



Divine Mercy

A Jesuit Parish in St. John's

To See ✠ To Love ✠ To Serve



21st Sunday in Ordinary Time: August 23, 2026

Mass Intention Week of August 23

Monday, August 24

- 9:30am Marilyn Lawlor +
Gerald Winston Stone & Deceased Family +
Special Intention (JC)
Jane Blackstock +
- 7:00pm Special Intention (KG)
Cherry Greene +
Deceased Members of the Dunphy Family +
Deceased Members of the Crowdell Family +

Tuesday, August 25

- 9:30am Special Intention (KG)
Ted Martin +
Soul of JW +
William Abbott +

Wednesday, August 26

- 9:30am Cyril & Sr. Elizabeth Lawlor & Deceased Family +
Special Intention (EM)
Martin Smart +
Msgr Denis Walsh +
- 7:00pm Special Intention (GJ)
Frieda Seal +
William Legrow +
Anita McNutty +

Thursday, August 27

- 9:30am Margaret Wade +
Catherine Vaughan +
Nancy Walsh +
Margaret Moore +

Friday, August 28

- 9:30am Elizaeth Jones +
Harry Phillips +
Bo Moran +
Eric Carroll +
- 7:00pm Special Intention (SB)
Elizabeth LaRusic +
Marie Ryall +
Alfred Chafe +

Please Pray for the Recently Deceased:
Sheila Whitten & Teresa Carey

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 and Saturdays 3-3:45pm
By appointment: email: divinemercyparish@rcsj.org

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
tel. 709-726-9924 email: divinemercyparish@rcsj.org
www.divinemercynl.com/

Parish Office Hours: Monday through Thursday 9am to 12pm
and 1pm to 4pm; Friday 9am to 12pm.

Inquiries for Sacrament Preparation and Faith Formation:
contact Anna at email: apaolo@rcsj.org

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 August 16

Offertory	\$ 4,460
Food Bank	\$ 90

E-transfers can be made through divinemercyparish@rcsj.org
(Please include your name and the reason for your E-transfer)
Thank you for your generosity.
God Bless!

Pastor's Note

We have a tough job in faith. We are to both grow in our knowledge of God and accept that we can never fully know God. A common criticism of Christianity is that we have a blind faith, that is, we believe and obey Divine commands and Revelation without any recourse to our reason, to our minds. Such a criticism tends to mock faith, judging it too childish, too ridiculous for a serious person to believe. I remember speaking with a young woman years ago. She had been raised in the faith, practiced it and seemed to value it. When she began university studies, however, she learned that the universe, the earth and everything in Creation were not created in seven days, as the Book of Genesis recounts. Without studying how the Church interprets the story of Creation in Genesis, she concluded that Christian faith wasn't true and was sort of beneath her. In response, I spoke to her of how eight hundred years earlier, Saint Thomas Aquinas demonstrated why one was not to take the seven days of Creation literally. He pointed out that we measure the length of a day by the rising and setting of the sun. Yet, the sun was not created on the first day, therefore, we could not have been able to measure the passing of a day without it. We do not practice a blind faith. Rather, we hold to what Saint John Paul II taught in 1998, "Faith and reason are like two wings on which the human spirit rises to the contemplation of truth." While we do not have blind faith, there is a limit of what we can know of God and his ways.

Please Pray for the Sick of the Parish:

Ed Metcalfe, Francis Mercer, Margaret Molloy, Cyril McCormick, Mark Press, Eva Lane, Reyan Reynado, Tony White, Michelle Kennedy, Jackie Walsh, Jasmine Badrin, Hazel Crane, Bill Kennedy, Glenn Penny, Fred Murphy, Ron Carter, John Fleming, Yolanda Dizon, Theresa Touchet, Imelda Touchet, John Myrick

In this week's second reading, we hear Saint Paul almost singing, "O the depth of the riches and wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are his judgements and how inscrutable his ways!" Paul is praising God by accepting there is much about God that lays beyond us. We use our reason to grow in our understanding – God is One and Triune. But still, given our creaturehood, we can never fully comprehend or encompass God - God is infinite while we are finite. Our inability to fully comprehend God and his ways is most acute when human suffering is present. We desperately want to know why oneself or a loved one is terribly ill or struggling in life. We want to know why a person who is at the centre of one's life has passed away. We look for a reason to understand. But "how inscrutable" are his ways. While we do not stop trying to understand, at the same time, with the help of God's grace and one's freedom to accept the grace, we admit our limits and trustingly place ourselves with him. We may not fully know "why" but we do believe the "why." And the "why" is love. "I give you thanks, O Lord, with my whole heart; before the Angels I sing your praises; I bow down toward your holy temple and give thanks to your name for your steadfast love and faithfulness."

God bless and take care,
Fr. John

*"Let your understanding strengthen your patience.
In serenity look forward
to the joy that follows sadness."*

— St. Peter Damian

To See ✠ To Love ✠ To Serve

September is just around the corner and with it a brand-new season of our **To See, To Love, To Serve** schedule. We have some exciting things coming up and we begin with a focus on the **Sacraments**. You will see the theme of the Sacraments present in the Word on Fire Course – The Sacraments, our celebration of Catechetical Sunday and the call to serve in one of our catechetical programs. Watch for these and much more as we enter the Fall semester!

To See:

Word on Fire The Sacraments

Everything in the Church's life comes from and returns to the Sacraments because they are the presence and power of Christ himself. The Sacraments help us understand these signs and channels of grace and discover the secret behind their persistence down the ages.

In this 12 week mini-course you will rediscover the great sacraments of the Church in all their theological depth, spiritual effects, and pastoral promise.

Available through Flocknote beginning September 16:

<https://divinemerccyparish12.flocknote.com/signup/270846>

To Love:

Coming up in September:

September 1: World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation

This year's theme: *"They shall beat their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning hooks"* (Isaiah 2:4) focusing on how armed conflict damages the earth.

September 20: Catechetical Sunday Honouring catechists, teachers, and parents, (who are the primary educators of the faith) for their ministry and dedication in passing on the Catholic Faith. Divine Mercy will have information and registration available for Sacrament preparation in the parish.

September 17-25: The novena to the Canadian Martyrs: available on Flocknote:

<https://divinemerccyparish12.flocknote.com/signup/270847>

We will also have some paper copies available the weekend before the Novena begins.

To Serve:

Interested in helping out in one of Sacramental preparation programs? Divine Mercy offers preparation for both children and adults for Baptism, First Communion, Confirmation and Reconciliation. If you would to join us, contact Anna at apaolo@rcsj.org to learn more.

Explore the Catholic Faith OCIA

Order of Christian Initiation of Adults

Are you or someone you know interested in becoming Catholic, completing your sacraments, or simply learning more about the faith? The **Order of Christian Initiation of Adults (OCIA)**—formerly known as RCIA—is a welcoming journey of faith formation, prayer, and community. Whether you are unbaptized, baptized in another Christian tradition, or a baptized Catholic seeking First Communion or Confirmation, you belong here. There is no pressure or commitment, just an opportunity to ask questions and grow closer to Christ. The OCIA at Divine Mercy begins **Sunday October 11**. For more information or to register, contact Anna at apaolo@rcsj.org or call the parish office at 709-726-9924

Sacramental Preparation for Children 7+

Here in the Archdiocese of St. John's, Confirmation and First Holy Communion are normally celebrated together and children are prepared for the sacraments once they are 7 years of age or more.

Divine Mercy Parish will begin the preparation for the sacraments of Confirmation, Holy Communion and First Confession in October.

Parents play a vital role in this faith journey and are asked to join us for an information evening on **Tuesday, October 6th**. **Please mark it in your calendars.** For more information or to register your child, contact Anna at apaolo@rcsj.org or call the parish office at 709-726-9924.

"Enjoy the fragrance of eternal life, breathed on you by means of the sacraments."

— St. Ambrose, bishop (240-397)

Notes & Upcoming Events

Divine Mercy Parish BBQ



And Bring A Friend...

**Saturday, September 19
12pm to 3pm**

On the grounds, behind the church
340 Newfoundland Drive

Fun, Food & Friendship!

* Games for all ages!

*We'll supply the hot dogs and hamburgers.

*Donations of sweets and sides are greatly appreciated.

This year, we encourage everyone to invite someone to join the fun and fellowship. Think of friends and family who have been away from the church for a while, maybe someone new to the neighbourhood or someone looking for some community. Reach out and invite them to join us.

RSVP by calling the Parish Office at 709-726-9924 or email us at divinemercyparish@rcsj.org Please let us know how many will be attending.

If you would like to help out in planning and preparing for the BBQ, or running some of the games, please call the parish office at 709-726-9924 or speak to Anna today after Mass or email her at apaolo@rcsj.org

***Watch for future bulletins for more details.
Don't forget to mark the date!***

'I travel, work, suffer my weak health, meet with a thousand difficulties, but all these are nothing, for this world is so small. To me, space is an imperceptible object, as I am accustomed to dwell in eternity.'

- St. Frances Xavier Cabrini

The Spiritoso Singers at Divine Mercy!

We are excited to announce the launch of a brand-new family of Christian choirs, here at Divine Mercy!

Spiritoso Youth Singers — for children and teens ages 4 to 17, divided into two age groups; we'll sing beautiful, fun, and age-appropriate music!

Spiritoso Singers — for adults who want to join a fun, high-quality choir that praises God while having a great time together.

Low-pressure **auditions** will be held at Divine Mercy on **August 31st** and **September 7th**. Come raise your voice in praise — all are welcome!

For more information, go to

www.realcalmforcatholicmoms.com/choirs,

or contact Sarah Templeton at

realcalmforcatholicmoms@gmail.com.

SAVE THE DATE: SEPTEMBER 26TH AND 27TH, 2026. Divine Mercy Council of the Catholic Women's League will be having a Bake and Craft Sale before and after all weekend Masses in the Church Foyer. Any parishioners who would like to donate some baked goods or craft items would be great. Your support will be greatly appreciated.

Centre for Life Family Fun Day/ Walk for Life

Saturday September 12: **Place:** Divine Mercy Parish **Time:** 11am- 2 pm There will be face painting, games, BBQ., 11:30 am demonstrations by Tec Nurtur on coding children's video games, building /coding a robot rover, plus balloon twisting creations from 12:30 - 1:30! Sponsor sheets are available by calling 709-579-1500 or email centreforlife@centreforlife.ca . Mark your calendar and support the Centre for Life's community outreach services. Rain date is Saturday September 26th.

Fr. Ray Kelly: The Singing Priest of Ireland

Concert at the Basilica: September 24, 7:30pm

To get tickets, call the Cathedral Basilica Foundation at 709-793-4411 or email info@basilicafoundation.ca

St. Edwards Parish CBS, Musical Concert Evening

Saturday, October 3, 2026, at 7 P.M., With special performers Judy Brazil, Russell Molloy, Brandon Bowen, Parish Priests, Choir Members and others. Tickets Just \$25. To Purchase please contact, the Parish Office at 709-834-9481, or via e mail stedwardsparish@rcsj.org Tea/Coffee/Sandwiches available for purchase, 50/50 Draws and Door Prizes.