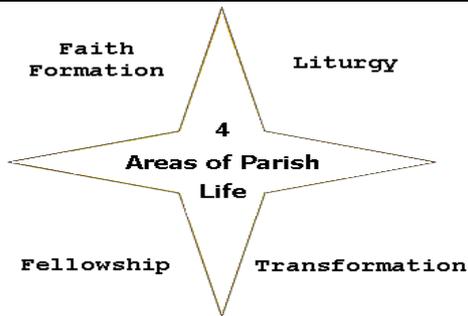




Our Lady of Victory
490 Charles Street
Gatineau, Québec
J8L 2K5



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

**3rd SUNDAY OF ADVENT
DECEMBER 14-15, 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. 19 th	OLV @ 10:00 a.m.	All Parishioners of OLV & St. Malachy
Saturday	Dec. 21 st	St. Malachy @ 7:00 p.m.	Nora Somers by The Estate
Sunday	Dec. 22 nd	OLV @ 9:00 a.m.	Christopher Farnand (7th ann) by The Family Tom Laframboise by Regis Lemieux Maureen Dunning by Clare Flynn & Family Carmel Gauthier by Isabel Laframboise Edmund Bedard by Pauline Bedard & Family

WEEKLY RECEIPTS	OLV	ST. MALACHY
Dec. 7-8, 2019 - Sunday Offering	\$498.00	\$337.00
Christmas Flowers		100.00
<i>Thank you for your contribution</i>		

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 9:00 pm	OLV - Father Bill 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: Rejoice

On the third Sunday of Advent, the Liturgy invites us to rejoice at the coming of Jesus as we prepare for Christmas. This Sunday is called Gaudete Sunday following the Entrance Antiphon of today's liturgy: "Gaudete in Domino Semper (Rejoice in the Lord always)" (Phil. 4,4). We light the rose candle of the Advent wreath to express our joy in the coming of our Saviour in our hearts and lives. The **first reading** is a message of joy. The Prophet Isaiah encourages the exiled Jews in Babylon to rejoice because their God is coming to free them from slavery and lead them safely to their homeland. The **second reading** echoes the same message of joy. St. James encourages the early Christians to rejoice and wait with patience for the second coming of Jesus just as the farmer waits for the precious crop from the earth. The farmer does not just sit back looking at the field to yield crop by itself. She/he sits back only when she/he has done all she/he can and waits patiently for God to do His part. She/he never loses heart even if she/he has to wait for months before the crop is ripe. We have to cherish the hope that God will intervene in our lives and that 'His advent' is close at hand.

In the Gospel, the message of joy is also expressed, though indirectly. Jesus urges John the Baptist (in prison) to rejoice by casting away his wrong expectations about the Messiah and simply accept Him and His ministry as the fulfilment of the prophecy of Isaiah. In last Sunday's Gospel John has spoken of the Messiah as one coming as a strict judge with His fiery judgement: "*His winnowing fork is in His hand...*"; also, "*Even now the axe is lying at the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.*" John is in prison and hears what Jesus is doing, a far cry from what he expects. Hence, he questions through his disciples, "are you the One who is to come, or are we to wait for another?" In reply Jesus tells them to tell John what they have seen: "the blind see, the lame walk, the lepers are clean, the deaf hear, the dead are raised and the poor have Good news brought to them. And blessed is anyone who takes no offence at me." Thus, Jesus presents Himself as fulfilling the prophecy of Isaiah in today's reading and in 29,19 and 61,1. Jesus' works fulfill all these prophecies; what He does and says, say who He is. These are all signs of salvation and not of condemnation. It is left for everyone, including John to make the decision to work out from what He does and says who He is, a decision of faith.

To experience true joy of this time, we need to eliminate our wrong expectations and images of Jesus. Like John the Baptist, we sometimes experience crises of faith. Jesus' way of doing things scandalizes John and may scandalize us too. The question of John could be our question too: 'Is He the Christ? Is Jesus good enough for us? Is His Gospel good enough? Does Jesus, as He presents Himself, satisfy our longings? The God revealed by Jesus is very different from us and cannot correspond to our way of thinking. He loves everyone, good and bad, and makes the sun rise and the rain fall on each one of us, the honest and dishonest alike, because we are all His children (Mt. 5,45). A God such as this, who is good to everybody, does not fit our ideas nor fulfil our expectations. Isn't such a God a scandal to us? (Armellini, F,SCI 1995).

We rejoice that Jesus is to be reborn in our lives. Thus Jesus says to us today as He commands John's disciples: "Go and tell others what you hear and see". It means that we have to share with others our experience of the rebirth of Jesus within us. What signs can we offer people today to convince them that Jesus is among them? We have to keep on being signs of what our Master did: help our brothers and sisters, feed the hungry, cure the sick, fight for the oppressed and be enemies of sin. During this Advent we must prepare our hearts to recognize and welcome Jesus by going through a **metánoia** – a change of thinking about God, ourselves and the world. **Happy Sunday!**



We ask parishioners to sign the following solidarity letter for the defenders of the Amazon:

Dear seringueiros of Machadinho d'Oeste and Mura people of Manaus

Thank you for protecting the Amazon rainforest, your traditional home and humanity's common heritage. We, the people of Canada, are pained to learn of your persecution, dispossession and criminalisation by those who would rob your lands, livelihoods, waters and way of life to exploit the gifts of the Amazon for profit. We join you in urging your government to stop privileging corporate interests over your rights and the integrity of the forest. We will impel our government to hold Canadian companies to account for what they do on your lands. Keeping you in our hearts, thoughts and prayers, we wish you more power in your fight for justice and dignity.

The Solidarity Letter will be left at the church entrance for one more week to give all parishioners an opportunity to sign.

Together, let's defend the defenders of the Amazon

OUR LADY of VICTORY & ST. MALACHY NEWS

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

OLV Christmas Tea: Thanks to all who attended, donated, worked, decorated and cleaned up, your dedication to making this a successful event is really appreciated. Thanks to Marjorie Burke for her beautiful afghan that was won by Anita Berndt. Also to Rita Lemieux's bedspread that was won by Maureen Strimas. Thanks to Susan and Monique and team for **\$1349.15** that was raised.

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

The Lions Club Annual Blitz held last Saturday, December 7th at Les Galeries Buckingham was a huge success, with a record \$101,300 raised. A total of \$860 was raised by our two parishes and presented to the Lions Club during the Blitz. Lions Club members expressed their appreciation for our parishes continued generosity in the Blitz. Many thanks!

The Media Food Drive (La Guignolée des Médias) held last Thursday at four local roadblocks from 6 to 9 a.m. generated \$7,299 and over 120 kg of non-perishable food were also donated. All the proceeds of these four roadblocks go to the local food bank, **La Mie de l'entraide** located at 129 Joseph Street. Many thanks to all who contributed to this worthwhile cause!

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.