



St. Aloysius

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

December 21/22, 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.

Telephone

819-663-5244

Email:

st.aloysius@bellnet.ca



4th Sunday of Advent

December 21/22, 2019

Reading I

Isaiah 7.10-14

Responsorial Psalm:

May the Lord come in; he is king of glory.

Reading II

Romans 1.1-7

Gospel:

Matthew 1.18-24

ST. ALOYSIUS COLLECTION

December 15:

\$763.85

Attendance: NA

ST. COLUMBAN COLLECTION:

December 14:

\$205

Attendance: 14

Sat. Dec. 21	4:30 p.m.	(St. Columban) For Kevin Burns by Amanda, Marty and Hannah
Sun. Dec. 22	11:00 a.m.	(St. Aloysius) For John Cook by Gatineau Friendship Club
Wed. Dec. 24	7:00 p.m.	(St. Aloysius) For all parishioners
	9:00 p.m.	(St. Columban) For all parishioners
Christmas Day	11:00 a.m.	(St. Aloysius) For all parishioners
Sat. Dec. 28	4:30 p.m.	(St. Columban) For Jim and Sally Foley by the Family
Sun. Dec. 29	11:00 a.m.	(St. Aloysius) For all parishioners
New Years Day	11:00 a.m.	(St. Aloysius) For all parishioners
Sun. Jan. 5	11:00 a.m.	For Cathy & Norbert Daly by Shirley Daly
		For Wayne Burke by Joan, Patsy and Laird
Sun. Jan. 12	11:00 a.m.	For John Cook by Moe, Nancy, Barbara and Bob

Advent: God is with us!

The readings of this 4th Sunday of Advent speak of Jesus the “One who is to come”, born of a Virgin as Emmanuel, “God with us”. In the first reading, the Prophet Isaiah prophesied to King Ahaz of Judah who was worried and upset because his enemies had decided to kill him and his family (of David). He forgot that as a member of that great family, God has promised them an everlasting kingdom (2 Sam. 7:14-16). He did not place much faith in the divine promises. He trusted more in human reckoning and so sought the alliance with Assyria, a then powerful kingdom, at the risk of endangering the faith and religious integrity of the people of God. So the Prophet went to him and spoke to him face to face. The king was not to be afraid and was to put his trust in God and not in Assyria for God is always with them. Isaiah, the prophet advised the king to instead put his trust in God as the dynasty of David was not going to be preserved through playing power of politics. He then gave King Ahaz a sign “... *the young woman is with a child and shall bear a son, and shall name him Emmanuel,*” a name which means ‘God-is-with-us’. In the second reading, St Paul explains that the only begotten Son of God became incarnate as Jesus, was revealed and established by the Father as Son of God in power by his Resurrection from the dead. Then Paul provides a sweeping summary of God’s mighty acts in history through Jesus Christ.

In the Gospel, Matthew wants us to understand that the Son of Mary is the promised heir to the throne of David announced by the prophets. Hezekiah, the son of Ahaz (in the first reading) was a good man and also an “Emmanuel”, that is the sign of God’ presence among the people and the house of David but nothing more. He certainly did not fully fulfil Isaiah's promises we have heard in the past Sundays and this Sunday. So, the Gospel tells us that the Son of the maiden announced by the Prophet is Jesus. He is the true “Emmanuel”, the “God with us”. He will be given an everlasting kingdom and all the hopes of Israel will be accomplished in Him. This passage is the beginning of the Gospel of Matthew. The theme, “Emmanuel”, will appear again at the end of Matthew’s Gospel. There, we are told that Jesus, after his resurrection, manifested Himself to His disciples on the

mountain in Galilee and sent them into the whole world to make disciples of all the nations. Jesus then added: "And know that I am with you ('Emmanuel') always, yes, to the end of time" (Mt. 28:20).

It is very important to note the virginity of Mary. The Gospel is clear about the fact that she conceived of the Holy Spirit, and this in the mind of the Church means that Jesus did not have a human father. A virgin mother is unprecedented in religious traditions. It is a truth that is radically new and will definitely always shock people. The Holy Spirit which came to Mary is the force which made the beginning of creation. It is also the force which makes the beginning of this new creation. Through the Holy Spirit, the Virgin Mary conceived and gave birth to the Son of God and new creation came to life. The virgin in the Bible means something more than what we know. It means a worthless woman, who had not even been able to draw the interest of a man, a dried-up tree deserving commiseration (Is 56:3-6). It is more or less a derogatory term biblically speaking (Jer. 3:4; 14:17; Is 47:1). But as Mary exclaims, *"The Almighty has done great things for me"* (Lk. 1:48-49). Mary, the Virgin Mother is the proof of the greatness and of the power of the love of God, who can draw life from a barren womb. As we approach Christmas, let us contemplate what the Lord has worked in our Mother Mary and realize that with God among us ("Emmanuel"), all good and great things are possible. Happy Sunday!

MUSIC MINISTRY

Mike and Pauline want you all to be aware that we do not have a 99 year lease on music ministry in St. Aloysius parish. If anyone wishes to contribute to this ministry, you are anxiously welcomed to offer your services. Though we really enjoy doing this, we know that we can't do it forever and we would gladly pass on the torch and share the "tricks of the trade" if necessary. Contact us after Mass or at 819-663-1121.

ST. COLUMBAN Closed for January and February

St. Columban will close during the months of January and February 2020. During this time you are encouraged to celebrate mass with other local parishes. The first Mass of 2020 will be celebrated on **March 7th**.

THE OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED DURING THE HOLIDAYS



The office will be closed from December 23rd to January 7th. If you have an emergency, please leave a message and someone will get back to you.

FATHER AL IS ON VACATION

Father Al will be away on vacation in Nigeria from December 29th until January 29th. Father Bill Marreeve will be here to celebrate Sunday masses with us. If you need to speak to a priest or have an emergency, please call and leave a message and Carol will get back to you ASAP.

60 years worth acknowledging

June 13, 1957, a meeting was held to satisfy the Civil Law of the Province of Quebec to enable anyone who would have an objection to the establishment of a parish to voice such objection and also to answer questions. Attendants learned that the church would cost about \$200,000 and operating costs would be about \$15,000/year. The lot had not been chosen but later it was learned that land was donated by James P. Maloney adjacent to that purchased for St. Aloysius school.

The decree of erection of the parish was signed by Bishop Lemieux June 21, 1957, feast of St. Aloysius Gonzaga. Fr. James Roy Murray was appointed pastor.

CHRISTMAS MASS SCHEDULE

Reconciliation Service/Confessions – Dec. 18th – 7:00 p.m. (St. Aloysius)

Christmas Eve, Dec. 24:	St. Aloysius	7:00 p.m.
	St. Columban	9:00 p.m.

Christmas Day, Dec. 25:	St. Aloysius	11:00 a.m.
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NEW YEARS

January 1 st	St. Aloysius	11:00 a.m.
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REGISTRATION PREPARATION FOR SACRAMENTS:

The preparation sessions for First Reconciliation & Communion will begin in Sunday January 19 2020 after mass (Two hours bring your lunch). An information session for parents will be held Friday night January 10th 2020 at 7 pm. If you have any questions contact Louise MacMillan – 819-643-1156 or email gordandlouisemacmillan@gmail.com or Louise Lortie, louise.lortie@hotmail.com Registration forms for sacraments are available at the back of the church or contact the secretary, Carol Leonard at the church office, 819-663-5244

“THEY SHALL NAME HIM EMMANUEL, WHICH MEANS, GOD IS WITH US” – Like Joseph and Mary, we also must not be afraid to be the carriers of the message right here in Gatineau that God is with us. But how do we do that, when, why, where??? Such important questions if we want to be true disciples! On **Tuesday night, January 21, 2020**, Julie Cool will be coming to our parish to animate an evening of reflection and sharing on how we can become a better parish, one closer to God’s ways today and what we need to do that. Please reserve that night right now so that we can all contribute our bit of wisdom.