

Weekly Bulletin
St. Aloysius and St. Columban Bulletin
4th Sunday in Ordinary Time
January 31, 2021

Reading I	Deuteronomy 18.15-20
Responsorial Psalm:	O that today you would listen to the voice of the Lord. Do not harden your hearts!
Reading II	1 Corinthians 7.32-35
Gospel	Mark 1.21-28

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

St-Aloysius church remains closed during current lockdown (until Feb. 8th)

Although the provincial government has announced this week that churches may re-open for mass with up to 10 participants, St-Aloysius will remain closed until the expected end of the current lockdown restrictions on Feb. 8th. With the health and safety of our parishioners in mind, we will maintain our virtual masses via Zoom and FaceBook on Sundays at 11am. We will re-assess the situation once the provincial government announces its position on restrictions following the current lockdown.

St-Aloysius Deconfinement and Pastoral Committees

Despite the lockdown and restrictions in our usual ways of worship, our church continues its goal of working for the salvation of souls.

Fr Albanus is available for those who may be seeking spiritual support and comfort. Please call the office to schedule for confessions and communion. Call: 819-663-5244.

Note: we are to observe all the health and safety measures required during this time of pandemic.

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

Deposit: January 19: \$790.00

Collections during lockdown

While the church is closed for the next 5-weeks due to the provincial lockdown, our church continues to operate. As such, your weekly donations are still very much needed to cover our regular expenses during this time. Since we cannot meet in person, please take advantage of the diocesan on-line donation system to make your contributions (accessible via our web site under the Donations tab - Donate Now button) or drop off your collection envelopes through the mail slot at the office. You can also mail your donations/collection envelopes to us at St. Aloysius Parish, 300 rue de l'Abbe-Murray, Gatineau, Qc J8P 4Z4. We appreciate your continued support during this time.

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.

ZOOM MASS Intentions:

Sun. Jan. 31	11:00 a.m.	For Samantha Lalonde by Irene Lalonde For David Whitworth by Lorraine
Sun. Feb. 7	11:00 a.m.	For Robert Lalonde by The Friendship Club For Elizabeth Alzbeta Kopil by her daughter and Granddaughter Helen & Susan Wormington For Ann Melvin by her cousins, Helen and Susan Wormington

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.

Called to be Prophets

The common theme of today's readings is Divine authority as exercised by the prophets especially by Jesus in his teaching and healing ministry and the expectations of Christians in their prophetic call. The first reading tells us who a true prophet is: he is the one who speaks with authority because it is God Who speaks through him. He helps people to come to know the will

of God. Moses states it clearly that a prophet is not a clown or a strange person that has come down from heaven; he is a man, a brother to all those he has been sent to. He is not chosen by the people like the king, but he is called directly by God. The Lord tells him his plans and thoughts which he must communicate faithfully, without adding to or taking anything away from them. Moses, himself is an example of a true “prophet.” A prophet is an intermediary between God and humans. Moses goes up the mountain, where he meets the Lord, listens to His voice, and then returns to report all he has heard. A “prophet” is one whom God uses as a kind of loudspeaker to let people know His word. When a prophet transmits what God told him faithfully, then his words must be accepted as the message of God; but if he spreads abroad his own ideas and views or invents things, then what he says is of no value and is not different from the talk of any other person.

In the Gospel of today, Jesus shows Himself to be a prophet *par excellence*. He does not do like other rabbis; He speaks with Divine authority. People immediately notice that Jesus speaks with authority and heals with Divine power. Jesus explains the Scriptures with complete confidence, and when questioned by people, He answers with authority. He comments on the Scriptures freely in an original way. Jesus uses His real (authentic) Divine authority to teach, empower, liberate, and heal others. Jesus confronts a man with unclean spirit. The man is frightened and shouts. Jesus gives orders in reply. The unclean spirit and the people are astonished because they realize that a prophet is among them. His word achieves what it says. The condition of the “possessed” man represents the situation of a person before meeting Christ: evil forces rule and subdue one and one cannot control them. The “devil” is not to be imagined as a big or small monster but as the whole of the forces that empty humans of their humanity (Armellini, F, vol.B p. 179). The “devilish” forces include racial and tribalistic feelings that drive us to hate, discriminate and commit injustices against those who differ from us; our unbridled cravings, and greed that pushes one to accumulate money just for oneself and family and uncontrolled sexual misbehaviour.

Brothers and sisters, we are also expected to be prophets following the example of Christ. We are called to be open “telephones,” listening to the voice of God and transmitting to the world. We must be able to interpret the life-events of every person, family and nation in the light of the Gospel. We must be the persons that people consult to know the way of God (p.176). As Christians and prophets of our time, are we aware that we possess the same power and the same authority over all “unclean spirit”? Do we know that every time the word of the Gospel is proclaimed clearly, it is like an irresistible attack on some “devil”? Do we feel powerless in front of some “devil” that seems too strong to be confronted? Are we efficient “telephones”, or are our lives always “down”? Do we allow our pride, selfishness, envy and greed stand in our way of, and prevent us from, being the true “prophets” we are called to be? Our world is in need of true prophets. If people seek out the message of salvation from the wrong people, is it not because we Christians fail to be “prophets”? Are our communities prophetic only in words, or do they continue the fight that Jesus started against all that enslaves humanity? We have a great treasure in God’s word. We must imbibe it; let it take flesh in us, so that through us God can make all things new. 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).

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.

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>

BIRTHDAYS IN JANUARY

Alice Burich - 19th
Georgina Robert - 25th

Paulette Pearce - 26th
Mary Daly - 31st



BIRTHDAYS FOR FEBRUARY

Lorraine Whitworth - 1st
Robbie Miller - 1st
Amanda Foley - 4th
Maximilian McMackin - 4th
Julie McCann - 10th
Charlie Long - 11th
Joseph McMackin - 11th

Maynard Robinson - 12th
David Whitworth - 21st
Louise D'Entremont - 21st
Hannah Burns - 22nd
Dan Ford - 29th