



St. Aloysius

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

October 12/13, 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.
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28th Sunday in Ordinary Time
October 12/13, 2019

Reading I 2 Kings 5.14-17
 Responsorial Psalm: The Lord has revealed his victory in the sight of the nation.
 Reading II 2 Timothy 2.8-13
 Gospel: Luke 17.11-19

ST. ALOYSIUS COLLECTION

October 6: \$1090.20 Attendance: 60

ST. COLUMBAN COLLECTION:

October 5: \$291.00 Attendance: 25

Sat. Oct. 12	4:30 p.m.	(St. Columban) For all parishioners
Sun. Oct. 13	11:00 a.m.	(St. Aloysius) For health and happiness of Deborah Forsyth Healy by Cathy Forsyth Smith
Wed. Oct. 16	8:00 a.m.	Eucharistic Adoration
	9:15 a.m.	For all parishioners
Fri. Oct. 18	9:15 a.m.	For all parishioners
Sat. Oct. 19	4:30 p.m.	(St. Columban) 20 th Anniversary Mass for Guy Cyr by The Family
Sun. Oct. 20	11:00 a.m.	(St. Aloysius) For Bert Braiden by Gatineau Friendship Club For Gilles Nadeau by Janice

Gratitude

The central theme of today's readings is gratitude – in particular, the expression of gratitude God expects from us. Today's first reading presents the story of Naaman. Naaman, the Syrian military commander, was an outcast not only because of his leprosy; he was also a non-Israelite. But he returned to thank the Prophet Elisha for the cure of his leprosy, and as a sign of his gratitude. He not only rejoiced in the gift of healing he had received but also recognized the giver and so transferred his allegiance to the God of Israel. So, that shows that the God of Israel heals the outsider and the pagan. St. Paul, in the second reading, advises Timothy to be grateful to God even in his physical sufferings and amid the dangers associated with spreading the Word of God because God will always be faithful to His people.

The Gospel story tells us of a single non-Jewish leper (a "Samaritan heretic"), who returned to thank Jesus for healing him, while the nine Jewish lepers went their way. One may perhaps surmise that under the false impression that healing was their right as God's chosen people, they hurried off to obtain health certificates from the priests. Luke notably is the only New Testament writer who mentioned Naaman the leper (cf 4:27). Writing to the Gentiles (Luke also was a Gentile), he has particular inclination to present God's call to all peoples. It is therefore not surprising here that Luke's story tells us that the only one who shows gratitude is a foreigner, the Samaritan. Like Naaman, it is the outsider who shows his faith in God and his gratitude to the Servant of God (Jesus). He comes in praise of God and makes Jesus his new destination.

Jesus feels bewildered and disappointed by the absence of the other nine and so asks, "Were not ten made clean?" The ingratitude of the others makes Jesus to wonder. What makes people that way? Why is saying 'thank you' such a problem?. Mark Twain says bluntly "If you pick up a starving dog and makes him prosperous, he will not bite you. That is the principal difference between a dog and a man." It is probable that the nine lepers were appreciative of the healing gesture of Jesus. But we don't know why they never bothered to *show* their gratitude. It may however be better for us to turn to ourselves and ask why we are often reluctant to say 'thank you'. As one author says "whatever the

reason for our own ingratitude, we know it diminishes us and those who help us. Ingratitude makes the bill for helping people hard to pick up.”

Brothers and sisters, this is coincidentally thanksgiving weekend when we are supposed to thank God for his numerous blessings; things we do not earn. We are here today in the *Eucharistic* celebration. Eucharist comes from the Greek noun *eucharistia* meaning *thanksgiving*. We come here every Sunday to thank God in the midst of the community. We do what Naaman and the Samaritan leper did. We should let our thanks find expression in this Eucharistic celebration. Although we receive so much from God, we often take it for granted, without appreciating His gifts. We allow the negatives of our lives to hide from ourselves the blessings we have received -- minor negatives like some health problems, financial worries, conflict with a neighbour or co-worker or spouse. Besides, we are often thankful only when we compare ourselves with less fortunate people. There are of course a lot of them, even among us. Saying thanks to God together with the parish community, sharing our time, talents and material blessings in the parish and sharing the Heavenly Bread of Thanksgiving, the Holy Eucharist, are the simple forms of thanksgiving we can offer every Sunday and in the course of the week in response to God's blessings. Meister Eckhart, the Medieval mystic, says that if the only prayer we say in our lifetime is ‘thank you’ that will suffice.

Finally, we must realize that faith is not a monopoly of the baptized. There are ‘unbaptized Samaritans’, ‘outcasts’ around us whom we casually tag as non-Christians but who by their exemplary lives are more authentic Christians than many of us. We should avoid being over-presumptuous. Virtue is not the prerogative of Christians.

Happy Thanksgiving!
Fr Al

ST. ALOYSIUS WEBSITE REDESIGN

You may have noticed that our website seems a bit outdated. We are looking at redesigning the website and would like to hear from you! We have volunteers who have offered to help us with the technical aspects of the website, however we would like to hear from the parish in regards to the content. What would you like to see in a new website? Please contact Carol, our parish secretary and provide her with your contact information and a member of the wardens board will contact you with next steps.

SPAGHETTI SUPPER AND SILENT AUCTION

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 19TH AT 6:00 PM

Adults: \$12 Children: \$6

Call: Carol at the office: 819-663-5244

FOR THE SICK OF OUR PARISH

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

10th ANNUAL PILGRIMAGE

from the Dioceses of Ottawa, Gatineau, Pembroke, Mont-Laurier, Kingston to the Montreal, Sunday morning and afternoon, Bishop of Montreal, information: Mike

CANCELLED

Alexandria/Cornwall and Shrine of Divine Mercy in October 20, 2019. Mass in the **Anointing of the Sick** in the celebrated by the Auxiliary Bishop Alain Faubert. For Budge 613 224-8110.

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OUR DEEPEST SYMPATHY

Our deepest sympathy to the Pilon Family on the passing away of Clara (Betty). Her funeral was held at St. Al's on Friday.

Our sympathy to Janice Nadeau on the passing away of her mother, Alice.

Also our sympathy to Pauline Leduc and Mike Groulx on the passing away of Pauline's brother-in-law , Constant.

May they rest in peace.