



## Shepherd's Corner

Dear Parishioners,

A priest is being sued by the parents of the deceased who didn't like the funeral sermon. Apparently, suicide was the issue. Last week we talked about funerals. Since the world gives mixed messages about suicide, let's briefly review the clear teachings of the Church. Is suicide a fitting Christmas topic? Yes.

**Strong words:** Our Lord's own commentary is chilling: "*Truly I tell you, the sons of men will be forgiven all sins and blasphemies, as many as they utter. But whoever blasphemes against the Holy Spirit will never be forgiven; he is guilty of eternal sin,*" (Mk 3:29). These are the terrible consequence of suicide. Shutter. If we die in our sin, we can't ask to be forgiven because our wills are fixed. The choice has been ours, not God's. Sugar-coating kills.

**Eternal over temporal:** Sin has made the Garden of Eden into a 'Vale of Tears.' Suicide is motivated by despair over some form of suffering. All suffering is temporary; heaven is forever. Therefore, no amount of earthly suffering can be compared to the joys of heaven—or—the loss thereof!

**Hope is a virtue:** St. Therese Lisieux, days before her death, confided to Mother Agnes: "What a grace it is to have faith. If I had not any faith, I would have committed suicide without an instant's hesitation." (Last Conversation, 2296). If St. Therese can be tempted to despair, so can we.

**Reread the catechism:** "We are stewards, not owners, of the life God has given to us. It is not ours to dispose of ... It is gravely contrary to the just love of self, ... [and] it offends love of neighbor ... [and] is contrary to the love for the loving God. ... It also takes on the gravity of scandal." (CCC 2280-82)

**Deterrent:** In the past, all public funeral rites, including burial in consecrated ground, were denied. Is this harsh? The Church's 2000-year wisdom teaches that suicide is contagious and can easily become an epidemic. If one victim is treated with praise and honor, this *de facto* encourages others. Our refusal is meant to teach the gravity of the evil and be a deterrent to all.

**Public honor:** Public funeral rites pay honour to the deceased. We refuse this public honour when it cannot be paid without the appearance of honouring their 'notorious' sin. We do not, thereby, judge their souls. Public sin has public consequences. The common good needs to be protected.

**Private honor:** We never judge anyone's soul; we pray earnestly for their repose. And since God is outside of time, we pray for their 'happy death.' In addition, we should shower the victim's family with sympathy. This is not hypocritical. Can Masses be offered for them? Yes, but labeled: "Private Int."

**Assisted Suicide:** Helping someone kill themselves is helping them blaspheme the Holy Ghost. Further, if a priest offers the sacraments to someone preparing for suicide, the priest is guilty of formally cooperating in blasphemy, and in addition, sacramental sacrileges. There are NO circumstances which justify suicide or assisting. Heaven awaits those who are patient and persevere to the end. (cf Lk 21:19).

Drop down dew ye heavens, from above, and let the clouds rain the Just One! Let us pray for one another, — *Fr. Rob Novokowsky, FSSP*



Bulletin of Information

15 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 7:30 am Mass.

**First Friday: Hour of Reparation** 6-7pm, followed by 7 pm Mass.

**First Saturday:** Rosary Meditation.

**Legion of Mary:** Praesidium Meeting Thursdays, 7 pm.

**Fr. Robert Novokowsky, FSSP—Parish Priest**

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# Schedule of Masses and Intentions



# Announcements

Date	Liturgy	Mass Intention	Requested by
Sun 15 Dec.	Third Sun. of Advent, 1st cl.	9 am Ava and Austin Wilson 11 am Pro populo	Walter & Karina Maczynski —
Mon. 16 Dec.	St. Eusebius, B, M 3rd cl. (Comm. Feria)	7:30 am Souls in Purgatory	Ursula Blakiewicz
Tues. 17 Dec.	Greater Feria of Advent, 2nd cl.	7:30 am Mereille Aycho	Paul & Genevieve Nohara
Wed. 18 Dec.	Ember Wed., of Ad- vent, 2nd cl.	7:30 am Colleen Arsenault 8:30 to 6:30 pm Adoration 7 pm Celebrant's Int.	Arsenault Family —
Thurs. 19 Dec.	Greater Feria of Advent, 2nd cl.	7:30 am Special Intention	Manon Kawula
Fri. 20 Dec.	Ember Friday of Advent, 2nd cl.	7 pm + Maria Bak	Mary Sirotnik
Sat. 21 Dec.	St. Thomas, Ap., 2nd cl. (Comm. Ember Sat.)	9 am + Nial Murray	Darryl & Jennifer Nohara
Sun. 22 Dec.	Forth Sunday of Advent, 1st cl.	9 am Souls in Purgatory 11 am Pro Populo	Vandergeest Family —

1. **A Warm Welcome to all today.** We are glad to see you. Please join us for a POTLUCK in the basement hall after the 11 am.
2. **Calendars and Collection Envelopes:** Available today at the back of the church. Please see Marie.
3. **Christmas Schedule:** Midnight Mass will start at 12 am. It is 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.
4. **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.
5. **Building Fund Envelopes:** Available on the back table. Funds will be used for tax-free improvement projects, not operating funds.
6. **Up-to-date Website:** The parish's website is now refreshed and more current. Visit [www.stalloysius-latinmass.ca](http://www.stalloysius-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](https://facebook.com/LatinMassNiagara).
7. **Offertory Collection:** 8 Dec. 2019: Offertory—\$1934; Building Fund—\$1020; Sisters—\$170; Candles—\$85; Flowers—\$28; Cathedral Appeal—\$1100; Thank you for your continued generosity; please remember the parish in your will.
8. **Cathedral Appeal:** We have exceeded our goal by \$405! Congratulations and thank you! Keep up the good work, as they try to do the same.
9. **Christmas Decorations:** Please note that the decorations will be different this year. I will need some assistance on Monday 23 Dec. at 10 am. Thank you.
10. **Mass Intention Requests:** Please use the envelopes provided. Thank you.