

Weekly Bulletin
St. Aloysius and St. Columban Bulletin
27th Sunday in Ordinary Time
October 3/4, 2020

Reading I	Ezekiel 5.1-7
Responsorial Psalm:	The vineyard of the Lord is the house of Israel.
Reading II	Philippians 4.6-9
Gospel:	Mathew 21.33-43

ST. ALOYSIUS COLLECTION

Sept 27: Regular Collection: \$660

SPECIAL COLLECTION: The Needs of the Canadian Church: \$70

MASS Intentions:

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
Wed. Oct. 7	9:15 a.m.	For The deceased members of the MacMillan Family by Louise and Gord MacMillan
Sat. Oct. 10	4:30 p.m.	(St. Columban) For James Foley by The Foley Family
Sun. Oct. 11	11:00 a.m.	(St. Aloysius) For David Whitworth by Barbara Morey & Family For Doreen Harney by The Friendship Club

The Vineyard of the Lord

Today's readings speak about the necessity of bearing fruit in the Christian life and the consequent punishment for spiritual sterility, ingratitude and wickedness. Biblical writing portrays the chosen people as *vineyard of the Lord*. In the first reading, Isaiah, the prophet, in his Song of the Vineyard describes God's care of, and expectations for, His Chosen People. With all the care and cultivation lavished on His Vineyard, God as the owner has a lively expectation of a good yield at harvest time but all He receives for His labours are sour grapes. Hence, God laments: "*When I expected it to yield grapes, why did it yield wild grapes?*" This is the story of God's relationship with the people of Israel. God demands good works from them: faithfulness to the covenant, social justice, love for the poor and the orphan, the widow; instead He harvests sins, infidelity, oppression and exploitation, false accusations in courts, hatred, bloodshed, a religion of ceremonies and external cult without conversion of the heart. St Paul, in the second reading, tells Philippians about the high expectations he has for them, reminding them that they

need to become fruit-producing Christians by praying and giving thanks to God and by practicing justice, purity and graciousness in their lives

In the Gospel, St Matthew utilizes some ideas of Isaiah's Song. Here, the landowner is God, the vineyard is Israel, as God's special people, and the tenants are the political and religious leaders of Israel who were in charge of making the people produce good fruits. The two groups of servants sent are the prophets who, before and after period of the exile in Babylon, were sent by God to remind the people of their alliance, but they were treated with disdain and violence. The Son is Jesus, sent with hope that the tenants will respect him. But the landowner's (God's) hope is misplaced as His Son is thrown out of the vineyard and killed. The punishment of leasing the vineyard to other tenants clearly shows Matthew's view that the kingdom of God will be granted to the Gentiles, who will be expected to deliver the good fruits. Matthew uses this story, addressed to the chief priests and elders, to explain salvation history. His story explains why the New People of God is made mostly of Gentiles who have come to believe in Christ.

Today's passage is handed over to us not to curse the infidelity of the Jews of Jesus' time but to warn us, the Christians of our time, that the danger of committing the same mistake still exists for us. The parable also speaks to us about the patience of God. When His servants are killed He sends more and more in the hope that people will turn from their evil ways. Even when these are killed, He still hopes that His beloved Son will make His people change their ways. Jesus is God's last appeal, His final challenge. Depending on our response to Him, judgement is then made. If we are now the tenants, then we are subject to His expectation of us and subject to his judgement of us. God looks to us for the fruits of faith and love and obedience; He expects that we will deliver forgiveness and mercy and justice. We cease being either God's vineyard or the tenants of God's vineyard when we stop relating to others as loving servants. Finally this parable teaches that instead of glorying in our privileges and Christian heritage, we are called to deeds of love, including bearing personal and corporate witness that invites others into God's kingdom. Jesus has given us the Church, and through her everything necessary to make Christians fruit-bearing: the Bible to know the will of God, the sacraments, role models in thousands of saints. We are expected to make use of these gifts and produce fruits for God. The questions staring us at the face are: what fruits do we, as Christians yield today? Are we yielding fruits of justice, peace and serenity? Happy Sunday!

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	2 nd
Mary Jane Champagne	13 th
Michael McCann	19 th
Margaret Burns	21 st
Ghislaine Cook	28 th

