

**Weekly Bulletin**  
**St. Aloysius and St. Columban Bulletin**  
**6<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time**  
**February 14, 2021**

Reading I	Leviticus 13.1-2, 45-46
Responsorial Psalm:	You are my refuge, Lord; with deliverance you surround me.
Reading II	1 Corinthians 10.31-11.1
Gospel	Mark 1.40-45

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

As of Sunday, Feb. 14<sup>th</sup>, the church will re-open for 11am mass allowing up to 10 attendees as per current pandemic provincial restrictions. Pre-registration for attending will be required to secure one of the 10 available spots in the church. Registration for Sunday Masses will begin on Wednesday mornings at 9am until the 10 spots have been filled (requests received beforehand will not be considered). Please e-mail the church at [st.aloysius@bellnet.ca](mailto:st.aloysius@bellnet.ca) or call directly at 819-663-5244 to request your spot. Your attendance will need to be confirmed (via return e-mail or phone call) for you to attend the upcoming Sunday Mass.

Wednesday morning Masses will resume as of Feb. 17<sup>th</sup> with a maximum of 10 attendees as well. Pre-registration for Wednesday morning mass will not be required.

For those unable to attend the Sunday mass in person, we will continue to broadcast the mass via the Zoom videoconferencing application and FaceBook Live stream. To access the mass via Zoom, click on the following link:

<https://zoom.us/j/92467647686?pwd=dTlrUGsxTXQ0cTBpUmZzN25JTko3UT09>

Meeting ID: 924 6764 7686

Passcode: cQxkL8

We will 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 8: \$660.00**

**Paint Night: \$45.00**  
**Diocese Deposit for January: \$440.00**

### **Collections during limit restriction**

While the church is operating with number limit restrictions. 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.

### **2020 Income Tax Receipts**

All Income Tax Receipts for 2020 are available for pick up at the church's office. Carol will be in the office this Tuesday and Thursday from 9 to noon, if you would like to pick them up. All un-picked up receipts will be mailed on February 22.

### **ASH WEDNESDAY**

The Ash Wednesday mass will be [at 7 pm](#) and to be also streamed. There will be one earlier [at 9:15 am](#)(maximum 10).

For the ashes: because of the situation families joining are enjoined (if possible) to get their "ashes" ready and get them blessed during the mass. They are also expected to distribute them themselves. If you don't have them, no problem. That will not invalidate the ceremony.

Those who attend the mass may receive from the priest if they oblige or may have them given it to them using teaspoon while they use them themselves. That will be towards the end of the mass.

To join us on Zoom for Ash Wednesday:

Time: Feb 17, 2021 07:00 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/96202885080?pwd=RHluYkp3MlgzbUVqZ3ZNT3VWSzlJQT09>

Meeting ID: 962 0288 5080

Passcode: 7jkMHR

### **MASS Intentions:**

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

(Maximum of 10 pre-registered attendees. On-line virtual mass via Zoom and FaceBook – see News & Events for details)

**ASH WEDNESDAY** February 17<sup>th</sup>

9:15 a.m.(Maximum of 10 attendees. Pre-registration not required)

7:00 p.m. Maximum of 10 pre-registered attendees. On-line virtual mass

Sun. Feb. 21

11:00 a.m.

For Norbert, Cathy and Clifford Daly by Shirley Daly  
In memory of Dear Friends, Dianna Lalonde, Sylvia Spallin,  
Diane Pearce and Louise Lortie by Ann Marie Plante

## **He Heals Our Leprosy**

Today's readings continue the teaching on our call. There is emphasis today on our call to be pure and holy. We don't become holy simply by some ritual observances. We become holy by confessing our sins to God and offering our lives for God's glory and by sharing God's love with everyone around us without discrimination on the basis of colour, race, culture, religion, life style or social status. The book of Leviticus always speaks of God calling His chosen people to holiness and purity. Thus, the passage of today teaches the theme of freedom from bodily and ritual impurity as a sign of internal holiness. This freedom is symbolized by precautions against contracting leprosy given in the first reading and the healing of the leper described today's Gospel. The **first reading** shows how the ancient Jews treated lepers and gives rules for the segregation of lepers. Lepers were considered impure and were expelled from the communities for fear of contamination. All these treatments served as public health precautions. But more importantly, the lepers were considered by them as accursed by God because of their sins and should be shunned by the people. The responsorial psalm (Ps.32) teaches us that we become holy by confessing our sins and being reconciled with God every day. *"I said, I will confess my transgressions to the Lord, and you forgave the guilt of my sin"* is a teaching on reconciliation, covering the meaning of the spiritual leprosy of sin and shows us how we are forgiven by a sacramental encounter with God.

The **Gospel** describes the healing of a leper by Jesus, something that the first reading prepares us for. Jesus freed him from both the disease of leprosy and the unjust and inhuman social isolation and ostracism to which lepers were subjected. Unlike the people of His time, Jesus dramatically identified Himself with the sufferer in the total rejection and isolation waiting for him. The irony is that Jesus risked becoming "unclean" Himself, in order to make the leper clean just as He stretched out His hands on the cross to make us whole. Jesus touched the leper thus bridging the gap between what is clean and what is unclean, identifying Himself with all lepers, with all who are ritually or socially unclean and isolated and with all of us sinners who are spiritually unclean and have no way to change our condition save through His sacrifice and mercy. He thus became "unclean" in the eyes of the law that we might be made clean. He allowed himself to be rejected by His people so that those who are separated from God might return to Him and be healed.

Brethren, we need to trust in the mercy of our forgiving God. He assures us that our sins are forgiven and that we are clean. He forgives us and makes us spiritually clean from the spiritual leprosy of sins when we repent of our sins. He is a God of love who waits patiently for us, His

children. He only asks us to seek for forgiveness and have repentant hearts. The words of absolution in the sacrament of reconciliation echo that *yours sins are forgiven, and you are clean!* We need to pull down the walls that separate us from others and build bridges of loving relationship. We are urged to welcome the outcasts and untouchables of our society and open our hearts and minds to those outside the pale of society if we are going to truly follow Jesus. This is what St. Paul is speaking about in the **second reading** when he says *“Give no offence to Jews or to Greeks...”* The scorning and banning of lepers has now disappeared from most cultures. But, we still have in our communities, people who, because of their characters, defects or errors, are looked upon and rejected as “lepers.” God’s loving hands must reach out to them through us. They are not to be objects of scorn, but potential reservoir of God’s mercy for us. Happy Sunday!

### **Ash Wednesday and Lent**

Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of Lent, a period of forty days immediately preceding Holy Week and Easter. Lent is a universal call to all to reform, repent and renew our lives by resolving to live more in keeping with teaching of the Gospel, in preparation for the greatest event in the Christian Calendar; the celebration of the Paschal Mystery – the suffering, death and resurrection of Jesus. Lent mostly comes during the spring-time of the year in the Northern Hemisphere making it a season of optimism and new hope.

This call for conversion during Lent requires intense practices of prayer, fasting and almsgiving. Prayer seeks a closer communion with the Lord. Fasting and self-denial serve as a means to sustain our commitment to the Lord and engender effective self-renewal. Fasting particularly reduces our “spiritual obesity” or the excessive accumulation of “fat” in our soul in the form of tendencies, evil habits and evil addictions. When we fast, we receive additional moral and spiritual strength and are encouraged to share our blessings with the needy. Fasting also makes our minds clearer and more receptive to receive the sacred nourishment of God’s word and Holy Spirit (Kadavil, A). Beyond these traditional practices, we might resolve to forgive our enemy, assist an unfortunate person and meditate more conscientiously on the words of the Lord in the Scripture.

On Ash Wednesday, Catholics receive a smudge of ashes on their heads. The Jews had a practice of doing penance wearing sackcloth and ashes as a sign of mourning and repentance, an act of humility (Josh. 6:7). The King and people of Nineveh fasted and put on ashes and sackcloth after hearing the preaching of Prophet Jonah (Jonah 3:5-6). King Mordecai, Queen Esther and the other Jews fasted and slept on sackcloth and ashes to avert the wrath of God following the action of Haman (Esther 4). The Old Testament is replete with instances of people wearing sackcloth and ashes as a symbol of debasement, mourning and repentance (cf. 2Kings 19:1-2, etc). In the early Church, Christians who had committed serious sins were instructed to do public penance wearing sackcloth and ashes.

On Ash Wednesday, we receive the smudges of ashes hearing at the same time, “Remember that you are dust and unto dust you shall return” or “Repent and believe the Good News” - attitudes that will clean up some of the smudges of our humanness. The act of receiving ashes on our heads

is the way the church gives us the firm conviction that we are mortal beings; that our bodies will become dust after our death and that our life-span is very brief and unpredictable. It warns us strongly that we will suffer misery if we do not repent of our sins, become reconciled with God, asking His pardon and forgiveness and do penance. The gesture is a loving invitation to realize and acknowledge our sinful condition and return to our loving and forgiving God with true repentance and a renewal of our life.

The Scriptural readings of this first day of Lent are very instructive. The first reading from the Prophet Joel strikes a chord. This book was written at a time when locusts ravaged Judah. In it Joel calls for repentance and fasting so that the Lord might deliver them from the invasion of locust and preserve their crops and restore peace and prosperity. Speaking in God's name the Prophet says, "...return to me with all your heart... rend your hearts and not your clothing." To rend something is to pull it apart. Hence, we are asked to pull apart from our hearts all that is not life-giving. We can easily relate this to all our evil habits: jealousy, ungratefulness, gossiping, and addictions etc., things which interfere with our openness to God's grace and which may in fact be harmful to God's creation. Rending our hearts means that the renewal asked of us must not be merely skin-deep but must spring from within. Monika Helvig rightly says, "*it is the rending of hearts that is the business of Lent, not the rending of garments.*" So, if our Lenten practice does not lead to conversion, then it may well be that it is being done for others to see as today's Gospel suggests. **Beware of practising your piety before people in order to be seen by them...** Making effort to turn around whatever needs to be turned around is to rend one's heart. On the contrary, to do a Lenten practice that does not lead to 'turning around' is to rend one's clothing.

Like everything, this year's Lent beginning with Ash Wednesday, is somewhat different for reasons very clear to us. But is the best possible Lent we could have this year. Not all who want to receive smudges of ashes will be able to do so this year. But that does not invalidate our Ash Wednesday celebration if we pay serious attention to the symbolism of the ashes. May be we are called to do things a bit more different this year: to pray more than we have ever done, to fast more than we have ever done, to help others more than we have ever done. We are required, more than ever, to repent of our sins and renew our life sincerely and make a right turn to God. This is the favorable time, a time of salvation. God's hands are well outstretched to embrace us. We must therefore concentrate on God's goodness more than on own sinfulness and thus expand the narrow bounds of our thinking. *By my life...it is not the sinner's death that I desire, so much as his repentance,* He says. By His will He has confirmed that repentance should be open to every one of His children. May this Lent be for us a special time in which we are committed to true renewal so that the Risen Lord might come into hearts. Amen.

## **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.

**Did you know that there are excellent videos from our bishop on the Mass. Take the time to view them and learn.**

Msgr Paul André Durocher on Youtube : **The Mass, Unconfined (26) - The Eucharistic Prayer (1) - Introduction**

Copy and past this link:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VFAUyaSi4HM>

## **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**

### **VIRTUAL SHROVE TUESDAY Pancake Supper**



You are invited to join us via ZOOM on **Tuesday, February 16<sup>th</sup> at 5 pm. to 6:30 p.m.**  
Prepare and cook your pancakes in advance.

Share in the chat section, your pancake recipes and/or any other recipes that you might cook up for Shrove Tuesday. Also show off your plated Shrove Tuesday meal. You can also share your favorite pancake recipes on our Facebook page.

#### ***Dress up optional:***

Mardi Gras Carnival attire - Fancy Hats, costume jewel, loud colors, your imagination is your limit.

To access the Pancake Supper via Zoom, click on the following link:

<https://zoom.us/j/3406791115?pwd=bzZ4UnAvc3pQL1ZITHBmcVBhZlZudz09>

Meeting ID: 340 679 1115

Passcode: 7jkMHR

Join us for a fun event!

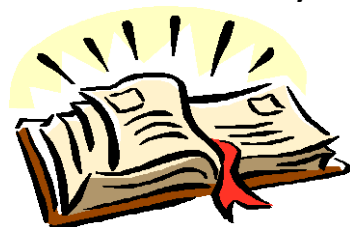
### **BACK BY POPULAR DEMAND: ONLINE EXERCISES**



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.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>



**The Gatineau Friendship Club – 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary on Feb. 21<sup>st</sup>**