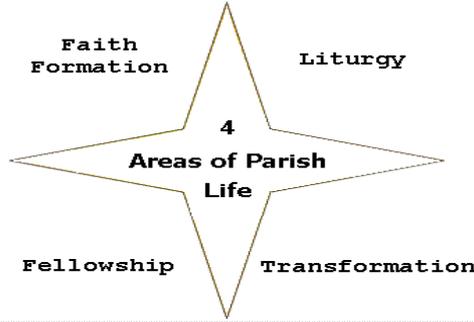




Our Lady of Victory
490 Charles Street
Gatineau, Québec
J8L 2K5



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

**SECOND SUNDAY
OF ADVENT
DECEMBER 3 - 4, 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
Telephone (819) 986-3763
Fax (819) 961-3159
Website www.stmalachyolv.com



180, boul. Mont-Bleu
Gatineau (QC) J8Z 3J5
www.diocesegatineau.org

Fr. Albanus' Reflections on the Sunday Liturgy
Advent: Time for the Change of Hearts

Today's Advent Liturgy speaks about the change of heart that is required of us to be part of the kingdom that would be ushered in by the coming of Christ, the Son of God. Though salvation is a free gift of God and we cannot earn His blessing, we must cooperate with Him because He cannot force His blessing on us. We have to say yes to God. The first reading from the prophet Isaiah describes the new world that has already dawned and that will be manifested when the advent of the Lord is fully achieved. Isaiah describes a society that is a real paradise, where lion and leopard lie down with the lamb and the gazelle; where the little child plays with poisonous snakes, etc. – a kind of nirvana! When is this to be fulfilled? The first part of this reading answers it, "A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse..." This King would be a great one, full of the Spirit of God, who would possess the best qualities of this family. Above all, He would have a quality that nobody had before Him: He would be just and defend the poor and the oppressed. This promise was never fulfilled before the birth of Jesus, whom the Gospel rightly describes as the expected descendant of David.

This prophecy of Isaiah is still a message of hope for us. Even after the birth of Jesus over 2000 years ago, the paradise has not been fully realized. The powerful continue to lord it over and oppress the weak; human rights are denied many people; hate and violence are still present world over. Yes, the shoot of the family of David has sprung up already; but it is still developing. We are expected to carry out the responsibility of representing in the world the society promised by the Prophet Isaiah. To do this requires a change of heart. The second reading and the Gospel tell us how. In the second reading, St. Paul tells us to live in harmony, and welcome one another like Christ who did not seek to please Himself, but placed Himself at the service of others. The Gospel echoes the same message of a change of heart.

John is the fulfillment of the prophecy of Isaiah; "the voice of the one crying in the wilderness, prepare the way of the Lord." John, who prepared Israel for the Messiah, is proposed to us today as a model. He can once more teach us today how to welcome the Lord who comes. He has to be different to do that: he appears as somewhat strange figure. He wears a garment of camel-hair and eats the simple food of the desert – a locust and wild honey; not the food of the rich and corrupt society. No wonder people flocked to him to be baptized for repentance. John's baptism meant that a person immersed in water disappeared and died and his/her past life was cancelled and she/he became a new person. But this exterior act is not enough to give salvation. One needs to convert to change one's way of life. A mere willingness to prepare for the coming of the kingdom of God, as exhibited by the Pharisees and the Sadducees in today's Gospel, is not enough. John is really hard on them and calls them "brood of vipers"; "the axe", he says, "is lying at the root of the tree" to cut down anyone that does not bear good fruit and "throw into the fire."

We, in the same way, must prepare ourselves for the Lord's coming. If we want to be part of this kingdom that is to grow and develop, we must prepare the road, convert and change our heart. We must avoid the mistake of the Pharisees and Sadducees thinking that it is enough that we are children of Abraham; that our names are recorded in the baptism register of our parish. The exterior appearance of belonging to the chosen people is not enough, for "God can raise up children for Abraham" from the stones. To avoid being cut down we must undergo a real change of heart. We cannot live on borrowed fidelity; hence, good ancestors guarantee nothing. When people trace their ancestry back to Abraham that, does not absolve them from taking responsibility here and now.

During this Advent, brothers and sisters, we are called to a change of heart. We are probably aware of areas in our lives that need to be changed and to be touched by the power of God's forgiveness. We need to reaffirm our baptismal promises and be challenged by the word of the Lord. We do not however need to go into the wilderness to hear the word. We hear it here and we are expected to act on it; this is the way to prepare for the one who is to come. Let us remember the oft-repeated words of Alexander Pope: "What does it profit me if Jesus is reborn in thousands of cribs all over the world and not reborn in my heart?" He means that Jesus must be reborn in our heart during this season of Advent and every day of our lives, radiating his love, kindness, mercy, forgiveness and spirit of humble service to the world through our lives.

MASSES

Thursday	Dec. 8 th	OLV @ 10:00 am	Rupert McCoy and Deceased Members of the McCoy Family by the Estate
Saturday	Dec. 10 th	St. Malachy @ 7:00 pm	Brother Kevin (Matt) Garvey by the Shrine Committee
Sunday	Dec. 11 th	OLV @ 9:00 am	Mary Elizabeth Laframboise by the Estate Joan Teske by Mrs. Lotz and Family Beatrice Bonin by Deborah Dorey Tom Dorion by Barbara and Scott James Austin Martin by the Family

WEEKLY RECEIPTS	OLV	ST. MALACHY
Nov 26 - 27, 2016 - Sunday	\$601.00	\$227.00
Nov 26 - 27, 2016 - Fuel	570.00	167.00

The Archbishop's Monthly Intentions: December 2016

"So, that each of us contributes to the common good and the building of a society that puts the human person as its basic value."

Social reflection: Each human being and each social group has interests of their own. To want the "common good" is to be able to think beyond one's own needs and to be interested in those of others even for the forgotten or voiceless. The goods of the Earth are there for everyone. The social doctrine of the Church basically says that: "The common good is not only about material or external well-being; it goes beyond that, it concerns the integral good of Man. It also concerns the moral and spiritual well-being of every human being. No aspect of human existence can be dismissed. "

Answering our faith: In his apostolic exhortation, EVANGELII GAUDIUM, Pope Francis stresses that goods must serve the common good: "Solidarity is a spontaneous reaction of the one who recognizes the social function of property and the universal destination of goods. These convictions and practices of solidarity, when they take flesh, open the way to other structural transformations and make them possible. A change in structures that does not generate new convictions and attitudes will cause these same structures to become corrupt, burdensome and inefficient. "It must always be remembered that the planet belongs to all mankind and is for all mankind, and that the mere fact of being born in a place with less resources or less development does not justify people living in lesser dignity." Are we not called as Christians to build a more humane society and fair society?

Questioning ourselves Sunday, December 4, 2016: This week, I will try to help someone in need in my entourage, or I will participate in the "parish charity drive" that collects donations in money or food in order to offer Christmas baskets to people who need them. A beautiful activity to take part in as a family and as a Christian community Sunday.

OUR LADY of VICTORY & ST. MALACHY NEWS

Christmas and New Year's Mass Schedule:

Thursday	Dec. 15 th	7:00 pm	OLV - Penitential Service
Saturday	Dec. 24 th	7:00 pm	OLV
Saturday	Dec. 24 th	9:00 pm	St. Malachy
Sunday	Dec. 25 th	9:00 am	OLV
Saturday	Dec. 31 st	7:00 pm	St. Malachy
Sunday	Jan. 1 st	9:00 am	OLV

COMMUNITY NEWS

Clothing Requests: The charitable organization, **Just Equipping**, who rents space in the OLV Rectory, is looking for clothing for men in African prisons. The following items are requested: jogging pants, hoodies, long sleeve shirts, socks and underwear. These can be dropped off at OLV during the secretary's office hours. Also they would appreciate any old suitcases in good condition.

La Chanterelle Christmas Concert: Will be held on **December 14th at 7:30 pm** at OLV. Tickets are \$20.00. Children, 12 years of age and under, FREE

Major Fund-Raising Drive in Quebec: For the past 15 years in Quebec, a major fund-raising drive takes place in December organized by various media organizations, called **La Grand Guignolée des Médias** – this drive enables thousands of Quebec families to enjoy the Holiday period in dignity. In larger cities, local media celebrities don Santa hats and stand on street corners asking for motorists' donations. In smaller communities such as ours, members of local media as well as members from community organizations participate at the street corners.

The proceeds of these road-blocks are donated to food banks across Quebec. Our local food bank, **La mie de l'entraide**, will receive all the donations collected in the 16th year of the **Guignolée** to be held on **Thursday, December 8th from 6:00 am to 9:00 am** at three road-blocks: **one** is at the corner of MacLaren and Belanger in the Buckingham sector; **one** at the corner of Georges and Filion in the Masson sector; and **one** at the corner of Laurentides and Neuville in the Angers sector. All monetary and non-perishable donations will be accepted at these three road-blocks.

If you are on the road between 6 and 9 a.m. next Thursday and see these early morning Santas begging, please be assured that your generous donation will be used locally at our food bank. You can also make on-line donations at: <https://www.lagrandeguignoleedesmedias.com/en> and indicate where you wish your donation to be received. Or, you can bring your donation to **La mie de l'entraide** at 422 Pine Street.