



Divine Mercy

Catholic Church

A Jesuit Parish in St. John's



To See ✠ To Love ✠ To Serve

The Third Sunday of Advent: December 14, 2025

Mass Intention Week of December 14

Monday, December 15

9:30am Ruby Sharpe +
Eliabeth & James Byrne +
Special Intention (PS)
Robert McGrath +

6:30pm Simbang Gabi/Christmas Novena Intentions

Tuesday, December 16

9:30am John, Anne & John Kenny, Jr. +
Mary Boland +
Joe & Helen Coady +
Peter Hanlon +

6:30pm Simbang Gabi/Christmas Novena Intentions

Wednesday, December 17

9:30am Marilyn Lawlor +
Tom & Elizabeth Lawlor +
Albert & Marie Button +
Sandi Noseworthy +

6:30pm Simbang Gabi/Christmas Novena Intentions

Thursday, December 18

9:30am Parrell Family +
Roche Lambe +
Philip Flynn +
Eric Hayden +

6:30pm Simbang Gabi/Christmas Novena Intentions

Friday, December 19

9:30am William & Ann Short +
Mary C. Roche +
Rita Wilkinson +
Patricia Hanlon +

6:30pm Simbang Gabi/Christmas Novena Intentions

Please Pray for the Recently Deceased:

Parish Schedule:

Sunday Mass:

Saturday 4:00pm Sunday 9:00am & 11:00am

Daily Mass: Monday to Friday 9:30am
Monday, Wednesday & Friday 7pm

Sacrament of Reconciliation:

Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays: 8:30 to 9:15 am;
Fridays 6:30pm
Saturdays 3-3:45pm
By appointment: email info@divinemercynl.com

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament:

Holy Hour every weekday after the 9:30am Mass
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@divinemercynl.com
www.divinemercynl.com/

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

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

Offertory Collection Week of December 7

Offertory	\$ 6,201
Christmas Offering	\$ 35
Flowers	\$ 945
Food Bank	\$ 480
Christmas Hampers	\$ 485

E-transfers can be made through dmparishnl@outlook.com
(Please include your name and
indicate what the E-transfer is for)
Thank you for your generosity. God Bless!

Pastor's Note

Growing up, the four weeks of Advent felt so long. With a child's excitement for Christmas growing each day, the four candles stood as sentries to the long wait. My experience now, however, is the opposite. Advent does not drag on, rather it seems to race by. Advent began with good intentions. One may have hoped that this year "I really want to prepare. Maybe more prayer or at least a more consistent prayer." Another may have intended to relish more the waiting, deepening one's thirst for God – "As the deer longs for running streams, so God does my heart long for you" (Ps 42). The plan is that Christmas will not "just happen" this year. I think to myself that I will be fully prepared to receive his return in glory and majesty; fully grateful to receive the gift of his first coming at Bethlehem; and fully free to accept his coming in my daily life. As usual, my plans did not work-out exactly (meaning not at all) as I had hoped.

Entering the third week of Advent, I still feel unprepared to welcome him as I should. My faith and life remain imperfect and messy. In some ways, my inclination is to ask the Lord to come back later, to give me more time to get things ready, that is, to get myself ready. But then there is the growing awareness – No matter how long I delay, I will never be fully prepared to receive him as the Father's gift. What then are we to do?

I remember once praying Saint Ignatius' "Contemplation on the Nativity" in the *Spiritual Exercises*. Ignatius gives the retreatant the following instruction: "I will make myself a poor, little, and unworthy slave, gazing at them, contemplating them and serving them in their needs, just as if I were there, with all possible respect and reverence." And so, I imagined myself to have been someone without a home whom Mary and Joseph had welcomed into their family. At the scene of the Nativity, I looked around and saw the different animals. I could hear their typical sounds and smell their accompanying odors. After his birth, Mary, as a new mother, held the baby Jesus in her arms. Always looking at him, always loving him. Mary then gave the baby to Joseph and he did the same. Joseph returned the Lord to his mother and then she looked at me and extended her arms, offering the child to me. One may think I would have been moved to great consolation by Mary's offer, but the truth was that I wanted to runaway at that instant. I thought to myself, "There is no way I will hold my Lord and God in my arms. I know the thoughts I've had, the words I've spoken and the things I've done. It would be wrong, disrespectful and irreverent for me to hold him." But Mary would not be denied. She insisted I take him. I probably held the Lord awkwardly, not having too much familiarity

with infants. Not wanting to "break" this little and fragile thing, I held him most tentatively. And then I looked at his face and eyes. I saw something I did not expect. I saw joy and delight. I saw love. I saw something completely incomprehensible – God was where he wanted to be, in my arms. I realized that God could have been anywhere, but the one place in all Creation he wanted to be was to be held by me (and you). I wasn't prepared to hold him. My life was and is still messy. But God has made his perfect choice. In his eternal love, he has chosen me and you. The remaining days of Advent may be racing by, we can, however, yet prepare. We can, with all our imperfections, faults and failings, and all the things we wish were different about us, choose him because he has already chosen us. We can hold him because he is already holding us. And it is what he wants and desires.

God bless and take care,

Fr. John

Divine Mercy Parish Christmas Schedule

Christmas Eve:
December 24

5pm, 7pm & 9pm

Christmas Day:
December 25

**9am (St. Francis, 29
Outer Cove)**

**11am
(340A Newfoundland Dr.)**

Feast of the Holy Family:
December 28

**Saturday 4pm
Sunday 9am & 11am**

Feast of Mary, Mother of God
December 31 5pm
January 1 10am



To See ✠ To Love ✠ To Serve

To See:

Word on Fire: THE EUCHARIST

Discover a deeper understanding of the Eucharist – the Source and Summit of our Christian Life!

6 sessions available through our Flocknote

Wednesdays in January: Begins January 7, 2026

divinemerccyparish12.flocknote.com/signup/230081

The CHOSEN

Season 5: 8 Episodes

Begins, Thursday, January 22, 2026

Available through our Flocknote

Or in person Thursdays following the 9:30am Mass

divinemerccyparish12.flocknote.com/signup/227376

Missed Seasons 1-4? Let us know and we'll catch you up!

To Serve:

Liturgy of the Word with Children

In January 2026, this ministry will expand by taking place at the 9am Mass as well the 11am. Interested in sharing your creativity and joy in faith – join this dynamic team. Call the parish office or speak with our coordinator, Averil Nunes or a member of our LWC team after Mass today!

Baptism Preparation Ministry:

Discover the beauty of sharing the faith with parents preparing for the baptism of their children. The parish provides the material and program and Robyn Noseworthy, our Baptism Coordinator, will guide you through the process. We are looking for people who would like to take part in the pre-baptism meeting, as well as individuals interested in setting up and helping at Baptisms in the parish. Contact the parish office today for more details.

To Love:

Simbang Gabi: Christmas Novena

December 15 to 23



'Simbang Gabi' is Filipino for 'Night Mass' a beautiful 9-day series of Masses in anticipation of Christmas. The Novena will take place at 6:30 pm each evening from December 15 to 23. The Masses will also be livestreamed. Find us on Youtube: www.youtube.com/@divinemerccyparish12

Children's Liturgy of the Word

Begins at the 9am in January 2025

A worship experience geared to children; this ministry is a wonderful and vital ministry in the parish. It currently takes place every other Sunday at the 11 am Mass throughout the year. In January this ministry will be extended to our 9am Sunday Mass as well.

Ignatian Spiritual Exercises Retreat in Everyday Life

Becoming an Easter People: Considering the Joy of the Lord

Deepen your experience of the Resurrection through Ignatian prayer. Framed by the *Spiritual Exercises* of St. Ignatius of Loyola, this 12-week at home retreat offers a journey of spiritual renewal, focusing on the joy and hope found in Christ's victory over death. **The Retreat begins the week of January 11, 2026.**

The Retreat consists of:

- Daily Prayer –guided by the retreat text "Becoming an Easter People" by Fr. Joseph Tetlow, S.J.
- Presentations on the *Spiritual Exercises* available through Youtube.
- Small Group Faith Sharing

Cost: \$55 to cover the price of the Retreat Manual. However, if you would like to use the manual and return it at the end of the retreat we will waive the cost and provide you with a notebook for your prayer notes.

Sign up through flocknote:

<https://divinemerccyparish12.flocknote.com/signup/237906>

or email Anna at faith.divinemerccynl@gmail.com

Notes & Upcoming Events



Thank You to everyone who helped make our Christmas Bazaar such a fun and successful event. There was a great spirit of friendship and generosity, and we are grateful to everyone who took part.

We sold 2,274 tickets of our 50/50 Raffle generating at total of \$ 11,370. The Jackpot, \$5,685, was won by Robin Moore, Ticket #00096. Congratulations!

We also congratulate George Fowler, winner of the gift basket (ticket #593335)

We raised \$5,508 from sales at our Bazaar. This and the proceeds from our 50/50 Raffle mean that we raised a total of \$11,193 for the parish through your generosity and good work. Special thanks to everyone who baked and donated goods, and to those who volunteered and took leadership in the coordination, setting up and clean up for the event. We really could not have done it without you!

??Which Mass should I attend this Christmas??

We are expecting a large crowd at our 5pm Mass on Christmas Eve, with many visitors and families with young children. (We have the gym reserved with livestream for the overflow). Come early if you want a seat in the church.

The 7pm, 9pm 11pm can all expect good turnouts, but a little lighter in attendance as the night progresses. If you are looking for a less crowded, more peaceful Mass, one of these may be a good choice. Christmas Day Masses should be well attended, but a little less crowded and more relaxed. *Choose the Mass that is best for you.*

Pick Up Our Parish Christmas Schedule

Copies of our Christmas Schedule are available for pick up this weekend. They are printed in bookmark form, making them easy to hold onto, post or share with family and friends.

Usher's Schedules:

The Usher's Christmas Schedule and the new Schedule for 2026 are now available. Please pick up your copy today.

Please Pick up Your 2026 Parish Envelops:

Donation Envelopes for 2026 are available for pick up in the foyer. If your box is missing, or you would like to register for a box, please see us in the Parish Office and we will assist you. Thank you.

ADVENT DAY OF REFLECTION AT THE BASILICA

On **Saturday, December 20**, there will be a **day of reflection at the Basilica** in preparation for Christmas. It is a good time to get away from the busy times of preparation, even for a half hour.

- **Rosary before 9 am Mass**
- **Adoration in the main body of the Church: 9:30 am to 4:30 pm**
- **Divine Mercy Chaplet at 2:30 pm**
- **Confessions 11 am to noon; 1 to 2 pm; 3 to 4 pm**

Presentation Sisters Anniversary:

Christmas Eve 2025 marks the 250th anniversary of the founding of the Presentation Sisters in Ireland by the Venerable Nano Nagle in 1775. At the time, British Law governed Ireland, denying Catholics and other "dissenters" the right to practice their faith, vote, own property or establish schools. For 250 years, the Presentation Sisters have ministered throughout the world, working to combat injustice by providing education as a path out of poverty and oppression. Here in Newfoundland & Labrador, the Sisters and Associates join this year-long celebration with gratitude for the legacy of those who arrived in 1833—the first Presentation foundation outside of Ireland. Their courage and compassion continue to inspire communities, shaping lives through education, faith and service.

Launch of the 250th Anniversary will be livestreamed from Cork, Ireland, on Saturday, December 20th at 8:30am NL time.

<https://www.youtube.com/@presentationsistersunion1013/live>

The recording of the Ritual will also be available on the Presentation Sisters Union YouTube channel after the event.

<https://www.youtube.com/@presentationsistersunion1013/videos>

Closing of the Jubilee Year Archdiocesan Celebration

The 2025 Jubilee Year concludes in the Archdiocese of St. John's on Sunday December 28, 2025, feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph, with the celebration of the Eucharist in St. John the Baptist Cathedral-Basilica at 2:00 p.m. All are invited to attend and participate in this joyful and hope-filled closing celebration of the Jubilee Year.

For those who are unable to attend, the Mass will be live-streamed at <https://www.youtube.com/@BasilicaHeritageFoundation>