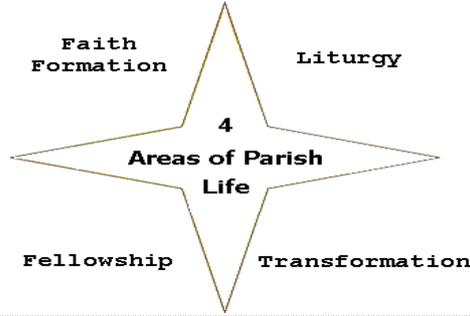




Our Lady of Victory
490 Charles Street
Gatineau, Québec
J8L 2K5



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

7th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

FEBRUARY 23 - 24, 2019

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



180, boul. Mont-Bleu
Gatineau (QC) J8Z 3J5
www.diocesegatineau.org

MASSES

Thursday	Feb. 28 th	OLV @ 10:00 am	All Parishioners of OLV & St. Malachy
Saturday	Mar. 2 nd	St. Malachy @ 7:00 pm	Benjamin French by The Family
Sunday	Mar. 3 rd	OLV @ 9:00 am	Peter Burke by Ken & Monique Simpson Norah Renwick (6 th ann) by Nicole Charbonneau Tom Laframboise by Aggie Ducharme Jean Claude Benard by Val, Lewis & Family
Tuesday	Mar. 5 th	OLV @ 7:00 pm	ASH WEDNESDAY CELEBRATIONS

WEEKLY RECEIPTS

OLV

ST. MALACHY

Feb 16-17, 2019 - Sunday Offering

\$460.00

\$157.00

Monthly Prayer Intentions of Our Bishop February 2019

“Let us pray that the economical, relational, intellectual, cultural as well as spiritual rights of all impoverished people around us be recognized.”

Question I ask myself: Madeleine Delbrel reflects not only upon financial distress, but also about spiritual distress. Does that form of distress concern me?

Fr. Albanus' Reflections on the Sunday Liturgy

A Call to Love Beyond Justice

Today's readings speak of disinterested love, the Christian unconditional love and instruct us about our right and wrong choices. The right choices lead us to God, and the wrong choices break our relationship with Him and with one another. The **first reading** presents a heartbreaking story: a story of friendship, betrayal and misfortune; a story of ambition, power and madness. It shows us how David made the right choice, respecting God's anointed king by forgiving his offenses, while Saul continued to make wrong choices, perpetuating his misery with his revenge. In spite of his being exiled and hunted everywhere by Saul, David still loves Saul and never seeks to harm him. He has good reasons to punish Saul, but he chooses the way of forgiveness: *Do not destroy him; for who can raise his hand against the Lord's anointed, and be guiltless?* He believes that, even though Saul was put in his power, he has no right to raise his hand against the Lord's anointed. Also since David is the Lord's anointed and will occupy the throne of Israel, he is unwilling to justify assassination as a form of diplomacy. He treats the demented Saul the way he hopes his future subjects will treat him. It is a case of measure for measure! This prepares us for today's Gospel, where Jesus will go beyond forgiveness and demand much more from His disciples. The disciples not only must refrain from causing harm to their enemies, but must take the initiative of going to them and helping them out of their evil condition. David's option for pardon is already an important step towards that love of enemy that Jesus will preach and demand.

In the **second reading** St. Paul tells us how the "First Adam" made a wrong choice of disobedience, bringing death into the world, whereas Jesus, the "Second Adam," made the correct choice of fulfilling His Father's saving plan. The **Gospel** presents us with Jesus' revolutionary moral teaching about correct choices in our human relationships. It stresses the golden rule: *treat others as you would like others to treat you*. Jesus enjoins His disciples to follow the basic imperative of loving generously: *Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, pray for those who abuse you*. Jesus does not ask His disciples to fall in love with their enemies – that would be wholly unrealistic. He challenges His followers to be determined about their enemies' welfare, be stubbornly gracious, and refuse to pay back violence with violence. Hatred can be defeated only by love; injury can be healed only by forgiveness; evil can be controlled only by goodness.

This may not reflect conventional wisdom. We are convinced that by having the guilty ones pay for their misdeeds, we somehow restore justice and all are taught a fitting lesson on what should not be done. But Jesus does not agree with such quick and hurried solutions. Here, it is Jesus' wisdom in action! He rejects the use of violence because it does not improve things at all, it only complicates them more. Violence does not help the wicked to turn good, it oppresses them but it does not save them. The only creative attitude is love. Jesus is not saying that one has to become the friend of the guilty one. This feeling of sympathy does not depend on us, cannot be impaired, it rises spontaneously among people respecting and esteeming each other.

Jesus is asking us to love, that is, not to look at one's rights, but to the needs of the other. He does not stop at asking us to refrain from responding to evil with evil, to wrong with wrong; He demands from us an attitude of acceptance of the other, he wants us to take the first step towards the wrong doer, so as to help him/her out of his/her sad state. This is not easy to do. No wonder, Jesus says we must pray. Only prayer can dissolve aggressiveness, disarm hearts, communicate the sentiments of our Father who is in heaven, and give the force that stems from the love of God. Jesus, in His own life had to work hard at honoring His own ethic. It was not a painless or bloodless affair: it cost Him everything. He offered love first, even though He knew the return would never measure up to what was offered; He never bargained love for love; He never became involved in stock-taking returns. Above all, He made a habit of confusing His enemies with love. He expects us, His followers to do the same. He wants us to share the gifts we have received - love and mercy. These gifts create worth in another person; they build temples in wasteland; they introduce people to the geography of paradise; they stop the contagion of meanness. (Unknown Author, p., 215).

If people love those who love them, do good to those that do them good, give out loans to get something in exchange, these people are undoubtedly doing good deeds. But if people want to become "children of the Most High" they must raise a step higher: they must have the force and courage to love their enemies, to renounce their rights, to do well and give loans without expecting something in exchange; they must act only for the welfare of the other. This, no doubt, is hard but it is the challenge Jesus places before us.

Happy Sunday!

Synodal Process

Synodal process in the Archdiocese - the report of the first phase is now available on line.

Thanks to the collaboration of the generous people in the Archdiocese of Gatineau, nearly all of the parishes participated actively in this phase of the synodal process. Focus groups were held with targeted populations such as youth, young families, and people in long-term care facilities, new immigrants, members of church movements, and those belonging to religious communities. Priests, pastoral associates and secretaries were consulted to see how the diocesan team can better help them in their mission. You will find the [report](#) of this phase on the web site of the Archdiocese of Gatineau at www.diocesegatineau.org.

Sacramental Preparation – Confirmation

The sacramental preparation for Confirmation will again be coordinated by St. Aloysius parish. Anyone wishing to enroll in sacramental preparation for Confirmation please notifies the St. Aloysius Parish Secretary at 819-663-5244. Confirmation will be celebrated at St. Aloysius on Sunday, June 9th 2019 at the 11:00 mass celebration.

OUR LADY of VICTORY & ST. MALACHY NEWS

Prayers and Sympathy: Let us pray for the repose of the soul of **Paul Jeffrey**, whose Funeral Service was at OLV this week. Our sympathy and prayers are with his family and friends during this time of loss.

Sharing Kitchen for seniors: The Sharing Kitchen is looking for seniors to join their group in fellowship. The kitchen has been a wonderful success, where a cross-section of participants meets on a monthly basis at **St. Stephen's Anglican Church**. This group provides a great opportunity to make new friends, share your special recipes, learn about new recipes as well as enjoy a great meal and share life experiences.

If you are interested, please call John Carson at 819-986-9711. It will be a great investment in time spent.

Upcoming Event (OLV): At a recent Wardens meeting, the following items were discussed:

The **Spring Supper and Balloon Auction** will be held on **Friday, May 24th** with Spaghetti as the main menu item - more information to follow.

Hall Rental: Bill Cameron is the person to contact for rental of the hall. He can be reached at 819-986-8901.

Also, the hall is rented during the week and you are asked to contact the office secretary at 819-986-3763 before entering to see about availability.

