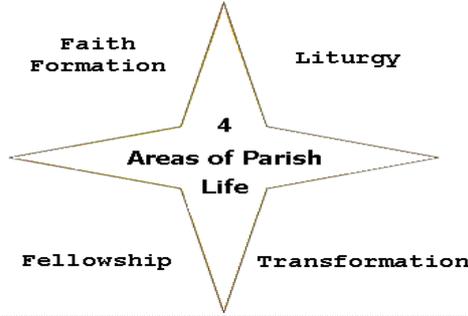




Our Lady of Victory
 490 Charles Street
 Gatineau, Québec
 J8L 2K5



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

4th SUNDAY OF LENT

March 30 - 31, 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
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MASSES

Thursday	Apr. 4th	OLV @ 10:00 am	Irish Butler by Regis Lemieux
Saturday	Apr. 6th	St. Malachy @ 7:00 pm	All Parishioners of St. Malachy & OLV
Sunday	Apr. 7th	OLV @ 9:00 am	Joe Doherty by Susan & Family Bob Dunning by Maureen Tom Laframboise by Marjorie Burke & Family Nan Sicard by The Family

WEEKLY RECEIPTS	OLV	ST. MALACHY
Mar 23 - 24, 2019 - Sunday Offering	\$419.00	\$233.00
Mar 23 - 24, 2019 - Fuel	343.00	121.00

Monthly Prayer Intentions of Our Bishop March 2019

Questions I ask myself: "In Christ, God was reconciling the world to himself... we entreat you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God". (2nd reading).

The son said to him "Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you"... But the father said to his slaves "Quickly, bring out a robe—the best one—and put it on him." (Gospel).

To renew my covenant with the Lord, I take part in a celebration of the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

Reflections on the Sunday Liturgy (from the Synodal Process)

4th Sunday of Lent

Did you notice what the father of the prodigal son does when the son comes before him - poor, miserable and full of regret? He interrupts the speech the son had prepared to ask for forgiveness and tells his servants to bring three gifts for his son: sandals, a sumptuous garment and a ring. These gifts manifest the father's love for his son and mean that the time of misery and poverty are over, now that he has come home.....

We can easily imagine the astonishment of the son. He must also have been relieved: the father's welcome put an end to his misery. But more deeply, he, who had experienced deep loneliness following the abandonment of his false friends, must have been consoled to find himself loved and appreciated.

One can also imagine that the festive garment would be replaced by a more ordinary garment in the following days and that the sandals, once worn out, would be replaced by another pair. The ring would remain and stay on his finger, night and day, over the years, as the living sign of his reconciliation with his father.

In the same way, the rings which are exchanged between spouses are not only ornamental, but symbols of the love which unite them, of the promise that they made to always remain faithful to each other. That is why we call these rings engagement rings. They represent an engagement, a covenant.

God made a covenant with His people in the Old Testament. God renewed the covenant in Jesus Christ. Too often, we forget that covenant. When we realize it, when we return to God who loves us, no question is asked, no gesture is required: God welcomes us generously, freely, tenderly. He offers us the gift of reconciliation.

The liturgy of the Mass invites us to become aware of our need for reconciliation. From the beginning of the celebration, we confess together our fragility, our sin and we ask forgiveness. In the hymn of Glory to God, we repeat this prayer by asking Christ to "have mercy on us". In the Eucharistic prayer, we beg the Father to reconcile us to one another by making us "one body, one spirit". In the beautiful Lord's Prayer, we ask Him to forgive us our sins. In the song of the Lamb of God, we still ask Christ to have mercy on us. At communion time, we recognize that we are not worthy of this great gift, that we rely on His Word to heal us.

It is not a matter of humiliating ourselves, of bowing down and eating the dust. This is not what God wants for His people. No, it is a matter of doing like the prodigal son: to lift us from the dust, to walk towards the Father, to let ourselves be embraced by Him, to let ourselves be surprised by the gift of His love.

Unlike the Prodigal Son, we do not have to go that way alone. We belong to a community of brothers and sisters who, like us, want to live reconciliation with God. We respond together to St. Paul's call: "Be reconciled to God". With one heart we turn to the Father to implore His love, to ask Him to restore us to His Covenant. We become a reconciled people and a reconciling people.

As such, we want to live the reconciliation between us, we want to make peace between us, to forgive each other for the ways we hurt one another. Thus, we become a sign to the world of the free love that God offers to humanity in Jesus Christ. With Jesus, we are committed to working for reconciliation in our families, our communities, our civil society and the world. God knows how much our world needs reconciliation. God is counting on us to continue the work of His Son.

We do not wear a ring on our finger to remind us of God's merciful love for us - perhaps we can carry a spiritual ring in our heart. Is not this what the Book of the Song of Songs proposes to us, through the final dialogue between the lover and his beloved? Let me remind you of his beautiful words:

Set me as a seal upon your heart,
as a seal upon your arm;
for love is strong as death,
passion fierce as the grave.
Its flashes are flashes of fire, a raging flame.
Many waters cannot quench love,
neither can floods drown it.

No, the great waters cannot extinguish the love of God for us, because it is an eternal love, a divine fire. Sure of His love, together, let us reconcile with God and become a community of reconciliation.

OUR LADY of VICTORY & ST. MALACHY NEWS

HAPPY BIRTHDAY: Father Albanus will be celebrating his birthday on Friday, April 5. We wish you good health and best wishes for this coming year.



St. Malachy's parish is holding a Fundraising Event for the upkeep of the Church.

Draw will be held Easter Sunday after mass at St. Malachy.

1st prize will be a beautiful acrylic painting of "Three Tulips" painted by Lucie Miller (professionally framed). **2nd prize** is a handmade afghan in Ecrú with burgundy and burnt orange yarn crocheted by Brenda Miller. Tickets are **\$2 each** or **3 tickets for \$5** and available from the Wardens of St. Malachy. **Cheryl Cameron** will be present before and after Sunday Mass selling tickets should you wish a chance to win. We thank you for your support.



Share the journey with those forcibly displaced in Colombia

In Colombia, over 6.5 million people have been forcibly displaced due to conflict, violence, natural disasters, and development projects. With your support, **Development and Peace's** partner the **National Agrarian Coordination (NAC)** is working with Indigenous women, many of whom are victims of forced displacement, to help them gain the skills and confidence to be intermediaries with the authorities. By promoting inclusive and participatory democracies, we are addressing one of the root causes of forced migration!

Next week is Solidarity Sunday, when the Share Lent collection in support of the work of **Development and Peace** will take place. Your generosity has a real impact on the lives of our sisters and brothers in the Global South! If you have regular parish envelopes, you will find a **Development and Peace** one for the Share Lent campaign - continue to make cheques payable to the parish or include your cash donation. If you do not have a parish envelope and you wish to make a donation to **Development and Peace**, please use the special **Development and Peace** collection envelopes available at the entrance of the church. Make cheques out to the parish or include your cash donation and the Treasurer will forward all monies to **Development and Peace** at the end of the campaign. All tax receipts will be issued by the parish Treasurers. Please be generous!