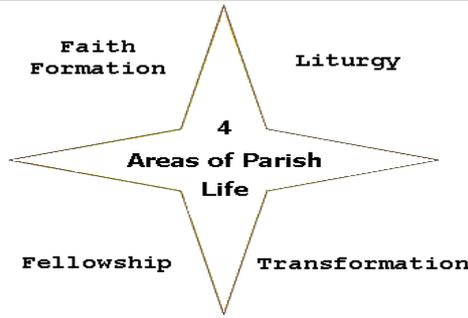




Our Lady of Victory
 490 Charles Street
 Gatineau, Québec
 J8L 2K5



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

2nd Sunday of Easter
APRIL 27-28, 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	May 2nd	OLV @ 10:00 am	Doris Lemieux (30 th Anniversary) by Regis Lemieux
Saturday	May 4th	St. Malachy @ 7:00 pm	All Parishioners of St. Malachy & OLV
Sunday	May 5th	OLV @ 9:00 am	Roberta Farnand by Mr. & Mrs. Michael Romutis Hugh, Paul, Neil & Robert Lemieux by Terrie Lemieux Larry Cameron by Family & Friends

WEEKLY RECEIPTS	OLV	ST. MALACHY
Apr. 20-21, 2019 - Sunday Offering	\$1,352.00	\$832.00

OUR EASTER FAITH DISPLAYED IN THE BANNERS AT OLV

The set of banners you see in the front of the church at OLV will be with us for the next 50 days, covering the entire Easter season. They are more than a piece of decoration. In vivid images, they capture what as church we are about in the Easter season.

- The cross, which on its own is an instrument of torture and shame, has been transformed into the tree of life. That is what the resurrection of Jesus makes possible. The sun of the new creation has dawned and the roots of the cross, of the tree of life reach into the darkest corners of our human existence to bring life.
- Part of that new creation is that the risen Christ shares his life-giving Spirit with us; that is captured in the red banner with its flames of fire.
- The lower banner shows us how in the waters of baptism we have got our feet in the new creation of the risen Jesus.

Quite significantly, the banners hang above or serve as a backdrop to the two focal points of our celebration of the Eucharist: the lectern from which God's life-giving Word is proclaimed and the altar around which we share the life-giving bread and wine of the new creation, the Body and Blood of Christ. These are the two principal means of the church by which the new life we have received in baptism is nourished and sustained on a regular basis.

Fr. Albanus' Reflections on the Sunday Liturgy

Divine Mercy

Today is Divine Mercy Sunday. The Liturgy is therefore filled with words about God's mercy and the necessity for trusting faith and the need for the forgiveness of sins. The Collect addresses God as "*God of everlasting mercy.*" There is repetition of "*His mercy endures forever*" in the Responsorial Psalm (118). The Incarnation of God in human history is the perfect manifestation of Divine Mercy. "*For God so loved the world that He gave His only Son, so that everyone who believes in Him may not perish but may have eternal life*" (Jn. 3:16). In the celebration of the Eucharist, which Christ instituted to sanctify us, Divine Mercy is given to us.

Luke, in the Acts of the Apostles, shows how the early Church grew in leaps and bounds, thanks to the acts of mercy and sharing practiced by the early Christians. The early Christians expressed their love and mercy by sharing what they had with everyone in need, a model for our communities. Such charity was the direct fruit of Christ's resurrection. The life of the community was the proof that Christ was alive in His followers. Faith in the Risen Lord demands that we see material things as means to sustain human life. Christian life does not have as a goal the accumulation of goods. Anything we own which is not indispensable must be generously shared with the brothers and sisters in need. In this way everyone may lead decent lives and we are real witnesses of the resurrection of Christ. In the second reading from First Peter, the Apostle glorifies God for granting Resurrection and Ascension to His Son, Jesus, thereby guaranteeing our own resurrection and entry into Heaven. He therefore encourages early Christians by assuring them that their sufferings will be greatly compensated by the heavenly reward awaiting them. He invites them to remember the day of their baptism and what it implies. As pilgrims here on earth, Peter states, no suffering, no trial can destroy our joy at being children of God.

The Gospel continues the echo of Divine Mercy that is celebrated today. Jesus entrusted to His Apostles the mission of proclaiming God's love, mercy, forgiveness and salvation to all. Christ, the Risen Lord, in today's Gospel, gives the apostles the authority to forgive sins in His name as well as the power of imparting God's mercy to the sinner through the gift of forgiving sins from God's treasury of mercy. An eloquent expression of our belief in the presence of the Risen Lord among us is through our forgiveness of others. Our celebration of the Eucharist is very closely linked to our forgiveness of others since the Eucharist is also the Sacrament of God's forgiveness for humanity in the Body and Blood of Christ, His Son. Jesus shows His Mercy and compassion towards Thomas in his doubt and he was able to overcome his doubts by seeing the Risen Lord and he made a unique profession of faith, "*My Lord and my God.*" This declaration of Thomas is the foundation of our Christian faith, one based on the divinity of Jesus as proven by His miracles especially that of the Resurrection from the dead. The faith expressed by Thomas culminated in his self-surrender to Jesus and heroic missionary works in India accentuated by his martyrdom.

Brothers and sisters, God continues to invite us all to celebrate and practice His mercy. The Church does this through the Sacrament of Reconciliation. The Bible says "*be merciful just as your Father is merciful.*" We radiate God's mercy to others by our actions, words and prayers. Like Thomas we are to pray for the faith that culminates in self-surrender to God and urges us to render to each other our loving service. "*Faith without good works is dead.*" (Jm 2:17). Other people demand that we reflect Christ, the Risen Lord, in our lives. This is a challenge to us. They want to "see" Jesus in us to believe. The integrity of our lives bears a fundamental witness to others who want to see the Risen Lord alive and active, working in us. Christ's mercy shines forth from us whenever we reach out to the poor, the needy and the marginalized, etc. His mercy shines forth as we remain open to those who struggle in faith, as did Thomas the Apostle. Like Thomas, we should go beyond our doubt to the faith in Jesus. Genuine doubts about the doctrines, encourages us to study them more closely and thus grow in our faith. Over and above all, we must remember that our faith is always a gift of God, not our own doing or the product of our over-rationalization. Thus, we need to accompany our faith with daily prayer, the study of the Word of God and active participation in the sacraments, especially the Eucharist. Finally, we must have the courage to share our faith, as St. Thomas and the other Apostles did, with our children, families and neighbors. St John XIII says "*Every believer in the world must become a spark of Christ's light.*"

Happy Easter!

OUR LADY of VICTORY & ST. MALACHY NEWS

Thank you: The Inter Parish Planning Committee for OLV and St. Malachy wish to thank all who helped in any way with the celebrations of our Holy Week Services –lectors, servers, Eucharistic ministers, choir, greeters, those who set up and decorated our Churches, picked up the Oils at the Chrism Mass, participated in the washing of the feet and all who worked behind the scenes. Also, to our parish families and the parishioners of St. Aloysius and St. Columban who jointed our celebrations, thank you.

Thank you to our pastor, **Father Albanus** for celebrating the Easter services in all our parishes. And for obtaining a replacement in Gatineau for the Easter Sunday service.

Masses: Did you know that you can call into the office to schedule your mass or masses, then drop the \$20 fee (per mass) in the collection plate, with an envelope marked “Monique”. It will get to my desk. Or drop into the office and pay in person.

Wardens Needed at OLV: OLV has two vacant Warden positions that need to be filled in order to ensure the efficient financial and materiel management of the Parish. The Parish is at a crossroads, as our volunteer base has dwindled substantially. The future of the Parish is increasingly linked to our ability to manage our resources effectively and the future cannot be guaranteed if we don't have a management team in place to address both short and long term issues.

Being a member of the management team is not onerous and Parishioners may incorrectly believe that a position with the Wardens team will result in a heavy workload. This is not the case, as a commitment would include one meeting per month and responsibility with a team member for a parish activity. **If you are interested in joining our management team, please contact the Parish Secretary.**

A Generous Donation to OLV: The OLV Wardens, on behalf of all our parishioners, would like to thank Isabel Laframboise for the generous donation of \$5,000 in memory of Tom Laframboise. Tom was a strong believer and supporter of our spiritual community and will be greatly missed. Once again, thank you Isabel, for your generous support.

Spring Supper and Balloon Auction May 24th – WE NEED YOUR SUPPORT: As in the past years, we are asking parishioners to donate items for the auction, preferably gift certificates from local businesses, and gift baskets of homemade items or plant arrangements. Donation should be received **no later than Monday, May 20.**

Fundraiser for St. Malachy: St. Malachy's wardens wish to announce the winners of the raffle for their fundraiser event: 1st prize - The Three Tulips painting was won by Ken Simpson; 2nd prize - The afghan was won by Wesley Laforce. Thank you to all who participated in making this raffle a success which raised \$1,230.