

**Weekly Bulletin**  
**St. Aloysius and St. Columban Bulletin**  
**5<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time**  
**February 7, 2021**

Reading I	Job 7.1-4, 6-7
Responsorial Psalm:	Sing praises to the Lord who heals the broken hearted.
Reading II	1 Corinthians 9.16-19, 22-23
Gospel	Mark 1.29-39

**\*\*\* Important Notice \*\*\***

St-Aloysius church remains closed during current lockdown (until further notice)

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. 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.

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The Quebec provincial government announced on January 6<sup>th</sup>, that they would be invoking a 5-week lockdown starting January 9<sup>th</sup>. 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: February 2: \$950.00**

#### **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. 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
Sun. Feb. 14	11:00 a.m.	For Laura Dolcini by The Friendship Club For France Leblanc by Gord and Louise MacMillan

**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.

### **Suffering, Ministry and Prayer**

It is a truism that there is a lot of suffering in our world. Often, we feel so distraught in the face of diseases, calamities, wars, disappointments, exploitation and sufferings in our world. It is even more disturbing when the upright seem to suffer a lot. Today's first reading calls us to reflect on this. Job was a very religious person, always just and well-behaved and yet he was struck by an endless sequence of calamities. The initial attitude of Job as shown in this passage was

pessimistic. He had a pessimistic and cynical view of life as a chain of pain and suffering as seen in this saying of his: *'my eye will never again see good (joy)'* (7:7). He was not resigned; he did not suffer in silence but gave vent to his sorrow in front of God and courageously asked Him to explain the reason for his afflictions and calamities. Job's cry may frighten us and may sound like rebellion and blasphemy. However, it is really a deeply touching prayer. In the later part of the book of Job, we know that he eventually succumbed himself, his suffering, his work and everything he has had and lost to the greater wisdom of God (Job 42:1-6). We are therefore called to avoid pessimistic attitude and embrace life with hope and optimism as a precious gift from God. We are called to use our times, talents and lives as Jesus (Gospel) and Paul (second reading) did in their ministry. St Paul tells us in the second reading that the best way to be of service to others is to announce the Gospel to them. The good news transforms the hearts of people, gives meaning to their lives, and imparts joy and deep peace. Those who preach the Gospel, he says, should get their living from the Gospel. But Paul also urges those engaged in fulltime evangelization to reflect on their style of life and take care so that no member of the community is scandalized by the way they use the resources entrusted to them.

Today's Gospel provides answer to the problem of evil that we find in the first reading. The answer is: the evil that exists in the world can be defeated. Following the episode we read in the last Sunday's liturgy, St Mark tells us of Jesus' first meeting with human suffering and misery. Jesus meets the mother-in-law of Simon Peter in bed with fever; at sunset they bring Him the sick and possessed; the following morning He set out on a journey of the neighbouring towns for the people in need of His help. Jesus provides a reply to the desperate cry of Job: *it is no use blaming God for the sad condition and misery of people on earth. The only attitude we can adopt is to stand by the sufferers and fight evil with all our abilities* (Armellini, F Vol. B., p. 183). This is Jesus' attitude in all the encounters in Gospel of today. Jesus was much sought after wherever He went as people made increasing demands on His time. Yet in the thick of events, He would quietly steal away from the crowd to communicate with His heavenly Father in prayer. He could have slept late and prayed at home but He chose to leave the house to find a quiet place for prayer. It was these moments of intense communion with His Heavenly Father that provided Jesus with the necessary strength to carry out His ministry. Jesus in prayer was saturated with the thoughts, sentiments and glory of God. Hence, filled with grace and power, He had more than enough to pour out on all He met that day.

Brothers and sisters, we are here in this liturgy and we strive to enter into the same kind of communion with God as Jesus always did. By being open to whatever God wills for us each day we place ourselves in a position where we are able to absorb the strength we will need. We always need to recharge our spiritual batteries, grow in intimacy with the Lord if we want to be effective witnesses for Jesus. When we pray well we become absorbed in the presence of God and worship in spirit and truth. Like Jesus, we have to strongly believe in the power of prayer and give it quality time each day. True prayer is not a flight from the problems of life nor is it a simple-minded request for miracles. It is meeting with God and it enables us to see others as God sees them. With our strength renewed in prayer we have the task of repeating the gestures of Jesus: to get near those who have no strength to stand and help them out of the unhappy situation they are in. 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](mailto: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 FOR FEBRUARY**

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

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

