

Weekly Bulletin
St. Aloysius and St. Columban Bulletin
12th Sunday in Ordinary Time
June 21, 2020

Reading I	Jeremiah 20.10-13
Responsorial Psalm:	Lord, in your steadfast love, answer me.
Reading II	Roman 5.12-15
Gospel:	Mathew 10.26-33

ST. ALOYSIUS COLLECTION

June 14: **Regular Collection: \$705, Donation \$100**

MASS INTENTIONS FOR ZOOM MASS 10:00 am

Sunday, June 21, 2020 For Jim Mulcahey by Phyllis Mulcahey

Sunday, June 28, 2020 For Arthur and Violet Foley by The Family

FOR THE SICK OF OUR PARISH

Please pray for the sick of our Parish: Adeline Gendron, Roger Seguin, Phyllis Seguin, and Jack Wiggins

Message from Archbishop Durocher on the first phase of re-opening of churches

Wonderful news! The Archbishop has announced the gradual re-opening of churches beginning June 27-28 (https://www.diocesegatineau.org/sn_uploads/fck/Pastoral-letter-on-deconfinement.pdf). As required by the Diocese, the St. Al's Wardens Board has put together a team to establish a plan to ensure that the directives regarding deconfinement are implemented, as well as inform and train all volunteers who will be involved in the Mass. We will know better next week when St. Al's will be ready to welcome parishioners once again. This being said, it is important to note that up to **maximum of 50 people** (including the pastor and ministers) will be allowed to enter the church provided that the required distancing can be maintained. Further details will be communicated as soon as they are available.

We are looking forward to seeing you all very soon!

Do not be Afraid!

Today's Sunday readings invite us to preach Christ through our words and lives without fear. When push comes to shove, they say, people react differently. The first reading tells us how the prophet Jeremiah refuses to be intimidated but rather trusts in the power of God while he faces opposition for his prophetic ministry. As a prophet, he has no intention of allowing terror to write his script and dictate who he is. He has been abandoned by all his friends who now try to discredit him. Thrown into prison for his preaching he is threatened with death save he changes his tune. But he remains strong since he believes that *"the Lord is with me like a dread*

warrior." Today's Responsorial Psalm (Ps. 69) echoes the same trust in the *kindness and great mercy of God* when the psalmist is misunderstood and ill-treated even by his brothers and relatives. In the second reading, Paul assures the Christians in Rome that they need not be afraid of opposition both because they share in the death of Jesus and his Resurrection and because they are united with Christ, the new Adam, in his Resurrection. The reason why God's truth meets objection (as in first reading) is clear in this second reading. St Paul says "*...sin came into the world through one man....*" and this sin with its consequent death "*spread to all people*" Sin brings out perversity. The remedy to sin is only found through and in Christ.

In the Gospel written about fifty years after Christ's death, Matthew encourages persecuted Christians stating that the Master has foreseen what would happen. It is the end of Jesus' instruction to his disciples as He sends them forth to carry on His mission of preaching (speaking in His name) and healing. He asks them to live simply and to expect opposition and rejection. After having predicted future opposition and persecution, Jesus encourages the disciples to stand firm. Three times Jesus urges them; "*Do not be afraid.*" He gives three reasons why His apostles, and we, should not be frightened. The first reason is that opponents will not be able to prevent Jesus' followers from succeeding in their mission because God will expose their evil plans and deeds: "*nothing is covered up that will not be uncovered.*" The Lord "*will bring to light the hidden things of darkness*" (1 Cor. 4:5), and will vindicate the faithful. The second reason not to be afraid is the limited power of our opponents. They can kill the body, which dies all too soon anyway, but have no power over the soul. Only God has power over eternity. Lastly, the Father cares deeply for the true disciple. The Gospel identifies two fears that the apostles had: fear of false accusation and conviction, and fear of bodily harm and death. Jesus states: "*There is nothing hidden that will not be revealed and nothing secret that will not be made known,*" This is not a threat that God will expose some sin we had forgotten. Jesus speaks these words as Good News, as a reason not to be afraid of persecution. These verses promise that the evil motives and the wickedness of the persecutors will someday become a matter of public knowledge. Following Jesus means coming face to face with terrorism, with the kind of violent intimidation that gives them an offer they cannot refuse. Is this not what we face today as Christians with the confusion about the pandemic and uncertainty about carrying out our religious obligations?

Brothers and sisters, the challenge to confess the name of Jesus is one that is issued to every generation and every Christian. Our real worth (as against the sparrows) before God is more powerful force than our real fear of our persecutors. That sense of worth can outdistance the hate of all our persecutors. That is why Jeremiah and Jesus and Christian martyrs can face the persecutors with awesome courage. They all know that their true worth can never be killed. God's everlasting love is the one real offer they cannot refuse. Sometimes we are afraid that we will make a wrong decision. At other times, we are afraid of what others will think when we speak up for Jesus. We are afraid of what the future will bring our children. We are also afraid of growing old. Sometimes we are afraid of what bad health will bring us. At the root of these fears is the fear of loss. Every fear we have is grounded in the knowledge that we have something or someone to lose. I can lose my job, family, house, money, health and even life itself. Rejection and loss are the basis of our fears. But we forget one thing: whatever trouble or crisis affects us, we know that God understands it better than we ourselves do. Our Heavenly Father knows exactly what is happening. What a release from fear it is to know that God is on our side; that our life is in the hands of a loving God. The next time fear grips our life we need to remember that being faithful to Christ wherever we meet Him in this life is much more important than our fear

of rejection and loss. Fear of persecution is the worst possible enemy of anyone who wants to announce the Gospel and tell the truth. But the Father offers us everlasting love. When we keep that offer in mind, all other offers begin to look very trashy! Happy Sunday!

Help Wanted

With the re-opening of our church and specific protocols to put in place, we are in need of extra hands to help with coordinating movement within the church (i.e Ushers) as well as assistance with opening the church and setting up for the Mass (Sacristans). Both tasks require you to arrive at the church at least 20 minutes before Mass. If you would like to volunteer your time please contact Mike McCann for Ushers at mash.mccann@videotron.ca or Julie McCann for Sacristans at jdmccann@videotron.ca. Thank you in advance!

JUNE BIRTHDAY AND ANNIVERSARIES

June Quinn	5 th
Margaret Paiement	9 th
Adeline Gendron	14 th
Kathy Amyot	17 th
Jane Pickering	17 th
Carole Fraser	19 th
JoAnne Lambert	20 th
Paulette & Ron Pearce	– 24 th (53 rd)
David Dumaresq	29 th