

**Weekly Bulletin**  
**St. Aloysius and St. Columban Bulletin**  
**17<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time**  
**July 25/26, 2020**

Reading I	1 Kings 3.5-12
Responsorial Psalm:	Lord, how I love your law!
Reading II	Romans 8.28-30
Gospel:	Mathew 13.44-52

**ST. ALOYSIUS COLLECTION**

**July 19** Regular Collection: \$690.00

**MASS Intentions:**

Saturday, July 25	4:30 p.m.	(St. Columban) For Karen Young by Anne Bokovay
Sunday, July 26	11:00 a.m.	(St. Aloysius) For all parishioners
Wednesday, July 29	<b>NO MASS</b>	
Saturday, August 1	4:30 p.m.	(St. Columban) For all parishioners
Sunday, August 2	11:00 a.m.	(St. Aloysius) For Louise Lortie by the Sewing Group

**Masks now mandatory to attend Mass**

**Following government direction, as of July 18th, masks will be mandatory in indoor public places. This includes the church therefore, in order to attend Masses on Sundays and Wednesdays you must have a mask to enter. Please bring your own. Masks will only be removed to receive Communion. Thank you for your cooperation.**

**Genuine Treasure!**

The Word of God this Sunday teaches us that accepting Jesus as our God and sacrificing everything in life to do the will of God is equivalent to discovering and possessing the most valuable treasure or the pearl of great price. Keeping a personal relationship with Christ and sharing his view of life are the most beautiful, the most precious things in the world. The first reading from the First Book of Kings narrates the story of King Solomon; how he chose the great treasure of accepting God to rule his life by doing God's will. Instead of wealth and victory, Solomon requested of God, an understanding heart, the ability to distinguish right from wrong, so that he might govern the people properly. Solomon was aware that whoever is in power could easily be misled and corrupted by sympathies, emotions, whims and unchecked passions. Power could lead people into making serious mistakes and being friends with those who are unjust to the people. Hence, Solomon asked for wisdom.

Wisdom gives us insight into what is truly important in life and makes us aware of the meaning and purposes of living, of what really matters. It is an understanding of where our real well-being and happiness lie. It is indeed a “pearl” of great price that Jesus speaks about in the Gospel. Solomon teaches us to learn to cultivate the habit of praying for a heart and mind attuned to God’s word and docile to His desires. Our prayer should consist in asking God for what He wants to give us, that which makes us better able to do His will of loving service to others. Wisdom comes from God; with wisdom, all other blessings will flow. St Paul teaches us in the second reading that the wisdom to perceive God’s grace is essential for those who want to follow Him and to do His will, thus remaining in His kingdom.

The first two readings prepare us for the Gospel where Jesus invites us to choose wisely in life, and to prefer the kingdom of God above all else. With the three parables of today’s Gospel, Jesus concludes the chapter we began last two Sundays ago on the kingdom of God. These parables are lessons in total attachment to Christ and detachment from the things of the world demanded of the disciple to make the reign of God in him/herself and, in the world, a reality. In these stories, Jesus teaches that God’s kingdom is something of extraordinary value, like a hidden treasure or a costly pearl. Possessing it calls for a total commitment to preserving it. If the kingdom of God is not seen as a “pearl of great value,” people will not bother renouncing anything to attain it. Jesus Himself had to give up everything to do His Father’s will. Renouncing everything for His Father’s will made Him look foolish in the eyes of people. Jesus also expects His followers to do the same; to give up all for the sake of God’s kingdom. God’s kingdom is God’s reign in our hearts, lives, homes, society and the world. Only those who develop a searching mind and are willing to “sell” everything for the great treasure of God’s kingdom will be rewarded. That means having a personal relationship with Christ, making Christ’s view and vision of life primary in our life and keeping everything else secondary.

Brothers and sisters, none of us can gain anything of value without renouncing something. Paul says ‘I regard everything as loss because of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord’ (Phil: 3, 8). Again, ‘For to me living is Christ and dying is gain’ (Phil. 1, 21). Most importantly, we have to renounce first our perception of what real treasure in life really is. It may sound logical that those who have not found Christ, the non-believers, the pagans, the atheists, think the Christians a bit mad. They cannot understand why they give up certain things and ways of life. We ought to avoid chasing false treasures like money, social status and pleasure. Jesus has come to offer us God’s kingdom, a pearl of great value. The genuine disciples are those who respond to this opportunity with joy and selfless commitment. They eagerly give top priority to doing God’s will, whatever it may be. The pearls of life are the things of God; the love of family and friends, the support of community, and the sense of fulfillment that comes from serving and giving for the sake of others.

Again, the parables remind us that it is something urgent to take certain decisions. Life sometimes offers certain opportunities that should not be lost, since they will not come our way again. Choosing the kingdom of God is not something that can be procrastinated. God’s summons requires immediate response. Although we are baptized Christians who have heard the Gospel, we

still need to pursue the true and full meaning of the Gospel which can escape us for many years. Many of us have heard the Gospel, time and again, but have never considered it as a treasure to be bought at any cost. We can always understand more, love more and serve more. The two discoveries in the parables are due one to luck and the other to diligence. Thus, Jesus wants to teach us by them that the kingdom of God is both a gratuitous gift from God, and the fruit of the search and diligence of humans. Happy Sunday!

### **St. Aloysius has re-opening on Sunday, July 5th!**

♪♪ Gather your people, oh Lord, gather you people oh Lord! It is with great pleasure that we announce the church has reopened on **Sunday, July 5th at 11:00 am**. In order to be able to open our doors we had to follow specific directives from the government and diocese. This means Mass will be somewhat different than before, more specifically, the number of persons that can be in the church. For this first phase of deconfinement, a maximum of 50 persons will be allowed to enter. So please arrive 15 minutes before the start of the celebration. If the maximum has been reached, you will unfortunately not be permitted to enter the church.

**VERY IMPORTANT:** Please carefully read the **'Directives for Parishioners'** below for further details.

Weekday Mass has also begun on Wednesdays at 9:15 am. There will be no Friday Mass until further notice.

Should you have any questions please contact Julie McCann at [jdmccann@videotron.ca](mailto:jdmccann@videotron.ca) or 819-598-2609.

♪ Sing a joyful song to the Lord! Alleluia! Let the heavens and earth rejoice! Alleluia!

### **Directives for Attending Mass**

For the health and safety of all, please clearly follow the directives noted below.

#### **STAY AT HOME IF...**

If you have flu-like symptoms or have been in contact in the preceding 2 weeks with someone who has COVID-19 or has travelled out of the country, you should not come to church. If your health is fragile due to old age or have pre-existing medical conditions, you are encouraged to stay home. No one is obliged to participate in Sunday Mass when their health is at risk.

#### **ARRIVE EARLY FOR MASS**

Use main doors to enter (the side door will be restricted to the Ministers).

No more than fifty people (including the priest and Ministers) can attend Mass at the same time during this first phase. If you arrive at the last moment, the limit might be reached and you will not be able to enter the church. Seating in churches will be designated to ensure that physical

distancing is observed among people from different households. You will have to wash your hands upon entering and wait for those ahead of you to have taken their place. For these reasons, please arrive **fifteen minutes (15)** before the start of the celebration.

You are also encouraged to wear a mask and bring your own hand sanitizer (should you need some during the Mass).

## **IN THE CHURCH**

Please listen and follow the instructions given to you by the Ushers. Arrows on the floor will indicate the routes to follow to get around the church. Go immediately to your pew and remain there at all times with the exception of going to receive communion. Please observe physical distancing at all times and touch as few surfaces as possible. Do not sit in areas marked with an X (ends of pews).

You are asked not to sing aloud, because singing disperses particles further than speaking. Offer the sign of peace from your pew.

**Sunday Missals** will only be available to those who wish to purchase one (\$7) and then take it home. Sharing of missals or hymnals is not permitted.

The sacristy and altar areas are restricted to the priest and designated sacristan.

## **FOR COMMUNION**

During this first phase, communion will only be distributed by the priest under the species of bread. It will only be given in the hand (please open your hand). If you wear a mask or gloves, you will remove them before proceeding towards the front. You will extend your arms as much as possible to receive the Body of Christ, in order to maintain the distance between you and the priest. He will have purified his hands before the distribution of communion and will wear a mask. He will not say "the Body of Christ" and you will not have to answer "Amen". If he touches your hands at this point, he will pause and purify his hands again before resuming the distribution of communion.

Communion will NOT be offered in a pyx for another person, whether at church or at home.

One pew at a time will get up to receive communion starting with the east side wing, then the west, followed by the central pews. Please wait for an Usher to guide you.

## **AT THE END OF MASS**

We will exit the church starting with the pews closest to the doors, one pew at a time, while observing physical distancing. You are not to gather with friends on the steps of the church, but to leave the area immediately so as to avoid gatherings on church grounds.

Baskets will be placed at the exit for you to place your donation or collection envelopes.

### **OUR DEEPEST SYMPATHY**

Our deepest sympathy to the Wiggins Family on the passing away of Jack last week. May he rest in peace.

### **FOR THE SICK OF OUR PARISH**

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

### **ANNIVERSARIES & BIRTHDAY FOR JULY**

René-Paul Gendron	28 <sup>th</sup>
Louise MacMillian	31 <sup>st</sup>

### **ANNIVERSARIES & BIRTHDAYS FOR AUGUST**

Shirley Quinn	6 <sup>th</sup>
Paul and Diana Paiement	6 <sup>th</sup> (married 32 yrs.)
Gail Burns	13 <sup>th</sup>
Fr. Al's Ordination	15 <sup>th</sup> (22 yrs.)
Cassandra Burns	22 <sup>nd</sup>
Cole Dumarez	26 <sup>th</sup>
Charlie and Hilary Long	27 <sup>th</sup> (married 43 yrs.)
Hilary Long	29 <sup>th</sup>
Dick Pickering	29 <sup>th</sup>
Erma Avon	31 <sup>st</sup>