



# Divine Mercy



## Catholic Church

A Jesuit Parish in St. John's

To See ✠ To Love ✠ To Serve

2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Lent: March 16, 2025

### Mass Intention Week of March 16

#### Monday, March 17

9:30am Melinda & Gerald Doyle +  
Special Intention (RC)  
George & Mary Dalton +  
7pm Special Intention (Y & J)  
John Ryan +  
Gerald Fitzgerald +

#### Tuesday, March 18

9:30am Special Intention (DF)  
Denis Langille +  
Special Intention (HH)

#### Wednesday, March 19

9:30am Tom Bailey +  
Adrian Battcock +  
Mary & William White +  
7pm Michael & Mollie Evans +  
Rosemary Rose +  
Morgan Hinchey +

#### Thursday, March 20

9:30am Walter Vere Holloway +  
Leo Giovannini +  
Pam Rose +

#### Friday, March 21

9:30am Ruby Sharpe +  
Cyril Clancy +  
Patrick Walsh +  
7pm Anne Hart +  
Special Intention (MP)  
Paul Foley +

### 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/@divinemercury15565](http://www.youtube.com/@divinemercury15565)

**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: email [info@divinemercury.nl.com](mailto:info@divinemercury.nl.com)

#### Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament:

Adoration and Benediction every Tuesday, 2:00 pm.

### Contact Information:

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

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.divinemercury.nl@gmail.com](mailto:faith.divinemercury.nl@gmail.com)

*Please Pray for the Recently Deceased:  
Mary Catherine Roche, Susan Bambrick, Gabe Salizar*

# Pastor's Note

Suffering for the sake of the Kingdom of God is an unmoveable part of living the Christian faith. Despite this, often times I can try and avoid it. I put myself first; I surrender to temptation; I put my faith in a lock box until the next time I have to say Mass; or, I refuse to relinquish grievances rather than to forgive. Believe me, the list could go on. Those times, however, when I don't avoid suffering for God's Kingdom, I am always surprised and confused by the presence of the Cross. Perhaps, you too are similar in the surprise and confusion? Yet, when we think or pray about it, why should we be surprised and why does it fail to make sense to our minds? We bear the name of "Christian." We are followers of Jesus Christ. This means we share in his life as the Crucified One, that is, we share too in his sufferings. Why should the Lord's treatment be different than ours, his followers? In Lent, we are emptying ourselves so that he may be stronger in us. We are tired of fleeing Gethsemane and now, surprisingly, want to be found underneath his Cross.

Saint Paul's *Letter to the Philippians* speaks of "enemies of the Cross of Christ." If there is an identification none of us would ever like to be known by, this is it – an enemy of the Cross of Christ! The Crucifixion presents perfect love. It enfleshes, makes visible God's desire for each person. It reveals how and why we are loved. We are loved by an eternal love because we are everything to him. Therefore, to be identified through his Cross instead of its enemy, is to love as God loves. Relying on his grace, our life is now to love eternally, to love when love is not returned, to love when it hurts, to love when love isn't wanted, in short, to love no matter the cost. Identifying oneself with the Cross of Christ means "thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven." And our "citizenship is in heaven."

God bless and take care,

Fr. John

**Join us for our  
Lenten Parish Mission**

**My God, My Mercy**

**March 25, 26 & 27 6pm**

**Mission Speaker: Fr. John Sullivan, S.J.**

The mission will be livestreamed each evening  
on our YouTube channel:  
[www.youtube.com/@divinemeracy15565](http://www.youtube.com/@divinemeracy15565)

The final evening will also include our Lenten Reconciliation Service. Several Priests will be available for individual confessions. Come, experience once again, the mercy and forgiveness of the Father.

## Altar of Repose Signup Sheet:

At the end of the Holy Thursday Mass the Blessed Sacrament is carried in procession through the church. The church is emptied of the Eucharist which is carried and placed in an Altar of Repose. We then enter a period of solemnity and adoration before the Eucharist. Throughout the Easter Triduum, the Altar of Response will be available for all who wish to spend time with the Blessed Sacrament as follows:

**Holy Thursday: Following the Mass at 7pm**

**Good Friday: From 10 am**

**On Holy Saturday: From 10am**

We would like to ensure that the Blessed Sacrament is accompanied throughout this sacred time. You can sign up on the sheet in the foyer or contact us by calling 709-726-9924 or email [info@divinemeracy1.com](mailto:info@divinemeracy1.com) and let us know when and for how long you will be present.

## To See ✠ To Love ✠ To Serve

*The parish offers different opportunities throughout the year to grow in love and keep Christ at the center of our lives. To See, To Love, To Serve, encourages us all to keep the fire of discipleship growing through the deepening of our understanding, our prayer and our serving. Beginning this week, we will include a four-week cycle of exploring a different aspect of Catholic Faith through the lens of Seeing, Loving and Serving. We begin with the topic of Mercy.*

In his recent Address to British Parliament, Bishop Robert Barron spoke on the theme of the “Rhythm of God’s Mercy.” In looking at the divine attribute of mercy, Bishop Barron defines mercy as “graciousness shown to someone who doesn’t deserve it.” Bishop Barron points out that God’s mercy does not do away with the demands of justice, rather, it is graciousness shown to someone who does not deserve it, and in fact, in the face of sin and brokenness. “It is something truly divine.” The Rhythm of mercy begins with the fact mercy comes first (i.e. the primacy of grace). But then, the experience of mercy received gives rise to love. Our love, then received by another is experienced as mercy, which then goes on to give rise to love, and on and on. Let’s explore.

From the beginning, God’s divine mercy for his children, for his creation is shown, as is His invitation to enter the rhythm of His divine mercy. In the Old Testament, God’s mercy is seen in both small and mighty ways: in the very act of creation; in God’s continually call to attend to the widow, the orphan and the stranger; through God’s faithfulness to the people of Israel - even when they stray and turn from His love, the Lord calls his people back and promises redemption. In all of this, mercy and justice are not in opposition. As the great Pope, St. John Paul II wrote, “Mercy differs from justice, but is not in opposition to it, if we admit in the history of man... the presence of God, who already as Creator has linked Himself to His creature with a particular love.”

In the New Testament, Jesus, is the very incarnation of God’s mercy. In one of his earliest Encyclicals (Dives in Misericordia – Rich in Mercy, 1980) St. John Paul II wrote, It is "God, who is rich in mercy" whom Jesus Christ has revealed to us as Father: it is His very Son who, in Himself, has manifested Him and made Him known to us. (DM 1) Jesus does this his words and deeds, but most clearly in his very self and the complete giving of himself for love of humanity through his Cross, death and resurrection.

St. John Paul goes on to look at the parable of the Prodigal Son as an especially clear and vivid analogy of God’s mercy for humanity. The parable found in chapter 14 of Luke’s Gospel, tells of a father who has two sons, the younger of whom asks and is given his half of his father’s estate and goes off to waste it in dissolute living. He then finds himself in poverty and famine - hungry and alone. Coming to his senses, “to himself” as the Gospel reports, he recognizes his sinfulness and “he realizes that he no longer has the right except to be an employee in his father’s house. His decision is taken in full

consciousness of what he has deserved and of what he can still have a right to in accordance with the norms of justice.” (DM, 5)

Here, in his teaching on the parable, the Pope highlights the father’s interruption of the son, the refusal of the father to even hear that the son is no longer his son. It is this ‘interruption’ the is the focus of the parable, that is the illustration of God’s divine mercy for his children. Because the Father remains the father, we cannot be other, than his sons and daughters. In his fidelity to who He is, we receive our identity as his beloved children, for which nothing can make that no so. This interruption does not do away with justice but rather anchors it in the depth of the father’s love and recognizes the dignity of the son despite his sin.

This ‘interruption’ of the God’s mercy over transgression, is lifted high in the Crucifixion and resurrection of Christ and the salvation it brings. “In Jesus’ crucifixion, justice is simultaneously fulfilled and revealed by a deeper love: “The divine dimension of redemption is put into effect not only by bringing justice to bear upon sin, but also by restoring to love that creative power [in humanity] in which he once more has access to the fullness of life and holiness that come from God. In this way, redemption involves the revelation of mercy in its fullness.” (DM, 7)

This gift of mercy calls out for a clear and unequivocal response. Not only are we compelled in response by the truth “that He has loved us first” (1 John 4:19) but by the merciful grace that in the Incarnation of Jesus, not only does God save, but in doing so, He draws humanity itself into the divine life and we are commissioned into the holy work of sanctifying the world. And here, we see, the “rhythm of mercy.” That in having God’s divine mercy poured into us through Christ, we too are to be guided by God’s love and mercy. As children, we are the image and likeness of our Father who did not spare himself out of love. We too are called to respond to love, to forgive, to reconcile, to ‘interrupt’ the blurring of His image through sin, so that others may know that love as mercy.

Watch the full Bishop Robert Barron’s Full address:  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SOg7LqPdrGk>

Read St John Paul’ II’s Rich in Mercy:  
[https://www.vatican.va/content/john-paul-ii/en/encyclicals/documents/hf\\_jp-ii\\_enc\\_30111980\\_dives-in-misericordia.html](https://www.vatican.va/content/john-paul-ii/en/encyclicals/documents/hf_jp-ii_enc_30111980_dives-in-misericordia.html)

# Parish Notes & Upcoming Events

**Meet Jesus on the Way!**  
**Join the community in prayer.**

**Stations of the Cross**

**Fridays: Mar 21, 28, April 4 & 11**

**5pm to 5:45 pm:** gather for a hot bowl of soup

**6pm:** Stations of the Cross in the church

## Word on Fire's Pivotal Players Series on the Saints:

*St. Benedict of Nursia: March 19*

*St. Thomas Aquinas: March 26*

*St. Francis of Assisi: April 2*

The Series, from Word on Fire's **Pivotal Players** will be available through our Flocknote on Wednesdays beginning March 19. Sign up by clicking on this link:

<https://divinemercuryparish12.flocknote.com/signup/202066>

## The Church is Open for Private Prayer:

Divine Mercy Parish is open daily throughout Lent for private prayer and personal Stations of the Cross.

The Parish Office will be close, Monday, March 17 for the St. Patrick's Day Holiday. Our Mass Schedule for the day, with Masses at 9:30 am and 7pm will go on as usual. Have a wonderful St. Patrick's Day!

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

**Known & Loved:** Women's Lenten Mission, April 11 & 12, Women Ages 19+, Cost: Freewill Offering. Guest Speaker: Angele Regnier

**Behold the Man (John 19:5)** Men's Retreat: April 4, 7pm – April 5 8:30am-5pm. Men Ages 19+, Cost: Freewill Offering. Speaker: Brett Powell

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 Tuesday, March 25 at 7:30pm. We begin with the Rosary followed by a guest speaker Tim Turner from the T.I. Murphy Center and our business meeting. All Knights and parishioners are invited to attend. The Business meeting is for members only.

## Catholic Women's League:

Are you interested in a way to act on important social justice issues by adding your voice to many throughout the country? Come join us for our March General Meeting of the Divine Mercy Council of the Catholic Women's League scheduled for Sunday, March 16<sup>th</sup> at 2:00 p.m. in the Church foyer. All women of the parish are invited to attend the meeting. A social will follow the meeting.

## Legion of Mary:

The Legion of Mary will hold their annual Acies ceremony for all Active and Auxiliary members at St. Kevin's Church on Sunday, March 23rd at 2:30 p.m. All are welcome to attend. We would appreciate all prayers for the Legion of Mary as well.

Visit our website: [www.divinemercurynl.com/](http://www.divinemercurynl.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.

## Offertory Collection Week of March 9

Offertory	\$5593.00
Ash Wednesday	\$2122.00
Initial Offering	\$ 30.00
Food Bank	\$ 70.00
Seminarian Studies	\$ 700.00

*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!*