



Fri. Nov. 29	9:15 a.m.	For all parishioners
Sat. Nov. 30	4:30 p.m.	(St. Columban) For Angus, Mina and Kevin Burns by Gail Burns
Sun. Dec. 1	11:00 a.m.	(St. Aloysius) For Bert Braiden by Carol and Pierre Léonard
Wed. Dec 4	8:00 a.m.	Eucharistic Adoration
	9:15 a.m.	For all parishioners
Fri. Dec. 6	9:15 a.m.	For all parishioners
Sat. Dec. 7	4:30 p.m.	(St. Columban) For Nora Ryan Somers by her estate
Sun. Dec. 8	11:00 a.m.	(St. Aloysius) For all deceased parishioners of St. Columban And St. Aloysius by a parishioner

Today, we begin annual pilgrimage through the events of our history of salvation. We usually start with Advent, the preparation for the birthday celebration of Jesus and ending with the reflection on His glorious “second coming” as judge at the end of the world. Advent refers to the coming of our God in the world, in Jesus Christ. It is a time Christians set aside to prepare for this coming. We see in our churches the traditional signs of Advent: violet vestments and hangings, dried flowers on the altar, and Advent wreath. These signs remind us that we have to prepare for the rebirth of Jesus in our hearts and lives, enabling Him to radiate His love, mercy, compassion and forgiveness around us. Today’s readings as well as all the readings of Advent invite us to be vigilant, to keep our eyes wide open in order to discover and prepare the ways that Jesus has chosen to come and free us from the evil in which we seek happiness, while it only causes a lot of sorrow. We are all called to be alert and ready! But ready for what?

At this time of the year people are trying to get ready for Christmas, for winter, for cars that won’t start, and for heating bills that won’t stop. There are different things being prepared by different people. Life goes on in the midst of all this. In the day of Noah as referenced in today’s Gospel, everyone is busy about the normal: eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage. But in the midst of all this there is Noah who is busy with his family building an ark. Noah is the one who is ready because he is alert to what others are doing nothing about: the catastrophe, the flood. He had an ark ready to ride out the disaster of the flood.

This story of Noah and the ark advises us not to run out and build a boat. We are rather asked to listen to the Lord so that, as Isaiah says in the first reading “He may teach us His ways and that we may walk in His paths.” With a seeming cold war and the drumbeat of wars across the globe, probably none of us will be here to see that blessed day that Isaiah describes when he says; “...nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war anymore.” War, in all its ramifications, seems to be a permanent feature of the human landscape as history testifies. There is therefore a great need for us to pay attention to the word of the Lord. As St Paul says in the second reading, “you know what time it is,

how it is now the moment for you to wake up from sleep.” Paul advises the Roman Christians to avoid drunken orgies and wrangling and jealousies. None of this makes them alert to the *kind of time* they are in; it just deadens their spiritual sensitivity to the world beyond their own flesh. When people are engaged full-time in satisfying their own craving they are not disposed to face reality and take responsibility for their own world.

Hence, Jesus speaks about the *future coming* of the Son of Man to encourage people to take responsibility for the present time. *The only way to be ready for an unpredictable event is to make the present a time of fidelity: then there is nothing to fear. The only way to secure the future is to care about the present. We are all responsible for the world we live in; we are not passive victims of the inevitable. If we do nothing, we can hardly accuse the world of conspiring against us* (Unknown Author). We all need to be alert and watchful while spiritually preparing for Christmas by offering our daily work to God for His glory, by practising more self-control in resisting our evil habits and inclinations, by seeking reconciliation daily with God and our fellow humans and by asking God’s pardon and forgiveness as we extend our unconditional forgiveness to those who have hurt us. Happy Sunday!



## **St. Al’s Annual Turkey Supper**

**will be held on Saturday, December 7<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 pm**

**For tickets see Ann Marie, Susan or Carol**

**Adults: \$15, Children 6 to 12: \$7**

### **VICTORIA'S QUILTS CANADA - (Quilts for people with cancer)- QUILT RAFFLE 2019-20**

Victoria's Quilts Canada is holding their Quilt Raffle again this year, to help raise funds to keep making quilts to give to people with cancer. So far this year, 2019, from January 1 to October 31, they have delivered 6,353 quilts across Canada.

This year, there are 3 quilts to be raffled off, valued at \$1,200, \$425, and \$300. Plus, this year there is a 4th prize, a VIA Rail travel voucher valued at \$300. The prize draw will be on Saturday January 18, 2020. Ann Smits will have tickets after Mass,.. They cost \$2. each, or 3 for \$5. Also, if you have any questions about giving a quilt to someone with cancer, Ann can help you. You can talk to her, or call her at 819-246-7376.

## **60 years worth acknowledging**

The first Mass in St-Aloysius church was the Christmas midnight mass of 1959. The cornerstone of the church had been blessed November 29, 1959. In the next few bulletins we will recall tidbits of information concerning our beginnings as a parish.

## **St. Columban Warden for 2020-2023.**

Congratulations to Paul Paiment who was acclaimed to the three year warden term effective 2020. We look forward to continuing to work with Paul on the Fabrique.

## **REGISTRATION PREPARATION FOR SACRAMENTS:**

First Reconciliation, First Eucharist. Children must be able to read at grade 2 level or 7 years old or more in 2020 for First Communion & Reconciliation.

The preparation sessions for First Reconciliation & Communion will begin in Sunday January 19 2020 after mass (Two hours bring your lunch). An information session for parents will be held Friday night January 10<sup>th</sup> 2020 at 7 pm. If you have any questions contact Louise MacMillan – [819-643-1156](tel:819-643-1156) or email [gordandlouisemacmillan@gmail.com](mailto:gordandlouisemacmillan@gmail.com) or Louise Lortie, [louise.lortie@hotmail.com](mailto:louise.lortie@hotmail.com)

Registration forms for sacraments are available at the back of the church or contact the secretary, Carol Leonard at the church office, [819-663-5244](tel:819-663-5244). If your child was not baptized at St Aloysius, please bring a copy of their baptism certificate.

## **FOR THE SICK OF OUR PARISH**

Please pray for the sick of our Parish: Ron Lortie, Roger Seguin, Phyllis Seguin, Jack Wiggins, Adeline Gendron and Dave Whitworth.

**“THAT HE MAY TEACH US HIS WAYS”** – Let’s use this time Advent, as we await the final coming of our Lord, to honestly listen to the Spirit of Jesus within each of us and see whether we are doing everything we can, as a community, to cooperate with God in making His ways a reality for everyone right here in Gatineau. On **Tuesday night, January 21, 2020**, Julie Cool will be coming to our parish to animate an evening of reflection and sharing on how we can become a better parish, one closer to God’s ways today and what we need to do that. Please reserve that night right now so that we can all contribute our bit of wisdom.

## **OUR DEEPEST SYMPATHY**

Our deepest sympathy to the Cook Family on the passing away of John. His funeral was held at St. Al’s on Saturday. May he rest in peace.

