



## Shepherd's Corner

Dear Parishioners,

This short column is for the purpose of communicating things which are, for various reasons, less suitable for the pulpit. Some 'corners' will be more theological, like the principles which govern Catholic funerals; others will be discussing more practical issues. Some might be pastoral-comical or tragic-historical! Allow me to be a little personal this time.

**Communication.** The difficulties of this can hardly be exaggerated. I will attempt to over-communicate, to minimize the failures to communicate. Please feel free to express your needs to know.

**Brief.** This column is normally less than 600 words. In preparing my comments, I end up with an "essay" of 2 or 3 times that length. Heavy editing ensues. Discarding whole paragraphs is sometimes easy; other times, like killing a pet. Time waits for no man. Obviously, as my own editor, things could be much better. Nevertheless, many hours later, its ready.

I am grateful for any readership. Reading takes time and effort, which I take not for granted. Feedback from this column is positive enough to keep me writing; negative enough to keep me grounded; sparse enough to be merciful.

**Mutual Understanding.** Why this topic? Your shepherd was taken from among the sheep, lifted up for no merit of his own, to lead the sheep to green pastures. The shepherd teaches, sanctifies, and governs. He understands the sheep because he remains one, also in need of nourishment. However, a mutual understanding is best.

**Balance.** The ordained priesthood, as a special reflection of Christ, needs to be revered. This gift doesn't float unincorporated; it is carried in ordinary earthen vessels—the weak and sinful humanity of the man ordained. The man should not be revered in the same way as his divine priesthood.

**Rightful Authority.** Moderns talk a lot about being 'pastoral.' In my experience, this often amounts to the shepherd taking an easy path and neglecting his duty: not teaching or sanctifying or governing. Permissiveness disguised as mercy puts salvation of both shepherd and sheep at risk. Authority is for salvation. The Church is a glorious (unapologetic) patriarchal society, under God the Father, human fathers and spiritual fathers. This column, the Shepherd's Corner, as poor as it is, is an exercise of that authority. Patience!

**Bleak Midwinter.** It's no accident that Christ was born at the end of the Roman calendar year. It's symbolically the culmination of the old covenant, and the introduction of the new. We should take stock of our life in the light of Christ's birth and make resolutions for the future in the same light. We need not fear what was—He has made all things new. We need not fear what will be—He is the Resurrection. Fear not.

We had big changes in our parish this year. Thank you for your warm welcome to St. Aloysius. I hope I have made the transition as smooth as might have been. It's not just a figure of speech when I say, let us please pray for each other. Have a very Merry Christmas! — *Fr. Rob Novokowsky, FSSP*



Bulletin of Information  
22 and 25 December, 2019

# St. 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.

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# Schedule of Masses and Intentions

| Date              | Liturgy                                                               | Mass Intention                              | Requested by               |
|-------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------|----------------------------|
| Sun<br>22 Dec.    | Fourth Sun. of<br>Advent, 1st cl.                                     | 9 am Souls in Purgatory<br>11 am Pro populo | Vandergeest Family<br>—    |
| Mon.<br>23 Dec.   | Greater Feria of<br>Advent, 2nd cl.                                   | 7:30 am + Edward<br>Arsenault               | Arsenault Family           |
| Tues.<br>24 Dec.  | Vigil of Christmas,<br>1st cl.                                        | 7:30 am + Stanley and<br>Idella Sawson      | Private                    |
| Wed.<br>25 Dec.   | The Nativity of the<br>Lord, 1st cl.                                  | 12 Midnight— Holy Souls<br>10 am Pro Populo | Gensens Family<br>—        |
| Thurs.<br>26 Dec. | St. Stephen, Deacon<br>& 1st Martyr, 2nd cl.<br>(Comm. Oct. Nativity) | No Mass                                     | —                          |
| Fri.<br>27 Dec.   | St. John, Ev. Ap.,<br>2nd cl.<br>(Comm. Oct. Nativity)                | 7 pm + Agnes Harrison                       | Chris & Pat Merrick        |
| Sat.<br>28 Dec.   | Holy Innocents,<br>2nd cl.<br>(Comm. Oct. Nativity)                   | 9 am Adelaine Nohara                        | Paul & Genevieve<br>Nohara |
| Sun.<br>29 Dec.   | Sunday in the Octave<br>of Christmas, 2nd cl.                         | 9 am + Paulina Rosianna<br>11 am Pro Populo | Timothy Ratelle<br>—       |



# Announcements

- Visiting St. Aloysius? A warm welcome to you.** Please join us in the basement hall for coffee after the 11 am Mass.
- Christmas Decorations:** Please note that the decorations will be different this year. If you'd like to help, please come Monday 23 Dec. at 2 pm.
- Confessions at St. Denis:** "The Light is ON." Beginning Jan. 6, 2020, the Sacrament of Confession will be available every weekday from 8 to 9 pm. Every week, Mon. to Fri. inclusive. I'm taking Thursdays. St. Denis is located at 230 Lake St. St. Catharines. (This is a city wide effort.)
- Fundamentals of Catholicism.** I'm will be teaching a course for adults to renew or be introduced to the fundamentals. Meeting room at St. Denis, Thursdays, 6:30 to 7:30 pm, beginning January 23rd. More to follow.
- 2020 Collection Envelopes:** Please pick-up your box at the back of the church. If you don't have one, please let us know.
- Liturgical Calendars:** Available today at the back of the church after the 9 am, and in the bookstore (basement) after the 11 am. Please see Marie.
- Christmas Schedule:** Midnight Mass will start at 12 am and it will be candle-lit ceremony. 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.
- Monday Masses:** "Father, you need to take care of yourself." Yes, good idea. All Monday Masses will be cancelled beginning 13 Jan. 2020.
- Building:** The bishop has given permission to fundraise for the projects below, diocesan tax free. Building Fund envelopes are available for this purpose. **(#1)** The Front Entrance Canopy—installed this week. **(#2)** A free-standing, fixed-screen confessional. **(#3)** Organ and Choir Platform: this will elevate our music program literally and figuratively. **(#4)** An open vestibule which is separate from the nave of the church.
- Building Fund Envelopes:** Available on the back table. Funds will be used for tax-free improvement projects, not operating funds.
- Cyber presence: Visit** our website: [www.staloyisus-latinmass.ca](http://www.staloyisus-latinmass.ca) for the latest, and the unofficial Facebook page, [facebook.com/LatinMassNiagara](https://facebook.com/LatinMassNiagara).
- Offertory Collection:** 15 Dec. 2019: Offertory—\$1562; Building Fund—\$135; Sisters—\$20; Candles—\$80; Thank you for your generosity.
- 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.
- Mass Intention Requests:** Please use the envelopes provided. Thank you.