

Weekly Bulletin
St. Aloysius and St. Columban Bulletin
26th Sunday in Ordinary Time
September 26/27, 2020

Reading I	Ezekiel 18.25-28
Responsorial Psalm:	Lord, be mindful of your mercy.
Reading II	Philippians 2.1-11
Gospel:	Mathew 21.28-32

ST. ALOYSIUS COLLECTION

Sept 20: Regular Collection: \$570

SPECIAL COLLECTION: September 26/27: The Needs of the Canadian Church

MASS Intentions:

Sat. Sept. 26	4:30 p.m.	(St. Columban) For all parishioners
Sun. Sept. 27	11:00 a.m.	(St. Aloysius) For Dave Whitworth by Lorraine
Wed. Sept. 30	9:15 a.m.	For all parishioners
Sat. Oct. 3	4:30 p.m.	(St. Columban) For Nora Ryan Somers by Her estate
Sun. Oct. 4	11:00 a.m.	(St. Aloysius) For Marie Hermance Carrier-Cook By Michelle Cook Warden and Family

Our 'Yes' and 'No' to God

Today's readings remind us that our final decision is consequential for our eternal destiny. They therefore advise us to choose to obey God gracefully by doing His will instead of choosing against it. In the first reading, God through the prophet Ezekiel corrects the Jewish beliefs that children inherit the guilt of their ancestors and are punished for it and that God is more strict than merciful. God has option for personal responsibility in which each person is to be rewarded or punished according to his or her individual actions and not someone else's actions. Moreover, God always gives people a chance to change and to accept the consequences of such change. The second reading extols the self emptying love of Jesus as an example for Christian life. St Paul in this passage affirms the truth that the final choice for God, made by perfect obedience to Him, will be rewarded. Christians should possess the same outlook as Christ, who emptied Himself, taking human form and dying on the cross. For this He has been exalted by the Father. Christ is the supreme model of obedience to the Father's will and so those who make the final choice for God will be rewarded.

In the Gospel, Jesus presents us with the parable of a father who has two sons as He confronts the chief priests and elders of the people. Jesus presents two sons in this parable as he does in

the parable of the Prodigal Son. Here, the first son is asked to go into the vineyard, but he says “No.” He later changes his mind and goes. The second says “Yes, sir,” but does not go. In this story, Jesus shows that it is the final decision that is more important. He shows that the repentant tax-collectors and prostitutes, represented by the first son who initially refused to go, will make their way to the kingdom of God before the chief priests and elders represented by the second son in the parable. By their pride and refusal to obey God’s call to repentance, the scribes and the Pharisees are excluding themselves, while the tax-collectors and sinners whom they despised, are repenting of their sins and will be accepted into God’s kingdom. The Pharisees and scribes are criticized as “yes-men” whose easy promises are not matched by their performance, whose instant consent is not matched by their behaviour, who maintain the outward appearance of piety without any real devotion to the will of God. They have outward piety unsupported by obedience to God. Promises can never take the place of performance, and fine words are never a substitute for fine deeds. Of course Jesus criticizes this earlier when He says “It is not anyone who says to me, ‘Lord, Lord’, who will enter the kingdom of Heaven, but the person who does the will of my Father in heaven (Mt. 7:21).

Today, God still has two sons in us. In our Christian communities and the world, there will always be people who say “yes!” to God in baptism but in concrete life they change their “yes!” into many “no’s!” On the other hand, there are those who have never said “yes!” explicitly to God, but in their concrete life they love their brothers and sisters, help and suffer for them and perform many charitable deeds. We need to remember that what God in his mercy did for the tax-collectors and harlots in the parable, the Matthews, the Augustines, etc, and the millions of unknown penitents who are now Saints in Heaven, He can, and will, do for us, if we repent of our past sins and renew our lives as the first-asked son in the parable did. It is never too late for us to be transformed. Again in life, each of us intermittently behaves like the first son and the second son. It would be better if we become like another son: the one who says “yes!” and then keeps his word. Happy Sunday!

OUR DEEPEST SYMPATHY

Our sympathy to the Léonard Family on the passing away of Carol’s niece, Collette Ouellette last week. Her funeral will be held in Oshawa, Ontario.

May she rest in peace.

FOR THE SICK OF OUR PARISH

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

BIRTHDAYS IN OCTOBER

Phyllis Seguin

Mary Jane Champagne

Michael McCann

Margaret Burns

Ghislaine Cook

2nd

13th

19th

21st

28th

