



Shepherd's Corner

Dear Parishioners,

We need to talk about death. Is this being morbid? Not at all. Our society misses the bullseye by wide margins by flat denial on the one side, and fantasies about the afterlife on the other. Talking about death is good, plain, common sense, for, preparing for death is the most important task of our life on earth. Can we really adequately prepare for death if we don't talk about it openly? Not a chance.

Denial about death is understandable; we have legitimate fear; death is the lousiest thing about natural life. What is it? Natural death is the separation of our soul from our body. It is a punishment for sin; punishments are never meant to be pleasant. This state is only temporary. We believe in the "resurrection of the body." All bodies and souls will be rejoined at the fulfillment of time. That said, our saviour has made all things new. So, while death is still a punishment, it has been elevated into something higher: death is now a means to an end, it is the path to heaven. Therefore, simultaneously, natural death can be physically ugly but spiritually beautiful. This natural death is only the first death.

Case #1: Uncle George has just been diagnosed with an end-stage disease, and an estimated 4 weeks to live. The next-of-kin refuse to accept the prognosis. To George they downplay or withhold altogether this information. They insist on continued medical procedures which have no realistic chance of helping. They talk to George about getting better, even though George is still declining and feeling worse. They never talk about death. In their selfish denial, they are doing a huge disservice to George. Rather than helping, they are preventing his good preparation for death.

Case #2: Aunt Suzie is declining rapidly in the nursing home. While she is still aware and conversant for periods of time, her family refuse to allow a priest to come for the Last Rites, as this would be a "kiss of death." Rather, they talk about how good she looks, and her plans for the future. Only after she has descended into a coma-like state do they call a priest. However, in a coma, Susie cannot confess her sins or receive Holy Communion. Her family has denied Susie Holy Communion. This is actually hateful behavior.

Natural death is merely the first death. It may seem like the end of life, the *absolute* worst thing ever, and a cause for despair. It isn't, but the second death is. The first death is unavoidable, but the second death is.

Second Death. Preparing well for the first is how we avoid it. "*But the fearful and unbelieving and the abominable and murderers and whoremongers and sorcerers and idolaters and all liars, they shall have their portion in the pool burning with fire and brimstone, which is the second death,*" (Ap.19:7-8).

Going forward, we'll be talking about the 2nd Death, Last Rites, family, hospitals, funeral homes, organ donation, living wills, and the parish.

God love you,

— Fr. Rob Novokowsky, FSSP



Bulletin of Information

12 January, 2020

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, Saturdays 4—5 pm 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.

Legion of Mary: Praesidium Meeting, Tuesdays 2 pm.

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.

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Schedule of Masses and Intentions



Announcements

Date	Liturgy	Mass Intention	Requested by
Sun. 12 Jan.	The Holy Family, 2nd cl.	9 am Anna & Andre Vautour 11 am Pro populo	Sarah Paquette ——
Mon. 13 Jan.	Commemoration of the Baptism of the Lord, 2nd cl.	——	——
Tues. 14 Jan.	St. Hilary, B, C, Doct., 3rd cl. (Comm. St. Felix)	7:30 am + Alexander & Gertrude Ratelle	Milly and Leo Ratelle
Wed. 15 Jan.	St. Paul, 1st Hermit, C., 3rd cl. (Comm. St. Maurus)	7:30 am Paul Nohara 7 pm Celebrant's Int.	Angela Casciato ——
Thurs. 16 Jan.	St. Marcellus I, Pope, M, 3rd cl.	7:30 am Jim Oskisko	Richard & Loretta Gensens
Fri. 17 Jan.	St. Anthony, Abbot, 3rd cl.	7 pm Theresa & William Weston	Private
Sat. 18 Jan.	Sat. of Our Lady, 4th cl. (Comm. St. Prisca)	9 am Frank Stevens Confessions 4-5 pm.	Don and Shirley Pennell
Sun. 19 Jan.	The 2nd Sunday aft. Epiphany 2nd cl.	9 am John Tilley 11 am Pro Populo	Walter & Karina Maczynski ——

 Shading indicates a special schedule.

- Welcome to our visitors today.** Please join us in the basement hall for coffee after the 11 am Mass Sundays.
- Epiphany Blessings:** Water, Chalk and Incense was blessed on Epiphany. If you'd like your home blessed, please sign up on the sheet provided at the back of the church. Thank you.
- Christmas Clean up:** Tuesday 14 January please stay after Mass to help clean up the decorations. Thank you.
- Confessions in the City:** Weeknights, Mon—Fri, 8 pm to 9 pm. (St. Denis Parish, Adoration Chapel entrance, 230 Lake St., St. Catharines).
- Fundamentals of Catholicism:** An 11-Week Course for Adults. For Catholics and not Catholics. Thursdays 6:30—7:30 pm, beginning Thurs. 23 Jan., at St. Denis Parish (230 Lake St., St. Catharines). Invite your friends. **Please register:** send a note to: staloyuspastor@protonmail.com and you will receive a course schedule and outline. *N.B.: This is a new email address.* Drop-ins also welcome.
- Confessions Saturday 4 –5 pm:** Survey results: Definitely yes—10; Probably yes—4; Probably not—4; Not really—2.
- Monday Masses:** Masses will not normally be scheduled after **13 Jan. 2020**. However, a priest has kindly offered to cover. Negotiation.
- Youth Group:** For those 13 and up. Meets regularly. For more info please call the office and I'll put you in touch with the parent leaders.
- Young Adults:** For those 18 and up. Next meeting Sat. 18 Jan. For more info call or write Maria at mariasarahdelduca@gmail.com.
- Legion of Mary:** Please note that the regular meeting of the praesidium is now **Tuesdays at 2 pm** in the parish Hall. Active members do some apostolic work each week to bring Christ to others. Auxiliary members support their work of bringing Christ to others with prayer.
- Building:** Bishop Bergie 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! (#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 separated 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.
- Offertory Collections for both 1 & 5 Jan.:** Offertory—\$3,234; Building Fund—\$410; Sisters—\$53; Cathedral Appeal—\$100; Thank you for your material support of the parish. Please remember the parish in your will.