

Pastor's Note

One of the more surprising aspects of the Christian faith I encountered when I entered the Jesuits was the importance of friendships within the context of a shared faith. Growing up in the late 1970s and 80s the role of friendships and faith was not so central. I remember when the practice of shaking hands at the "Sign of Peace" became more a part of the Mass. My family would try and choose a pew that was towards the back and sit in the middle. This way, we would end up just shaking each other's hands. (What can I say, I come from a shy family). Entering the Jesuits, I was exposed to how Saint Ignatius of Loyola referred to fellow Jesuits. He called them "friends in the Lord." I was immediately attracted to this phrase. There was something about it that I both knew was true and was something I wanted.

The world in which we live, the Western World, has been described as post-Christian. This doesn't mean our faith has disappeared or is disappearing, rather it admits that our culture no longer shares the Christian values it once did. It also means that the practice and encouragement to practice one's faith is not nearly as strong. One can feel a loneliness in one's faith. Perhaps one finds oneself the only member of one's family who still goes to church? Maybe one's friends sort of look at you sideways when they hear of your faith practice? If we don't foster friendships and a sense of community, if we don't enjoy "friends in the Lord," we are depriving

ourselves of something vital, of something God wills and desires us to have.

In the Second Reading from Saint Paul's Letter to Philemon, we hear him speaking tenderly of a good friend in faith. He calls Onesimus, his disciple and friend, his child. He describes him as "my own heart." And he asks the people to accept and treat Onesimus as if they were accepting and treating St. Paul. The sense of being on Christian mission, of living our faith in our minds and hearts, and in the world most often requires the cultivation and formation of Christian friendships. We need support and encouragement. For example, at our first parish BBQ, I remember the couple who were new to Newfoundland and the parish. They didn't know anyone. At the BBQ, however, they met another couple in a similar boat. They became the godparents to each other's children. We need the formation our friendships can provide. For example, hearing a group of parishioners reflect on the Gospel after having watched an episode of The Chosen. Or, seeing two parishioners share with each other their labour of love in making rosaries. One of the things I'm most grateful for at our new parish is how the community has come together and seems to be giving us all life. We are becoming a community of "friends in the Lord."

God bless and take care,
Fr. John



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To See To Love To Serve

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.

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 faith growing through the deepening of our understanding, our prayer and our serving. We have some amazing opportunities planned for year, with something for everyone.

A full calendar and brochure with descriptions
will be coming soon.
Watch and listen for details.

Divine Mercy Parish September at a Glance:

Feasts in September:

- September 8: Feast of the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary
- September: St. Peter Claver (Jesuit saint)
- September 12: Feast of The Most Holy Name of the Blessed Virgin Mary
- September 14: The Solemnity of the Exaltation of the Cross
- September 15: Feast of Our Lady of Sorrows
- September 26: Feast of the Canadian Martyrs
- September 29: Feast of Saints Michael, Gabriel & Raphael, Archangels

September 13: Parish BBQ 12pm to 3pm

September 17-25:

The novena to the Canadian Martyrs (available on Flocknote:
<https://divinemercyparish12.flocknote.com/signup/225307>

We will also have some paper copies available next week.

Divine Mercy Parish Sacrament Preparation for Children Age 7 +



Reconciliation

Preparation Program
October-November 2025

Confirmation

Preparation Program
January-February 2026

Holy Eucharist

Preparation Program
February-March 2026



For More info or to register:

www.divinemercynl.com

“See what the Father has given us, that we should be called children of God; and that is what we are.”

1 John 3:1

Preparing for the Sacraments:

Calling Parents of Children of Sacramental Age: 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 Confirmation and First Holy Communion and Reconciliation. Register online by going to our website at www.divinemercynl.com/ or calling the Parish Office at 709-726 9924 or email us at info@divinemercynl.com

Perhaps you, or someone you know is considering becoming a Roman Catholic. The [Rite of Catholic Initiation for Adults](#) or RCIA is for you. The RCIA offers a communal program of preparation for those considering the Sacraments of Initiation (Baptism, Confirmation & the Eucharist) and Reception into the Roman Catholic Community. Adults normally receive the sacraments of Initiation at the Easter Vigil. If you would like to know more, please email us at info@divinemercynl.com

Parish Notes

& Upcoming Events

Divine Mercy Parish BBQ

Saturday, September 13

12pm to 3pm

On the grounds, behind the church
340 Newfoundland Drive

(In case of rain: in the school gym, access
through the church foyer)



- * Basketball shootout * Hockey shootout *
- * Bean bag toss * 3-legged races
- * Games for all ages!

We'll supply the hot dogs and hamburgers.
Donations of sweets and sides are greatly appreciated.

Please let us know if you will join us!

You can help us know how many to plan for by letting us if you and your family will join us for the BBQ. Speak with Anna today after Mass or call the Parish Office during the week: 709-726-9924

If you would like to help in planning and preparing for the BBQ, or running some of the games, please call the parish office at 709-726-9924 or speak to Anna today.

Children's Liturgy of the Word

A worship experienced geared to children, this ministry has become a wonderful and vital ministry at the 11am Sunday Mass in our parish. Our normal schedule of alternate Sundays begins again next Sunday, September 14.

Centre for Life Walk for Life /Family Fun Day

September 20 9am to 2pm

Where: Divine Mercy Parish Time

The Centre for Life invites you to attend the Walk for Life /Family Fun Day in support of the work of the Centre. There will be live music, face painting, games, and a BBQ. Sponsor sheets are available, or a donation can be made. Call 709-579-1500 or email centreforlife@centreforlife.ca for details.

Grand in Your Hand Winner:

The winner of the Knights of Columbus Grand in your Hand prize for August is Keith Kent. Ticket # 00170

Pilgrim Image of the Divine Mercy

The parish has travelling image that may be hosted weekly in the homes of parishioners. The image is a framed picture approximately 16x20 inches and includes reading materials, the Diary of St. Faustina, and holy cards of the Divine Mercy. If you would like to host the pilgrim image of the Divine Mercy in your home for a week, please text 709-770-3873 or email d.m.pilgrim.image@gmail.com

Knights of Columbus:

Knights of Columbus 4th Degree meets September 18 t at 7pm in the church foyer. Please attend and welcome our 12 new members. Guest Speaker is Paul Davis from the Gathering Place.

Are You Called? Come and See

On Saturday September 27th, a Vocation Awareness Day for Priesthood and Consecrated life will be held at St. John the Baptist Basilica—Cathedral from 9am–2pm. The day will begin at 9am with a Jubilee Mass for Vocations to the Priesthood and Consecrated Life. All are invited to attend this Mass to pray for vocations. For men and women interested in learning more about discerning a call to the priesthood and consecrated life, presentations, discussion, and lunch will follow until 2pm. There is no cost, but registration is requested in order to prepare adequately for food. For more information or to register, please contact Fr. James Fleming at vocations@rcsj.org or (709) 834-9481.