



Divine Mercy Catholic Church

A Jesuit Parish in St. John's



To See ✠ To Love ✠ To Serve

3rd Sunday in Ordinary Time: January 25, 2026

Mass Intention Week of January 25

Monday, January 26

- 9:30am Denis Lawlor +
Sana Sexton +
Carol Ann Brennan +
Martin & Mary Roche +
- 7:00pm John O'Driscoll +
Mary Kirkland +
Helen & Fred Crozier +
Kevin Tobin +

Tuesday, January 27

- 9:30am Special Intention (LS)
Gordon Holden +
Sally Kelly +
Special Intention (DP)

Wednesday, January 28

- 9:30am Greg Thorne +
Marg Wade +
Gerry Holwell +
John & Catherine Roche +
- 7:00pm William O'Driscoll +
James Pittman +
Special Intention (Y & J)
Audry Marsh +

Thursday, January 29

- 9:30am Special Intention (SRJ)
Martha Grauf +
Anne Barton +
Alejandro Ortiz +

Friday, January 30

- 9:30am Bill & Frances Power +
William Braden +
Special Intention (RW)
Donald Smith +
- 7:00pm Constance Thompson +
George MacIsaac +
Special Intention (PC)
Mary (Molly) Stacey +

Please Pray for the Recently Deceased:
Gloria Isada, John Hickey

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@divinemergynl.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@divinemergynl.com
www.divinemergynl.com/

Inquiries for Sacrament Preparation and Faith Formation:
email: faith.divinemergynl@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 January 18

Offertory	\$ 4,933
Christmas New	\$ 40
Year's Day	\$ 85
Initial Offering	\$ 70
Dues	\$ 320
Donations	\$ 100
Food Bank	\$ 187
Flowers	\$ 10

*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

Before I was ordained and to begin to prepare homilies for Mass, I must admit that I didn't spend much time with the scriptures. I had four courses on different books of the Bible while in theology, but my main interest was in Systematic, or Dogmatic, Theology. I don't think I began to give greater time to scriptural study until maybe six years after ordination. I did so then, because a parishioner at the Jesuit parish in Toronto spoke with me to ask for a little bit more "content" from the homily. I thought about it and realized he was right. Now I try and consult a few sources that provide the background and context, original meaning of different words, links with the Old Testament and other parts of the New, and meanings and truth that are often unseen by a surface reading. This has been helpful in my preparation but also for my own faith. I was surprised by the depth and profundity of the scriptures, the Word of God. I know how weird this sounds - Of course, the Word of God is profound, it's the Word of God for heaven's sake! But it did surprise me, God's self-Revelation, that Jesus really knew what he was talking about. Such is the case this week, as we hear of the beginnings of the Lord's public ministry.

When we hear of different places mentioned in the Gospel, we don't necessarily think that something is being revealed by God to us. Locations like Galilee, Judea, Samaria, the River Jordan, Nazareth, Bethlehem or Jerusalem seem important only in that they reveal Christ's travel itinerary, not that they sometimes reveal something about God and his heart. In this week's Gospel, we are told that Jesus returned to Capernaum in Galilee following the arrest of John the Baptist. Beginning in Galilee, the Lord began to proclaim the Kingdom of God, he began his public ministry. With this, the prophecy of Isaiah, which we heard in the First Reading, is fulfilled - "Galilee of the Gentiles - the people who sat in darkness have seen a great light, and for those who sat in the region and shadow of death light has dawned." Why this prophecy? Why Galilee?

Galilee was that part of Israel that had suffered the longest. It was their land and homes that suffered the earliest invasion from hostile armies. They had suffered the longest and so God in Jesus Christ begins his mission of salvation first with them. It wasn't just a coincidence. It was God's will through which we are shown that the love of God is a merciful love. Mercy is kindness shown to one who is unworthy of it. This means that it is unearned, it is freely given. I no longer understand and experience mercy as reflecting the power of God's love. It isn't just that his love is infinitely greater than any sin we can commit. That's true but I don't think it gets to the heart of the mercy of God. God's merciful love is given to us simply because we are loved by him. It isn't transactional, it isn't a reward for good behaviour, nor is it given by God closing his eyes to our imperfections. It is given by him because we are loved by him. He has chosen us. And so Christ began his public ministry in Galilee because those he loved had suffered the longest. God is good! "One thing I asked of the Lord, that will I seek after; to live in the house of the Lord all the days of my life, to behold the beauty of the Lord."

God bless and take care,
Fr. John

Word of God Sunday

The 3rd Sunday in Ordinary Time has been designated by the Church as Sunday of the Word of God. This year, the biblical theme chosen for this celebration is taken from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Colossians: "The word of Christ dwells among you" (3:16).

This is not simply a moral exhortation. Rather, St. Paul is indicating for us, a new way of living. St. Paul does not ask that the Word be merely listened to or studied; he wants it to dwell, that is, to take up stable residence, to shape our thoughts, guide our desires, and make credible the witness of the disciples.

Archbishop Rino Fisichella, the Pro-Prefect of the Dicastery for Evangelization, in his Introduction to this year's Sunday of the Word of God and its Pauline theme, writes that "The Word of Christ remains a sure criterion that unifies and renders fruitful the life of the Christian community."

The Archbishop goes to focus on the invitation in the passage from Colossians:

It is an invitation addressed to the whole Church to place the Gospel at the centre, since every true renewal is born from docile listening to the Word. To welcome it means allowing ourselves to be accompanied by the One who does not deceive, because He gives life and hope. To be inhabited by the Word ultimately means permitting Christ to speak even today through our lives, so that every person may recognize His presence, which continues to illuminate the journey of history. Every Christian and every community must rediscover the primacy of the Word of God. Its sincere and profound listening is an essential path through which human beings encounter God. When space is given to the Word, each person discovers that the Word of God dwells in the heart like a seed that, in due time, sprouts and bears fruit. Indeed, all of us are invited to nourish ourselves with the daily bread of the Word and, afterwards, to proclaim it to our brothers and sisters, for proclamation flows from the abundance of the heart, according to the Gospel saying: "from the fullness of the heart the mouth speaks" (Mt 12:34; Lk 6:45).

The Archbishop ends his introduction by connecting this year's celebration of the Sunday of the Word of God with the Conversion of Saint Paul which coincides with the celebration and with the end of the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity: "The Word that Christ addressed to Paul on the road to Damascus struck his heart so deeply that it made him the great evangelizer we know. Today it is up to us to ensure that the same Word reaches the ends of the earth, so as to transform the life of all peoples by dwelling among us."

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**. All are welcome! If you

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. It will be presented by Zoom on Monday January 26th by the Euthanasia Prevention Coalition. There will be a discussion following the film. The documentary has been named as a finalist at the Cannes World Film festival. To register for the Zoom meeting, go to: https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/Jm1G8pz8SUSua_8KQbBBwQ#/registration

The CHOSEN

Season 5: 8 Episodes

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

divinemercuryparish12.flocknote.com/signup/227376

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

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.

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 or email us at: faith.divinemercurynl@gmail.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 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

Fr. John is Away at Jesuits Meetings:

Fr. John is currently away at a series of meetings for Jesuits in Formation. He will also give a retreat at the Jesuit Retreat House in Pickering Ontario while he is away. He will return to St. John's on February 2nd. He asks for our prayers while he is away and assures us all of his prayers for us.

Saints Speak

Should we fall a thousand times in a day, a thousand times we must rise again, always animated with unbounded confidence in the infinite goodness of God.

~ Ven. Louis de Granada

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 was a good bishop who worked hard to encourage the spiritual and physical health of his people. One of the most famous stories told about him is of a mother who sought help for her young son who had a fish bone lodged in his throat. St. Blaise was able to help the child cough up the bone. 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.

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 14th, 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 31st – February 1st and February 7th – 8th. 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 2nd, 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 14th – 15th 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 14th – 15th. 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 (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.