

Weekly Bulletin
St. Aloysius and St. Columban Bulletin
Baptism of the Lord
January 10, 2021

Reading I	Isaiah 55.1-11
Responsorial Psalm:	With joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation.
Reading II	1 John 5.1-9
Gospel	Mark 1.7-11

***** Important Notice *****

The Quebec provincial government announced on January 6th, that they would be invoking a 5-week lockdown starting January 9th. As a result, St-Aloysius church will be closed for the duration of the lockdown. The parish will continue to operate but Wednesday and Friday morning Masses will be cancelled. Although the church is closed, Father Al will be permitted to say Mass alone on Sunday mornings at 11am and will broadcast the Mass via Zoom and FaceBook. To access the Mass via Zoom, click on the following link:

<https://zoom.us/j/91088908876?pwd=QUVpRVFwNThJT1JOZjdqSHNPZTJoQT09>

Meeting ID: 910 8890 8876
Passcode: D8z45N

We will also continue to live stream the Mass on the St. Aloysius Gonzaga Parish Community page on Facebook (viewing the Zoom Mass as it takes place). Make sure to "like" and "follow" our Facebook page (see link below) to be able to view the live stream at 11am.

<https://www.facebook.com/StAloysius-Gonzaga-Parish-Community-141740569252256>

The live stream will be saved on the Facebook page to be viewed at any time.

We will keep you informed of any changes as they arise.

**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)**

ST. ALOYSIUS COLLECTION

January 1:	Regular Collection:	\$635
January 3:		\$515

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:

Sun. Jan. 10	11:00 a.m.	For Cathy and Norbert Daly by Shirley Daly For Carol Errnis by Lorraine Whitworth
Sun. Jan. 17	11:00 a.m.	For Murel Grenier by The Gatineau Friendship Club For Clifford Daly by his Mother

2021 DONATION ENVELOPES ARE READY AT THE ENTRANCE TO THE CHURCH

If anyone who hasn't already picked up their envelopes and wishes to do so, they'll need to call the office to pick them up given the closure of the church. Thanks.

The Baptism of the Lord

Christmas as the celebration of God's self-revelation through Jesus actually comes to a close with the celebration of the Baptism of the Lord. The celebration of the Baptism of the Lord as the beginning of Jesus' public ministry, serves also as the beginning of the ordinary time of the Liturgical year. Jesus did not have to be baptized and to be cleansed; His baptism rather was the acceptance and beginning of His mission as God's suffering servant. His baptism is seen as a moment when God's plan is fulfilled in Jesus. He allowed Himself to be numbered among sinners. Out of love, He consented to His baptism of death for the remission of our sins. Many Fathers of the Church explained that Jesus received baptism to identify Himself with His people, who, as a result of John's preaching, for the first time in Jewish history became aware of their sins and of their need for repentance. The Jews traditionally believed that only the Gentiles who embraced Jewish religion needed the baptism of repentance, for, as God's chosen people, the Jewish race was holy (Kadavil, A).

St Gregory of Nazianzus puts it in perspective when he writes, *"John is baptizing when Jesus draws near. Perhaps he comes to sanctify his baptizing when Jesus draws near. Perhaps he comes to sanctify the baptizer; certainly he comes to bury sinful humanity in the waters. He comes to sanctify the Jordan for our sake and in readiness for us; he who is spirit and flesh comes to begin a new creation through Spirit and water. Jesus rises from the waters; the world rises with him."* Jesus' baptism by John was a mystical experience that Jesus felt deep within His soul at the crucial turning point of His life. The Gospel of Mark which we read today presents the symbolic events of Jesus' baptism. The heavens were open and the Holy Spirit descended as a dove upon Jesus and a voice from heaven declared Him as *"my Beloved Son; with you I am well pleased."* These events are God's revelation to humankind of the mystery that He is Triune. The presence of the Trinity at His baptism reveals Jesus' true identity and mission. The opening of

heavens shows that this was a moment of God's powerful intervention in human history and in the life of His Son. The heavens like Paradise with its flaming sword, closed by Adam for himself and his descendants, are once more opened.

The baptism of Jesus by John was an event of many implications in His life. First, it was a **moment of decision** for Jesus. It marked the end of His private life in preparation for His public ministry. Second (as stated earlier), it was a **moment of identification** with His people in their God-ward movement initiated by John the Baptist. Thirdly, it is a **moment of approval** from His Heavenly Father. The Father declared Him "**Beloved Son.**" Fourthly, it was a **moment of conviction**; Jesus received assurances from heavens about His identity and the nature of mission. Jesus was the Chosen one and Beloved of God with the mission of saving humankind by becoming the "*suffering servant of God*" (i.e., by His Cross). Finally, the baptism of Jesus was a **moment of equipment**; the Holy Spirit descended on Jesus and anointed Him with the power of preaching the good news of the love of the Father to humanity (Kadavil, A). This baptism shows that in Jesus all prophecy is completed and a new age begins. The beginning of Jesus' public ministry is also the end of the long time of waiting. His baptism fulfills all the saving plan of God.

Brothers and sisters, the baptism of Jesus reminds us of our own identity and mission. It reminds us that we are God's children by adoption, brothers and sisters of Jesus, members of His Church, heirs of Heaven and temples of the Holy Spirit. We become incorporated into the Church, the Body of Christ and made sharers in the priesthood of Christ. We are required to become a living force for all mankind, lights shining in the world. We may be half-hearted now, but we take consolation from the Gospel challenge to begin again. We may not literally see any 'dove' or 'voice' from heaven; but we are not alone. Like Jesus, we have received the power of the Holy Spirit and the love of the Father to encourage us to move forward in our own mission. We are gifted and called to serve. Happy Sunday!

2021 REGISTRATION FOR FIRST COMMUNION & RECONCILIATION

Preparation for Sacraments Registration

Note that a registration fee will be charged to cover the cost of materials and administration. Details will be provided at the first meeting.

Due to the pandemic, all meetings will be held virtually via Zoom.

First Communion and First Reconciliation:

Parents of children who are in grade 2 or older (7 years old or +) may register their child for First Eucharist and First Reconciliation. Please complete the form found on the website at <https://www.staloysius-stcolumban.com/firstcommunion> and return it by email to the parish along with a copy of the child's baptismal certificate (if baptized in a parish other than St. Aloysius).

- o The parent meeting will be on Friday, January 15th at 7 pm. You will be contacted by email with the details.
- o The first session with the children and the parents will be held on Sunday, January 24th from 1 pm to 2 pm. Sessions are held twice a month.

One of the best ways you can help your child prepare for sacraments as a family is to attend weekly Mass together. Please review the Directives for Attending Mass

at <https://www.staloysius-stcolumban.com/news-events>. Registration is required to attend in person, or the Mass may be viewed live on our Facebook page.

Contact Louise MacMillan (gordandlouisemacmillan@gmail.com) or the parish office if you have any questions.

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.

OUR DEEPEST SYMPATHY

Our deepest sympathy to Shirley Daly and the Daly Family on the passing away of Shirley's son, Clifford. He passed away last week. May he rest in peace.

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.staloysius-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.staloysius-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.staloysius-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

