



# Divine Mercy

## Catholic Church

A Jesuit Parish in St. John's



**To See ✠ To Love ✠ To Serve**

Feast of the Holy Family: December 28, 2025

### Mass Intention Week of December 28

#### Monday, December 29

9:30am William & Eleanor Manning +  
Deceased Members of Fagan Family +  
Deceased Members of Cahill Family +  
Margaret & William Wade +

7:00pm Bettyann Fewer +  
Dr. J. Bautista +  
Jack & Nancy Walsh +  
Dennis Langille

#### Tuesday, December 30

9:30am Mary McCormick +  
Special intention (RD)  
Cyril, Mary & Maggie Kenny +  
Jim Flynn +

#### Wednesday, December 31

9:30am Simon & Elsie Corcoran & Family +  
Nora & Edwin Dalton +  
Steve Power +  
Sr. Brandan Lynch +

#### Thursday, January 1 Feast of Mary, Mother of God

#### Friday, January 2

9:30am Clarence Smith +  
Valentine & Mary Dober +  
Michael & Agnes Nash & Deceased Family +  
Special Intention (Michelle Martin)

7:00pm Deceased Members of Michaud & Mesbah Family +  
Deceased Members of Wilrow Family +  
Special Intention (OM)  
Br. Joe Frechette, S.J. +

*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](mailto: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](mailto:info@divinemercynl.com)  
[www.divinemercynl.com/](http://www.divinemercynl.com/)

**Inquiries for Sacrament Preparation and Faith Formation:** email: [faith.divinemercynl@gmail.com](mailto:faith.divinemercynl@gmail.com)

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)

### Offertory Collection Week of December 21

Offertory	\$ 6,758
Initial Offering	\$ 20
Christmas Offering	\$ 640
Dues	\$ 120
Flowers	\$ 45
Food Bank	\$ 2,100
Christmas Hampers	\$ 1,645
Std for the Priesthood	\$ 50
World Missions	\$ 50

*E-transfers can be made through [dmparishnl@outlook.com](mailto: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

When hearing the confession of a child, one of the most common things one hears is, "I disobeyed my parents." I tell the child that that we can look at obedience in two ways. The first is to see our parents as "the Boss." Mom and/or Dad are older; they provide the home where the family lives; and they give us the food we eat. Also, we have the Commandment from the Bible to honour our parents. And so, indeed, we should seek to obey them. The second, perhaps complimentary way, to understand obedience is through love. I recognize that we love our families, and we often tell them that we love them. Words are good and necessary, but so too are actions. I tell the child a little teaching of St. Ignatius of Loyola, "Love shares itself more in action than in words." So, we can look at obedience not merely through the lens of who's the boss but also through showing love, revealing what's in our hearts. I remind the child that when we clean-up our rooms, do our homework, help put the dishes away, or take-out the garbage, through our actions, we are showing our parents that we love them. It's not just because they're the boss, but it is because we love them, and we want them to know it. Love is always a two-way street.

In the Second Reading from Saint Paul, we are taught that "Wives be subject to your husbands. . . . Husbands, love your wives." On the immediate surface, it feels much nicer to be asked to love rather than to "be subject to." Love feels freeing while being "subject to" feels limiting. If we look beyond how St. Paul has expressed this teaching (2,000 years ago), we must ask what is the difference between to love and to "be subject to"? To love someone always involves the giving of oneself to another (and receiving the gift of the other). One's obedience expresses one's giving of oneself, as does to love. St. Ignatius articulated this beautifully in his prayer called the "*Suscipe*." He prayed, "Take Lord and receive all my liberty, my memory, my understanding and my entire will. You have given all to me, to you O Lord, I return it." We seek to "be subject to," to be obedient, because we are seeking to love – to love another, to love others and to love God.

God Bless and Merry Christmas,

Fr. John

## ***Our Deepest Gratitude***

We wish to thank everyone who gave their energy, time, and talent in service to making Christmas such a grace-filled and joyous occasion.

We want to thank those who decorated, their hard work gave beauty to our celebrations. Thank you to our Lectors, Ministers of Eucharist, our teams of Ushers, our fantastic Altar Servers, our Musicians and Choirs, our Sacristans and our Children's Liturgy Team, whose preparation and collaboration created an elegance and flow to our services. And finally, thank you to everyone who helped fill our season with meaning and joy.

On behalf of Fr. John, Fr. Joe, the Jesuit Community and the Parish Team, Happy New Year to everyone in our Parish. May the mercy and love of our God move within us and between us so that we might live more fully and completely the promise of God's peace.

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### *Divine Mercy Parish New Year's Schedule*

Feast of Mary, Mother of God

Wednesday, December 31:5pm

Thursday, 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

[divinemercyparish12.flocknote.com/signup/230081](https://divinemercyparish12.flocknote.com/signup/230081)

## The CHOSEN

Season 5: 8 Episodes

Begins, Thursday, January 22, 2026 available through our Flocknote Thursdays

[divinemercyparish12.flocknote.com/signup/227376](https://divinemercyparish12.flocknote.com/signup/227376)

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

## Coming Soon:

### Horizons of Hope: Palliative Care & End of Life

**Issues:** 4 video sessions from the Canadian Bishops, offered on Flocknote, with an additional in-person gathering with Dr. David Carroll discussing the Catholic understanding and response to sickness and end of life issues. The series will begin in January (specific dates to be determined).

### Anticipating Candlemas: Candle Making Workshop:

The Feast of the Presentation of the Lord takes place 40 days after Christmas. “*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.” In anticipation of the feast, we will hold a candle making workshop. Watch for details and sign-up opportunities in the new year!

### Confirmation Preparation for Children:

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. Preparation for Confirmation begins Saturday, January 10. To Register, please call the Parish Office at 709-726 9924 or email us at [info@divinemercynl.com](mailto:info@divinemercynl.com)

## To Love:

### 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://divinemercyparish12.flocknote.com/signup/237906>

or email Anna at [faith.divinemercynl@gmail.com](mailto:faith.divinemercynl@gmail.com)

### 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.

## 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!

# Notes & Upcoming Events

*Excerpts from the Message of  
His Holiness Pope Leo XIV for the  
59<sup>th</sup> World Day of Peace, January 1, 2026*

*Peace be with you all:  
Towards an  
“unarmed and disarming” peace*

“Peace be with you!”

This ancient greeting, still in use today in many cultures, was infused with new life on the evening of Easter on the lips of the risen Jesus. “Peace be with you” (Jn 20:19, 21) is his Word that does not merely desire peace, but truly brings about a lasting transformation in those who receive it, and consequently in all of reality. For this reason, the Apostles’ successors give voice every day throughout the world to the most silent of revolutions: “Peace be with you!” From the very evening of my election as Bishop of Rome, I have wanted to join my own greeting to this universal proclamation. And I would like to reiterate that this is the peace of the risen Christ – a peace that is unarmed and disarming, humble and persevering. It comes from God who loves us all unconditionally.

The Good Shepherd, who gives his life for the flock and has other sheep not of this fold (cf. Jn 10:11,16), is Christ, our peace, who has conquered death and broken down the walls of division that separate humanity (cf. Eph 2:14). His presence, his gift and his victory continue to shine through the perseverance of many witnesses through whom God’s work carries on in the world, becoming even more visible and radiant in the darkness of our times.

The contrast between darkness and light is not only a biblical image describing the labor pains of a new world being born; it is also an experience that unsettles us and affects us amid the trials we face in our historical circumstances. In order to overcome the darkness, it is necessary to see the light and believe in it. This is a call that Jesus’ disciples are invited to live in a unique and privileged way; yet it also finds its way into every human heart. Peace exists; it wants to dwell within us. It has the gentle

power to enlighten and expand our understanding; it resists and overcomes violence. Peace is a breath of the eternal: while to evil we cry out “Enough,” to peace we whisper “Forever.” Into this horizon the Risen One has led us. Sustained by this conviction, even amid what [Pope Francis](#) called “a third world war fought piecemeal,” peacemakers continue to resist the spread of darkness, standing as sentinels in the night.

Sadly, it is also possible to forget the light. When this happens, we lose our sense of realism and surrender to a partial and distorted view of the world, disfigured by darkness and fear. Many today call “realistic” those narratives devoid of hope, blind to the beauty of others and forgetful of God’s grace, which is always at work in human hearts, even though wounded by sin. Saint Augustine urged Christians to forge an unbreakable bond with peace, so that by cherishing it deeply in their hearts, they would be able to radiate its luminous warmth around them. Addressing his community, he wrote: “If you wish to draw others to peace, first have it yourselves; be steadfast in peace yourselves. To inflame others, you must have the flame burning within.”

Dear brothers and sisters, whether we have the gift of faith or feel we lack it, let us open ourselves to peace! Let us welcome it and recognize it, rather than believing it to be impossible and beyond our reach. Peace is more than just a goal; it is a presence and a journey. Even when it is endangered within us and around us, like a small flame threatened by a storm, we must protect it, never forgetting the names and stories of those who have borne witness to it. Peace is a principle that guides and defines our choices. Even in places where only rubble remains, and despair seems inevitable, we still find people who have not forgotten peace. Just as on the evening of Easter Jesus entered the place where his disciples were gathered in fear and discouragement, so too the peace of the risen Christ continues to pass through doors and barriers in the voices and faces of his witnesses.

May this be one of the fruits of the Jubilee of Hope, which has moved millions of people to rediscover themselves as pilgrims and to begin within themselves that disarmament of heart, mind and life.

*From the Vatican, 8 December 2025*

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## Schedule Change during the Holidays:

Our Tuesday, 2pm Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament is cancelled for Tuesday, December 30. Our Regular schedule will resume on Tuesday, January 6, 2025.