



Shepherd's Corner

Dear Parishioners,

Last week we started discussing the lawsuit in Michigan over a priest's funeral sermon. We have become self-centered. God's pushed to the periphery; we're the centre. Let's discuss funerals this week and suicide next week.

Confusion Reigns: Catholic funerals have two subjects: the deceased and the living. Funerals benefit the deceased when the Church renders to God, on their behalf, her prayers and sacrifices. Funerals also benefit the living by focusing our attention on eternity life, the four last things, and God. Both the deceased and the living benefit simultaneously. While full of sympathy for the dead, and full of grief with the grieving, we our attentive to God, who remains our only real consolation.

Edge of Eternity: At a funeral we are, as it were, standing on the edge of a cliff, feeling butterflies at the frightsome immensity before us. More than mere spectators, it is our immensity: the finality of death, timelessness and the all-seeing justice and mercy of God. The chants of the Requiem Mass reflect this position; they are simple and somber, and the prayers manifest real confidence and hope.

A Celebration of Life? If we don't have God, or eternal life, or God's greatness, all we have left is temporal life. Therefore, the funeral might be a paltry 'celebration of temporal life.' How sad. It might sound good to 'celebrate life' but this represents a rejection of God and spiritual bankruptcy.

God is our judge. Before Christ comes to judge the "living and the dead," He judges each particularly. The Church does not presume to judge anyone's heart. For this reason, the Church treats all alike, entrusting them to the mercy of God. That said, the Church judges exterior actions. If someone is a notorious sinner (i.e. apostate, heretic, schismatic or the like) and they died without an exterior sign of repentance, they are to be denied a public funeral for the sake of the common good. Otherwise, it risks a seeming approbation of their malice. But, this denial must NOT be interpreted as a condemnation of their soul. No such judgement is made.

Pronouncements: If we say, "So-and-so is in heaven," or "purgatory," or "hell," we are presuming to judge. We don't know. Making such pronouncements is arrogant and an offence against the real judge who, alone, judges with just judgement. We can, of course, express our best wishes that so-and-so be soon taken into paradise, etc.

Funeral Sermons: Many older liturgical commentaries recommended that no sermon be given during a funeral Mass. The simple reason was the strong temptation to make the aforementioned false judgements. Saying something nice, which is fine, so easily slides into a eulogy, which is forbidden: "The homily in particular must avoid the literary genre of funeral eulogy and illumine the mystery of Christian death in the light of the risen Christ," (CCC 1688). Notice the subject matter is to be Christ. These eulogies are an affront to the sovereignty of God.

Let us pray for one another, — *Fr. Rob Novokowsky, fssp*



Bulletin of Information
8 December, 2019

Saint Aloysius Parish

Traditional Latin Mass Apostolate
Diocese of St. Catharines

Served by the
Priestly Fraternity of St. Peter

Sunday Mass Times: 9 am (low) and 11 am (high)
Weekdays: please see inside cover.

Confessions: 30 minutes before each Mass and
Wednesdays 5:30 to 6:30 pm, or by appointment

Solemn Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament:
Wednesday 8:30am to 6:30pm ending with Benediction

Baptism: Contact the office one month prior to proposed date

Marriage: Contact the office six months prior to proposed date;
preparation is required.

Holy Face of Jesus Devotion: Tuesday following 7:30am Mass

1st Friday: Hour of Reparation 6-7pm, followed by 7pm Mass

1st Saturday: Rosary Meditation

Legion of Mary: Praesidium Meeting, Thursdays 7 pm.

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Schedule of Masses and Intentions



Announcements

Date	Liturgy	Mass Intention	Requested by
Sun 8 Dec.	Immaculate Conception—BVM, 1st cl. (Comm. 2nd Sunday)	9 am + Edna Hennessey 11 am Pro populo	John and Natalia Somogyvari —
Mon. 9 Dec.	Feria of Advent 3rd cl.	7:30 am + John & Maria Bak	Rebecca & Tony Alfieri
Tues. 10 Dec.	Feria of Advent 3rd cl.,	7:30 am Paul(+) and Genevieve Nohara	Darryl and Jennifer Nohara
Wed. 11 Dec.	St. Damasus I, P, C, 3rd cl. (Comm. Feria)	7:30 am In Thanksgiving 8:30 to 6:30pm Adoration 7 pm Celebrant's Int.	Darryl and Jennifer Nohara —
Thurs. 12 Dec.	Feria of Advent, 3rd cl.	7:30 am + Joh van der Zalm	Paul & Genevieve Nohara
Fri. 13 Dec.	St. Lucy, V, M, 3rd cl. (Comm Feria)	7:00 pm Clara Burns	Arsenault Family
Sat. 14 Dec.	Saturday Mass of our Lady, 3rd cl.	6:15 am + Paul Nohara	Helen Kemp
Sun. 15 Dec.	Third Sunday of Advent (Gaudete) 1st cl.	9 am Ava & Austin Wilson 11 am Pro Populo	Walter & Karina Maczynski —

- Welcome to our visitors today.** We are glad to see you. Please join us for coffee in the hall (basement) after the 11 am.
- Calendars and Collection Envelopes:** Available today at the back of the church. Please see Marie.
- Rorate Mass:** The FSSP has obtained permission to celebrate the Sat. Mass of our Lady in Advent. On 14 Dec. Mass will begin with the singing of the 4 verse hymn “Rorate Caeli” outside, at **6:15 am**. The Introit will accompany the procession into the church for the candle-lit Sung Mass.
- Gaudete Sunday Pot-Luck:** Please sign up at the back of the church.
- Thank you ...** to the men and ladies who helped feed the retreatants these past two Saturdays. Good job. You did the parish proud. Good things are already happening as a result of your good work. I may repeat this experiment again; please be patient if I come calling upon you.
- Building Improvements:** We need to address some of our needs without delay. I beg your forbearance in making alterations too quickly. If these make you feel, unsettled, I apologize. The bishop has given permission to fundraise for the following projects, the proceeds of which are diocesan tax exempt! Envelopes are available for this purpose. **(#1)** The Front Entrance Canopy will provide protection from the weather on our front steps. **(#2)** A free-standing, fixed-screen confessional: we are not currently compliant with diocesan policies. **(#3)** Organ and Choir Platform: this will elevate our music program literally and figuratively. **(#4)** A Separate, Open Vestibule: this will provide a place of preparation and escape. (Numbers 2 - 4 are standard operating equipment for Catholic churches.) Please see the drawing on display at the back of the church.
- Up-to-date Website:** The parish's website is now refreshed and more current. Visit www.staloyisius-latinmass.ca for all the latest bulletin. In addition, this bulletin and some pictures are also uploaded to an unofficial Facebook page, facebook.com/LatinMassNiagara.
- Offertory Collection:** 1 Dec. 2019: Offertory—\$895; Candles—\$170; Bookstore—\$50; Thank you for your continued generosity; please remember the parish in your will.
- Cathedral Appeal:** We only have \$695 to go to meet our parish goal!
- Mass Intention Requests:** Please use the envelopes provided. Thank you.
- Christmas Schedule:** Midnight Mass will be preceded by hymns from 11:30 pm; Day Mass on the 25th—10 am only; Dec. 26 -Mass cancelled. All the rest of the schedule this week will be the same.