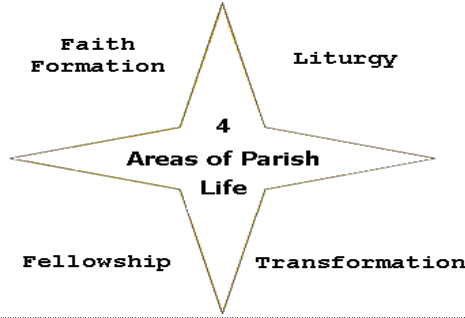




Our Lady of Victory
490 Charles Street
Gatineau, Québec
J8L 2K5



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

**2nd SUNDAY OF ADVENT
DECEMBER 7-8, 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	Dec. 12 th	OLV @ 10:00 a.m.	Special Intention by A Parishioner
Saturday	Dec. 14 th	St. Malachy @ 7:00 p.m.	All Parishioners of St. Malachy & OLV
Sunday	Dec. 15 th	OLV @ 9:00 a.m.	James Austin Martin by The Family Tom Laframboise by Isabel & Family Maureen Dunning by Diane Bedard Father Yvan Robitaille by Nicole Charbonneau

WEEKLY RECEIPTS	OLV	ST. MALACHY
Nov. 30 - Dec. 1, 2019 - Sunday Offering	\$711.00	\$295.00
Nov. 30 - Dec. 1, 2019 - Support	235.00	179.00

Thank you for your contribution

OUR LADY of VICTORY & ST. MALACHY NEWS

Christmas and New Year's Mass Schedule:

Saturday	Dec. 21 st		7:00 pm	St. Malachy - Father Al
Sunday	Dec. 22 nd		9:00 am	OLV - Father Al
Tuesday	Dec. 24 th	Christmas Eve	7:00 pm	OLV - Father Bill
			9:00 pm	St. Malachy - Father Bill
Wednesday	Dec. 25 th	Christmas Day	9:00 am	OLV - Father Bill
Saturday	Dec. 28 th		7:00 pm	St. Malachy - Father Al
Sunday	Dec. 29 th		9:00 am	OLV - Father Al
Tuesday	Dec. 31 st	New Year's Eve	4:30 pm	St. Malachy - Father Bill
Wednesday	Jan. 1 st	New Year's Day	9:00 am	OLV - Father Bill

ST. MALACHY: 4:30 pm Saturday Mass during the months of January & February
OLV: No Thursday mass Dec 26 & all throughout the month of January

Fr. Albanus' Reflections on the Sunday Liturgy

Advent: Time for the Change of Hearts

Today's Advent Liturgy speaks about the change of hearts that is required of us to be part of the kingdom that would be ushered in by the coming of Christ, the Son of God. Though salvation is a free gift of God and we cannot earn His blessing, we must cooperate with Him because He cannot force His blessing on us. We have to say yes to God. The first reading from the Prophet Isaiah describes the new world that has already dawned and that will be manifested when the advent of the Lord is fully achieved. Isaiah describes a society that is a real paradise, where lion and leopard lie down with the lamb and the gazelle; where the little child plays with poisonous snakes, etc. – a kind of nirvana! When is this to be fulfilled? The first part of this reading answers it, "A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse..." This King would be a great one full of the Spirit of God, who would possess the best qualities of this family. Above all, He would have a quality that nobody had before Him: He would be just and defend the poor and the oppressed. This promise was never fulfilled before the birth of Jesus, whom the Gospel rightly describes as the expected descendant of David.

This prophecy of Isaiah is still a message of hope for us. Even after the birth of Jesus over 2000 years ago, the paradise has not been fully realized. The powerful continue to lord it over and oppress the weak; human rights are denied many people; hate and violence are still present world over. Yes, the shoot of the family of David has sprung up already; but it is still developing. We are expected to carry out the responsibility of representing in the world the society promised by the prophet Isaiah. To do this requires a change of heart. The second reading and the Gospel tell us how. In the second reading St. Paul tells us to live in harmony, and welcome one another like Christ who did not seek to please Himself, but placed Himself at the service of others. The Gospel echoes the same message of a change of hearts.

John is the fulfillment of the prophecy of Isaiah; "the voice of the one crying in the wilderness, prepare the way of the Lord." John, who prepared Israel for the Messiah, is proposed to us today as a model. He can once more teach us today how to welcome the Lord who comes. He has to be different to do that: he appears as a somewhat strange figure. He wears a garment of camel-hair and eats the simple food of the desert – locust and wild honey; not the food of the rich and corrupt society. No wonder people flocked to him to be baptized for repentance. John's baptism meant that a person immersed in water disappeared and died and his/her past life was cancelled and she/he became a new person. But this exterior act is not enough to give salvation. One needs to convert to change one's ways of life. A mere willingness to prepare for the coming of the kingdom of God, as exhibited by the Pharisees and the Sadducees in today's Gospel, is not enough. John is really hard on them and calls them "brood of vipers"; "the axe", he says, "is lying at the root of the tree" to cut down anyone who does not bear good fruit and "throw into the fire."

We, in the same way, must prepare ourselves for the Lord's coming. If we want to be part of this kingdom that is to grow and develop, we must prepare the road, convert, and change our hearts. We must avoid the mistake of the Pharisees and Sadducees thinking that it is enough that we are children of Abraham; that our names are recorded in the baptism register of our parish. The exterior appearance of belonging to the chosen people is not enough, for "God can rise up children for Abraham" from the stones. To avoid being cut down we must undergo a real change of heart. We cannot live on borrowed fidelity; hence, good ancestors guarantee nothing. When people trace their ancestry back to Abraham, this does not absolve them from taking responsibility here and now.

During this Advent, brothers and sisters, we are called to a change of hearts. We are probably aware of areas in our lives that need to be changed and to be touched by the power of God's forgiveness. We need to reaffirm our baptismal promises and be challenged by the word of the Lord. We don't however need to go into the wilderness to hear the word. We hear it here and we are expected to act on it; this is the way to prepare for the one who is to come. Let us remember the oft-repeated words of Alexander Pope: "What does it profit me if Jesus is reborn in thousands of cribs all over the world and not reborn in my heart?" He means that Jesus must be reborn in our heart during this season of Advent and every day of our lives, radiating his love, kindness, mercy, forgiveness and spirit of humble service to the world through our lives.



“The native Amazonian peoples have probably never been so threatened on their own lands as they are now.”- Pope Francis, Peru, January 2018.

This is true for Indigenous peoples, but also for traditional communities of the Amazon. Inserted in today's bulletin you will find information about the Amazon, including two communities in Brazil under threat:

- The way of life of Machadinho d'Oeste's *seringueiros* (artisanal rubber tappers) is being destroyed by industrial logging.
- The Mura Indigenous people of Manaus were not consulted before a phosphate mining company began operations on their lands.

On the back cover of the insert, we are asked to **Take action!** by sending a letter of solidarity with 65,000 signatures to the seringueiros and Mura people. Next week, we will ask parishioners to sign a Solidarity Letter for the defenders of the Amazon.

For more information on this campaign or to obtain a deeper understanding of the Amazon, go to the following address: <https://www.devp.org/en/education/fall2019/materials>

For our Common Home: A future for the Amazon, a future for all

OUR LADY of VICTORY & ST. MALACHY NEWS

St. Malachy - Election of Wardens - Each year two church wardens are to be elected for a term of three years and can remain in office for two consecutive terms. If you or someone you know, with his/her permission, would be interested in serving as a warden and help the Parish in that capacity, please submit the name to a member of the Fabrique or call the office at 819 986-3763 by December 11, 2019. If an election is necessary it will be held on Saturday, December 15th after Mass. Thank you.

OLV Penitential Service: **Tuesday, December 17 at 7:00 p.m.**

Income Tax Receipts: Both parishes will issue out receipts in early 2020 for mass intentions, weekly envelopes and other donations. Just a reminder should you wish to make a personal donation to the church please submit by December 29. (End of our fiscal year)

OLV Ministry Listings: Looking at doing the 2020 schedule could you please advise your availability from January to April 2020. (Vacation & snowbirds)

COMMUNITY NEWS

La Chanterelle Concert: Wednesday, **December 11** at 7:30 pm at Our Lady of Victory Church. Cost \$20.00.

Heart & Soul Concert: Thursday, **December 19** at 7:30 pm at Our Lady of Victory Church. Price \$10. For advance tickets call 819-986-1185. Coffee & desserts will be served.