

Weekly Bulletin
St. Aloysius and St. Columban Bulletin
Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph
December 27, 2020

Reading I	Genesis 15.1-6; 17.3b-5, 15-16; 21.1-7
Responsorial Psalm:	The Lord is our God, mindful of his covenant forever.
Reading II	Hebrews 1.8, 1112, 17-19
Gospel:	Luke 2.22-40

ST. ALOYSIUS COLLECTION

December 20: Regular Collection: \$605

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:

Christmas Eve	7:00 p.m.	(St. Aloysius) For all parishioners
	9:00 p.m.	(St. Columban) For all parishioners
Christmas Day	11:00 a.m.	(St. Aloysius) For all parishioners
Sat. Dec. 26	4:30 p.m.	(St. Columban) For all parishioners
Sun. Dec. 27	11:00 a.m.	(St. Aloysius) For David Whitworth by Lorraine Whitworth
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

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.

NEW YEARS

January 1st

St. Aloysius

11:00 a.m. (Register-see below))

**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)**

CHRISTMAS MASS REGISTRATION

Please find below the schedule for registering to attend mass in-person. Note that Christmas day and New Year's day will be limited to 25 people. On Christmas Eve, we will be able to accommodate up to 50 people - 25 in the church and 25 in the hall. You will be advised upon registration in which area you will be located. For those who will be in the hall, the mass will be broadcast live onto a large screen tv and you will be able to receive communion by the priest. An Usher will be available to assist with any questions or concerns.

It is important that you read and follow the Directives for Attending Mass as found on our website: <https://www.staloyusius-stcolumban.com/news-events>

Date	Registration Begins	Registration Ends
December 24 th	December 11 th @9 am	December 23 rd @3pm
December 25 th	December 11 th @9 am	December 23 rd @3pm
January 1 st	December 11 th @9 am	December 30 th @3pm

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

To register you must call the parish office or send an email including the names and phone numbers of all persons wishing to attend. You will receive confirmation if space is available. Priority seating in the church will be given to persons with limited mobility.

Thank you for your cooperation and understanding.

CONFESSION

In preparation for Christmas, Fr. Albanus is available for individual confessions. Please call the office (819)663-5244 and book an appointment for confession.

Note: wearing of masks and other protocols are to be observed. Thanks.

HOLY FAMILY

On this last Sunday of the year, we celebrate the Feast of the Holy Family. We offer all the members of our own families on the altar for God's blessing. We pray for God's blessings and protection as we step into yet another year; we look with gratitude to our families and to the family of believers. The first reading from the Book of Sirach has been seen as a commentary on the fourth commandment that says "*Honour your father and your mother.*" Ben Sirach has many good things to say about living properly according to the Torah. A good part of his book is used to describe family life, the duties of husband and wife, the obligations of children towards parents and vice versa. Sirach reminds children of their duty to honour their parents – even when it becomes difficult. He also mentions the five-fold reward which God promises to those who honour their father and mother. The first reward is "riches," and the second, long life: "*Whoever reveres his father will live a long life.*" Forgiveness of sins and God's prompt answer to prayers are the fourth and fifth rewards. He reminds children that God blesses them if they obey, revere

and show compassion to their father (nay, parents). God likes the children's love for their parents. There may however be in this first reading, the impression that it is all about the obligations of children towards their parents; that the parents are free to behave as they like. No, the parents are supposed to behave in a way that merits them the obedience and respect of the children.

St Paul, in his letter to the Colossians, advises us that we should put on love and remain thankful in our relationships with one another. He uses the analogy of dress in the regard. A dress is an important item in our lives; it shows our taste and sentiments, and our emotions. Hence, Paul says we should put on a beautiful dress so that all will be pleased. His advice is part of the "Household Code" – the rules for members of the Christian family. Though the details date to Paul's time, the underlying message of being careful with one another – attentive, gentle, and merciful – is timeless. Paul teaches that children should learn and practice noble qualities -- compassion, kindness, forgiveness and sharing --- in the warmth of the family. Over all these, we must put on love. Love is not a vague sentiment or feeling of compassion but a constant attitude of service towards our brother and sister, a readiness to suffer for him or her. In a truly holy family, all members are respected, cherished, nurtured and supported, united through the bond of love. Today's Gospel describes how Joseph presented Mary and the Child Jesus in the Temple for the ritual of the mother's purification and the Child's "presentation." St Luke shows how the Holy Family of Nazareth submitted themselves to the will of the Father expressed in the Scriptures. It spanned all through the life of Jesus: faithful obedience to the Father's will.

While parents should rightly provide for their children proper education, good job and high social standing, they have also a very important task of consecrating them to the Lord from the start of their lives as Mary and Joseph did Jesus. They should bring them up to lead a good and honest Christian life, consistent with the teachings of the Gospel. We know children learn more with their eyes than with ears. It is more about what they see us do than what they hear us say. Children learn to pray if they see their parents pray. It is also true of other things and activities. Finally, if parents practise love, forgiveness and generosity, children will learn to do likewise. Simeon and Anna in the Gospel are a model for the parents and old people of our times. Simeon does not engage in lamenting the years of his youth but in conversation with God and expresses his joyful optimism for his people. Anna, on the other hand, has no time for gossiping or backbiting. She knows that every day of her life is precious and must be used to serve the members of the community at her age. She gives her life to praying in the temple.

Brothers and sisters, we need to learn lessons from the Holy Family: The Church encourages us to look to the Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph for inspiration, example and encouragement. They were a model family in which both parents worked hard, helped each other, understood and accepted each other, and took good care of their Child so that He might grow up not only in human knowledge but also as a Child of God. We need to make the family a confessional rather than a courtroom. A senior Judge of the Supreme Court congratulated the bride and groom in a marriage with a pertinent piece of advice: "See that you never convert your family into a courtroom; instead let it be a confessional. If the husband and wife start arguing like attorneys in an attempt to justify their behaviour, their family becomes a court of law and nobody wins. On the other hand, if the husband and the wife -- as in a confessional -- are ready to admit their faults and try to correct them, the family becomes a Heavenly one." Every Holy Mass in which we participate is our presentation. Though we were officially presented to God on the day of our Baptism, we present ourselves and our dear ones on the altar before God our Father through our Saviour Jesus Christ at every Holy Mass. Hence, we need to live our daily lives with the awareness both that we are dedicated people consecrated to God and that we are obliged to lead holy lives (Tony Kadavil). 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.

OUR DEEPEST SYMPATHY

Our deepest sympathy to the Lortie family on the passing away of Shannon's uncle, Robert (Bob) Lortie. His funeral will be postponed until a later date.

May he rest in peace.

ONLINE EVENTS

Trivia Take 2!



After the fun had at our first Trivia Night, Michelle Cook Warden has kindly agreed to host a second round on Monday, December 28, 2020 at 3:00 pm. It seems that we have some competitive people who are itching to show off their skills. Who will be crowned the smartest this time? For more

details and to register please visit <https://www.staloysius-stcolumban.com/events/trivia-take-2> Registration is free however, donations to the church are greatly appreciated.

BACK BY POPULAR DEMAND: ONLINE EXERCISES STARTING in JANUARY



Diane Joannis 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.stalloysius-stcolumban.com/newsevents>

ANNIVERSARIES IN DECEMBER

Paul & Adeline Gendron , 28th - 55th

Alice Burich - 19th
Georgina Robert – 25th

BIRTHDAYS IN JANUARY

Paulette Pearce – 26th
Mary Daly – 31st