



## St. Aloysius

300 rue l'Abbé-Murray,  
Gatineau, Quebec  
J8P 4Z4

**December 14/15, 2019**

## St. Columban

311 St. Columban Rd.  
Gatineau, Quebec  
J8V 4E3

**Sunday 11:00 a.m.**

**Celebration of the Eucharist**

**Saturday 4:30 p.m.**

**Wednesday & Friday 9:15 a.m.**

**Pastor**

Rev. Albanus Ogowuihe

**Secretary**

Carol Léonard

**Office Hours:**

Monday to Thursday, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

**Telephone**

819-663-5244

**Email:**

st.aloysius@bellnet.ca



**3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Advent**  
**December 14/15, 2019**

Reading I

Isaiah 35.1-6a, 10

Responsorial Psalm:

Lord, come and save us.

Reading II

James 5.7-10

Gospel:

Matthew 11.2-11

### ST. ALOYSIUS COLLECTION

December 8:

\$807.25.

Attendance: 54

### ST. COLUMBAN COLLECTION:

December 7:

\$352

Attendance: 24

Fri. Dec. 13	9:15 a.m.	For all parishioners
Sat. Dec. 14	4:30 p.m.	(St. Columban) for all parishioners
Sun. Dec. 15	11:00 a.m.	(St. Aloysius) For Alice Arsenault and Gilles Nadeau by Ann Smits For Henry and Inka Zawadka by the Family For Edgar Lariviere by Garage Lemieux
Wed. Dec. 18	8:00 a.m.	Eucharistic Adoration
	9:15 a.m.	For all parishioners
	7:00 p.m.	Reconciliation Service/Confessions
Fri. Dec. 20	9: 15 a.m.	For all parishioners
Sat. Dec. 21	4:30 p.m.	(St. Columban) For Kevin Burns by Amanda, Marty and Hannah
Sun. Dec. 22	11:00 a.m.	(St. Aloysius) For John Cook by Gatineau Friendship Club

### **Advent: Rejoice**

On the third Sunday of Advent, the Liturgy invites us to rejoice at the coming of Jesus as we prepare for the Christmas. This Sunday is called Gaudete Sunday following the Entrance Antiphon of today's liturgy: "Gudete in Domino Semper (Rejoice in the Lord always)" (Phil. 4,4). We light the rose candle of the Advent wreath to express our joy in the coming of our Saviour in our hearts and lives. The first reading is a message of joy. The Prophet Isaiah encourages the exiled Jews in Babylon to rejoice because their God is coming to free them from slavery and lead them safely to their homeland. The second reading echoes the same message of joy. St James encourages the early Christians to rejoice and wait with patience for the second coming of Jesus just as the farmer waits for the precious crop from the earth. The former does not just sit back looking at the field to yield crop by itself. S/he sits back only when s/he has done all s/he can and waits patiently for God to do His part. S/he never loses heart even if s/he has to wait for months before the crop is ripe. We have to cherish the hope that God will intervene in our lives and that 'His advent' is close at hand.

In the Gospel, the message of joy is also expressed, though indirectly. Jesus urges John the Baptist (in prison) to rejoice by casting away his wrong expectations about the Messiah and simply accept Him and His ministry as the fulfilment of the prophecy of Isaiah. In last Sunday's Gospel John has spoken of the Messiah as one coming as a strict judge with his fiery judgement: "*His winnowing fork is in His hand...*"; also, "*Even now the axe is lying at the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.*" John is in prison and hears what Jesus is doing, a far cry from what he expects. Hence, he questions through his disciples, "are you the One who is to come, or are we to wait for another?" In reply Jesus tells them to tell John what they have seen: "the blind see, the lame walk, the lepers are clean, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have Good news brought to them. And blessed is anyone who takes no offence at me." Thus, Jesus

presents Himself as fulfilling the prophecy of Isaiah in today's reading and in 29,19 and 61,1. Jesus' works fulfill all these prophecies; what He does and says say who He is. These are all signs of salvation and not of condemnation. It is left for everyone, including John to make the decision to work out from what He does and says who He is, a decision of faith.

To experience true joy of this time, we need to eliminate our wrong expectations and images of Jesus. Like John the Baptist, we sometimes experience crises of faith. Jesus' way of doing things scandalizes John and may scandalize us too. The question of John could be our question too: 'Is He the Christ? Is Jesus good enough for us? Is His Gospel good enough? Does Jesus as He presents Himself satisfy our longings? The God revealed by Jesus is very different from us and cannot correspond to our way of thinking. He loves everyone, good and bad, and makes the sun rise and the rain fall on each one of us, the honest and dishonest one alike, because we are all His children (Mt. 5,45). A God such as this, who is good to everybody, does not fit our ideas nor fulfil our expectations. Isn't such a God a scandal to us?(Armellini, F,SCI 1995).

We rejoice that Jesus is to be reborn in our lives. Thus Jesus says to us today as he commands John's disciples: Go and tell others what you hear and see. It means that we have to share with others our experience of the rebirth of Jesus within us. What signs can we offer people today to convince them that Jesus is among them? We have to keep on being signs of what our Master did: help our brothers and sisters, feed the hungry, cure the sick, fight for the oppressed and be enemies of sin. During this Advent we must prepare our hearts to recognize and welcome Jesus by going through a **metánoia** – a change of thinking about God, ourselves and the world. Happy Sunday!

### **MUSIC MINISTRY**

Mike and Pauline want you all to be aware that we do not have a 99 year lease on music ministry in St. Aloysius parish. If anyone wishes to contribute to this ministry, you are anxiously welcomed to offer your services. Though we really enjoy doing this, we know that we can't do it forever and we would gladly pass on the torch and share the "tricks of the trade" if necessary. Contact us after Mass or at 819-663-1121.

### **ANNUAL CHRISTMAS FOOD DRIVE – St. Al's and St. Columban**



The annual Christmas food drive has started. Please feel free to donate canned food, pickles, pasta, rice, toothpaste, laundry detergent, etc. We will be collecting specifically for the Christmas food baskets up to December 20, but please continue to donate throughout the year. Thank you for your cooperation in bringing a Merry Christmas to the less fortunate in our community.

## **ST. COLUMBAN Closed for January and February**

The Fabrique members, Marc, Amanda, Paul and Father Al have decided as per past year practices that St. Columban will close during the months of January and February 2020.

During this time you are encouraged to celebrate mass with other local parishes.

The first Mass of 2020 will be celebrated on **March 7th**.

We also take this opportunity to wish Father Al a safe trip home and well deserved rest and quality time with his family and look forward to him returning “home” to us.

## **DIOCESAN SESSION**

Saturday, December 7th, I (Pauline Leduc) represented the parish at a French diocesan session entitled “Salvation, how to live it and talk about it today” given by Yves Guérette, a priest and Laval university theology professor. Since this session was meant to prepare the parish delegates to the May 2<sup>nd</sup> Synod exercise when we will be asked to determine and vote on priorities for the whole diocese, it is important that I share with you the insights from this session. The experience was profound and prayerful and the following is only my understanding, which may be very limited, of what he said.

We started by sharing on this sentence that we hear so often and understand so little: “Jesus came to save us.” From what? How? He explained that the origin of the word “mission” is the verb “to send out a messenger”. In our case, the actor of that verb is God, not the Bishop, not the Church, certainly not ourselves. We are not the ones who save the poor, the needy, the hungry, the afflicted, the oppressed. God saves. We are humble servants who do what is expected of us as servants. Jesus, God’s servant messenger, realized His service by lying down in death with the dead and having them be raised by God to eternal life with Him. We were dead, and in many ways still experience death in our lives, but have access to Jesus’ victory over death by God’s glorious hand. In Jesus, then, we too lie down in death with those who suffer around us so as to continue experiencing with them the gracious healing and powerful life of God.

Fr. Guérette delivered extremely profound words that certainly need to be meditated and digested. For him, learning to listen to God is of utmost importance. All ministries must be rooted in and fed by a vital understanding of God’s word, spoken in the Scriptures and spoken to us today. It is now up to us to determine how we want to set our priorities.

**DECORATING FOR CHRISTMAS** will take place after mass on Sunday, December 22nd. Once the decorating is completed, we plan to go for brunch at Chenoy's.

If you are able to help, please contact Jo Anne Lambert, [jlambert204@hotmail.com](mailto:jlambert204@hotmail.com) or 819-663-9620

### *A Turkey Supper Thank You*

*Once again, I think that we did a great job. We do hope that everyone had a good meal as well as a good time.*

*We'd like to thank all those who contributed to the evening - those who gave of their time to sell tickets, those who supported us by buying tickets, those who cooked & baked, those who set up the hall, those who worked in the kitchen, those who served the meal, those who cleaned up after and those who serenaded us while we enjoyed our meal. We work well together.*

*All-in-All, I think that a good time was had by all AND after expenses, we are able to give \$1596. to our St. Al's.*

*Wishing Each of You a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year*

## **DEVELOPMENT AND PEACE**

We ask parishioners to sign the following solidarity letter for the defenders of the Amazon:

**Dear seringueiros of Machadinho d'Oeste and Mura people of Manaus**

Thank you for protecting the Amazon rainforest, your traditional home and humanity's common heritage. We, the people of Canada, are pained to learn of your persecution, dispossession and criminalisation by those who would rob your lands, livelihoods, waters and way of life to exploit the gifts of the Amazon for profit. We join you in urging your government to stop privileging corporate interests over your rights and the integrity of the forest. We will impel our government to hold Canadian companies to account for what they do on your lands. Keeping you in our hearts, thoughts and prayers, we wish you more power in your fight for justice and dignity.

The Solidarity Letter will be left at the church entrance for one more week to give all parishioners an opportunity to sign.

***Together, let's defend the defenders of the Amazon***

## **60 years worth acknowledging**

February 28, 1957, 14 months after the requesting petition, Bishop Lemieux, having ascertained the facts in the petition, wrote to the Pope asking authorization to erect an English parish in Gatineau. He felt that there was a sufficient number of Catholic Anglophones to form a parish and support a priest. He was particularly concerned ‘to protect them from the harmful influence of the protestants’. (How times have changed!)

### **CHRISTMAS MASS SCHEDULE**

Reconciliation Service/Confessions – Dec. 18<sup>th</sup> – 7:00 p.m. (St. Aloysius)

Christmas Eve, Dec. 24:	St. Aloysius	7:00 p.m.
	St. Columban	9:00 p.m.

Christmas Day, Dec. 25:	St. Aloysius	11:00 a.m.
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### **NEW YEARS**

January 1 <sup>st</sup>	St. Aloysius	11:00 a.m.
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## **REGISTRATION PREPARATION FOR SACRAMENTS:**

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 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

**“BE STRONG, DO NOT FEAR! HERE IS YOUR GOD. HE WILL COME AND SAVE YOU.”** - This is our message to the people we live and work with every day right here in Gatineau. Do we know how to do this individually and as a parish? 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 O’Farrell family on the passing away of John’s brother, Martin. His funeral will be held at St. Al’s on Saturday, December 21<sup>st</sup> at 11 a.m. May he rest in peace.

