

Weekly Bulletin
St. Aloysius and St. Columban Bulletin
30th Sunday in Ordinary Time
October 24/25, 2020

Reading I	Exodus 22.21-27
Responsorial Psalm:	I love you, O Lord, my strength.
Reading II	1 Thessalonians 1.5c-10
Gospel:	Mathew 22.34-40

ST. ALOYSIUS COLLECTION

October 18: Regular Collection: \$605

SPECIAL COLLECTION: October 17/18 for Propagation of the Faith: \$64.00

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.

MASS Intentions:

Sat. Oct. 24	4:30 p.m.	(St. Columban) For Arthur and Violet Foley By The Family
Sun. Oct. 25	11:00 a.m.	(St. Aloysius) For David Whitworth by Linda, Mike and Mark Janas
Wed. Oct 28	9:15 a.m.	For all parishioners
Sat. Oct. 31	4:40 p.m.	(St. Columban) For Alma and Larry Miller by Gary Miller
Sun. Nov. 1	11:00 a.m.	(St. Aloysius) For Rita Savoie by The Gatineau Friendship Club

Message from the Finance Warden

As we approach the final 2 months of the calendar year, a unique year in many ways, I wanted to provide you with an update on our finances. As expected, our budget targets are significantly off as a result of the pandemic restrictions imposed on mass attendance and reduced collection opportunities over the past 7 months. Also, revenue from short term hall rentals and social events has been curtailed due to the pandemic. We have reduced some of our expenses but must maintain the majority of fixed costs to provide services to the parish and remain open. At this point, our overall revenues are projected to be below our expected expenses for the year by about fifteen to twenty thousand dollars (\$15,000-\$20,000). We have approached the provincial government for some additional financial assistance of up to \$1,500 which is promising and expected soon. However, it will not cover the expected deficit. With a couple of months still ahead in the year, uncertain as they may be in terms of continued restrictions, I am hopeful that our community can provide additional financial support to help minimize the projected deficit. If you are able to provide additional support, please do so by dropping off your contributions at mass on Sunday, the office during the week, or provide an on-line donation via the diocesan web site. Income tax receipts will be provided for all contributions. Thank you.

Jim Brownrigg.

Love of God and Neighbour

Today's readings center on the greatest commandment: the love of God and the expression of that love in action by loving Him in our neighbour. The first reading, Exodus, explains the second greatest commandment: loving our neighbours especially, the underprivileged. Such neighbours include the strangers, the widows and the orphans. Exodus tells us to treat the downtrodden and neglected with kindness and compassion. Unlike many nations of the time, Israel had a clear and severe legislation that bade its citizens not to do any injustice to the strangers.

The Israelites were commanded to *love the strangers as they loved themselves*. The reason why they should do this is not farfetched: they too were strangers in the land of Egypt. So, they were to look into their own heart and remember the time when they were outsiders. Again, loving the stranger is something God did (Deut 10:18). The widows and orphans also have no protection because they have no husband or parents and thus can easily fall victims of every type of abuse. Scripture states that their protector is God himself who is called the Father of orphans and defender of widows (Ps.68:5). The importance of the love for this category of people can be seen in the norm in the Jewish law that states: if a farmer has left something behind in his field, he must not return back to collect it; he was to leave it there for the strangers, the orphans and the widows (Deut. 24:19-22). Just as God protected them and treated them kindly, so the Israelites are to protect others and treat them with kindness. Thus, they should become a humane society rooted in the basic religious concept of loving God living in their neighbor.

In the second reading, St Paul shows his enthusiasm for the Thessalonians and expresses his joy that the members are now so good that they set an example for all other communities. He congratulates the Thessalonians on the positive effects of their example of loving one another as Jesus had commanded them to do. Their mutual love and their loving reception of Paul and response to his preaching bolstered the Faith of Christians elsewhere who heard about them. Their love in action speaks boldly about them.

In the Gospel, Jesus combines the commandment to love God to the commandment to love one's neighbour. He speaks of the conquering power of love. *As the Israelites were asked to love the stranger as themselves, so Christians are urged to love their neighbors. The ultimate offer of hospitality is the offer of love. Often the real stranger is not the person we don't know but the person we don't want to know, the person we refuse to love. That person could be a neighbor or a member of our own family. We can all have strangers in our house, still waiting to be welcomed and loved* (Unknown Author). The love of God and the love of neighbour are like two sides of the same coin. We cannot rightly make a distinction between them or place them in two separate compartments. In reality we cannot separate the two. There is indeed, only one commandment, according to Jesus. The love of God presupposes the love of neighbour and vice versa. Thus, there can be no concrete, credible and sincere expression of love for God without recognition of, and an outreach towards, the neighbour, especially those in need. There is no short-cut to God which goes around the love of the neighbour.

How are our communities today? Are they open or is it everyone for him/herself? Is there an exchange of reciprocal help or is each one just going his/her way little caring about the others? Happy Sunday!

BIRTHDAYS IN OCTOBER

Margaret Burns	21 st
Ghislaine Cook	28 th



ONLINE EVENTS:

"St. Aloysius Parish is proud to offer its' first **online** events!

Join exercise guru Diane Joanisse for 30 minutes of moving and grooving once a week or exercise your brain at our ever popular Trivia Night hosted by Michelle "Alex Trebek" Cook.

Go to our website Events page for more details and to register.

<https://www.staloyisus-stcolumban.com/news-events>

Visit our website often to find out about upcoming events or to share ideas for online activities.

St. Aloysius Parish
Social Team"

FOR THE SICK OF OUR PARISH

Please pray for the sick of our Parish: Adeline Gendron, Roger Seguin, Phyllis Seguin and Peter Simard.

ST. AL'S FOOD CUPBOARD IS VERY LOW



Because of the pandemic there is a higher need for help and our cupboard is getting very low. If you can help, please feel free to donate canned food, pickles, pasta, rice, toothpaste, laundry detergent, etc. which will help the less fortunate in our community. The food can be dropped off before Mass on Wednesday or Sunday mornings or give a call to the office and we can set up a time to meet. Thank you in advance.

The Charitable Fund