

Weekly Bulletin
St. Aloysius and St. Columban Bulletin
24th Sunday in Ordinary Time
September 12/13, 2020

Reading I	Sirach 27.30-28.7
Responsorial Psalm:	The Lord is merciful and gracious; slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.
Reading II	Romans 14.7-9
Gospel:	Mathew 18.21-35

ST. ALOYSIUS COLLECTION

August 30:	\$715
Sept 7:	\$1277

MASS Intentions:

Sat. Sept. 12	11:00 a.m.	(St. Aloysius) Funeral Mass of David Whitworth
	4:30 p.m.	(St. Columban) For Rita Savoie by Gail Burns
Sun. Sept. 13	11:00 a.m.	(St. Aloysius) For Ann Milks by Barbara Morey and Family
Wed. Sept. 16	9:15 a.m.	For all parishioners
	7:00 p.m.	Confirmation with Archbishop Durocher
Sat. Sept. 19	4:30 p.m.	(St. Columban) For all parishioners
Sun. Sept. 20	11:00 a.m.	(St. Aloysius) For Troy Foley by The Kielback Family

Forgiveness and mercy

Our scriptural readings today challenge us, as children of God, on the difficult issue of forgiveness. According to the scripture there has been a progressive evolution in understanding of the way to make up for the wrongs received and to discourage others from causing more. In ancient times, one would retaliate with the maximum possible violence, such that the wrong done was returned with added interest (Gen. 4:23-24). The book of Exodus shows some progress in the famous *“eye for eye, tooth for tooth... wound for wound, stripe for stripe”* (Ex.21:24). This basically calls for effort to see that punishment is according to justice; the principle that the punishment given should be proportional to the offence committed. Beyond these was the movement towards leniency as seen in the book of Leviticus 19:18: *“You shall not take vengeance or bear a grudge against any of your people, but you shall love your neighbour as yourself...”* Today’s first reading moves in the direction of this latest position.

The author, in the first reading, gives the advice which underlines the futility of vengeance. He reasons that when we give vent to our retaliatory instincts, our rage and grudges, we do not get

any justice done; we simply make things worse. Nursing anger or cherishing resentment is harmful for our health; it disables us and makes us defenceless when we look for our own sins to be forgiven. We ought to go beyond simple justice and must open our hearts to sentiments of mercy. Forgiveness of offences, according to Ben Sir, is an indispensable condition to pray and obtain pardon from God. When one offends us, do we demand rough and complete justice or do we show mercy and forgiveness? In the Gospel, Jesus dwells on this too. As Matthew continues to deal with relations between Christians, he focuses on the need for forgiveness between members of the community in today's Gospel.

The rabbinical tradition of the time of Jesus insists on the need to establish peaceful relations between people and condemns vengeance, anger, grudges and advises reconciliation. But this view is qualified as the duty to forgive is limited to the people of Israel. Hence, Peter's question to the Master, who appears to have different views. Peter's "*seven times*" suggests forgiving *always* and *every time*. (Seven in the Bible represents *totality*). But Jesus' response goes beyond Peter's fears. Not just *always* but *more than always*, if that is possible. That is the implication of "*Not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy-seven times.*" He uses this parable of the two debtors to stress that pardon has to be infinite and to emphasize the immense distance that there is between the heart of God and the human heart. There is no sin which God will not forgive; no guilt will be greater than His love. God's inexhaustible goodness is here contrasted with the meanness of human heart which is incapable of forgiving even the smallest offences. Therefore, the Christians, as children of God, must forgive offences with a heart similar to the heart of their Father who is in heaven. They ought to show a love that has no limits. Also, forgetfulness of our sins leads us to lack of compassion; remembering how our sins have gone unpunished by God should lead us to forgive others. We need to be constantly reminded that we live in the gracious forgiveness of God. Happy Sunday.

ST. COLUMBAN CEMETERY SERVICE

St. Columban cemetery service will be held Sunday 20 September at 2:00 p.m.

NEW WEBSITE

After many months of hard work, it's finally here!! The St.Aloysius and St.Columban website is officially launched! Please take a moment to visit and bookmark the new site at:

<http://www.stalloysius-stcolumban.com>

Don't forget to share the website with your friends and family. Again, a big shout out to the team of parishioners who worked so hard on building this site: Mike McGrath, our technical and development guru; Carol Leonard, our guiding light and the brains that keeps the wheels turning; Michelle Cook and Angelina David our fantastic testers and reviewers. We are blessed to have you in our parish and for sharing your gifts with us. THANK YOU!

Any questions or comments regarding the website can be directed to Julie McCann, Public Relations Warden (jdmccann@videotron.ca)

Also a big THANK YOU to Julie McCann, who put in many many hours organizing and being our go between the Boards and Website team. We couldn't have done it without you.

CONGRATULATIONS – FIRST COMMUNION



Congratulations to Bryson Simard who will receive his First Holy Communion last Sunday. May God bless him in his journey.

FOR THE SICK OF OUR PARISH

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

SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION

This year we have a wonderful group of 9 Confirmation candidates now ready to receive the Gift of the Holy Spirit. Archbishop Durocher will be presiding over the Confirmation on Wednesday, September 16th at 7:00 pm at St. Aloysius. Please pray for each of the candidates as they continue on their journey of faith. They are:

Daphne Vachon
Angelina David
Samuel Leblanc
Isabel Carolina St-Louis
Jason Lecuyer

Philippe Lecuyer
Stephanie Lecuyer
Carole MacMillan
Caitlin Wylie

BIRTHDAYS AND WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES IS SEPTEMBER

George Avon – 14th
Gaby & Mike McCann – 20th (51st)
Pierre Léonard – 21st
Irene Lalonde – 22nd