

MASSES				
Thursday	Aug. 3 ^{ra}	OLV @ 10:00 am	NO MASS	
Saturday	Aug. 5 th	St. Malachy @ 7:00 pm	Living & Deceased Members of the Long Lake Association by The Board of Directors	
Sunday	Aug. 6 th	OLV @ 9:00 am	Alma Miller by Elizabeth McNamara Ted Batty by Ethel and The Family James, Margaret & Tom Dorion by The Estate The Laframbnoise Family & Mary Elizabeth Laframboise by The Estate	
Thursday	Aug. 10 th	OLV @ 10:00 am	NO MASS	
Saturday	Aug. 12 th	OLV @ 7:00 pm	Urban McNamara by Mary & Family Buddy Ryan by Ken Simpson	
Sunday	Aug. 13 th	St. Malachy @ 11:00 am	MAYO PILGRIMAGE	

WEEKLY RECEIPTS	OLV	ST. MALACHY
July 15 - July 16, 2017 - Sunday Collection	\$450.00	\$307.00
July 15 - July 16, 2017 - Fuel	516.00	180.00

Fr. Albanus' Reflections on the Sunday Liturgy

The Word of God this Sunday teaches us that accepting Jesus as our God and sacrificing everything in life to do the will of God is equivalent to discovering and possessing the most valuable treasure or the pearl of great price. Keeping a personal relationship with Christ and sharing His view of life are the most beautiful, the most precious things in the world. The **first reading** from the First Book of Kings narrates the story of King Solomon; how he chose the great treasure of accepting God to rule his life by doing God's will. Instead of wealth and victory, Solomon requested of God, an understanding heart, the ability to distinguish right from wrong, so that he might govern the people properly. Solomon was aware that whoever was in power could easily be misled and corrupted by sympathies, emotions, whims

and unchecked passions. Power could lead people into making serious mistakes and being friends with those who are unjust to the people. Hence, Solomon asked for wisdom.

Wisdom gives us insight into what is truly important in life and makes us aware of the meaning and purposes of living, of what really matters. It is an understanding of where our real well-being and happiness lie. It is indeed a "pearl" of great price that Jesus speaks about in the Gospel. Solomon teaches us to learn to cultivate the habit of praying for a heart and mind attuned to God's word and docile to His desires. Our prayer should consist in asking God for what He wants to give us that which makes us better able to do His will of loving service to others. Wisdom comes from God; with wisdom, all other blessings will flow. St Paul teaches us in the **second reading** that the wisdom to perceive God's grace is essential for those who want to follow Him and to do His will, thus remaining in His kingdom.

The first two readings prepare us for the **Gospel** where Jesus invites us to choose wisely in life, and to prefer the kingdom of God above all else. With the three parables of today's Gospel, Jesus concludes the chapter we began last two Sundays ago on the kingdom of God. These parables are lessons in total attachment to Christ and detachment from the things of the world demanded of the disciple to make the reign of God in him/herself and, in the world, a reality. In these stories, Jesus teaches that God's kingdom is something of extraordinary value, like a hidden treasure or a costly pearl. Possessing it calls for a total commitment to preserving it. If the kingdom of God is not seen as a "pearl of great value," people will not bother renouncing anything to attain it. Jesus Himself had to give up everything to do His Father's will. Renouncing everything for His Father's will made Him look foolish in the eyes of people. Jesus also expects His followers to do the same; to give up all for the sake of God's kingdom. God's kingdom is God's reign in our hearts, lives, homes, society and the world. Only those who develop a searching mind and are willing to "sell" everything for the great treasure of God's kingdom will be rewarded. That means having a personal relationship with Christ, making Christ's view and vision of life primary in our life and keeping everything else secondary.

Brothers and sisters, none of us can gain anything of value without renouncing something. Paul says "I regard everything as loss because of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord" (Phil: 3.8). Again, "For to me living is Christ and dying is gain" (Phil 1.21). Most importantly, we have to renounce first our perception of what real treasure in life really is. It may sound logical that those who have not found Christ, the non-believers, the pagans, the atheists, think the Christians a bit mad. They cannot understand why they give up certain things and ways of life. We ought to avoid chasing false treasures like money, social status and pleasure. Jesus has come to offer us God's kingdom, a pearl of great value. The genuine disciples are those who respond to this opportunity with joy and selfless commitment. They eagerly give top priority to doing God's will, whatever it may be. The pearls of life are the things of God; the love of family and friends, the support of community, and the sense of fulfillment that comes from serving and giving for the sake of others.

Again, the parables remind us that it is something urgent to take certain decisions. Life sometimes offers certain opportunities that should not be lost, since they will not come our way again. Choosing the kingdom of God is not something that can be procrastinated. God's summons requires immediate response. Although we are baptized Christians who have heard the Gospel, we still need to pursue the true and full meaning of the Gospel which can escape us for many years. Many of us have heard the Gospel, time and again, but have never considered it as a treasure to be bought at any cost. We can always understand more, love more and serve more. The two discoveries in the parables are due one to luck and the other to diligence. Thus, Jesus wants to teach us by them that the kingdom of God is both a gratuitous gift from God, and the fruit of the search and diligence of humans. **Happy Sunday**!

OUR LADY of VICTORY & ST. MALACHY NEWS

<u>Mass Change</u>: Note that on Saturday, August 12th the mass will be held at OLV 7:00 pm due to the Pilgrimage at Mayo on Sunday, August 13th.

Bulletins: Our August Parish bulletin will be printed August 12-13 and August 26-27.

OLV Fellowship: There will be **NO** fellowship in August. We will start again on Sunday, September 3rd.

<u>Thursday Masses</u>: Note: In the month of August there will be **NO** Thursday morning mass at OLV. We will resume mass on Thursday, September 7th.

<u>Used Stamps:</u> Did you know that one cancelled stamp can help feed a child for a day? Support The Redemptorist Mission Stamp Bursary by bringing your used stamps and placing them in the specially marked boxes on each side of the top of the stairs.

Egg Cartons: Recycle your used egg cartons by placing them in the **food basket**. These are used by our local Food Bank and also for the Special Education Children at St. Michel School. The children use these for arts and crafts to sell and purchase other items for their needs. Monique will divide these cartons to ensure that both places get your donations.

75th Anniversary- We Are Planning a Family Event: The Coordinating Committee is planning a family oriented activity which is scheduled for **Saturday, September 9th from 2 to 6 pm**. **Corn and hot dogs** will be served. Activities will be held both **inside** and **outside** the church. While planning is in its early stages, what we can announce is that in the church hall, music will be provided by Phil Casey and François Plouffe and that several children's activities are planned on the grounds.

The Committee is hopeful that parishioners will enthusiastically support this community event and encourage their children and grand-children to attend. Both the Coordinating Committee and the Wardens are committed to make the event fun for all ages. As planning moves forward, more detailed information will be provided.

While we realize that it is early, as soon as you can, please advise the Parish Secretary on the number of family members who plan to participate in this event. We need this information in order to ensure that there is enough food for everyone.

Presently, the cutoff date for registration is August 16th.

<u>Christmas Tea</u>: Although it may seem early, it is time to do some initial planning around the Christmas Tea. The fact is we need a volunteer to come forward as a Convener. The sooner we can name a Convener, the easier it is for those doing crafts to organize. Anyone interested should contact the parish secretary.

<u>O'Neil Cemetery</u>: It is official, the O'Neil Cemetery, located on Church Street, has been transferred back to St-Grégoire, the owner of the site. OLV has been managing the site since 1964. The decision to transfer responsibilities was undertaken for two basic reasons: the lack of parish resources to manage the site, and insurance liability issues around young people partying on the site and building bonfires. According to the advice of our insurance representative, we should divest ourselves of our management responsibilities, which we did.

<u>Knights of Columbus</u>: The Wardens of OLV, on behalf of our parishioners, would like to thank the Knights of Columbus for the donation of \$1,500. We greatly appreciate their continued support.

<u>Our Lady of Knock Shrine</u> - The 63rd Pilgrimage to Our Lady of Knock is being held on **Sunday, August 13, 2017**, with Father John Walsh, Montreal as the celebrant. The program is:

Celebration of Holy Eucharist	
Dinner at Food Booths	
Rosary Procession to Cemetery	
Marian Hymns	
Exposition of Blessed Sacrament, Blessing of	
Religious Articles and Healing Service	

Information is posted on the bulletin board and brochures are available at the back of the Church.

<u>Our Lady of Knock/St. Malachy Work Night</u> - In preparation for the Pilgrimage, a work night is scheduled for Thursday, August 10th, at 6:30 pm. In case of rain, it will be on Friday, August 11th, at 6:30 pm. Volunteers are most welcome.



In February 2017, the new UN Secretary-General, António Guterres, declared 20 million people to be at risk of death in the next six months in South Sudan, Somalia, Yemen, and Nigeria.

This particular humanitarian crisis stems from a conjunction of events that include armed conflicts coupled with severe droughts brought about by climate change. Many have fled their homes and land to escape the violence of armed conflict and are continually displaced. These issues make transportation and access to food extremely difficult.



Development and Peace – **Caritas Canada** is present in the region and working closely with our local partners to respond to this humanitarian crisis threatening the lives of millions of people, by working with the most vulnerable populations.

Please give generously:

By phone at 1-888-664-3387

By text – using your cell phone, send a text message with the word PEACE to 45678 to donate \$10 to Development and Peace

By mail to: 1425 René-Lévesque blvd. W, 3rd Floor, Montreal QC H3G 1T7

For more information about Development and Peace actions in the four vulnerable countries, go to: <u>https://www.devp.org/en/famine-relief-fund</u>

COMMUNITY NEWS

<u>Blood Donor Clinic:</u> Thursday, August 3 at the Buckingham Bowling King Pin, 210 Sauvé Street. Time: 1:30 pm to 8:00 pm.

<u>Pilgrimage to Ste-Anne-De-Beaupré and Cap-de-la-Madeleine:</u> The 143rd annual Pilgrimage from the Dioceses of Ottawa, Kingston, Gatineau, Pembroke, Mount Laurier, Alexandria and Cornwall will be on August 12-13, 2017. Weekend Celebrant is Bishop Michael Mulhall of the Diocese of Pembroke. For more information contact **Mike Budge at 613-224-8110 or** <u>www.ste-anne-de-beaupre.com</u>.

OUR LADY OF THE ANNUNCIATION ANNUAL INDOOR GARAGE SALE : Saturday, September 9th, 8 a.m. - 2 p.m. Household items, jewellery, tools, toys, books and baked goods will be for sale inside the church, hot dogs and drinks for sale outside. To donate goods, to volunteer or for further information, please call 819-771-4613 or 819-777-8825. The parish needs your support! Please plan to attend and help to spread the word.

<u>Clothing Requests</u>: The charitable organization who rents space in the OLV Rectory – Just Equipping – is looking for clothing for *men and women*. Requirements: washable fleeces like hoodies, jogging pants, gym pants, fall jackets, sweaters, long sleeve shirts, socks and underwear. These can be dropped off at OLV during the secretary's office hours.

<u>SUITCASES NEEDED</u>: large lightweight. *All donations will be accepted no later than September 13.* This will give them time to sort and pack the donations.

Please bring to church office.

Prayer for a Safe Journey

Lord, be our guide and our protector on the journey we are about to take. Watch over us. Protect us from accidents. Keep us free from harm to body and soul. Lord, support us with Your grace when we are tired. Help us be patient in any trouble which may come our way. Keep us always mindful of Your presence and love. *Amen.*"

Shut-Ins:

Parishioners are reminded that Father Albanus is available and more than willing to meet with those individuals who are shut-in for a variety of reasons. In addition to Eucharist, Father is prepared to simply visit, as well as bring a spiritual message to those who are unable to leave their place of residence. To book a time with Father, please contact the Parish Secretary at 819-986-3763.

ARE YOU NEW TO OUR PARISH? Welcome to all who want to make their faith home here! We would appreciate it if you could identify yourself to Fr. Albanus at mass. If you would like to become a regular parishioner, feel free to contact the office at 819-986-3763 to obtain a Registration Form. **Note**: the weekly collection envelope is the principal source of revenue for both parishes.