



# Divine Mercy

## Catholic Church

A Jesuit Parish in St. John's

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

### Mass Intention Week of February 23

#### Monday, February 24

9:30am Claude Moulton +  
Ron Curtis +  
Sally Kelly +

7pm Donald Jones +  
Special Intention (DP)  
Gerard Croke +

#### Tuesday, February 25

9:30am Gerard Fitzpatrick +  
Special Intention (SL)  
Marg Wade +

#### Wednesday, February 26

9:30am Maureen & Arthur Pomeroy +  
Anne Barton +  
Frank Rose +

7pm Dana Brien +  
Sidney Morris +  
Douglas Palmer +

#### Thursday, February 27

9:30am Special Intention (AM)  
Mary Noonan +  
Tom Neary Jr. +

#### Friday, February 28

9:30am Patrick Neary Jr +  
Leo McCann +  
Nancy Walsh +

7pm Erick Chafe +  
Margaret Kavanagh +  
Margaret Frizzell +

**Please Pray for the Recently Deceased:**

### Parish Schedule:

#### Sunday Mass:

Saturday 4:00pm

Sunday 9:00am, 11:00am

Our 11:00am Mass is  
livestreamed on our  
Youtube channel:  
[www.youtube.com/@  
divinemeracy15565](http://www.youtube.com/@divinemeracy15565)

#### Daily Mass:

Monday to Friday 9:30am

Monday, Wednesday &  
Friday 7pm

#### 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@divinemeracy.nl.com](mailto:info@divinemeracy.nl.com)

#### Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament:

Adoration and Benediction  
every Tuesday, 2:00 pm

#### Sacrament of the Sick &

Home Visits: Know

someone in hospital or  
who is homebound?

Arrange a visit: call 709-  
726-9924

### Contact Information:

Divine Mercy Parish, 340A  
Newfoundland Drive, St. John's,  
NL A1A 3R9  
tel. 709-726-9924 email:  
[info@divinemeracy.nl.com](mailto:info@divinemeracy.nl.com)  
[www.divinemeracy.nl.com/](http://www.divinemeracy.nl.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](mailto:john@ekon.ca)  
Tel. 416-417-1513

Associate Pastor:  
Fr. Joe Mroz, S.J.  
email: [ej\\_mroz@yahoo.ca](mailto:ej_mroz@yahoo.ca)

#### Inquiries for Sacrament Preparation and Faith

Formation: email:  
[faith.divinemeracy.nl@gmail.com](mailto:faith.divinemeracy.nl@gmail.com)

# Pastor's Note

The Gospel for Friday's daily Mass was from St. Mark. In the passage, the Lord said, "If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me." We've all heard this countless times; we are quite familiar with it. To prepare for Friday's Mass, I quickly read a commentary on the passage and was surprised to learn Mark's meaning for the word "deny." I have always thought that "to deny" meant something like, to do without. For example, to deny oneself meat of Fridays during Lent. Or, to deny oneself of one's more habitual sinful response or action, such as acting from pride. The word, however, Mark used for "deny" was a legal term meaning "disown." So, the passage with "deny" could literally be read, "let them disown themselves . . . and follow me." A much more demanding call than merely to deny, though that is often hard enough. This original meaning of disowning oneself implies a restoration from our fallen nature to an original innocence in the Garden of Eden before the first sin. When Adam and Eve listened to the tempter, they looked at the forbidden fruit of the tree of knowledge and, in a way, said "Mine!" They put themselves before God.

In this Sunday's first reading from the First Book of Samuel, we hear of the story of David and Saul. David was Saul's loyal soldier. Fighting for Saul and Israel, David miraculously defeated Goliath. Saul was ecstatic until he heard more people cheering for David than for himself. He became jealous and threatened and so sought to unjustly kill David. One night, David silently crept to where Saul was sleeping. Rather than

## Mass of Loving Gratitude at St. Francis of Assisi

As you will already know, Divine Mercy Parish has not renewed the lease on St. Francis of Assisi Church.

This Sunday, February 23 at 10 am there will be a Mass of Loving Gratitude at St. Francis of Assisi Church. For those who are unable to be there in person, the Mass will be livestreamed. The Heritage Committee with the town has arranged this and it will be on the town website. This link for the St. Francis of Assisi Mass of Loving Gratitude is:

<https://tom0349.wixsite.com/streamingservices/stfrancisofassisi>

than take his revenge on Saul and declare himself king, David took Saul's spear to show he remained David's king. Saul's life remained precious to David because Saul, as king, had been anointed by God. Saul was God's choice. David did not look down on a sleeping Saul and say, "Mine!" but said "Yours!" Saul was God's anointed; he was placed as king by God himself. Therefore, David obeyed God's will and the order God had imposed on Israel.

There are so many times in every day in which I'm tempted to speak, act or respond by "Mine!" Tempted to put my wants and desires before the care and concern of others. Tempted to make myself the king of my life instead of giving loving obedience to Christ the King. To disown oneself is a preceding action to the main event. And that main event is to receive. God doesn't desire that we disown in order to live empty-handed. Our disowning is an act of desire and love. It is the result of a conscious decision. We each become clear as to what or who we want – We want God. Our lives, our thoughts, words and actions, our world, even our Church, when we look upon them, we try not to say, "Mine!" but "Yours!" We disown in order to receive, to receive God himself. As Paul writes, "Just as we have borne the image of the one of dust, we will also bear the image of the one of heaven."

God bless and take care,  
Fr. John

## Revised Mass Schedule for Divine Mercy Parish:

With the transition into a one-site parish, there are a few changes to our regular Mass schedule. Please note the following:

- As of this weekend there will no longer be a Sunday 4pm Mass in the Parish (previously celebrated at St. Francis of Assisi)
- The Wednesday evening 7pm Mass (previously celebrated at St. Francis of Assisi) will now be celebrated at our St. Paul's site at 340A Newfoundland Drive.

For the full Mass schedule, please see the front of today's bulletin.

# Faith Formation Corner

## Ash Wednesday: March 5 Lent Begins

The season of Lent begins with Ash Wednesday on March 5, 2025. This is a time when we prepare our hearts for the celebration of Easter, the resurrection of our Lord, Jesus Christ.

### Ash Wednesday Mass Schedule March 5, 2025

9:30 am 5:00 pm 7:00 pm

Ashes will be distributed at all of our Masses

### Fasting & Abstinence

As Catholics we are aware of the practices of fasting and of abstinence. Fasting is about how much or how little food we take in over a period of time. Abstinence has to do with the kinds of foods we deny ourselves (e.g. meat, chocolate). Fasting for religious purposes is a practice of self-discipline and has a long tradition in the Church. It is used as an aid to concentration in prayer and it also helps develop a sensitivity to those in need. As a Church abstinence calls us (aged 14 years or older) to refrain from the eating of meat. Fasting allows only 1 full meal a day but does not prohibit taking some food in the morning and the evening. In addition, eating between meals is prohibited. Fasting applies to those between the ages of 18 – 59 (those with medical conditions are exempt). In Canada Ash Wednesday and Good Friday are the required days of fasting and abstinence.

### Are You Ready for Lent?

Sometimes we can see Lent a liturgical season to dread. We focus on “What am I going to give up?” “How long can I live without whatever it is I am going to give up?” “How many more days before I don’t have to give up whatever it is that I am giving up?” Who wouldn’t dread a season with such a narrow focus? Truly, this can’t be it. Lent is so much more. It is an opportunity for spiritual growth and renewal, The real purpose of Lent, the real power that Lent is the potential for a deeper commitment to our Catholic faith, and most important, a deeper communion of love with God. Are you ready for it? See the list of Lenten activities happening in the parish and save the dates and sign up for what you would like to join. Watch for upcoming Bulletins for more information and details!

To See ✠ To Love ✠ To Serve

## Lenten Events & Prayer Opportunities at Divine Mercy Parish

### Stations of the Cross

#### Fridays throughout Lent:

March 7, 14, 21, 28, April 4 & 11

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

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

### Novena of Grace

#### March 4 to 12

*On Flocknote, as well as hardcopies available from the Welcome kiosk in the foyer.*

This powerful novena is nine days of prayer in the company of St. Francis Xavier through the letters he wrote. Our Novena will include three short talks by Fr. John on March 6<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> at 6:15pm. The talks will be livestreamed for those who are unable to join us in the church. Sign up through Flocknote:

<https://divinemercuryparish12.flocknote.com/signup/186766>

### Lectio Divina Through Lent

*(In our To Love category)*

*Lectio divina* (“divine, or sacred reading”) is a method of attentively and prayerfully reading the Word of God. Enter into the beauty and depth God’s Word through prayer.

Available on Sundays during Lent through Flocknote:

<https://divinemercuryparish12.flocknote.com/signup/186600>

### Divine Mercy Parish Lenten Mission

March 28-30

With Fr. Scott Lewis, S.J.

Director of **Catholic Studies**, at **Campion College**,  
**University of Regina**

Fr. Scott Lewis is a Jesuit priest who spent almost 25 years teaching the New Testament at Regis College in Toronto, and as Director at the Jesuit Retreat House, Manresa, in Pickering, before moving to Campion College in Regina. Some of you will know Fr. Scott from his regular column for the Catholic Register. You won’t want to miss what promises to be an engaging Mission. Fr. Scott’s favorite saying: “*Bidden or unbidden, God will be present.*” More information in next week’s bulletin. **So Save the dates!**

# Parish Notes & Upcoming Events

## Prayers for Pope Francis:

As many of you will have heard in the news, Pope Francis has been in hospital for more than a week now after falling ill with pneumonia. We keep him in our prayers with all those who are ill and struggling with health issues. We pray that he will know God's providence and consolation in this time of illness.

## 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.

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.

### Save the Dates:

**Two Lenten Retreats for the Jubilee Year  
St. John The Baptist Cathedral Basilica Parish**

### Known & Loved

Women's Lenten Mission  
April 11 & 12, 2025

Women Ages 19+, Cost: Freewill Offering  
Guest Speaker: Angele Regnier

Angele is co-founder with her husband Andre of Catholic Christian Outreach (CCO) bringing young adult Catholic missionaries to the University campuses across Canada.

### Behold the Man (John 19:5)

April 4, 7pm – April 5 8:30am-5pm  
Men Ages 19+, Cost: Freewill Offering  
Speaker: Brett Powell

Brett is the Archbishop's Delegate of Development and Ministries for the Archdiocese of Vancouver. He has spent over 25 years fostering skills in leadership, organizational development, mission, and a passion for helping others thrive in their roles at home, work and ministry.

Register for the retreats online at [www.thebasilica.church](http://www.thebasilica.church) or at the Parish office 709-754-2170 or by email [basilica@rcsj.org](mailto:basilica@rcsj.org)

## Knights of Columbus:

The EP Roche 4th Degree of the Knights of Columbus Assembly will hold its monthly meeting in the foyer of St. Paul's on Thursday 27 February at 7pm. We begin with the Rosary followed by a guest speaker (not yet confirmed) and our business meeting. All Knights and parishioners are invited to attend. The Business meeting is for members only.

## SPECIAL SEMINARIAN STUDIES COLLECTION: March 1<sup>st</sup> – 2<sup>nd</sup> 2025

We are blessed to have three men presently studying for the priesthood at St. Augustine's Seminary in Toronto. However, the cost to the Archdiocese for the studies of each seminarian for this academic year will be in excess of fifty thousand dollars (\$50,000.00) for a total cost of over one hundred and fifty thousand dollars (\$150,000.00). To assist in covering these costs, a special "Seminarman Studies Collection" is being taken up in all the parishes of the Archdiocese on the weekend of March 1<sup>st</sup> – 2<sup>nd</sup>. Envelopes marked "Seminarman Studies Collection" will be distributed to each parish for use in this collection.

Donations can also be made online at [www.rcsj.org](http://www.rcsj.org) (click on the "donate" header and in completing the donation form, indicate that your donation is to "Seminarman Studies"). Your financial assistance in paying the costs of preparing these men for priesthood in our Archdiocese is greatly appreciated.

## Offertory Collection

### Week of February 16

Offertory	\$ 4,565.16
Initial Offering	\$ 15.00
Food Bank	\$ 197.00
Christmas Offering	\$ 20.00
New Year's Offering	\$ 10.00

*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!*