

Weekly Bulletin
St. Aloysius and St. Columban Bulletin
Epiphany of the Lord
January 3, 2021

Reading I	Isaiah 60.1-6
Responsorial Psalm:	Lord, every nation on earth will adore you.
Reading II	Ephesians 3.2-3a, 5-6
Gospel:	Matthew 2.1-12

ST. ALOYSIUS COLLECTION

December 24/25:	Regular Collection:	\$5,495
December 27:		\$475

The monthly financial reports (previous 2 months) are posted on the bulletin boards at the front and side entrances of the church for your perusal.

THE ARCHDIOCESE IS CHANGING ITS ONLINE DONATION PLATFORM (January 1st)

For several years, the Archdiocese of Gatineau has offered a secure online donation platform on its website. As of January 1, 2021, a new platform will come into operation to replace the one currently in service. More user-friendly, the new platform will continue to make it possible to make a secure one-off or recurring donations to the diocese and to the 53 parishes of our Diocesan Church. As of January 2021, people who currently make online donations will have to register in the new platform and enter their contact details and the terms of their donation to their parish or the diocese. Existing contact details and monthly recurring donations **will not be transferred automatically into the new system**. Parishioners who have setup recurring monthly donations will receive an e-mail from the diocese in the coming weeks with further details. The new donation platform will be accessible on the diocese's website under the menu item **Donate now**. Should you have any questions or encounter issues in January, do not hesitate to contact our Finance Warden, Jim Brownrigg or the diocese directly for assistance.

Thank you in advance for your generosity!

MASS Intentions:

New Years Day	11:00 a.m.	(St. Aloysius) For all parishioners
Sun. Jan. 3	11:00 a.m.	For David Whitworth by Louise and Gord MacMillan
Wed. Jan. 6	9:15 a.m.	For all parishioners
Sun. Jan. 10	11:00 a.m.	For Cathy and Norbert Daly by Shirley Daly For Carol Errnis by Lorraine Whitworth

2021 DONATION ENVELOPES ARE READY AT THE ENTRANCE TO THE CHURCH
If you don't have envelopes and would like some, speak with Jim Brownrigg at Mass or call or email the office.

**St. Columban will be closed for the months of January, February and March.
First mass for 2021 will be Sunday April 4 at 9:00 am (TBC)**

*Note: registration for regular Sunday mass must be done by 3pm Saturday

To register you must call the parish office or send an email (st.aloysius@bellnet.ca) including the names and phone numbers of all persons wishing to attend. You will receive confirmation if space is available.

Epiphany of the Lord

The Greek word Epiphany (*επιφάνεια*), means *appearance* or *manifestation*. In the Western Church, the Feast of the Epiphany celebrates Jesus' first appearance to the Gentiles, represented by the Magi, while in the Eastern Church the feast is the commemoration of the baptism of Christ where the Father and the Holy Spirit gave combined testimony to Jesus' identity as Son of God. Later, in the synagogue at Nazareth, Jesus revealed himself as the promised Messiah, and at Cana he revealed his Divinity by transforming water into wine. These multiple revelations are all suggested by the Feast of the Epiphany. In the first reading, the Prophet Isaiah says that when the light of the Lord shone on Jerusalem, all people would start coming towards that city, carrying gifts. Today's Responsorial Psalm (Ps 72) includes a verse about kings coming from foreign lands to pay homage to a just king in Israel. In the second reading, St Paul, writing to the Ephesians, expresses God's secret plan in clear terms: "*the Gentiles have become fellow heirs...and sharers in the promise in Christ Jesus through the Gospel.*" God has planned that Jews and Gentiles should become only one people: the people of God. All divisions, partitions, envy, dissensions and wars will have to disappear. We are all children of the same Father in Christ Jesus.

Today's Gospel carries the story of the visit of the Magi and the attitude of Herod at the news of the birth of Christ. It teaches us how Christ enriches those who bring him their hearts. The adoration of the Magi fulfills the oracle of Isaiah (first reading), prophesying that the nations of the world would travel to the Holy City following a brilliant light, bringing gold and incense to contribute to the worship of God. It reminds us that if God permitted the Magi – foreigners and pagans – to recognize and give Jesus proper respect as the King of Jews, we should know that there is nothing in our sinful lives that would keep God from bringing us to Jesus. The gifts presented to Jesus may be thought of as prophesying Jesus' future. Gold was a gift for Kings; frankincense (an ancient air purifier and perfume), was offered to God in Temple worship (Ex. 30:37); and myrrh (an oriental remedy for intestinal worms in infants), was used by the High Priest as an anointing oil (Ex. 30:23), and to prepare bodies for burial. This Gospel pericope presents three groups who reacted to the Epiphany of Christ's birth.

The first group is made up of those who wanted to eliminate Him. This group headed by Herod reacted with hatred toward Him. Secondly, there is a group of people who reacted with indifference composed of priests and scribes, who ignored Jesus. The third group made up of the magi and shepherds, reacted to Jesus with adoration and offered Him gifts. We ought to belong to the third group, by worshiping Jesus at Mass with the gold of our love, the myrrh of our humility and the frankincense of our adoration; by giving a new direction to our lives. Just as the Magi chose another route to return to their homes, let us choose a better way of life, abstaining from proud and impure thoughts, evil habits and selfish behaviour. We could be stars leading others to Jesus,

as the star led the Magi to Jesus. Let us remove the darkness of the evil around us by radiating Jesus' love through selfless service, unconditional forgiveness and compassionate care. Like the Magi, let us offer Jesus our gifts on this feast of Epiphany: our gift of friendship with God in the form of wholehearted love and devotion; our gift of friendship with others by leading them to Jesus by our exemplary lives of Christian charity in action; our gift of reconciliation with God by daily asking His pardon and forgiveness for our sins and giving unconditional forgiveness to those who offend us; our gift of peace by seeking God's peace in our own lives through prayer, the Sacramental life and daily meditation on the Word of God. Happy New Year.

POSTPONEMENT OF THE 2020 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING (AGM)

Normally in early December St-Al's holds its' Annual General Meeting for the election of churchwardens and to provide reports of each of the portfolios. However, we have been directed by the diocese to postpone the AGM as long as Gatineau is deemed a red zone.

If the situation improves before March 1, 2021 an announcement will be made at least six days in advance of the proposed AGM date. Note that the current churchwardens will remain in office until the election is held. Should we remain a red zone beyond March 1st, following the recommendation of the parish priest and the chairperson, the bishop will appoint new churchwardens to replace the outgoing churchwardens.

FOR THE SICK OF OUR PARISH

Please pray for the sick of our Parish: Atreyu Harvey, Rita Lacelle, Filipe Garrido, Adeline Gendron, Roger Seguin, Phyllis Seguin and Peter Simard.

ONLINE EVENTS

BACK BY POPULAR DEMAND: ONLINE EXERCISES STARTING in JANUARY



Diane Joanisse has kindly offered to do a second session of the online exercise classes. The classes will be every Thursday morning at 10:00am beginning January 7th until February 25th. Exercises are geared to every fitness level and equipment is not required. Register on our website at <https://www.stalloysius-stcolumban.com/news-events> There is no fee to register, however donations to the parish would be greatly appreciated. Get a healthy start to your day with friends!

Note: if you registered for the previous session you must register again for the classes beginning in January.

A MIND-OPENING way to spend a Monday evening.



Pauline Leduc is hosting a Monday evening at 7:pm session on Reflection on Scriptures. The participants are asked to read over the scriptures for the up-coming Sunday. Everyone is asked to take a few minutes to really reflect on what is written. The discussions that follow are very heartfelt and mind opening.

We are finding that each participant, when celebrating the mass the following Sunday, listens to and understands the homily more meaningfully. Join us by Registering on our web site. <http://www.stalloysius-stcolumban.com/newsevents>

St. Al's Virtual Paint Nite: Banish the February Blues



Looking for a fun activity to break the monotony of a long winter? Join us on Saturday, February 6th, 7-9:00PM for a **free** hosted Virtual Paint Nite, an instructor lead class you can follow in the comfort of your own home! You can either use the supplies you have at home, or order painting supplies from us for home delivery!

How it works: You will be provided with a **Zoom** link for the date and time of the event, log on and follow along while our instructor guides you step-by-step through the featured painting. If you're feeling creative, change the colours to suit your décor or go completely rogue. This is your creative license!

****WHAT YOU'LL NEED!****

- 11x14 canvas (any size will work)
- Acrylic Paint - Primary Colours (White, Black, Blue, Red, Yellow)
- 3 Brushes (we suggest a small, medium and large brush)
- A table top easel (not necessary)
- Paper towel and a cup of water to clean your brushes

Note: Paint, canvas and brushes can be ordered beforehand for a fee of \$30 (cost includes supplies, delivery and a small donation to St. Aloysius parish)

Please register <https://www.stalloysius-stcolumban.com/events/st-als-virtual-paint-night-banish-the-february-blues>

BIRTHDAYS IN JANUARY

Alice Burich - 19th

Georgina Robert - 25th

Paulette Pearce - 26th

Mary Daly - 31st