Pastor: Fr. Gerald David - geralddavid9@gmail.com  
Associate Pastor: Fr. Peter Hanna, FoH - fr.peterhanna@gmail.com  
Deacons: Rev. Mr. Brian Smith and Rev. Mr. Gordon MacKinnon

**DIVINE MERCY PARISH**

**Saint Andrew Church**  
1570 Shore Road, Eastern Passage, NS

**Saint Clement Church**  
18 Gaston Road, Dartmouth, NS

**Saint John XXIII Church - Parish Office Site**  
35 Colby Dr., Dartmouth, NS  B2V 1N7
Parish Office hours: Monday - Thursday, 9am - 3:30pm  
Friday, 9am - 1pm

Website: divinemercyparish.ca (up but still a work in progress)

Phone: (902) 435-3090  
Fax: (902) 434-5787

Contacts  
Office: Ext 221 - Judy Clarke - judy@divinemercyparish.ca  
Ext 224 - Jackie Fitzgerald - jackie@divinemercyparish.ca

Ext 222 - Fr. Gerald David - frgerald@divinemercyparish.ca  
Ext 228 - Fr. Peter Hanna, FoH - frpeter@divinemercyparish.ca

Ext 225 - Deacon Gordon MacKinnon - deacogordon56@gmail.com  
Deacon Brian Smith: deaconbriansmith@gmail.com  
Ext 223 - Anne James - anne@divinemercyparish.ca

**Weekly Mass Intention Schedule**

9am Tues. Mar 23 - Gerald Robitaille  
Bob Young, Sr.

12pm Wed. Mar 24 - Peter McKenna  
Kyle Martin & Fred Martin

9am Thurs. Mar 25 - Cathy Pitts  
Gerald Robitaille

12pm Fri. Mar 26 - Souls in Purgatory

4pm Sat. Mar. 27 - Sharon Robertson  
Hung & Minh Tran

In the event of cancellation, the Intention will be rescheduled.

**Mass Times**

Invitation is required for Weekend Masses.  
Not required for weekday Mass. However,  
names and contact info will be taken at the door.  
As per safety protocol and the protection of all  
parishioners, **masks and social distancing for all Masses is a must.**

**St. Andrew Church**  
Tuesday, 9am (also live streamed)  
Sunday 11am (also live streamed)

Confessions: 9:30-10:15am  
After Tuesday Mass or by appointment.

**St. Clement Church**  
Thursday, 9am  
Saturday, 4pm / Sunday, 10am

Confessions: 9:30-10:15am  
After Thursday Mass or by appointment.

**St. John XXIII Church**  
Wednesday, 12 noon  (Confessions 11-11:45am)  
Friday, 12noon (during Lent)  
Saturday, 4pm / Sunday 9am

Confessions: Before Wednesday Mass or by appointment.

Covid19 protocol will be followed

**Baptism** - To have a child Baptized, it is required  
that you be a registered parishioner at one of these  
churches. Choice of **Godparents** must be practicing  
Catholics. If you are a parishioner of another parish,  
you must get a letter of permission from your pastor  
to have your child Baptized here. Please contact  
the parish office to arrange for Baptismal preparation.

**Marriage** - One year notice and Marriage Preparation course is required.

**Funeral** - In the event of the death of a loved one,  
please contact the parish office at  
Divine Mercy Parish 902-435-3090  
Fr. Gerald, ext. 222  
Fr. Peter, ext. 228
5th Sunday of Lent – Here we are already nearing the completion of our journey in the wilderness. Lent is one of the most beautiful opportunities for us to take some real good time for reflection and meditation with the Word of God. This deeper meditation and reflection with the Word of God, assist us on that interior journey, so as not to get lost in what at times can seem a rather sad recollection, darkness, at times despairing, shame and guilt. As we reflect with the Word of the Lord, we are reminded of a Covenant formed by a God who truly loves us and wants to show us His Redeeming love – through Mercy and Forgiveness. The Church helps solidify that very reality of the power of the Word of God through the teaching she imparts. The teaching to guide and direct us along our pilgrim journey, towards Light, Happiness, Peace and full Health with God. This Sunday we are given once again a glimpse into the way in which Jesus imparted the necessary knowledge (heart & mind) to his apostles and how he gave them what was necessary at the time so they could come to that clearer awareness and that they in turn would be able to help others along the way to find ... or as the Gospel suggest to see in Christ the salvation which is theirs. Jesus knew why he came to this hour and we need to learn why we must turn to him every day and every hour of every day. Yes, Lent helps us discover the power of the Word. Lent is also a time when we are reminded that we are not alone, and we do not have to stay in the dark. Christ is our Light!!! Praise be to God who has given us this gift of Salvation in His Son.

Domestic Church/ Family Faith Formation & Sacramental Preparation – As we’ve shared several times, this year has been one like none other we have experienced. With restrictions due to the pandemic – churches opened, then closed, regulations coming in for Mass – seating – masking. All trying to keep people safe and to minimize the spreading of the covid-19 virus. For the most part we are doing fairly well with our church gatherings of all sorts. In the midst of our transition of three former parishes we have also been readjusting the former structures to form a new foundation for Divine Mercy Parish. This has had its complications however, with the Parish Leadership Team formed and working through some of organizational matters and the Finance Council formed and Building Committee working through the temporal realities and financial matters of bringing three communities together. Next is to prepare and form a new Pastoral Council. I mention all these realities so that you are very much aware of the realities we are dealing with diligence and conscientious effort. Another big area is Faith Formation and Family Formation – with the combination of the Churches, and our hope to move forward with a more comprehensive fuller experience that would serve our Parish of Divine Mercy. This year we are focusing on striving to assist parents, who through the Sacrament of Baptism take on the responsibility for raising, training in the practice of the Faith. For the last few weeks, Deacon Gordon with First Reconciliation and Fr. Peter with Confirmation have been offering some resource and help to prepare the children and young people for First Reconciliation and Confirmation. Resources and Faith helps that could guide conversations at home, to assist us toward the celebration of the Sacraments. I would like to thank the parents and the youth for taking this time, and recognizing the importance of growing in the Faith. There are many things vying for our attention, even during covid-19, which can distract us from the things that are essential and important. Many parents have shared that this so-called down time has helped to refocus and put more emphasis on their lives as a family. I hope and pray that our coming efforts with regard to Faith Formation and Domestic Church will continue to help in this process.

The Way of the Cross – During the Season of Lent it is part of our tradition that we take some moments to pray the Stations of the Cross. Taking time to reflect upon the footsteps of Jesus toward Calvary. Reflecting on the depth of God’s love for you and me, builds a deeper relationship with Christ and what he chose to accomplish for your sake and for mine. I invite you to join us in person (registration not required) Wednesday evenings at 7pm. Saint Clement on March 24 / Saint John XXIII on March 31. Friday evenings by way of Zoom, Sponsored by the Knights of Columbus of Divine Mercy Parish, Everyone’s Way of the Cross Friday at 7pm Meeting ID: 853 8934 0766 Passcode: 8831

Continued...
For Prayer
Our Recent Sick and Suffering and Deceased

Sick and Suffering

Eileen Murphy
Ivan Langille
Sylvia Swan
Kathy Samson
Marilyn Shupe
Marlene Lahey
Angela Stuckless
Jack Sakalauskas
Fr. Malcolm (Mosey) MacNeil
Fr. Roberto Donato
Fr. Albert Cosgrove
Fr. Gilbert Bertrand, OMI
Deacon Brian Smith
Carol Conrad
Pauline Fitzgerald
Paul Briand
Chloe Bastarache
Wallace Deveau
Carolyn Connolly

Craig Newton
Joanne Reid
Mary Carter
Sylvia Delnevo
Leonard MacDonald
Kay Naugle
Peter Cross
Art Gaudet
Russell Boyle
Isabel Cruickshank
George Burton
Belinda Young
Larry MacDonald

Deceased
Paul Miles
R.I.P.

If you would like to add someone to our list for prayer, please email or call the Divine Mercy Parish office.

Fr. Gerald cont...

The Way of the Cross

During the Season of Lent it is part of our tradition that we take some moments to pray the Stations of the Cross. Taking time to reflect upon the footsteps of Jesus toward Calvary. Reflecting on the depth of God’s love for you and me, builds a deeper relationship with Christ and what he chose to accomplish for your sake and for mine. I invite you to join us in person Wednesday evenings at 7pm (registration not required)

Saint Clement on March 24 / Saint John XXIII on March 31

Friday evening by way of Zoom, Sponsored by the Knights of Columbus of Divine Mercy Parish, Everyone’s Way of the Cross Friday at 7pm Meeting ID: 853 8934 0766 Passcode: 8831

Sacrament of Reconciliation

Tuesday 9:30am – 10:15am at Saint Andrew Church
Wednesday 11am – 11:45am at Saint John XXIII Church
Thursday 9:30am – 10:15am at Saint Clement Church

As we approach Holy Week we will offer one more evening with Confession
6:30pm – 8pm Thursday – March 25 – Saint John XXIII
Sacramental Preparation & The Four Signs of a Dynamic Catholic – I have invited the parents/families who are preparing for the celebration of the Sacraments of the Church to read Matthew Kelly’s book The Four Signs of a Dynamic Catholic. In checking in with the parents I have had to make an adjustment to the times we will meet. I would like the regular preparation for the Sacrament to continue as is until after checking in with the parents we will be utilizing the Thursday evening time frame for meeting and sharing together over TWO evenings – each evening covering two sections of the book. At the present time the families that are engaged in preparation for the Sacrament of Reconciliation have completed what is necessary. We will celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation at Saint Andrew Church on Saturday, March 27 at 10am. This group will then continue into some preparation for First Holy Communion. A second group of families are preparing for the Sacrament of Confirmation. We will be proposing a date for Confirmation to Archbishop Brian Dunn, who will be celebrating the Sacrament of Confirmation with our youth. We will have to work with his schedule as he will be travelling throughout the Archdiocese to other parishes as well.

In the meantime, I invite the parents/families to read and reflect on what Matthew Kelly is offering us as a challenge to become what he refers to as Dynamic Catholics.

We will reflect on the first & second section on Prayer & Study (March 25 – 6pm -7pm – Saint John XXIII Church)
We will reflect on the second & third sections Generosity & Evangelization (April 15 – 6pm- 7pm – Saint John XXIII)

Holy Week – Divine Mercy Parish - Registration – We are drawing ever closer to our Holy Week celebrations and all that it entails. Unlike last year we are able to gather, albeit, restricted in number and following specific protocols to keep safe and mitigating circumstance for the pandemic or variants to spread. Holy Week is one of the most beautiful seasons in the Church. As we approach Holy Week this year, we are hoping to be able to provide as best we can, an opportunity for those who really want to celebrate the Triduum (the three Holy Days). This being Holy Thursday, Good Friday and the Easter Vigil. While these liturgies take place on three separate days, they are truly one continuous liturgy as we journey through Jesus’ Passion. The ritual and the focus can indeed be found in how much God truly loves each one of us, and to what extent he would go to ensure that we are brought back to him in that ultimate merciful act of love. The Life/ Death/ Resurrection of Jesus tells the story of our salvation. As was mentioned in last weeks bulletin we are providing an opportunity in each Church to celebrate Holy Thursday & Good Friday. Our Holy Thursday Mass will be 7pm at each of our Churches – there will be a short period at the end of Holy Thursday Mass at the Altar of repose; Good Friday Service will be 3pm at each Church – reverencing of the Cross will take place at the end on your way out of the Church (profound bow before the cross or genuflection on that day – no touch or kissing of the Cross). There will be one Easter Vigil at 8pm at Saint John XXIII Church. (we will allot 25 from each Church to join us in addition to those involved in ministries). Easter Sunday will be held in each Church at our present scheduled time (9am - Saint John XXIII; 10am – Saint Clement; 11am – Saint Andrew)

Now a word regarding the registration process, particularly for Holy Week (Triduum & Easter Sunday). We are limited in our seating capacity – still at present 100 max in Saint John XXIII and Saint Clement. At Saint Andrew depending on the family bubble, the seating can be between 40 – 60 generally. Therefore, we ask that you exercise the virtue of patience and holy acceptance of how many are able to get in for each Mass/ Service (Good Friday). Under the present circumstances, it will mean that you will not be able to get to every Mass / Service. We are going to try and do our best. Next year our hope, and prayer to God, is certainly, to be more free to have the ability to accommodate our whole Parish better with less restrictions. For those who are unable to attend in person we are planning to Livestream our Holy Thursday/ Good Friday/ Easter Vigil and Easter Sunday.
Margaret House Meals.
Our next meal prep for F.O.O.D. is scheduled for March 26th at 5:30 pm. We will gather in small numbers to prepare 16 dishes of Sausage/ Penne for Margaret House.
At this point we have decided to continue with a small number in the kitchen so we are not asking for volunteers other than those who have been called and have agreed to be there on the 26th.
For those who would like to make a donation to our monthly meal prep the ingredients are Penne Pasta - 900 grams, Pasta Sauce - 680 ml (approximately), Smoked Sausage - 454 grams and Block Cheese - 454 grams.
We are certainly hoping that we return to our normal routine in the very near future. Until that time please continue to pray for the recipients of our efforts as they remain in need of our support, especially during these times of uncertainty.
Please continue to monitor the bulletins for updates and thank you one and all for your continued support in this very worthwhile project mission.
Anyone who may be interested in helping with meal preparation in the near future should please contact Anne James or Deacon Gordon and have your name added to our call list.
God Bless you all and continue to be safe.

LIVING YOUR STRENGTHS: Does anyone have a copy of the Living Your Strengths book that they would be willing to donate? There is an increasing interest in the program in the Archdiocese and the book is not readily available especially with parishes experiencing a drop in contributions due to the pandemic. If you would like to help out email us at adultfaith.divinemercy@gmail.com

One way that we grow in our faith is by study. By exploring ideas from Catholic sources we get fresh perspectives on issues we wish to explore further. There are Catholic Papers such as America Media and National Catholic Register. There are many Catholic authors such as Matthew Kelly, Scott Hahn and Fr. Michael White and Tom Corcoran to name a few. As we read and reflect we may find ideas which change our understanding of Church teaching. Catholic literature non-fiction and fiction can aid us as we journey toward the Lord, helping us to be reformed in the image of Jesus.

The parish is using Alpha to reach out to those who do not know the Lord or who want to deepen their relationship with Him. Please keep everyone attending our Tuesday evening sessions in your prayers over the coming weeks. Let’s all pray that the Holy Spirit will fill their hearts and draw them closer to the Lord.

Stewardship during a Pandemic - I like the quote "only when we serve others do we feel fulfillment and lasting joy." A very precious gift to have is forgiveness. Fortunately for me, Jesus has given me the gift of being able to easily and immediately forgive anyone who trespasses against me. It is a wonderful freedom. I really feel for those who can’t forgive, as this leaves a poison in their hearts.
I always try to initiate a short and friendly conversation with a stranger, once a day. This can be about very small things, in context of the situation. However, Covid has put some severe limitations on this. Contribution by a parishioner. Thank-you!
Any ideas for this column, please email stewardship.divinemercy@gmail.com If you like the idea of helping bring Stewardship alive in our parish, we are seeking new members for the committee.

DIVINE MERCY FRIDAY MORNING BREVIARY AND ROSARY
Previous to the on-set of the “virus” parishioners regularly gathered at Saint John XXIII before the Friday morning mass to pray the morning breviary and rosary. If you would like to join the group please email adultfaith.divinemercy@gmail.com. We are on Zoom every Friday morning at 9.
Divine Mercy Parish – Outreach Initiatives

In addition to our Society of Saint Vincent de Paul (SSVP) conferences, our Parish is involved in several outreach initiatives in our community. We are seeking your assistance with a couple of these initiatives as COVID-19 has impacted their ability to meet the demand.

School Breakfast Program
The Knights of Columbus has been assisting Dartmouth South Academy with their “Grab & Go” Food Program. This program helps feed those children who go to school hungry. We are seeking **nut free** snack items such as Bear Paws, Sara Lee Little Bites, and granola bars or your loonies and toonies so we can purchase these items for the school.

The Daily Bread Program
Saint Mary’s Cathedral Basilica manages The Daily Bread program and is currently serving take out lunches to the homeless and under-waged. To help offset the costs of these lunches, we will be collecting cans of tuna and granola bars throughout the Parish during Lent.

We will have bins at each of the churches should you wish to donate to either of these programs.

For more information on the School Breakfast Program, please contact Norm O’Leary at noleary@ns.sympatico.ca

For more information on The Daily Bread Program, please contact Annette Silver at tasilver2@gmail.com

**Mass registrations and invitations:**
If you are not already on a registration list for Mass, you may do so by sending an email to...
admin@divinemercyparish.ca (please don't use this email for RSVPs)

**Note to ALL:** Please reply (back to the person who sent it) to your email invitation to Mass when you receive it. This lets us know if we have reached our quota for attendance or if we can give the opportunity to someone else to attend in your place if you are unable to make it. Thank You!

**Email transfers** may be sent to divinemercy.bills@gmail.com

**All Cheques** are to written to Divine Mercy Parish

We thank you for your continued and dedicated support!

The Franciscans of Halifax furniture bank is located at St. Anthony Parish Hall, 27 Farrell St., Dartmouth N.S. We serve individuals and families who are in need of household items. We are asking for donations of slightly used furniture, dishes, and other household items. We are also pleased to pick up any house hold items.

Call Fr. Peter Hanna, FoH - (902) 266-2137 Or email: fohfurniturebank@gmail.com