

Dear Padre,

Martyrs and people who commit suicide willingly sacrifice their lives, so how are they different? If I deliberately put myself in a position to be killed—even for a worthy cause—isn't that a form of suicide?

Life is a gift from God. While both martyrdom and suicide contradict the natural human disposition to preserve and perpetuate life, the former is a totally self-giving act; the latter, a self-inflicted one.

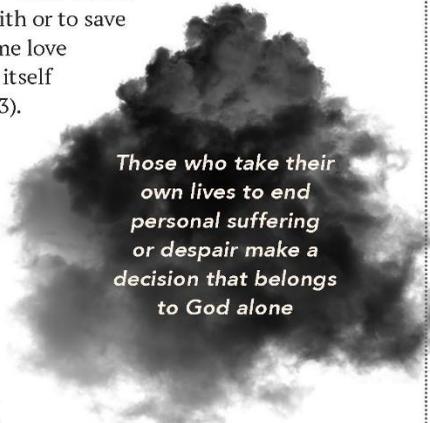
The early Church believed that martyrs went directly to heaven because their sacrifice of life was the ultimate Christlike expression. Their courageous endurance of indignities and tortures—their heroic willingness to die in defense of the faith or to save another's life—demonstrates a supreme love of God and neighbor over love for life itself (*Catechism of the Catholic Church*, 2473).

Those who take their own lives to end personal suffering or despair make a decision that belongs to God alone. It's an action that can revolve totally around the "self," often with little thought given to its consequences. It's a sin against hope (CCC 2091) that reveals a lack of faith and trust in God. Conversely, martyrdom is a profound expression of faith, trust, and hope in God. Nevertheless, our compassionate God fully knows the intensity of suffering that triggers suicide and "can provide the opportunity for salutary repentance" (CCC 2283).

Fr. Byron Miller, CSsR / Sundaybulletin@Liguori.org

Do you have a question for the Padre?

Go to DearPadre.org to send your question and to learn more about Dear Padre.



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A WORD FROM Pope Francis

Remember that story about the poor widow lady...Her husband had committed suicide; he jumped from the bridge into the river. And she wept. She said, "I am a sinner, a poor woman. But my poor husband! He is in hell..." And the Curé of Ars said, "But wait a moment, ma'am, because between the bridge and the river, there is the mercy of God."

HOMILY, MARCH 18, 2019

Calendar

Monday
SEPTEMBER 6
Weekday
Col 1:24—2:3
Lk 6:6—11

Tuesday
SEPTEMBER 7
Weekday
Col 2:6—15
Lk 6:12—19

Wednesday
SEPTEMBER 8
The Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary
Mi 5:1—4a or
Rom 8:28—30
Mt 1:1—16, 18—23, or
1:18—23

Thursday
SEPTEMBER 9
St. Peter Claver, Priest
Col 3:12—17
Lk 6:27—38

Friday
SEPTEMBER 10
Weekday
1 Tm 1:1—2, 12—14
Lk 6:39—42

Saturday
SEPTEMBER 11
Weekday
1 Tm 1:15—17
Lk 6:43—49

Sunday
SEPTEMBER 12
Twenty-fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time
Is 50:4c—9a
Jas 2:14—18
Mk 8:27—35



23rd Sunday In Ordinary Time

September 5, 2021



Holy Spirit Catholic Church & Christ the King Catholic Mission

Reverend Peter Kmiecik, Pastor

Deacon John E. Jennings † Deacon Norbert Lloyd, Jr.

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Office Hours: Mon-Thur-8:00 a.m.–3:00 p.m. Fr. Peter is off on Monday



Holy Spirit Mass Schedule & Intentions

Week of September 4 – September 10

Sat 6:00 pm †Mildred Werther
Sun 11:00 am †Diane Fisher
Sun 6:00 pm Parishioners Living & Deceased
Mon 8:00 am NO MASS
Tue 8:00 am †All Souls in Purgatory
Wed 8:00 am †All Souls in Purgatory
Thr 8:00 am †All Souls in Purgatory
Fri 8:00 am Johanna R Ortiz (Birthday)

Christ the King Mass Schedule & Intentions

Week of September 4 – September 10

Sat 4:00 pm †John & Delores Radich
Sun 9:15 am †Sherman & Steward Families
Tue 6:00 pm †Bernadette & Elbert Entriken

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

Before and after daily Mass, and by Appointment
1st Friday Adoration – 8:30am- 6:00pm
at Holy Spirit in St. Patrick's Chapel
Adoration at Christ the King – Tuesday 5:30pm-6pm