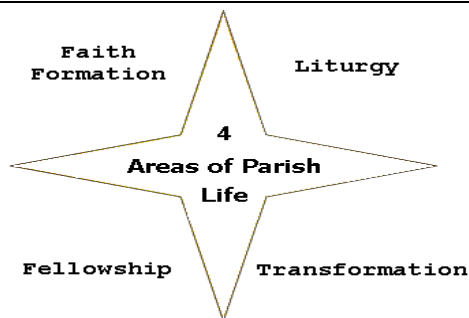




Our Lady of Victory
490 Charles Street
Gatineau, Québec
J8L 2K5



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

**SIXTH SUNDAY
IN ORDINARY TIME**

FEBRUARY 10 - 11, 2018

Sunday 9:00 AM

Celebration of the Eucharist

Saturday 7:00 PM

Pastor Father Albanus Ogowuihe
Rectory 490 Charles Street, Gatineau, Québec, J8L 2K5
Office Admin. 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
Website www.stmalachyolv.com



MASSES

Thursday	Feb. 15th	OLV @ 10:00 am	Alma Miller by Family & Friends
Saturday	Feb. 17th	St. Malachy @ 7:00 pm	Peter & Marilyn Roos by Ginny Roos
Sunday	Feb. 18th	OLV @ 9:00 am	Evelyn Robitaille by Claude, Dorothy Carriere & Family Beatrice Bonin by Debbie Dorey Landry Nora Somers by Isabel & Tom Laframboise Pierrette Krawczyk by Irene Cosgrove

WEEKLY RECEIPTS	OLV	ST. MALACHY
Feb. 3 - 4, 2018 - Sunday Collection	\$447.00	\$250.00
Feb. 3 - 4, 2018 - Support	226.00	167.00

ASH WEDNESDAY

The beginning of our 40-day trek to Easter

Next week, our churches will look a little different; they will have a Lenten look – the cross, the banners, the purples. They underline the fact that as Christians we are signing up for renewal on the way to Easter when we will have our baptism renewed.

The scripture readings and the music will sound different too as part of the Lenten repertoire. On Wednesday evening at 7:00 pm, there will be a service at OLV in which we receive the ashes. The receiving of the ashes is a sign that we are serious about the upcoming season of renewal and conversion.

However, let us not lose sight of Easter. We do not observe Lent for its own sake. It is meant to get us in shape to celebrate the central mystery of our faith: The death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. That core mystery will be celebrated right after Lent during the Three Great Days of Holy Thursday evening, Good Friday, Easter Saturday/Easter Sunday.

On Ash Wednesday, February 14th at 7:00 pm, we start our 40-day trek to Easter. We can mark the journey with the traditional Lenten practices of prayer, fasting and almsgiving which are depicted on the banners.

Bishop's Prayer Intention for February 2018

Action I may take: What does it mean to me to make connections between laypersons and consecrated persons? What is my personal path of connection?

Fr. Albanus' Reflections on the Sunday Liturgy He heals Our Leprosy

Today's readings continue the teaching on our call. There is emphasis today on our call to be pure and holy. We don't become holy simply by some ritual observances. We become holy by confessing our sins to God and offering our lives for God's glory and by sharing God's love with everyone around us without discrimination on the basis of color, race, culture, religion, life style or social status. The book of Leviticus always speaks of God calling His chosen people to holiness and purity. Thus, the passage of today teaches the theme of freedom from bodily and ritual purity as a sign of internal holiness. This freedom is symbolized by precautions against contracting leprosy given in the first reading and the healing of the leper described in the today's Gospel. The first reading shows how the ancient Jews treated lepers and gives rules for the segregation of lepers. Lepers were considered impure and were expelled from the communities for fear of contamination. All these treatments served as public health precautions. But more importantly, the lepers were considered by them as accursed by God because of their sins and should be shunned by the people. The responsorial psalm (Ps.32) teaches us that we become holy by confessing our sins and being reconciled with God every day. ***"I said, I will confess my transgressions to the Lord, and you forgave the guilt of my sin"*** is a teaching on reconciliation, covering the meaning of the spiritual leprosy of sin and shows us how we are forgiven by a sacramental encounter with God.

The Gospel describes the healing of a leper by Jesus, something that the first reading prepares us for. Jesus freed him from both the disease of leprosy and the unjust and inhuman social isolation and ostracism to which lepers were subjected. Unlike the people of His time, Jesus dramatically identified Himself with the sufferer in the total rejection and isolation waiting for him. The irony is that Jesus risked becoming "unclean" Himself, in order to make the leper clean just as He stretched out His hands on the cross to make us whole. Jesus touched the leper thus bridging the gap between what is clean and what is unclean, identifying Himself with all lepers, with all who are ritually or socially unclean and isolated and with all of us sinners who are spiritually unclean and have no way to change our condition save through His sacrifice and mercy. He thus became "unclean" in the eyes of the law that we might be made clean. He allowed himself to be rejected by His people so that those who are separated from God might return to Him and be healed.

Brethren, we need to trust in the mercy of our forgiving God. He assures us that our sins are forgiven and that we are clean. He forgives us and makes us spiritually clean from the spiritual leprosy of sins when we repent of our sins. He is a God of love who waits patiently for us, His children. He only asks us to seek for forgiveness and have repentant hearts. The words of absolution in the sacrament of reconciliation echo that *your sins are forgiven, and you are clean!* We need to pull down the walls that separate us from others and build bridges of loving relationship. This is what St. Paul is speaking about in the second reading when he says, ***"Give no offence to Jews or to Greeks"***. The scorning and banning of lepers has now disappeared from most cultures. But, we still have in our communities people who, because of their characters, defects or errors, are looked upon and rejected as "lepers." God's loving hands must reach out to them through us. They are not to be objects of scorn, but a potential reservoir of God's mercy for us. **Happy Sunday!**

Defibrillator Training OLV:

A Defibrillator was recently installed in the church basement on the wall between both bathrooms. The Defibrillator was purchased in recognition of a generous donation from the Estate of Buddy Ryan.

While it is prudent to have such a medical device in the church, it is essential that we have individuals trained on how to use it. Therefore, the Parish is offering free training on the use of the equipment. Volunteers may register with the Office Administrator at 819-986-3763.

OUR LADY of VICTORY & ST. MALACHY NEWS

World Day of the Sick: Sunday, February 11 is World Day of the Sick.

Cereal Bar: A basket will be available for your donations next Sunday.

Ash Wednesday: Will be celebrated at OLV on Wednesday, February 14, at 7:00 pm. and at St. Aloysius on Tuesday, February 13 at 7:00 pm.

Sacramental Preparation: Anyone wishing to enrol children or youth in sacramental preparation (**Reconciliation, First Communion or Confirmation**), please notify the Office Administrator at 819-986-3763. ***You will be notified of an introductory meeting at a later date.***



Thanks to money donated annually by Catholics during Share Lent, ***Development and Peace*** can support 170 partners and 202 projects in 36 countries around the world!

There are many ways to be part of Share Lent. Use the Solidarity Calendar that is inserted with today's bulletin. The Solidarity Calendar is designed to provide a daily experience of the meaning of solidarity throughout the Lenten period. For each day of Lent, the calendar proposes actions in connection with peace, dialogue, and justice. ***Or*** for families with young children, you can also download the Lent Calendar app on your mobile devices.

You can make a donation on Solidarity Sunday, which will take place on March 18. ***Or*** join your parish's Development and Peace committee!