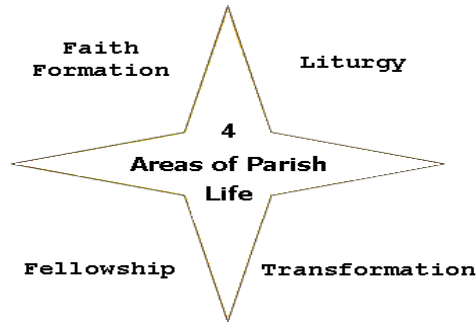




Our Lady of Victory
490 Charles Street
Gatineau, Québec
J8L 2K5



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

**THIRD SUNDAY
OF ADVENT
DECEMBER 10 - 11, 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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Fr. Albanus' Reflections on the Sunday Liturgy

Advent: Rejoice

On the third Sunday of Advent, the Liturgy invites us to rejoice at the coming of Jesus as we prepare for Christmas. This Sunday is called Gaudete Sunday following the Entrance Antiphon of today's liturgy: Gaudete in Domino Semper (Rejoice in the Lord always) Phil. 4,4). We light the rose candle of the Advent wreath to express our joy in the coming of our Saviour into our hearts and lives. The first reading is a message of joy. The Prophet Isaiah encourages the exiled Jews in Babylon to rejoice because their God is coming to free them from slavery and lead them safely to their homeland. The second reading echoes the same message of joy. St James encourages the early Christians to rejoice and wait with patience for the second coming of Jesus just as the farmer waits for the precious crop from the earth. The farmer does not just sit back looking at the field to yield crop by itself. She/he sits back only when she/he has done all she/he can and waits patiently for God to do His part. She/he never loses heart even if she/he has to wait for months before the crop is ripe. We have to cherish the hope that God will intervene in our lives and that 'His advent' is close at hand.

In the Gospel, the message of joy is also expressed, though indirectly. Jesus urges John the Baptist (in prison) to rejoice by casting away his wrong expectations about the Messiah and simply accept Him and His ministry as the fulfilment of the prophecy of Isaiah. In last Sunday's Gospel John has spoken of the Messiah as one coming as a strict judge with his fiery judgement: "His winnowing fork is in His hand..."; also, "Even now the axe is lying at the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire." John is in prison and hears what Jesus is doing, a far cry from what he expects. Hence, he questions through his disciples, "are you the One who is to come, or are we to wait for another?" In reply Jesus tells them to tell John what they have seen: "the blind see, the lame walk, the lepers are clean, the deaf hear, the dead are raised and the poor have Good news brought to them. And blessed is anyone who takes no offence at me." Thus, Jesus presents Himself as fulfilling the prophecy of Isaiah in today's reading and in 29,19 and 61,1. Jesus' works fulfill all these prophecies; what He does and says who He is. These are all signs of salvation and not of condemnation. It is left for everyone, including John to make the decision to work out from what He does and says who He is, a decision of faith.

To experience true joy of this time, we need to eliminate our wrong expectations and images of Jesus. Like John the Baptist, we sometimes experience crises of faith. Jesus' way of doing things scandalizes John and may scandalize us too. John's question could be our question too: 'Is He the Christ? Is Jesus good enough for us? Is His Gospel good enough? Does Jesus, as He presents Himself, satisfy our longings?' The God revealed by Jesus is very different from us and cannot correspond to our way of thinking. He loves everyone, good and bad, and makes the sun rise and the rain fall on each one of us, the honest and dishonest one alike, because we are all His children (Mt. 5,45). A God such as this, who is good to everybody, does not fit our ideas nor fulfil our expectations. Isn't such a God a scandal to us? (Armellini, F,SCI 1995).

We rejoice that Jesus is to be reborn into our lives. Thus Jesus says to us today as he commands John's disciples: Go and tell others what you hear and see. It means that we have to share with others our experience of the rebirth of Jesus within us. What

signs can we offer people today to convince them that Jesus is among them? We have to keep on being signs of what our Master did: help our brothers and sisters, feed the hungry, cure the sick, fight for the oppressed and be enemies of sin. During this Advent we must prepare our hearts to recognize and welcome Jesus by going through a **metánoia** – a change of thinking about God, ourselves and the world.

MASSES

Thursday	Dec. 15th	OLV @ 10:00 am OLV @ 7:00 pm	Rupert McCoy and Deceased Members of the McCoy Family by the Estate Penitential Service
Saturday	Dec. 17th	St. Malachy @ 7:00 pm	Esther and John Lavell by Greg and Patricia Philip Pearson by Sandra and Family
Sunday	Dec. 18th	OLV @ 9:00 am	Christopher Farnand (4th ann) by Mike, Joanne and Family Kelly, Martin and Weir Families by the Family Edmond Bedard by Pauline and Family Philip Pearson by Nancy and Ethel

WEEKLY RECEIPTS	OLV	ST. MALACHY
Dec 3 - 4, 2016 - Sunday	\$603.00	\$204.00
Dec 3 - 4, 2016 - Support	519.00	149.00
Christmas Flowers		126.00

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."

Questioning ourselves Sunday, December 11, 2016:

I take the time to think about all the joy I experience with my family, my workmates, my neighbors and I give thanks to God for it.

Message for the National Day of Prayer in Solidarity with Indigenous Peoples December 12, 2016

PRAYER FOR FAMILIES

Let Us Pray:

O Great Creator, we give praise and *thanks to you for our lives and for our families.*
Your gift to us of human community is one of your greatest blessings.

We thank you for our Elders – our grandfathers and grandmothers - whose patience and wisdom guide our lives. We thank you for our fathers and mothers, who by giving their love to each other bring us into the world, nurturing and leading us. We thank you for our brothers and sisters, with whom we come to know what sharing and caring really means.

We thank you for young people, whose hope for a better world, energizes and inspires us.
We thank you for the little ones – the children - whose innocence and promise bring gladness and joy.

O Creator, may our families always be that blessed and first community that we honour and cherish. As you continue to make all things new, may we hear your invitation - in all creation - to receive and share all that is good and true with each other. O God, we also face many challenges and crises in our lives and world. May our families continue be the first and constant community that shows us how to live intimately and respectfully with all people, and all Creation.

May all Glory, Praise, Honour and Thanksgiving be shown to you, Father of all mercies and compassion, Jesus , Saviour and Guardian of our souls, and Spirit of peace and communion.

Christmas and New Year's Mass Schedule:

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

OUR LADY of VICTORY & ST. MALACHY NEWS

OLV Christmas Tea: Once again, our annual Christmas Tea was a tremendous success. Profits from the event totaled \$1637.00. Thanks to Susan Lemieux for coordinating the event and thanks to those individuals who donated food, worked in the kitchen or volunteered to help out in other ways.

As for the raffle, thanks to Marianne Lotz, who donated a beautiful Afghan, won by Dorothy Sicard; Terri Lemieux, who donated a wonderful Christmas basket, won by Donna French; Maxi's, donation of a \$25.00 gift certificate, won by Deanna Bastien. Thanks to Weston bakery for donating the bread. Thanks to all those who attended the Tea.

Help Beautify Our Church - OLV: In this week's bulletin, you will find an envelope that can be used to donate funds towards the purchase of flowers for our Christmas celebrations. Those wishing to donate should return these envelopes with their mailing address for tax receipt purposes.

75th Anniversary Celebration - OLV: 2017 marks the year Our Lady of Victory will be celebrating its 75th anniversary. The first mass was said on January 25th 1942, just three days after the Parish was officially decreed on January 22nd.

On January 22nd 2017, on the exact the date of the decree establishing our parish, a commemorative mass will be celebrated by Archbishop Paul-André Durocher. The mass will be followed by a brunch where present and former parishioners can share fellowship and renew acquaintances. It is our hope to attract as many past and present parishioners to this event as possible. So spread the word.

In order for us to plan for the brunch, for which there will be no charge, we need your cooperation; some forward planning is required. Following mass on January 8th & 15th we will be accepting requests for tickets to attend the brunch. Tickets will be mandatory to attend. Tickets are limited, so please be sure to register. Don't be disappointed. During the year other celebration events are planned and details will follow at a later date.

The Lions Club Annual Telethon held last Sunday, December 4th at the Knights of Columbus Hall was once again a success, with over \$75,000 raised. A total of \$825.00 was presented to the Lions Club during the Telethon on behalf of Our Lady of Victory and St. Malachy parishes. Lions Club members expressed their appreciation for our parishes continued generosity in the telethon and asked that this thanks be conveyed to all parishioners concerned. Many thanks!