



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

24th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
September 14 & 15, 2019

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

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
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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	Sep. 19 th	OLV @ 10:00 a.m.	All Parishioners of OLV & St. Malachy
Saturday	Sep. 21 st	St. Malachy @ 7:00 p.m.	No mass
Sunday	Sep. 22 nd	OLV @ 9:00 a.m.	Larry Cameron by Elizabeth McNamara Irene Cosgrove by The O'Brien Family Leonard Simpson (25 th ann) by Ken & Monique Simpson
		St. Malachy @ 11:00 a.m.	Mass of Thanksgiving

WEEKLY RECEIPTS

OLV

ST. MALACHY

Sep. 7-8, 2019 - Sunday Offering

\$432.00

\$286.00

Thank you for your contributions

Fr. Albanus' Reflections on the Sunday Liturgy

God's Love, Patience and Mercy

Today's liturgy invites us to reflect on the mercy of our loving and patient God. The Good News of Jesus is that God is not a cruel, judging and punishing God. He is a God who wants to save all through His Son Jesus. In the **first reading** Moses is imploring a forgiving God to have mercy on the sinful people who have abandoned Him and turned to idolatry. He tries to calm the anger of God. To do this Moses knows "that he cannot found his arguments on human good will and that salvation can only be obtained by trusting in God's mercy and bounty". Hence, he reminds God of all His unconditional promises to the patriarchs, Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. The only reason and foundation for the hope of human salvation is the infinite love of God; a love that will never be overcome by any infidelity of people, no matter how great. St. Paul, in the **second reading**, tells us that God does not condemn anybody and he has an irrefutable proof of that: God "*judged me faithful and appointed me to His service even though I was formally a blasphemer, a persecutor, and a man of violence.*" If we were to put our trust in our forces and virtuous deeds, then we would have very good reasons to despair. It is safer to put our trust in the gratuitous love of God. Paul says that God used him to show the world how great His magnanimity is and how inexhaustible is His patience.

In today's **Gospel**, we are presented with two contrary religious attitudes towards sinners in a bid to teach us about the mercy of our forgiving heavenly Father. First, we have the Scribes and Pharisees who complain that Jesus welcomed sinners and eats with them. For them the "religious" ("the just") should *separate* themselves not only from sin but from sinners. The name *Pharisees* means the "*separated ones.*" They believe in segregation. On the other hand, we have Jesus who holds a positive view: He believes in association. He welcomes sinners and eats with them. So we have a collision of hostility (Scribes and Pharisees) and hospitality (Jesus). Jesus sees His mission as that of seeking out the company of sinners. That is Jesus' pastoral strategy. The tax-collectors and sinners, therefore, come to hear what Jesus has to say, while the Pharisees complain. Jesus in today's passage proposes to us the parables of God's mercy. He tells these parables to justify His pastoral strategy. He tries to explain things not to sinners but to the "just" who were scandalized.

In the parables the behavior of the protagonist is always strange! In the parable of the lost sheep, the shepherd is presented as not using his head but his heart. Hence, he organizes a feast for an event of a very little importance. The same is true of the parable of the lost coin as well as that of the lost son (or sons). These parables are meant to point to the attitudes mentioned above. The behavior of Jesus who welcomes sinners and dines with them is revealing a God that the Pharisees do not like and cannot accept. It is scandalous! Is this an exhortation to commit sin? No. It is not a call to sin freely, but to admit that we are all sinners in the sight of the Lord. Sinners certainly should convert but it is especially the "upright", the "just" who must convert. Besides correcting their ways of life, they must correct their idea of God. The Pharisees have a false image of God: that is why they criticize the behavior of Jesus. They invent the "religion founded on merit" and cannot accept a God who is happy to take His meals with sinners and prefer to risk being left out of the banquet hall rather than admit that they have not "deserved" to be called in.

The last parable of today's Gospel that of the "prodigal son", is full of insight. It is actually a story of "prodigal father" who has two sons and who loses both. The younger son is lost in a far-away country, and the elder son is lost in the wilderness of his own hostility. One leaves home in the fond hope of experiencing happiness elsewhere only to discover it is found at the heart of his family. The other stays at home but is such a stranger to the love and acceptance which surround him that he might as well be an alien in a foreign land. The younger one leaves home and soon discovers that his promised land is barren. He experiences failure, but his failure is not unimportant. His failure leads him to come to himself. The elder son does not leave home, but staying at home has not led him to hospitality. He lacks the generous instinct of his father. He therefore represents the Pharisees. He sees himself as a slave. He is angry and his anger when his brother returns immobilizes him. Now, it is he who is far from home. He is the "separated one" who cannot move to accept his brother and rejoice with him. The father's attitude (he loves both his sons) reflects the generosity of Jesus' way of dealing with sinners. Both sons represent people in Jesus' audience. Jesus' appeal, like the father's appeal, is aimed at religious intolerance.

Like the elder son in the Gospel, the Pharisees and Scribes are good and upright. They may be without sin. But if their sinlessness adds up to lovelessness, there is no virtue in it. If their religious fidelity permits them to reject their brother and sister, it does not serve any reasonable purpose. They end up being enslaved by their own religious intolerance. The story of the intolerance of the elder son is still being told today! God is love, patient and merciful!

Happy Sunday!

OUR LADY of VICTORY & ST. MALACHY NEWS

Fellowship: Every first Sunday of the month in the parish hall.

Collecting: Used postage stamps, pop tabs, egg cartons and bread bags - constantly. Also cereal bars for the Elementary School Breakfast Program the **3rd Sunday** of each month.

OLV Christmas Tea: Schedule **Saturday, December 7, 2019** on your calendar for our annual Christmas Tea. Your contribution/s for the food and craft tables would be appreciated. Susan and Monique are again taking on this event. If you would like to help, please advise them.

OLV Family and Friends Day Update: On Saturday, September 7th, OLV held its third annual Family and Friends Day. The objective of the day is to offer our community a day of friendship, fellowship, food and music. Objective attained. ***A special thank you to the musicians for donating their time and talents.*** Great talent was on display.

Thank you to Guy Charbonneau for the loan of a sound system and to Jamie Lawlis for coordinating the sound for the various musicians. As always, our Parish events are successful due to the support of a great group of dedicated volunteers. Their commitment to supporting our faith community is greatly appreciated. While the event was not a fund raising event, a profit of **\$680** was realized.

St. Malachy Restoration Update: St. Malachy Wardens invite you to a Mass of Thanksgiving **Sunday September 22, 2019 at 11 a.m.** to thank all who made our Restoration Fund project such a huge success. Fellowship and a light lunch will follow as well as "**The Big Reveal.**" In order to ensure enough refreshments are available, ***please confirm your attendance to Cheryl at 819-986-7828 between 9 a.m - 7 p.m. prior to September 18, 2019. All are welcome.***

COMMUNITY EVENTS

Buckingham Friendship Club: Every Wednesday at **1:00 p.m.** at the Knights of Columbus Hall. **Bingo begins at 1:30 - 3:00 p.m.** then cookies, coffee and tea served afterwards. All are welcome! Come meet new friends and enjoy your afternoon.

News from our local Food Bank – La Mie de l'entraide

Tim Hortons Smile Cookie - The food bank will be the recipient of the Tim Hortons Smile Cookie campaign in our three local franchises.

Visit your local participating Tim Hortons between **September 16 and 22, 2019** and buy a Smile Cookie for \$1 (plus tax). Your full \$1 goes to our local food bank. If you buy a Smile Cookie in other participating Tim Hortons, your \$1 goes to over 500 local charities and organizations in communities across Canada.

Egg Carton & Bread Bags - ***La Mie de l'entraide*** would like to thank all of our parishioners who have taken the time to donate these items.