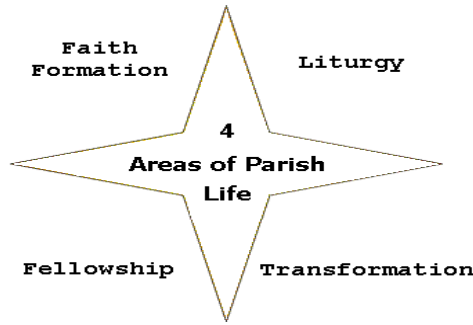




Our Lady of Victory
490 Charles Street
Gatineau, Québec
J8L 2K5



St. Malachy
3889 Route 315
Mayo, Québec
J8L 3Z8

**THE THIRTY- FIRST SUNDAY
IN ORDINARY TIME
OCTOBER 29 - 30, 2016**

Sunday 9:00 AM

Celebration of the Eucharist

Saturday 7:00 PM

Pastor Father Albanus Ogowuihe
Rectory 490 Charles Street, Gatineau, Québec, J8L 2K5
Secretary Monique Simpson
Email olv@videotron.ca
Office Hours **Monday** - 9:00 am - 12:00 pm
Wednesday - 9:00 am - 11:00 am
Thursday - 1:00 pm - 4:00 pm
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FOOD FOR THOUGHT

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

In my prayers, Lord, I am often like Zacchaeus, making great efforts to catch a glimpse of you, only to find that you are already there, waiting for me, calling me by name, inviting yourself in.

Once I am with you. I find happiness in putting things right, order in my life, finding the springs of generosity and justice that I have stifled by my habits

MASSES

Thursday	Nov. 3 rd	OLV @ 10:00 am	Rupert McCoy and Deceased Members of the McCoy Family by the Estate
Saturday	Nov. 5 th	St. Malachy @ 7:00 pm	All Parishioners of St. Malachy and OLV
Sunday	Nov. 6 th	OLV @ 9:00 am	Deceased Members of the Kelly and Farnand Families by Margaret Farnand and Family Deceased Friends and Families of the Brulé-Charbonneau Families by Nicole Edward Cameron by the Family

WEEKLY RECEIPTS	OLV	ST. MALACHY
Oct 22 -23, 2016 - Sunday	\$577.00	\$230.00
Oct 22 - 23, 2016 - Fuel	278.00	171.00
Oct 22 - 23, 2016 - Propagation of the Faith	238.00	75.00

NOVEMBER – THE MONTH IN WHICH WE REMEMBER THE DECEASED

November is traditionally the month in which we give more attention to the remembrance of the deceased. Christians do so in a unique way based on what is central in our faith: the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

In our two parishes, we have a tradition of leaving our **Book of Life** at the front of the church for the month of November. The **Book of Life** contains the names of deceased parishioners and relatives. Some additional pages are provided at the back of the book if anyone wants to add names. It is our way of expressing our faith that the dead find peace with God and will be raised to life when the Lord Jesus comes in glory.

The Book is placed next to the Easter Candle which speaks of the ultimate victory of life over death, of light over darkness, in the dead and risen Jesus. We are called to share in that victory. Next weekend, our parishes will have a special remembrance for the deceased from the past year.

Father Albanus' Reflections on the Sunday Liturgy **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?*"

OUR LADY of VICTORY & ST. MALACHY NEWS

Prayers and Sympathy: Please pray for the repose of the soul of Tom Dorion, whose funeral will be held on November 1st at 11:00 am at OLV. Also for the soul of Philip Pearson, whose funeral will be held on November 4th at 11:00 am at St. Malachy. Our sympathy and prayers are with their families and friends during this time of loss.

OLV Fellowship Sunday: Will be held after mass on Sunday, November 6th.

Our Lady of Victory Tea: Our annual Christmas Tea will be held this year on **December 03, from 1:30 to 3.30 pm**. It is not too early to think about your baking for the bake sale and food tables. There will also be a Craft Table. All donations of Christmas crafts will be appreciated.

Sunday Missals: Our Sunday Missals for 206-2017 will go on sale next weekend at a cost of \$6.00. Your current missal expires on November 20th.

At the Heart of the Action With *Development and Peace* for ecological justice

At the COP21 held in Paris last year, Canada committed to investing \$2.65 billion by 2020 to support countries of the Global South that are severely affected by climate change. While there are many ways to respond to climate change, we believe that agriculture must be at the heart of proposed solutions. Let's support an agricultural model that enables these stewards of the earth to live in dignity and feed their communities in a way that respects our common home, the Earth.

Sign the ***Development and Peace*** Action Card today! Ask the Prime Minister to take into account the vital role of small family farmers in feeding and cooling the planet and to ensure that their voices are heard. Action Cards will remain in the church for another week in order to give everyone an opportunity to sign. Membership Cards will also be available for anyone desiring to become a member of ***Development and Peace***.

COMMUNITY NEWS

Reminder: Next Saturday, November 5th is the time to set our clocks **back** 1 hour.

Christmas Tea and Bazaar: The Anglican Churches of St. Stephen's, St. John's Glen Almond and St. Thomas invite you to join us at our annual Christmas Tea and Bazaar on **Saturday, November 19th**, from 2 pm to 4 pm, at St. Stephen's Church Hall, 45 Donaldson Road. **Cost: \$7.00**. Fundraiser also includes the sale of beautiful handmade crafts, baked goods and more.