



MASSES OF THE WEEK

Sunday, February 4

- 9:00 a.m. For the parishioners of St. Theresa Parish.
 10:30 a.m. For Harry Maltby by Valerie & Peter Racine.
 For the intentions of the Handmaids of the Lord.

Monday, February 5*Feast of St. Agatha*

- 9:00 a.m. For the repose of the soul of Bernice Noonan.

Tuesday, February 6*Feast of St. Paul Miki & Companions*

- 9:00 a.m. For the souls in purgatory.

Wednesday, February 7

- 9:00 a.m. For a parishioner's intentions.

Thursday, February 8

- 9:00 a.m. For Mr. & Mrs. Arthur Labbé and the deceased members of the family by Paul and Grace Labbé.

Friday, February 9

- 9:00 a.m. For the repose of the soul of Gracia Ranger by the estate.

Saturday, February 10*Feast of St. Scholastica*

- 9:00 a.m. -----
 4:30 p.m. For the repose of the soul of Gloria Pereira by her family.

PLEASE REMEMBER THE SICK OF OUR PARISH IN YOUR PRAYERS:

Monique Beaudry, Erin Burnett, Sara Hernandez Arias, Marcelo Pimentel, Franco Azua Arias, Moli Coletti and Zigmunt Wysocki.



Lectors & Commentators

Saturday, February 10

- 4:30 p.m. Vanessa Hooper
Commentator: Ellen Dulay

Sunday, February 11

- 9:00 a.m. Denise Corbett
 10:30 a.m. Peter Landry
Commentator: Miguel Planas

EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS
Saturday, February 10

- 4:30 p.m. Sheila McGlynn

Sunday, February 11

- 9:00 a.m. Adrian Manlagnit
 10:30 a.m. Michael Valiquette
Chalice: Ellen Dulay & Junita de Ocampo

HOLY FATHER'S PRAYER INTENTIONS

Universal: That those who have material, political or spiritual power may resist any lure of corruption.

ARCHBISHOP CALLS FOR CONSCIENCE CAMPAIGN**BACKGROUND:**

Assisted suicide has been legal in Canada since June 2016. Discussions are already taking place to expand the criteria to minors, people with psychiatric illness and those with dementia. This puts people who are lonely and isolated at risk of choosing euthanasia simply because they don't have anyone who cares and can give them hope.

Today in Ontario:

- o Physicians and other caregivers are forced to participate in euthanasia against their will, by referring their patients.
- o Pro-euthanasia groups are threatening to sue faith based hospitals unless they allow euthanasia on the premises.
- o Only a third of the population has access to adequate palliative care, so they are being denied real choice on end of life issues.

This places physicians, nurses and other health professionals in an impossible situation – assist in the killing of their patients or lose the ability to care for patients at all.

This is happening despite constitutional protections for freedom of conscience and religion in the Charter of Rights and Freedoms (s.2).

CALL FOR CONSCIENCE CAMPAIGN

THE 2017 CAMPAIGN:

In 2017, many churches across the province were involved in the "Call for Conscience" campaign to advocate for the protection of conscience rights for doctors, nurses and other health care professionals who are asked to participate in assisted suicide/euthanasia. Despite more than 30,000 letters to Members of Provincial Parliament (MPPs), this campaign did not achieve its desired goal: legislation that would protect health care workers from being forced to participate in causing the death of their patients. Health care workers are being forced to choose between their careers and their conscience.

THE 2018 CAMPAIGN:

Ontario remains one of the few jurisdictions in the world without adequate protection for conscientious objectors. As a provincial election is approaching this June, we need your help to highlight this issue for MPP's and those seeking office. The 2018 Call for Conscience campaign has the following goals:

- o To renew the call to protect the right of health care professionals to abstain from any involvement in causing death of the patients.
- o To provide protection for faith based facilities that do not wish to participate in assisted suicide/euthanasia.
- o To ask elected Members of Provincial Parliament (MPP's) and those seeking office to increase access and funding for palliative care in Ontario.

Archbishop Terrence Prendergast is asking all parishioners to provide their name, postal code and email address on lists that will be available at the back of the church this weekend and next weekend. You will be sent an email with an online link to contact candidates in your riding and the leaders of the parties to express your concerns. You will be encouraged to send a letter to your Member of Provincial Parliament, concerning conscience rights in Ontario, in April 2018. The whole process, done electronically, takes only five minutes. For those without an email account, the draft letter that follows is a sample that can be sent to your MPP.

Archbishop Prendergast is pleased that dioceses and other faith traditions across Ontario are also participating in this initiative. *"Our goal is to build a database of 100,000 contacts by the end of February 2018. Your personal information will be kept confidential. You will only be contacted by our Archdiocese with my permission for this or other important initiatives that may be of concern to the Catholic community or by the Coalition of HealthCARE and Conscience on issues of conscience protection or euthanasia".*

WRITE A LETTER TO YOUR MPP:

Dear MPP,

As Ontario prepares for an election shortly and as my current MPP (or candidate in my riding), I would like to ask for your commitment to protecting the rights of health care professionals and facilities in our province. I am also deeply concerned about the most vulnerable among us, in light of the legalization of assisted suicide in Canada in June 2016.

Specifically, the conscience rights of health professionals need to be protected through provincial legislation. The current care coordination service operated in Ontario, unlike those in other jurisdictions, still forces doctors to provide referrals, thus participating in the procedure. Five doctors are currently challenging the policies of the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Ontario that require them to choose between their conscience and their careers. We should be protecting these physicians rather than forcing them to fight for rights guaranteed in the *Charter of Rights and Freedoms*.

Advocates of euthanasia/assisted suicide are lobbying strongly to force any publicly funded health care facility to offer euthanasia/assisted suicide. While no medical procedure is offered in every facility across the province, proponents are demanding this of facilities that have deeply rooted principles that will not allow them to kill their patients.

Finally, with only 1/3 of Canadians having access to quality palliative care, we should not be surprised to see a dramatic increase in euthanasia/assisted suicide cases. Studies show that people are fearful of pain and loneliness. Both of these issues can be directly addressed by palliative care. I believe that if all Ontarians had access to quality palliative care, many would not pursue assisted death.

Your position and that of your party will have a direct impact on my vote this June. I am respectfully asking you the following:

1. Will you support legislation to protect doctors, nurses and other health care providers who are being forced to participate in assisted suicide/euthanasia through making a referral?
2. How will you protect facilities from being forced to offer euthanasia/assisted suicide on their premises?
3. How does your party plan to address the lack of quality palliative care in our province?

I appreciate you addressing these concerns directly and look forward to your reply. Know that I very much respect the important role that our elected officials play in serving the citizens of our province.

Thank you,
Signature.