Divine Mercy
Catholic Church
A Jesuit Parish in St. John's

To See ✠ To Love ✠ To Serve

5th Sunday in Ordinary Time: February 8, 2026

Mass Intention
Week of February 8

Monday, February 9

9:30am Gerald Power +
Richard Young +
Holy Souls
Special Intention (DM)

7:00pm Noreen Battiste +
Jeff Barton +
Sonya Harvey +
Alice Hanlon +

Tuesday, February 10

9:30am Gerald Stone +
Frank & Constance Costigan +
Anne Marie Moore +
Helen Taylor +

Wednesday, February 11

9:30am Ann Noseworthy +
Thomas & Mary Lawlor +
Albert & Marie Button +
Rich, Mary & Patsy Roche +

7:00pm Maureen Doyle +
Tolson Hynes +
Dr. Robert MacDonald +
Special Intention (S & G)

Thursday, February 12

9:30am Deceased Members of the Noseworthy Family +
Denis & Matilda Dobbin +
Thomas & Elizabeth Lawlor +
Deceased Members of the Neary Family +

Friday, February 13

9:30am Colleen & Arthur George +
Arthur J. George +
Eileen Walkham +
Deceased Members of the Burke Family +

7:00pm Clem Walsh +
Shawn Dobbin +
Peter Scaplen +
Special Intention (AF)

Please Pray for the Recently Deceased:
Martin Boland

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: **divinemercyparish@rcsj.org**
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 February 1

Offertory	**$ 5,787**
Initial Offering	**$ 30**
Year's Day	**$ 20**
Ash Wednesday	**$ 70**
Food Bank	**$ 655**
Seminarian Studies	$ 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

Sometimes we find ourselves in a situation in which we don't know which direction to turn. We don't know what to say; we don't know what to do. When I find myself in a spot like this, I usually follow the same pattern, that is, I try to solve the problem through my own knowledge and experience. This may work occasionally, but the problem may be so big or complex, that it is beyond my abilities to solve. I find myself in need of help, where to turn? There is nothing wrong, of course, using our knowledge and experience, but we have another resource to help. That extra help is God.

In Saint Paul's *First Letter to the Corinthians*, he tells the people he did not come proclaiming the Gospel "in lofty words or wisdom." He came "in weakness and in fear and in much trembling." Paul had "decided to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ, and him crucified." That "with a demonstration of the Spirit and of power, so that your faith might rest not on human wisdom but on the power of God." If you are at all like me, I forget that I do not live my life alone. God is always present with me and active within me. This is true for all of us. We use our knowledge and wisdom from experience, but this is not exhaustive. There is more, much more. The much more is what God will give us. He will not force himself upon us; he waits on us. Before doing anything of significance or dealing with a difficult situation, I have begun praying prior to speaking or acting. I ask God to help me, that his heart may become my heart and his words become my words. Life is tough enough. Sometimes we don't know where to turn, or what to do, or how to respond. We think it's all up to us. But it isn't. We have another resource, another help. We have God himself. Ultimately, we are sustained and cared for, not by human wisdom "but on the power of God." And he is someone we can always rely on. He has given us his word.

God Bless and Take Care,
Fr. John

Lent Approaches
Why we begin with Ashes

Lent is the season where we, as individuals, and as a Church, prepare for Easter. In the Gospels we read that Jesus spends 40 days in the desert, fasting, praying and preparing for his mission. Lent is our opportunity to imitate Christ and grow in holiness – in the abundant life Jesus invites us to through His death and resurrection.

Did you know that Ash Wednesday is one of the most highly attended Masses of the year? Some people think this is because we "get something" for going to church on that day (just like we do with palms on Palm Sunday). But why go and have ashes smeared on your forehead? Why do we receive ashes on our foreheads on Ash Wednesday?

Throughout history, ashes have been a powerful outward symbol of interior repentance and spiritual awareness. In the Bible there are many examples of ashes used in this way.

The Early Church used ashes, as well, but not just on Ash Wednesday. After going to confession, it was common for the priest to give the person ashes on their forehead. Catholics have been using the symbol of ashes on Ash Wednesday since the time of St. Gregory the Great (Pope from 590-604). In 1091, Pope Urban II encouraged the entire Church to use ashes on Ash Wednesday.

Repentance is a powerful invitation. When John the Baptist first appeared in the Judean desert, this was his message: "Repent, prepare the way of the Lord" (Matthew 3:2), and "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand" (Matthew 4:17) People repented and when to be baptized by John, because they desired God's mercy, and wanted to come near Him. To repent means "to turn back to God."

We all find ourselves needing to turn back to God many times a day, in ways small and large. It is not a matter of guilt and it is not a shameful thing. It's a matter of desiring the love and life we have been created for.

This coming Lent, take time to walk with Jesus and draw close to him.

Watch: How to live Lent this year:
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9VcJh6PWzRk

To See ✠ To Love ✠ To Serve

To See:

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

Join us **Tuesday, February 10 at 6:30 pm** for a presentation and discussion with Dr. David Carroll on a Catholic understanding of illness, suffering, end of life Issues. All are welcome! If you are unable to join us in person, the presentation will be available on at: **www.youtube.com/watch?v=aA_4ma4PgYs**

If you are interested in the 4 video sessions from the Canadian Bishops, which we have been offering on Flocknote, you can still sign up through the following link:
https://divinemercyparish12.flocknote.com/signup/240268

Winners of our Holy Family Devotion Quiz:

Several beautiful, handmade Rosaries designed to reflect the beauty of the Holy Family were donated to the parish for a special giveaway during the month of February. The following parishioners will receive them: *Charles Sampson, John Shea, Annette Shea and Eleanor McGrath.*

We are grateful to the Knights of Columbus for their support of this Rosary-making ministry in the parish.

To Serve:

Soup for Stations of the Cross:

Every Friday during Lent, before we come together to pray the Stations of the Cross, we sit down together to share some soup and fellowship. If you would like to pick a Friday in Lent to make a pot of soup (meatless) to share please contact the Parish Office at 709-726-9924 or email **divinemercyparish@rcsj.org** and we will happily schedule you in.

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.divinemercynl@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 being 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://divinemercyparish12.flocknote.com/signup/237906

or email Anna at faith.divinemercynl@gmail.com

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

Ash Wednesday
February 18, 2026

Masses:
9:30am, 5pm & 7pm

Stations of the Cross
Fridays During Lent:

February 20, 27,
March 6, 13, 20 & 27

Join us at 5pm for a hot bowl of soup
Stations of the Cross begin at 6:00pm

Fasting & Abstinence

As Catholics we are aware of the practices of fasting and of abstinence. Fasting is about how much or how little food we take in over a period of time. Abstinence has to do with the kinds of foods we deny ourselves (e.g. meat, chocolate). Fasting for religious purposes is a practice of self-discipline and has a long tradition in the Church. It is used as an aid to concentration in prayer and it also helps develop a sensitivity to those in need. As a Church abstinence calls us (aged 14 years or older) to refrain from the eating of meat. Fasting allows only 1 full meal a day but does not prohibit taking some food in the morning and the evening. In addition, eating between meals is prohibited. Fasting applies to those between the ages of 18 – 59 (those with medical conditions are exempt). In Canada Ash Wednesday and Good Friday are the required days of fasting and abstinence.

Tax Receipts

Tax receipts for donations made to the Parish in 2025 are available for pick up. You will find them set up alphabetically in the foyer. If you do not find yours there, please contact Marion in the Parish Office. Call 709-726-9924 or email: **divinemercyparish@rcsj.org** Thank you.

Catholic Women's League

The February General Meeting of the Divine Mercy CWL will take place on Sunday, February 15th, 2026 from 1:30 p.m. – 3:30 p.m. in the foyer of the Church. In the event of inclement weather and the Church is closed, the meeting will be cancelled. All women of the Parish are invited to attend. A Social will follow after the meeting.

Knights of Columbus

St. Paul's Council Knights of Columbus will be holding their regular meeting Thursday February 12 at 7.15 pm in the Foyer of Divine Mercy Parish. The Council has great interest in new members.

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

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.

St. Patrick's Day Concert: Monday March 17, 2025 Join Our Lady, Queen of Families Parish for a concert with The Irish Descendants. Doors open at 6:00 p.m. and the concert begins at 7:00 p.m. Tickets are $30 each and are available by calling the church at 709-364-8606 or by dropping in to pick them up (110 Ashford Drive, Mount Pearl).