



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

**EPIPHANY
OF THE LORD**

JANUARY 6 - 7, 2018

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

Sunday 9:00 AM

Celebration of the Eucharist

Saturday 7:00 PM

Pastor Father Albanus Ogowuihe
Rectory 490 Charles Street, Gatineau, Québec, J8L 2K5
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Office Hours **Monday** - 9:00 am - 12:00 pm
Wednesday - 9:00 am - 11:00 am
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MASSES

Thursday	Jan. 11 th	OLV @ 10:00 am	All Parishioners of OLV & St. Malachy
Saturday	Jan. 13 th	OLV @ 11:00 am	Funeral Mass for Paul Forcier
Saturday	Jan. 13 th	St. Malachy @ 7:00 pm	Evelyn Robitaille by Bobbie & Debbie Farnand
Sunday	Jan. 14 th	OLV @ 9:00 am	Beatrice Bonin by Debbie Dorey Landry Mr. & Mrs. Joseph Delcourt by Diane & Family Mary Findlay (40th ann) & Gordon Findlay (29th ann) by Robert, Edward & Dorothy

WEEKLY RECEIPTS	OLV	ST. MALACHY
December 23, 2017- Sunday Collection		\$393.00
December 24, 2017 - Christmas Eve		990.00
December 30, 2017 - Sunday Collection		226.00
December 31, 2017 - Sunday Collection	\$413.00	
January 1, 2018 - New Year's Day	365.00	

Bishop's Prayer Intention for January 2018

"Let us pray that Christians and other religious minorities may live their faith freely and without discrimination."

Social Reflection: Canada has become a homeland for thousands of persons: "men and women, children, young and elderly people, who are searching for somewhere to live in peace. In order to find that peace, they are willing to risk their lives on a journey that is often long and perilous, to endure hardships and suffering, and to encounter fences and walls built to keep them far from their goal." ¹ They cross borders to flee wars, persecutions, destructions of their former native land; is a dream of peace possible?

An Answer for Our Faith: As Christians, Jesus asks us to welcome foreigners; "in so far as you did this to one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did it to me." (Mt 25, 40). Pope Francis adds: "If the 'dream' of a peaceful world is shared by all, if the refugees and migrants contribution is properly evaluated, then humanity can become more and more a universal family and our earth a true 'common home'. Throughout history, many have believed in this "dream", and their achievements are a testament to the fact that it is no mere utopia². Welcoming, naturally, but we must also learn to live together in the respect of divergences to secure human dignity to all.

Question we ask ourselves: To be searchers for God, to find out another aspect of his face, in order to become on our own stars for other people.

¹ Message of Pope Francis for the celebration of World Day of Peace. 1st of January 2018 : Migrants and refugees: men and women in search of peace. ² Ibid, for our common home.

Fr. Albanus' Reflections on the Sunday Liturgy

Epiphany of the Lord

The Greek word Epiphany (*επιφάνεια*) means *appearance* or *manifestation*. In the Western Church, the Feast of the Epiphany celebrates Jesus' first appearance to the Gentiles, represented by the Magi, while in the Eastern Church the feast is the commemoration of the baptism of Christ where the Father and the Holy Spirit gave combined testimony to Jesus' identity as Son of God. Later, in the synagogue at Nazareth, Jesus revealed Himself as the promised Messiah, and at Cana He revealed His Divinity by transforming water into wine. These multiple revelations are all suggested by the Feast of the Epiphany. In the *first reading*, the Prophet Isaiah says that when the light of the Lord shone on Jerusalem, all people would start coming towards that city, carrying gifts. Today's Responsorial Psalm (Ps 72) includes a verse about kings coming from foreign lands to pay homage to a just king in Israel. In the *second reading*, St. Paul, writing to the Ephesians, expresses God's secret plan in clear terms: "*the Gentiles have become fellow heirs...and sharers in the promise in Christ Jesus through the Gospel.*" God has planned that Jews and Gentiles should become only one people: the people of God. All divisions, partitions, envy, dissensions and wars will have to disappear. We are all children of the same Father in Christ Jesus.

Today's *Gospel* carries the story of the visit of the Magi and the attitude of Herod at the news of the birth of Christ. It teaches us how Christ enriches those who bring Him their hearts. The adoration of the Magi fulfills the oracle of Isaiah (first reading), prophesying that the nations of the world would travel to the Holy City following a brilliant light, bringing gold and incense to contribute to the worship of God. It reminds us that if God permitted the Magi – foreigners and pagans – to recognize and give Jesus proper respect as the King of Jews, we should know that there is nothing in our sinful lives that would keep God from bringing us to Jesus. The gifts presented to Jesus may be thought of as prophesying Jesus' future. Gold was a gift for Kings; frankincense (an ancient air purifier and perfume), was offered to God in Temple worship (Ex. 30:37); and myrrh (an oriental remedy for intestinal worms in infants), was used by the High Priest as an anointing oil (Ex. 30:23), and to prepare bodies for burial. This Gospel periscope presents three groups who reacted to the Epiphany of Christ's birth.

The first group is made up of those who wanted to eliminate Him. This group headed by Herod reacted with hatred toward Him. Secondly, there is a group of people who reacted with indifference composed of priests and scribes, who ignored Jesus. The third group made up of the magi and shepherds, reacted to Jesus with adoration and offered Him gifts. We ought to belong to the third group, by worshiping Jesus at Mass with the gold of our love, the myrrh of our humility and the frankincense of our adoration; by giving a new direction to our lives. Just as the Magi chose another route to return to their homes, let us choose a better way of life, abstaining from proud and impure thoughts, evil habits and selfish behavior. We could be stars leading others to Jesus, as the star led the Magi to Jesus. Let us remove the darkness of the evil around us by radiating Jesus' love through selfless service, unconditional forgiveness and compassionate care. Like the Magi, let us offer Jesus our gifts on this feast of Epiphany: our gift of friendship with God in the form of wholehearted love and devotion; our gift of friendship with others by leading them to Jesus by our exemplary lives of Christian charity in action; our gift of reconciliation with God by daily asking His pardon and forgiveness for our sins and giving unconditional forgiveness to those who offend us; our gift of peace by seeking God's peace in our own lives through prayer, the Sacramental life and daily meditation on the Word of God. *Happy New Year.*

