

# St. Aloysius

A Roman Catholic Parish with a Jesuit Tradition

**17th Sunday  
in Ordinary Time**

July 26, 2020

Praise to you,  
Lord  
Jesus Christ.

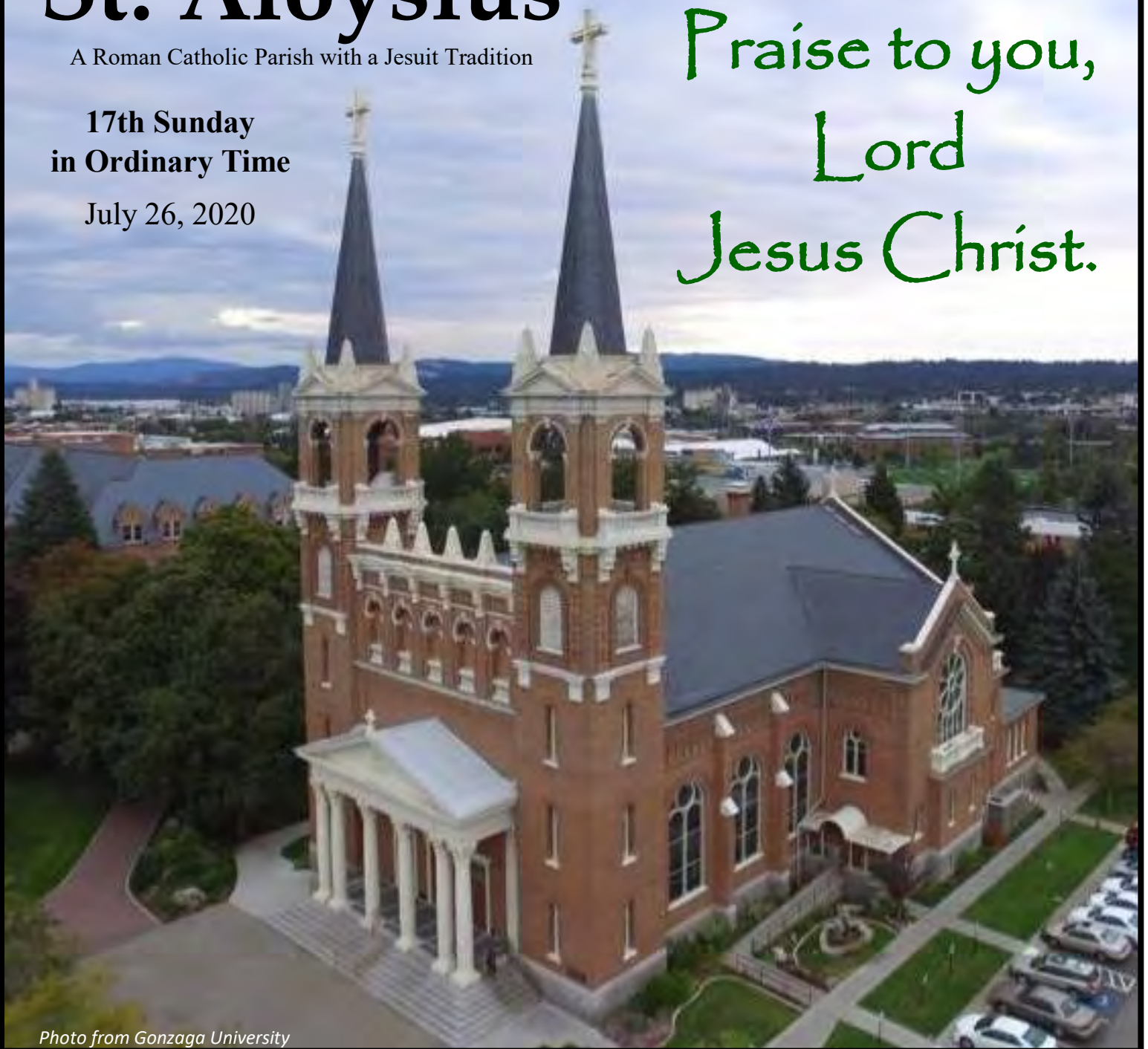


Photo from Gonzaga University

## **PARISH INFORMATION**

330 E. Boone Ave., Spokane, WA 99202  
509-313-5896 [www.stalschurch.org](http://www.stalschurch.org)

Email: [mkfairbanks@dioceseofspokane.org](mailto:mkfairbanks@dioceseofspokane.org)

### **Parish Center hours:**

Tuesday - Friday: 8:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

### **Weekend Masses:**

Saturday: 5:00 p.m.

Sunday: 8:30 a.m., 11:00 a.m., 7:00 p.m.

**Daily Mass:** Monday - Friday: 8:00 a.m.

**Sacrament of Reconciliation**

Thursdays: 4:30-6:30 p.m. in the church

### **Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament**

Tuesday: 2-6 p.m. and Friday: 6:45-7:45 a.m.

### **St. Aloysius Gonzaga Catholic Grade School**

611 E. Mission Ave. 489-7825

Principal: Angie Krauss

### **Altar Society**

President: Mary Kay Bryan 487-4632

### **Knights of Columbus Council #15143**

Grand Knight: Larry Lyle 558-9438

### **Spiritual Exercises in Everyday Life - SEEL**

Jennifer Doolittle 868-7870

# Reflecting On Sunday's Readings

THE SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME—July 26, 2020

**Introduction:** In the 1800's gold fever gripped the country. Thousands and thousands of people sold all of their possessions and headed to California, Colorado and other western states in search of riches. Men and women endured great deprivations physically, economically, and socially to strike it rich. Today a similar spirit is sweeping throughout the country as we become inundated with lotteries and gambling Mecca's. People once again are suffering hardships so that they can play one more rotation on the slots, another hand of Texas Hold-um, or scratch one more lotto ticket, all in search of hitting the jackpot.

What makes people invest everything in pursuit of such elusive treasure? Perhaps there are a couple of underlying compulsions that drive people in this pursuit. Perhaps at the heart of the matter is the recognition that life, as they are now experiencing it, is inadequate and they sense that there should be more to life. In addition, there may be the underlying belief that when they find the sought-after treasure, or hit the jackpot, that it will bring them the true happiness that they are missing. Unlike Solomon in this week's first reading, if God asked us, "What shall I give you?" many of us would shallowly, settle for the puny sum of a few million dollars, and spurn the true riches of Christ that are available to us.

Pages and pages could be written on the emptiness of riches. History is full of individuals who though very wealthy have led lives of quiet desperation, without peace or happiness; some even despairing of life. Simultaneously, books could be filled with the stories of financially poor people, who in their poverty found the Kingdom of God, and lived lives of radiant peace, love, and joy. Who really is the richer of the two?

Most of us are neither very wealthy nor very poor, so we always have before us the decision, "What shall we seek?" The riches of the Kingdom of God are readily available to us, and supremely more important and God will help us in our search. Yet, complacency will hinder our finding the riches of God's Kingdom, because it will lead us to never begin the search. Similarly, the riches of the Kingdom will be difficult to find if we are preoccupied searching for other things. Jesus rightly admonished us, "***Seek first the kingdom (of God) and his righteousness, and all these things will be given you besides.***"

Saint Pope John Paul II affirms this by urging us, "Please allow me to shout it aloud: 'It is time to return to God!' The person who does not yet have the joy of the faith is asked for the courage to seek it with confidence, perseverance and openness. Whoever has the grace of possessing it [faith], is asked to value it as the most treasured possession of his life, living it thoroughly and witnessing to it with passion. Our world hungers for faith, for an authentic and deep faith, because God alone can fully satisfy the desires of the human heart."<sup>1</sup>

Wonderful words, but do we believe them? If we do believe them, how should that belief be evidenced in our lives? The answer is found in this week's Gospel reading. It implies that we would sell all, sacrifice everything else in order to obtain this treasure that alone satisfies the human heart.

Practically speaking, pursuing the treasure of faith in Christ seldom in this country requires the loss of possessions. To the contrary the peace, purpose, and wisdom that permeate the life of a Christian living under the reign of Christ usually enables us to live a higher quality of life. For the indwelling Holy Spirit enables us to control our passions and discipline our lives. Sacred Scripture and the teachings of the Church enable us to move from spiritual ignorance to spiritual wisdom. These changes affect our lives by increasing our physical, mental and spiritual well-being, and that in turn affects our social and economic stability. This is not a "health and wealth" gospel, but the long-range results of making choices that please God and living with the consequences of godly choices.

<sup>1</sup> From "It Is Time to Return to God," L'Observatore Romano (As quoted in *The Catholic Church at the End of an Age*, by Ralph Martin.)

## First Reading — 1 Kings 3:5, 7-12

<sup>5</sup> At Gibeon the LORD appeared to Solomon in a dream by night; and God said, "Ask what I shall give you." ... <sup>7</sup> And now, O LORD my God, thou hast made thy servant king in place of David my father, although I am but a little child; I do not know how to go out or come in. <sup>8</sup> And thy servant is in the midst of thy people whom thou hast chosen, a great people, that cannot be numbered or counted for multitude. <sup>9</sup> Give thy servant therefore an understanding mind to govern thy people, that I may discern between good and evil; for who is able to govern this thy great people?"

<sup>10</sup> It pleased the Lord that Solomon had asked this. <sup>11</sup> And God said to him, "Because you have asked this, and have not asked for yourself long life or riches or the life of your enemies, but have asked for yourself

understanding to discern what is right, <sup>12</sup> behold, I now do according to your word. Behold, I give you a wise and discerning mind, so that none like you has been before you and none like you shall arise after you.

1. What would be your request in response to the invitation, “Ask something of me and I will give it to you”?

### **Responsorial Reading — Psalms 119:57, 72, 76-77, 127-130**

<sup>57</sup> The LORD is my portion; I promise to keep thy words. ... <sup>72</sup> The law of thy mouth is better to me than thousands of gold and silver pieces. ... <sup>76</sup> Let thy steadfast love be ready to comfort me according to thy promise to thy servant. <sup>77</sup> Let thy mercy come to me, that I may live; for thy law is my delight. ...

<sup>127</sup> Therefore I love thy commandments above gold, above fine gold. <sup>128</sup> Therefore I direct my steps by all thy precepts; I hate every false way. <sup>129</sup> Thy testimonies are wonderful; therefore my soul keeps them. <sup>130</sup> The unfolding of thy words gives light; it imparts understanding to the simple.

### **Second Reading — Romans 8:28-30**

<sup>28</sup> We know that in everything God works for good with those who love him, who are called according to his purpose. <sup>29</sup> For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the first-born among many brethren. <sup>30</sup> And those whom he predestined he also called; and those whom he called he also justified; and those whom he justified he also glorified.

2. How would you define the “riches” of Christ, according to this passage?

### **Gospel Reading — Matthew 13:44-52**

<sup>44</sup> “The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which a man found and covered up; then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field.

<sup>45</sup> “Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls, <sup>46</sup> who, on finding one pearl of great value, went and sold all that he had and bought it.

<sup>47</sup> “Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net which was thrown into the sea and gathered fish of every kind; <sup>48</sup> when it was full, men drew it ashore and sat down and sorted the good into vessels but threw away the bad. <sup>49</sup> So it will be at the close of the age. The angels will come out and separate the evil from the righteous, <sup>50</sup> and throw them into the furnace of fire; there men will weep and gnash their teeth.

<sup>51</sup> “Have you understood all this?” They said to him, “Yes.” <sup>52</sup> And he said to them, “Therefore every scribe who has been trained for the kingdom of heaven is like a householder who brings out of his treasure what is new and what is old.”

3. What value is placed on the Kingdom of God by people in these parables?
4. How would you explain to someone how to “search” for the Kingdom of God?
5. Practically what are the implications for someone who finds it?
6. Practically what are the implications for someone who chooses to not search for it?



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*Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord,  
 and let perpetual light shine upon them.*

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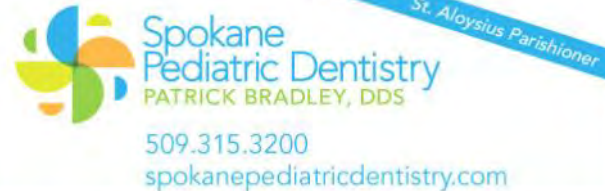
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