heart. Is it not true that our hearts are most touched and transformed by the love of another? Therefore, "It was fitting that God . . . should make the source of our salvation perfect through sufferings." As Saint Ignatius of Loyola would then say, "and all this for me."

God bless and take care,
Fr. John

In anticipation of the World Day of the Sick, you are invited to join us next Saturday, February 8 at 11 am at our St. Paul's site for Mass with the anointing of the sick.

The Sacrament of the Sick is for anyone in need of strengthening in body and spirit. These include, but are not limited to, the elderly, those with chronic or serious conditions, anyone preparing for surgery and those experiencing psychological or emotional distress of any kind.

In the Lord's mercy, we are invited to healing and wholeness. Don't miss this opportunity to receive this beautiful sacrament or to accompany friends and family to the Mass who may be in need of the sacrament. A reception will follow.



**Healing Mass with
the Anointing of the Sick
Saturday, February 8, 11am**

Faith Formation Corner

The Presentation of the Lord February 2

At the heart of today's celebration is the encounter of Simeon and Anna with the Christ Child in the Temple. It is in that holy encounter that Jesus' divinity is manifested by a human prophet for the first time. At His birth, the angels proclaimed His divinity to the shepherds, but in the Temple, Simeon was the first to understand and proclaim Jesus as the Savior of the World.

He also prophesied that this salvation would be accomplished by a sword of sorrow that would pierce the Immaculate Heart of Mary. Anna, a prophetess, also came forward and "gave thanks to God and spoke about the child to all who were awaiting the redemption of Jerusalem" (Luke 2:38). Thus, these ritual acts were also a moment in which Jesus' divine mission was made manifest to the world.

"Candlemass" is also a traditional name given to feast because as early as the fifth century, the custom of celebrating this feast with lighted candles developed. The lit candles symbolized Simeon's prophecy that Jesus would be "a light for revelation to the Gentiles." Lastly, this Feast has been referred to as the **"Feast of the Holy Encounter"** because God, in the Person of Jesus, encountered Simeon and Anna in the Temple.

*"God enters the temple not as a powerful ruler but as a little child in his Mother's arms.
The King of glory comes not with a show of human force and power,
not with a great fanfare and noise,
not causing fright and destruction.
He comes into the temple as he came into the world,
as an infant in silence, in poverty,
and in the company of the poor and the wise."*

St. John Paul II

To See ✕ To Love ✕ To Serve

Gospel of Work (In our To Serve category)

What is the Purpose of Work? Why do so many of us struggle to find meaning in our jobs or careers? The Gospel of Work wrestles with the significance of work, and how to find purpose in our work, no matter the field in which we labour. 8 sessions: available through Flocknote - beginning February.

<https://divinemercyparish12.flocknote.com/signup/183788>

To Serve: Ministries In Need

Through Baptism we share in one fundamental vocation — a call to holiness. We are all called to be holy—to know, love, and serve God with our entire being. This happens in our families, in our work, in our communities and in our parish. Divine Mercy Parish offers a number of ministries in service to God's People. Some of those ministries are in need of helping hands and we welcome everyone with a desire to serve Christ. In particular you might consider becoming an Usher at one of our Masses or joining our Sunday Hospitality team or Children's Liturgy of the Word. For Full Descriptions and Easy Sign-up go to the **"To See, To Love, To Serve"** page on our website www.divinemercynl.com/ or use this QR code



Parish Notes & Upcoming Events

Feast of St. Blaise: Blessing of the Throats

February 3 is the Feast of St. Blaise. St. Blaise was martyred in Armenia in 316. As a bishop, St. Blaise worked hard to encourage the spiritual and physical health of his people. One of the most famous stories told about St. Blaise is of a mother who sought help for her young son who had a fish bone lodged in his throat. St. Blaise was able to help the child cough up the bone. St. Blaise is the patron saint of ailments of the throat. A devotion grew of blessing people's throats around the Feast of St. Blaise. Here at Divine Mercy Parish, the blessing of the throats will take place after the daily Masses (9:30am and 7pm) on Monday, February 3.

Visit our website: 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.


2024 Tax Receipts are available for Pick-Up

Tax receipts for donations made to the Parish in 2024 are available for pick up. You will find them in alphabetical order in the foyer of our St. Paul's site. If you cannot locate yours or would like it mailed to you, please contact the Parish Office.

**** Attention **** Would the parishioner using box #220 of Church envelopes please contact the parish office? We need to update your contact information. Thank You.

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Free Online Membership
Promo Code: BlessedMcGivney

St Paul's Council #11776 Information contact:
Bill Aylward, Grand Knight 709 330 1843
Derm Whelan, Membership Director 709 746 5977

PUBLIC PRESENTATION: Medical Assistance in Dying: What's A Catholic To Do?

On **Tuesday, February 11th at 7:00 PM – 8:30 PM**, at **St. Teresa's Church, 120 Mundy Pond Rd. St. John's**, there will be a public presentation entitled, "Medical Assistance in Dying: What's A Catholic to Do?" The presenters will be Dr. Moira McQueen, and Fr. Joseph De Viveiros, CR,

K of C Mid Winter Warm Up Dinner & Dance

The Knights of Columbus (St. Paul's Council 11776) is having a Mid Winter Warm Up Dinner & Dance on Saturday, February 8, 2025. For tickets contact Aneas Decker at 709-725-6341 or 709-727-5288 or Brian Kennedy at 709-727-5288.

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 43 years ago. The service will be held on Wednesday, February 12, 2025 at 1:00 pm at the Basilica of St. John the Baptist. The service will be livestreamed and the link will be posted to the church's website: <https://www.thebasilica.net/live/>

Offertory Collection

Week of January 26

Offertory	\$ 5,344.60
Christmas	\$ 40.00
Initial Offering	\$ 20.00
Dues	\$ 120.00
Food Bank	\$ 1,985.00

*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!*