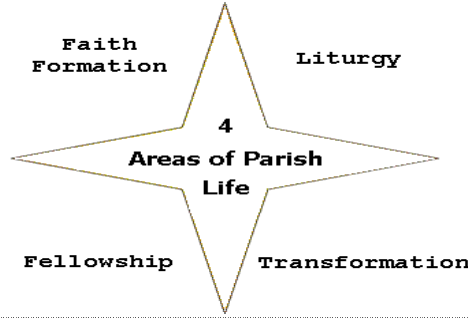




Our Lady of Victory
490 Charles Street
Gatineau, Québec
J8L 2K5



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

**4th SUNDAY OF ADVENT
DECEMBER 22-23, 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
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
Website www.stmalachyolv.com



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Gatineau (QC) J8Z 3J5
www.diocesegatineau.org

MASSES

Thursday	Dec. 27th	OLV @ 10:00 am	NO MASS
Saturday	Dec. 29th	St. Malachy @ 7:00 pm	Special Intention by A Pilgrim
Sunday	Dec. 30th	OLV @ 9:00 am	Peter Burke by Marjorie & Family Martin & Weir Families by Barbara & Family

WEEKLY RECEIPTS	OLV	ST. MALACHY
Dec. 15 - 16, 2018 - Sunday Collection		\$249.00
Dec. 15 - 16, 2018 -		

Christmas Mass Schedule for OLV & St. Malachy

Monday, December 24th: **Christmas Eve:**
Mass at 7 pm at Our Lady of Victory (Father Bill)
Mass at 9 pm at St. Malachy (Father Bill)

Tuesday, December 25th: **Christmas Day:**
Mass at 9 am at Our Lady of Victory (Father Bill)

Saturday, December 29th: Mass at 7 pm at St. Malachy (Father Dan Hawkins)

Sunday, December 30th: Mass at 9 am at Our Lady of Victory (Father Dan Hawkins)

Tuesday, January 1st, 2019: Mass at 9 am at Our Lady of Victory (Father Dan Hawkins)

NO THURSDAY MORNING MASSES DURING FATHER ALBANUS' ABSENCE.

Monthly Prayer Intentions of Our Bishop December, 2018

"Let us pray for all those who will walk to the light of Christmas while matching their deeds and their words to help Life spring out around them."

Question I ask myself: Mary got prepared as soon as she learned what her mission was: give birth to her Saviour. What is my own mission? Am I bearing this message in our time?

Fr. Albanus' Reflections on the Sunday Liturgy

The Word of God took Flesh in Jesus

Today's readings speak about the promise of the messiah and its fulfilment in Jesus. Jesus is reborn every day in ordinary people living ordinary lives, who have the willingness to respond to God's call and the openness to do God's will. As Christians we should be inspired to carry out God's word as Mary and Jesus did, in perfect obedience to His will, in cheerful kindness and unselfish generosity (Fr. A Kadavil). In the **first reading** the prophet Micah announces the great promise of God. The Messiah will not be born in Jerusalem or any other big city, but in lowly Bethlehem, "too small and insignificant to be counted among the clans of Judah." Despite the insignificance of the place of His birth, Jesus the savior will "stand and feed His flock...and now He shall be great to the ends of the earth..." God's greatest works takes place quietly. The **second reading** from the Letter to the Hebrews reflects on how Jesus will be the savior. The author reminds us to be thankful to Jesus Christ who offered the perfect sacrifice of obedience that freed us from sin. He says that Jesus came, and out of willingness and eagerness to do God's will, gave Himself in atonement for the disobedience of Adam and Eve and the whole human race. In the Gospel of Luke read today, we are presented with the story of how Mary and Elizabeth –two seemingly insignificant women – met to celebrate the kindness and fidelity of God.

Zechariah and Elizabeth, the aged parents of John the Baptist, represent the hope that did not die. They see this hope fulfilled in their son John who is to prepare the way for Christ. This fulfilled hope is given to Mary as a sign, "for nothing is impossible with God" and she hurries to see this sign of a hope fulfilled. In the meeting of the old Elizabeth and the young Mary the Old Testament meets the New Testament; the ancient promise meets its fulfilment in two mothers. Elizabeth is the mother of the last great prophet who will go before the Lord; Mary is the mother of the Lord Himself, the fulfilment of all the prophecies. Two women, who could not possibly bring forth life, are the mothers of the two greatest figures in human history. ***It is a time of good news, of great blessing; it is a time for womb shaking rejoicing. The old promises are new events, and now is the time of their long awaited fulfilment. It's a great time!*** (Unknown Author). Today's **Gospel** shows God fulfilling through Mary the promise announced by the prophet Micah in the first reading. The Word of God will take flesh in Mary and be formed in the person of Jesus. Mary is blessed for believing that the promises made to her by the Lord would be fulfilled. In her, we see that the Lord does not just make promises, but keeps them.

These readings invite us to recall that our salvation comes through the gracious goodness of God. Our hope does not come from our plans, our talents or our accomplishments. When God comes to us, He does so from places we have never heard of, through people who are often beneath our notice and in events we least expect. Profound things happen in a small town and with obscure people hidden from the eyes of the world! Like Mary and Elizabeth, we must cultivate an attitude of a deep trust in God and openness to His invitations. Like Mary, a Woman for others, we must learn humility and charity and how to be alive to the needs of others. She leaves herself and hastens to the house of her beloved cousin offering her services in whatever capacity she may require. In Mary we see someone who allows the promise of God to shape her whole life, not in a passive way, but because she says "yes" to the promise *happening* in her. That promise is Jesus who will fulfil all that has gone before and gives new meaning to all that will happen after Him; Jesus is at the center of our lives and history. It is this great event that we celebrate at Christmas. God has kept His promise in Jesus. Jesus comes to us again as a gift of the Father and challenges us to make a few promises ourselves. As we come to the end of Advent, we thank God for always keeping His promises and ask Him to help us to keep our promises to Him and to one another. **Happy Sunday and Merry Christmas!**

OUR LADY of VICTORY & ST. MALACHY NEWS

Vacation: Father Albanus will be leaving on Dec. 27 and returning Jan. 29.

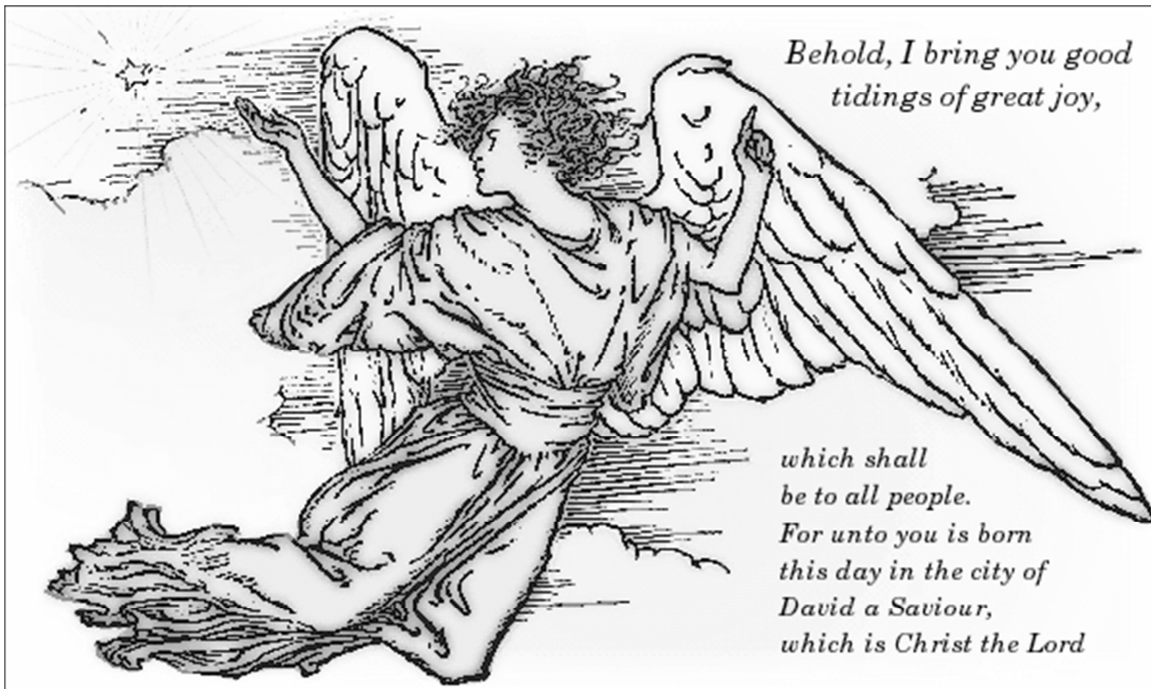
Office Hours: *Please note the change in the office hours for the holiday season.*

Monday, December 24 - 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.
Thursday, December 27 - 12:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.
Monday, December 31 - 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.
Thursday, January 3 - 12:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.

A Christmas Message from the Wardens of OLV & St. Malachy

Christmas is a busy time of the year as we attend social gatherings, purchase gifts, decorate our homes with lights and other seasonal items. It should also be a time of reflection on the true meaning of Christmas, the joy and love brought into the world through the birth of Jesus, the Christ Child. On this wondrous occasion, the Wardens of OLV and St. Malachy would like to take this opportunity to wish all our Parishioners a Merry and Blessed Christmas and a Healthy and Happy New Year.

Towels, etc: Thank you to all who provided face cloths, towels and bedding. It is very much appreciated.



MERRY CHRISTMAS!