



# Divine Mercy Catholic Church

A Jesuit Parish in St. John's



To See ✠ To Love ✠ To Serve

4<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time: February 1, 2026

## Mass Intention Week of February 1

### Monday, February 2

- 9:30am Bill Wheeler +  
John Wheeler +  
Victor Wheeler +  
Thomas, Annie & Tina Roche +
- 7:00pm Alice Horwood +  
Anthony Ryan +  
Molly Stacey +  
Special Intention (LP)

### Tuesday, February 3

- 9:30am Melinda & Gerald Doyle +  
Denis Lawlor +  
Stephen Payne +  
Deceased Members of the Doyle Family +

### Wednesday, February 4

- 9:30am Joseph & Catherine Gough +  
Special Intention (LG)  
John & Elizabeth Dinne & Deceased Family +  
Kebedom Habtemarion +
- 7:00pm Catherine Oliver +  
Marion Hunt +  
Clare Power +  
Elizabeth Tiddhill +

### Thursday, February 5

- 9:30am Bertha Rose +  
Bob Furlong +  
Special Intention (KH)  
Special Intention (AT)

### Friday, February 6

- 9:30am Gregory & John Wight and Deceased Family +  
Julia McCormick +  
James Darcy +  
Mike Davis & Deceased Family +
- 7:00pm Derrick Learning +  
John & Brenda Stamp +  
Kevin Whittle +  
Patrick Kennedy +

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

**Inquiries for Sacrament Preparation and Faith Formation:**  
email: [faith.divinemeracynl@gmail.com](mailto:faith.divinemeracynl@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 January 24

Offertory	\$ 4,840
Christmas New	\$ 90
Year's Day	\$ 10
Initial Offering	\$ 40
Food Bank	\$ 2,195

*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!*

# February: Devotion to the Holy Family

## Fr. John is Away at Jesuits Meetings:

Fr. John is currently away at a series of meetings for Jesuits in Formation. He will return to St. John's on February 2<sup>nd</sup>. He asks for our prayers while he is away and assures us all of his prayers for us. As he is away and unable to write his Pastor's Note, we offer the following on February's devotion to the Holy Family.

February, a month associated with love, has a special significance in the Catholic Church, as it is dedicated to the Holy Family. This is a time to reflect on the family life of Jesus, Mary and Joseph, to meditate on their virtues and to grow in understanding in the model they provide for Christian families.

We celebrate the Feast of the Holy Family on the Sunday between Christmas and New Year's. But the month of February carries a unique resonance with the sacred bond and hidden life of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph. February is chosen by the Church for this devotion because of the Feast of the Presentation, celebrated on February 2. 40 days after the birth of Jesus, Mary and Joseph, following Jewish Law, would have presented the child Jesus in the temple and made an offering. On this day, Catholics celebrate Candlemas, symbolizing the recognition of Christ as the Light of the world, even in His hidden life with Mary and Joseph.

Saint John Paul II emphasized the importance of the family as the domestic church and encouraged families to model themselves after the Holy Family. In his encyclical, *Familiaris Consortio*, he wrote on the dangers and challenges against the family by the current culture. As a response he encouraged the Catholic family with an invocation for the protection of the Holy Family of Nazareth, saying:

"Through God's mysterious design, it was in that family that the Son of God spent long years of a hidden life. It is therefore the prototype and example for all Christian families."

"[The Holy Family] underwent trials of poverty, persecution, and exile. It glorified God in an incomparably exalted and pure way. And it will not fail to help Christian families – indeed, all the families in the world – to be faithful to their day-to-day duties, to bear the cares and tribulations of life, to be open and generous to the needs of others, and to fulfill with joy the plan of God in their regard."

The dedication of February to the Holy Family is a rich tradition that invites us to reflect on the eternal significance of family life within the Catholic tradition. This February, let us especially express our devotion to the Holy Family and seek the guidance and intercession of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph in our daily lives. May the Holy Family guide, protect, and inspire us as we strive to imitate them on the path of faith, love, and holiness within our own families.

Key themes for February's devotion to the Holy Family include

- The Holy Family as the model family for our families, embodying virtue and holiness
- The "Domestic church" February encourages families, through prayer, love and support for one another, grow in holiness and transform their homes into the "domestic church"
- Virtus to emulate: the devotion highlights virtues such as obedience to God, mutual love, patience, humility and forgiveness.

## Ways to Grow in Devotion to the Holy Family:

There is a long tradition in our Faith of referring to the Catholic home as the domestic church. We are called to cultivate a family life centered on Christ in imitation of the virtues that Jesus, Mary and Joseph lived. Here are some ways to help you dedicate February to the Holy Family in your home:

1. Consecrate your family to the Holy Family (see our website for a how to)
2. Read or act out Scripture stories highlighting the Holy Family (e.g. The Birth of Jesus – Luke 2:1-20, The flight to Egypt – Matthew 2:13-15; The finding of the Child Jesus in the Temple – Luke 2:41-52)
3. As a priest to bless your home
4. Practice the charity of the Holy family by acts of kindness, forgiveness and patience towards family members
5. Strengthen your family's devotion to the Eucharist by attending Mass together, not just on Sundays, but whenever you can.
6. Pray the Rosary as a family, especially focusing on the Joyful Mysteries.

## A Special Offer:

Two beautiful Rosaries designed to reflect the beauty of the Holy Family have been handmade and donate to the parish for a special giveaway during the month of February. The mystery beads on the Rosaries bear images of the Holy Family. We are grateful to the Knights of Columbus for their support of this Rosary-making ministry in the parish.

Submit your name and answer this skill testing question for a chance to win one of these rosaries:

In the Presentation of baby Jesus in the temple (found in Luke's Gospel) who did the Holy Family meet and what did he say when he saw the Child?

Please send contact information and answer to the question to: [faith.divinemerlyn@gmail.com](mailto:faith.divinemerlyn@gmail.com)

# To See To Love To Serve

## To See:

### **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 Caroll discussing the Catholic understanding and response to sickness and end of life issues. Tuesdays:

<https://divinemercuryparish12.flocknote.com/signup/240268>

The in-house session with Dr. David Caroll will take place on **Tuesday, February 10 at 6:30pm**. David is member of our parish and is currently working on theological degree. All are welcome!

If this topic interests you, you may want to check out "**A Life to be Lived**" is a 60-minute documentary released in January 2026 on euthanasia. A second showing will take place on February 2. To register: go to the Euthanasia Prevention Coalition: <https://alexschadenberg.blogspot.com/2026/01/watch-powerful-life-worth-living-film.html>

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## To Serve:

### **Helping Keep the Church Clean & Tidy:**

Do you have an hour or two during the week to help us with a little light cleaning and tidying up? We are looking to create a small team of volunteers to keep us on top of things, especially in anticipation of the Mass and special celebrations. This is particularly important during the wintery months. If you can assist, we can definitely use your help!

### **Parking Lot Assistance:**

In the busyness of Sunday Masses or Special celebrations, the parking lot can become difficult to maneuver. We are hoping to create a team of volunteers that can guide and assist in the parking lot during heavy traffic times.

If you think you have time to serve on either of these teams, contact the Parish Office at 709-726-9924, speak with Fr. John, or email us at: [faith.divinemercurynl@gmail.com](mailto:faith.divinemercurynl@gmail.com)

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## **Saints Speak**

*Pursue with invincible courage the end to which you have been called; God has furnished such help and means to aid you in attaining it.*

~ St. Ignatius of Loyola

## 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 start of the retreat has been a little delayed, as we await the arrival of the materials. We hope to begin the first week of February. Apologies for the delay.**

#### **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://divinemercuryparish12.flocknote.com/signup/237906>

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

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## **Wednesday, February 11 Feast of Our Lady of Lourdes World Day of the Sick 2026**

Pope Leo XIV, in his Message for the 34th World Day of the Sick 2026, invites us to reflect on the figure of the Good Samaritan. The Holy Father outlines three key points: the gift of encounter, the shared mission of caring for the sick and the primacy of being driven by love for God in encountering ourselves and others.

He writes, "I genuinely hope that our Christian lifestyle will always reflect this fraternal, 'Samaritan' spirit – one that is welcoming, courageous, committed and supportive, rooted in our union with God and our faith in Jesus Christ."

He continues, "Enkindled by this divine love, we will surely be able to give of ourselves for the good of all who suffer, especially our brothers and sisters who are sick, elderly or afflicted." Pope Leo's complete message and reflection are available at the following link:

<https://www.vatican.va/content/leo-xiv/en/messages/sick/documents/20260113-messaggio-giornata-malato.html>

# Notes & Upcoming Events

## Blessing of the Throats

### Feast of St. Blaise: Tuesday, February 3

February 3 is the Feast of St. Blaise. St. Blaise was martyred in Armenia in 316. St. Blaise is the patron saint of ailments of the throat. A devotion grew of blessing people's throats around the Feast of St. Blaise. Here at Divine Mercy Parish, Fr. John will be available after the Mass on Tuesday, February 3, after the morning Mass for any who would like to have their throats blessed.



In anticipation of the World Day of the Sick, you are invited to join us on **Saturday, February 7 at 1pm** for Mass with the anointing of the sick.

The Sacrament of the Sick is for anyone in need of strengthening in body and spirit. These include, but are not limited to, the elderly, those with chronic or serious conditions, anyone preparing for surgery and those experiencing psychological or emotional distress of any kind.

In the Lord's mercy, we are invited to healing and wholeness. Don't miss this opportunity to receive this beautiful sacrament or to accompany friends and family to the Mass who may be in need of the sacrament. A reception will follow.

## A Word About Parking:

It's been brought to our attention that parking at our weekend Mass is getting difficult, with some people parking in the access and emergency lanes, or blocking other cars in. Things are made more difficult due to the wintery weather and build up of snow. We ask you to please be aware of where you are parking and please do not block access and emergency lanes or other cars. We thank you for your cooperation.

## Food Bank Update:

For the month of January, the food bank served 296 Adults and 162 Children. Totaling 179 families. Thank you for your generosity in supporting our food bank.

## Annual Ocean Ranger Memorial Prayer Service:

Gonzaga High School will be holding its annual Ocean Ranger Memorial Prayer Service to remember those who lost their lives in the tragedy 44 years ago. The service will be held on Thursday, February 12, 2026 at 1:00 pm at the Basilica of St. John. Link for the livestream:

<https://www.youtube.com/@BasilicaHeritageFoundation>

## CWL Quilt Raffle

Divine Mercy CWL has received a beautiful handmade queen size quilt from an anonymous donor. The quilt will be raffled off on Saturday, February 14<sup>th</sup>, 2026. Price of the tickets is \$2.00 each or 3 for \$5.00 with 600 tickets printed. CWL members will be selling tickets, before and after the masses, on the weekends of January 31<sup>st</sup> – February 1<sup>st</sup> and February 7<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup>. The quilt will be on display during this period. Drop by and purchase some tickets. You could be the Winner!!

## Mass for the 2026 World Day for Consecrated Life:

In celebration of this year's World Day for Consecrated Life, Archbishop Hundt will be offering a Mass for the intentions of the women and men in vowed consecrated life in this Archdiocese. The Mass will be celebrated on Monday February 2<sup>nd</sup>, the Feast of the Presentation of the Lord, at 9:00 a.m. at the Basilica of St. John the Baptist. It will be followed by a small reception and opportunity to socialize. The Mass will be live streamed on:

<https://www.youtube.com/@BasilicaHeritageFoundation> .

The World Day for Consecrated Life was instituted by Pope John Paul II in 1997: "... to help the entire Church esteem ever more greatly the witness of those persons who have chosen to follow Christ by means of the practice of the evangelical counsels and to be a suitable occasion for consecrated persons to renew their commitment and rekindle the fervor which should inspire their offering of themselves to the Lord."

We are blessed to have in our Archdiocese in vowed consecrated life members of the following Religious Orders: The Presentation Sisters, The Sisters of Mercy, The Christian Brothers, The Jesuits, The Redemptorists and The Vocationists.

## **SPECIAL SEMINARIAN STUDIES COLLECTION: February 14<sup>th</sup> – 15<sup>th</sup> 2026**

We are blessed to have a young man, Evan Chafe, studying for the priesthood at St. Augustine's Seminary in Toronto, and to have several other men seeking to discern whether God may be calling them to a priestly vocation. The annual academic costs paid by the Archdiocese for each seminarian studying in a seminary is in excess of fifty thousand dollars (\$50,000.00). To assist in covering seminary education costs, a special "Seminarian Studies Collection" is being taken up in all the parishes of the Archdiocese on the weekend of February 14<sup>th</sup> – 15<sup>th</sup>. Envelopes marked "Seminarian 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 "Seminarian Studies"). Your financial assistance in paying the costs of preparing men for the priesthood in our Archdiocese is greatly appreciated.