



Divine Mercy

Catholic Church

A Jesuit Parish in St. John's



To See ✠ To Love ✠ To Serve

The Epiphany of the Lord: January 4, 2026

Mass Intention Week of January 4

Monday, January 5

9:30am Mary & Leonard Madden +
Melinda & Gerald Doyle +
James March +
Theresa & Basil Merner & Deceased Family +

7:00pm Marguerite Stacey +
Ron McCarthy +
Special Intention (CF)
Gordon Healey +

Tuesday, January 6

9:30am John Roche +
Bertha Rose +
John Power +
Sheena King +

Wednesday, January 7

9:30am Special Intention (CR)
Carmel Woodford +
Cyrus & Madeline Hawco +
Ray Murphy +

7:00pm Barbara Crosbie +
Paul Foley +
Special Intention (MC)
Ray Murphy +

Thursday, January 8

9:30am Beth Boulas Ryan +
Geraldine & Wilf Doyle +
Marie Walsh +
Alejandro Ortiz +

Friday, January 9

9:30am Special Intention (EC)
Ron Kieley +
Mary & Rich Roche +
Catherine O'Brien +

7:00pm Cyril Mallard +
Mary McDonald +
Special Intention (BF)
Daid Billard +

Please Pray for the Recently Deceased:
Jim Rose,

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 28

Offertory	\$ 5,385
Christmas Offering	\$ 10,657
Initial Offering	\$ 50
New Year's Day	\$ 20
Dues	\$ 400
Food Bank	\$ 422
Christmas	\$ 30

*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

During the Christmas season, one can see signs posted around town that read, "Keep Christ in Christmas." This is certainly true and a need. At the same time, as I reflect on my own Christian faith, I think I should have an additional sign to "Keep Christ in my Christian faith." Paul Ricoeur, a French philosopher of the twentieth century, once remarked that Christianity is not a philosophy. Rather, it is centred on a relationship – one's relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ in the community of the Church. At least for myself, I often lose my focus, my vision shifts through distractions, and I look to the performance of faith instead of living it. To be a Christian is always to search for his star, his light that both comes to us and leads us to him. The Lord is the "living water" for which we thirst. Our longing for God is a yearning that can never go away. We may unconsciously try to sate it, and it could work for a while, but the longing remains. And so, we search for him, for the one who has come to us.

This week we celebrate the Epiphany of the Lord. Epiphany is often the date when we take down our Christmas decorations and store them for next year. Taking down our decorations may make our homes, churches and city less colourful and pretty, but it is appropriate – the one we have been longing for is here! In the Gospel from Saint Matthew, we hear the story of the Three Wise Men or Magi. They travelled from the far east, following the star, and have reached the very side of the infant Christ. They prostrate themselves, give gifts and pay homage. Their search has ended; they have found the one who fills them. It wasn't just their efforts that led to finding the Lord in Bethlehem. God had stirred their hearts as they searched the stars and provided guidance for them all the way to the manger. God, as always, took the first step. In a similar way, we search, responding to the promptings placed by God in our hearts. We search. We long. This feeling is raw and a little intimidating. To live from a thirst or hunger is unsettling. We tend to want to possess the full answer now, to have surety. To live from thirst and hunger is to live vulnerably. Not always the best feeling. But we seek to do so because we want to remember the longing, to feel the thirst so that we never settle into a faith that is more philosophical than relational. We must intentionally keep our hearts raw and open, to keep Christ at the centre of our Christian faith.

God bless and take care,

Fr. John

Month of January Devotion to the Holy Name of Jesus

The month of January is dedicated to the Holy Name of Jesus in the Church. The name 'Jesus' means 'God Saves'. It is the name that the angel instructed St. Joseph to name the holy child when he told him to not be afraid and to take Mary as his wife (Matthew 1:21). The Gospel provides for us the beginnings of the Christology of the name of Jesus; affirming Jesus as saviour and emphasizing that the choice of the name was based on a heavenly command.

From the earliest times, Christians have invoked the Holy name of Jesus and have believed in the saving power of His name. In the letters of St. Paul, reverence for the name of Jesus is emphasized: "That in the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those that are in heaven, on earth and under the earth." (Philippians 2:10) And in the Letter to the Romans, Paul writes of the salvific nature of the Holy name by stating that those who "call on the name of the Lord" will be saved.

The power of the name of Jesus is also mentioned in the Gospels and is stressed in the Gospel of John when Jesus states: "If you ask the Father anything in my name he will give it to you." So powerful is this understanding and reverence of name of Jesus, that even today, many of our prayers will conclude with the words: "Through our Lord Jesus Christ."

Devotion to and veneration of the IHS monogram, derived from the first three letters in the Greek word for Jesus, *ΙΗΣΟΥΣ* also dates to the early days of Christianity. Official recognition of the Holy Name was made at the Council of Lyons in 1274 and popular devotions developed and increased through the Middle Ages.

In the 16th century, the Jesuits made the IHS monogram the emblem of their society, by adding a cross over the H and by showing three nails underneath it. Constructed in Rome in 1568 the Church of the Gesù, formally called *Chiesa del Santissimo Nome de Gesù* (the Church of the Most Holy Name of Jesus) is the Mother Church of the Jesuits.

We honor the Name of Jesus, because through it we are reminded of all the blessings and graces we receive through our Redeemer and Lord. When we call on the name of Jesus, we are brought into His presence – into proximity with the mercy and power of His saving love.

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

The CHOSEN

Season 5: 8 Episodes

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

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. Tuesdays, beginning January 13.

<https://divinemercyparish12.flocknote.com/signup/240268>

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 next week’s bulletin!

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

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

Children’s Liturgy of the Word Begins at the 9am in January 4, 2025

BEGINS TODAY! 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

Beginning this weekend, Liturgy of the Word with Children will expand to 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

With Much Gratitude

This past December the Food Bank gave out 143 Christmas Hampers to families in need. This could not have happened without your kindness and generosity and the wonderful donations to the foodbank. Thank you to everyone who donated and to all the hard-working volunteers who put the hampers together and distributed them. You have made this Christmas a brighter and comforting time for many. Thank You!

Divine Mercy Council of the Catholic Women's League (CWL)

Membership Drive: January 17th and 18th.

Are you looking for a way to connect with other women in your parish and make a difference in your community? The Catholic Women's League of Canada invites you to join us. Maybe, you were a member in a previous council and would like to resume your membership with a Council that is active. Our core purpose is uniting Catholic Women to grow in Faith and to promote Social Justice through service to the Church, Canada and the World. We are grassroots, parish-based organization that serves God and Canada through Faith, Service and Social Justice. We work Locally, Provincially Nationally and Internationally. Membership provides opportunities for spiritual growth, social connection, and to make your voice heard on important issues. We believe in the indispensable role of women in our Church and Society. We welcome every lady in the parish, 16 years of age and older to join us. For more information, please contact – Victoria Jalloh, Vice President and Membership Coordinator, at (709) 769-4661. Drop by our table. We would love to have a chat with you.

Membership Dues for 2026, in the amount of \$30.00, are due by February 28. They can be placed in the weekly Offertory Collection, marked "CWL Membership Dues" along with your contact information inside the envelope. They can also be mailed to Terri Hanlon, Treasurer at 4 Carman Lane, Portugal Cove – St. Philip NL, A1M 0K6 or passed ON to any member of the Executive. Membership Dues for 2026, in the amount of \$30.00, are due by February 28.

The January General Meeting of the Divine Mercy CWL will be taking place on Sunday, January 18th from 1:30 p.m. – 3:30 p.m. A social will follow.

The Canadian Bishops on the Proposed Restrictions on Religious Freedom – Bill C-9

The Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops issued an open letter on December 4 to Prime Minister Mark Carney urging the government to halt its plan to remove the long-standing religious-text exemption from Canada's hate-speech laws. The proposed amendment would repeal Criminal Code clause 319 (3) (b), which currently ensures that individuals cannot be convicted of hate-speech offences for expressing, in good faith, opinions rooted in Scripture or religious belief. Catholic leaders, as well as those of other faiths, warn that eliminating this protection could place legitimate religious teaching and pastoral ministry at risk.

Bill C-9 has passed the first and second readings and it is now undergoing review by the Standing Committee on Justice and Human Rights, with the latest proposed amendment, referenced above, subject to a vote possibly as early as this afternoon.

Given all that could be at stake if the amendment passes, the Permanent Council of the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops has sent an open letter to the Prime Minister, with other government officials in carbon copy. To read the letter from the bishops click on the link below.

<https://www.cccb.ca/wp-content/uploads/2025/12/2025-12-04-Letter-to-PM-Religious-Freedom-EN.pdf>

What can you do right now?

- Stay informed and inform others.
- Stand with other Faith Communities: Many religious traditions are united in their concern. Collaborate with others committed to safeguarding freedom of belief and expression.
- Contact Your Member of Parliament today: Tell your MP you oppose removing the religious-text exemption in Bill C-9. Share your concerns about how the amendment could affect preaching, teaching, pastoral care and the Church's public witness. Even a brief message makes a difference. Constituency offices track every call and email.

The Centre for Life sends greetings for a joyous Christmas season and thanks for your support. January is **Celebration of Life** month, a time to focus on recognizing life as a precious gift and cherishing moments with loved ones. The Centre for Life will be having family bowling with pizza on Sunday January 18th with an hour of bowling from 3pm - 4pm with pizza to follow from 4pm-5pm. There is no fee to attend but registration is necessary as there are limited spaces available. Please contact the office to register at 709-579-1500. Come celebrate with the Centre for Life the "gift of family".