



St. Aloysius

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

November 2/3, 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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31st Sunday in Ordinary Time
November 2/3, 2019

Reading I	Wisdom 11.22-12.2
Responsorial Psalm:	I will bless your name forever, my King and my God.
Reading II	2 Thessalonians 1.11-2.2
Gospel:	Luke 19.1-10

ST. ALOYSIUS COLLECTION

October 27	\$878.25	Attendance: 63
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ST. COLUMBAN COLLECTION:

October 26:	\$612.00	Attendance: 26
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Fri. Nov 1	9:15 a.m.	For Miller and Mary MacMillan by Gord and Louise
Sat. Nov. 2	4:30 p.m.	(St. Columban) For Nora Ryan Somers by her estate.
Sun. Nov. 3	11:00 a.m.	(St. Aloysius) For Alice Arsenault by The Gatineau Friendship Club
Wed. Nov. 6	8:00 a.m.	Eucharistic Adoration
	9:15 a.m.	For all parishioners
Fri. Nov. 8	9:15 a.m.	For John Gregory by Gord and Louise MacMillan
Sat. Nov. 9	4:30 p.m.	(St. Columban) For Martin and Annie Burke by Gail Burns
Sun. Nov. 10	11:00 a.m.	(St. Aloysius) For Bert Braiden by Gaby & Mike McCann

Merciful Love and Openness Conquer Sins

Today's readings speak of the benevolent and forgiving mercy of God for sinners and the response of repentance and conversion expected from us. The first reading from the book of Wisdom presents a radical image of God the Father. He is not like a great accountant who keeps exact records of all our sins. He is rather a lover of life. He abhors nothing He has made and conserves all in a spirit of mercy. He *"overlooks people's sins so that they may repent."* The way He forgives is different from our way. While we demand repentance first to forgive, God first overlooks our sins and is not transfixed by them, hoping that this generous gesture will lead sinners to repentance. The Psalmist also tells us that the Lord is good to all, and His compassion is over all that He has made. God's attitude to sinners seen in the first reading is also evident in the Gospel which presents the story of the instantaneous conversion of the tax-collector, Zacchaeus.

Jesus encountered Zacchaeus as he passed through Jericho. Jericho, a wealthy city and an important trade centre, was an ideal spot for an ambitious tax-collector. Being a rich tax collector would definitely have made Zacchaeus an obvious target for the hatred of his fellow Jews. Tax collectors were put in the same category of sinners with thieves, murderers and prostitutes and regarded as traitors by their own people due to their employment by the Roman government. Thus, one should expect Zacchaeus to be lonely and isolated. The Gospel however describes how Jesus recognized Zacchaeus for exactly what he was, a lost sinner in need of a Savior, and how God's grace worked in him to lead him from idle curiosity to repentance, conversion and restitution. The episode emphasizes the fact that such a conversion can only result from a person's fully receiving the love, acceptance and grace offered to everyone one by a merciful Lord.

To be noted is that Jesus initiates the contact and calls Zacchaeus by name and does not shout condemnation at him. He does not exact repentance from the tax collector; He rather overlooks his sins and invites him to come down from the tree for *"I must stay at your house today."* The people are enraged because of His gesture but Jesus is more interested in the outcast than the outraged. While the people are transfixed by the tax-collector's sins, Jesus sees beyond the sins to the person that Zacchaeus can become. The Lord does not give up on any of us. Jesus' generous gesture yields a good result: Zacchaeus repents and makes public amends for his sins. The sequence in this graceful encounter is very important. Jesus does not demand repentance from Zacchaeus

before eating with him. The Lord's attitude in welcoming sinners and eating with them gives them the opportunity to repent. Repentance comes in an atmosphere of acceptance. This is also our story with God.

We need to accept God's divine invitations to repentance like Zacchaeus. As sinners to a greater or lesser degree, Jesus is inviting us to a total conversion today. He loves us in spite of our ugly thoughts, broken promises, sullied ideals, lack of prayer and faith, resentments and lusts. His Gospel excludes no one. The kingdom of God is open to all, the rich and the poor. Though the full challenge of Gospel is difficult for the rich to accept, we cannot write them off. The rich need to say 'yes' to God with the establishment of justice with respect to their wealth. Through generosity, they can move from our small and feeble faith to a greater and more powerful faith, just as Zacchaeus did. We have to be both financially and spiritually generous. We should learn to love others in spite of their sins. Parents and teachers need to accept children lovingly, without first setting up standards of behaviour as conditions for being loved. Husband and wife may have qualities that irritate each other; but they should not withhold love from each other. Nor should they withhold their love from a rebellious teenager making stupid and even dangerous choices because of immaturity and peer-pressure. How would we respond to Jesus demand "*I must be in your house today*"? Happy Sunday!

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.

SPECIAL MASS FOR VETERANS on Remembrance Day.

The celebration will be presided by Archbishop Paul-André Durocher, Archbishop of Gatineau. Join us to honour our Heroes.

Monday, November 11, 2019, at 10:45 a.m. at the Notre-Dame Cemetery, 75 Blvd. Fournier, Gatineau

FOR THE SICK OF OUR PARISH

Please pray for the sick of our Parish: Ron Lortie, John Cook, Roger Seguin, Phyllis Seguin, Jack Wiggins, Adeline Gendron and Dave Whitworth.



St. Al's Annual Turkey Supper
will be held on Saturday, December 7th at 6:00
pm

For tickets see Ann Marie or Carol

Adults: \$15, Children 6 to 12: \$7

ST. COLUMBAN PARISHIONERS' Annual General Meeting and Fabrique Election.

The AGM will be held immediately after mass on Saturday, November 23, 2019. This meeting will provide a brief summary of the past year, identify priorities for 2020 and elect a new warden.

Paul Paiement's warden term will end on December 31, 2019.

The term for the new warden position will be from January 1, 2020 to December 31, 2023. Any parishioner who may be interested in serving as a warden is kindly asked to provide his/her name to Marc Maisonneuve. You may also nominate a parishioner of your choice for this position.