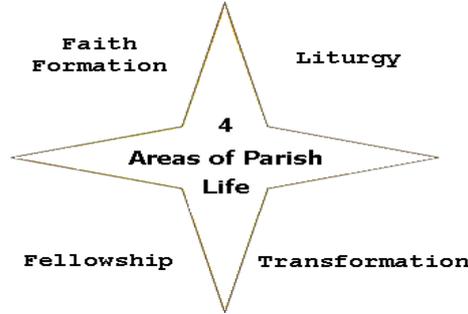




Our Lady of Victory
490 Charles Street
Gatineau, Québec
J8L 2K5



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

**7th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
FEBRUARY 22-23, 2020**

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



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MASSES

Thursday	Feb 27 th	OLV @ 10:00 a.m.	All Parishioners of OLV & St. Malachy
Saturday	Feb. 29 th	St. Malachy @ 4:30 p.m.	Benjamin French (27th ann) by The Family
Sunday	Mar. 1 st	OLV @ 9:00 a.m.	Norah Renwick (7th ann) by Nicole Claude Leost by Ethel Pearson Maureen Dunning by Family & Friends

WEEKLY RECEIPTS	OLV	ST. MALACHY
Feb. 15-16, 2020 - Sunday Offering	\$553.00	\$205.00
<i>Thank you for your contribution</i>		

Fr. Albanus' Reflections on the Sunday Liturgy

Love Beyond Boundaries!

Today's readings explain why Christians are expected to be holy and how we are meant to become holy people. The first and second readings give us reasons why we should be holy. The first reading, taken from the book of Leviticus, teaches us that we should be holy because it is the command given to us by God through Moses: "*Be holy, for I the Lord, your God, am holy.*" It also shows us the way to share in God's holiness: "*Love your neighbor as yourself.*" The Responsorial Psalm (Ps 103) challenges us to be holy as our God is holy by becoming kind and merciful and forgiving. In the second reading, St. Paul gives us an additional reason to be holy. We are to keep our bodies and souls holy because we are the temples of the Holy Spirit, and the Holy Spirit lives in us.

The Gospel describes ways of becoming holy people prescribed for us by Jesus. Jesus deals with the question of how His followers should behave when faced with hurt and hatred. This is the continuation of Jesus teaching, the Sermon on the Mount, where He gives a radical interpretation of the Law. Jesus deals with the OT law of retaliation. The law 'eye for eye and tooth for tooth' (Lv 24:19f) was introduced as a legal practice to put a stop to never-ending feuds and avoiding excessive punishment. The law fixed the boundaries of vengeance, limited the retaliation to the

penalty of the same injury so that there must be some proportion between the crime and the punishment. But Jesus goes beyond this law to say that the disciple must not be provoked into taking retaliation for the wrongs done against him/her. The response of the disciples (followers) to wrong must not flow from another person's hostility but from the nature of their discipleship.

Jesus also confirms the ancient law that you should love your neighbor, but reject any interpretation of the Law that permits people to hate their enemy. The law enjoins the Israelites to love their neighbor, but a neighbor was understood to mean a fellow Israelite. He, thus, rejects this limitation of the love and asks His disciples to love the enemies. In this way, He lifts all limitation to love. That is Christian love; it excludes no one, not even the ones that persecute the disciple. The point that Jesus makes is that the love His disciples give people is not related to the love they receive from others. Love is not a social contract or a fair bargain. The disciple loves because that is what the nature of discipleship involves. A disciple should imitate the Father who does not withhold the sun and the rain from those who oppose him. Love is offered because that is what a disciple of the kingdom should do. His script proceeds from who he is, not from what he receives from others. Jesus loved even those who hated Him. He stayed with love, a supreme value, because that emerged from who He was as the Son of the Father.

We need to love our neighbors and our enemies too: *Agápe* love is a choice more than a feeling. We choose to love, not because our enemies deserve our love, but because Jesus loves them so much that he died for them. We have in the *Acts of the Apostles* the example of St. Stephen, the first martyr, who prayed for those who were putting him to death. We need to have a forgiving heart. Jesus demands that we should forgive, pardon and be generous whether or not our offenders deserve it, and even if we are not loved in return. He also tells us to pray for those who willfully cause us suffering, hardship and unhappiness. We are to try to be perfect, to be like God. We become perfect when we fulfill God's purpose in creating us, i.e., when we become Godlike by cooperating with His grace. We become perfect when we try to love as God loves, and forgive as God forgives and to show unconditional good will and universal benevolence as God does. An impossible demand? Happy Sunday!

OUR LADY of VICTORY & ST. MALACHY NEWS

Prayers and Sympathy: Our thoughts and prayers go out to the family of **Patricia Teske** whose funeral service was celebrated at St. Malachy on Friday, February 21st.

Ash Wednesday Service: At OLV on Wednesday, February 26 at 7:00 p.m.

Fellowship at OLV: There will be no 1st Sunday of the month on March 1st as the Synodal Workshop will be going on.

The Reality of Today at Our Lady of Victory Parish: Parishioners should be aware of challenges the Parish is now facing regarding our ability to properly celebrate Sunday mass. At present, there are no longer servers supporting Father during mass. Servers will only be available for funerals and special mass celebrations

The other challenge the Parish is facing is around Lectors. At present, there are three Lectors available for the readings. For a lengthy period of time, one of these Lectors will be away on vacation, thus reducing the number to two. So what happens if neither one of these two Lectors is available? Will Father have to ask a member of the congregation to come forward to read? How problematic would that be? Who will come forward?

On several occasions, through this bulletin, a request has gone forward for volunteers to participate in the mass celebration, with no results. We have now come to the point where it has become essential that individuals come forward.

One of the themes to be discussed at the Synodal Workshop planned for March 1st is Prayer and Liturgy. The lack of support for the celebration of mass is one area the Parishioner's will need to reflect upon during the Workshop.

The issue to bring forward to the Synodal Workshop is that the church belongs to all of us and we all need to do our share to ensure our sustainability. There is an old axiom that states that there are no problems, only solutions. Let's hope this proves true with respect to our Parish.

This Share Lent, let's stand in solidarity with the defenders of the Earth

This year, **Development and Peace — Caritas Canada** is encouraging us to support all those in the Amazon and the Global South who are caring for God's creation. How can we help?



1. **Donate** online at devp.org/give or give during the Solidarity Sunday collection on March 29, the 5th Sunday of Lent. Your generosity helps support over 149 projects in 36 countries around the world!
2. **Read** Development and Peace's Share Lent literature and **watch** the videos to learn about and hear from the guardians of the Earth.
3. **Sign the Solidarity Letter** addressed to two embattled Brazilian communities. Last fall, 64 parishioners from our two parishes signed the Solidarity Letter. You can still add your signature by going to the following link: devp.org/act.

There is a Solidarity Calendar inserted with today's bulletin. During this year's Lent, navigate the Amazon River to learn, reflect, pray and act throughout Lent, in solidarity with the peoples of the Amazon and the Earth, our common home. You can also follow the Solidarity Calendar on Facebook and Instagram.

Synodal Process – Next Step

The next step in the Synodal Process is to organize a workshop in each parish. The objective of the workshop is to discuss how we can be a more missionary/outward-bound parish. Our parish delegates reviewed this consultative step with the Inter-Parish Planning Committee recently and a decision was made to combine our two parishes for this workshop.

The workshop will be held on **Sunday, March 1st** in the church hall of Our Lady of Victory at **10:00 am**, following the 9:00 am mass celebration. The outline of the session will be:

- **View new video of Mgr. Durocher and discuss**
- **Break into 3 groups (liturgy/catechesis/outreach)**

Sufficient refreshments will be available throughout the workshop. The results of our discussions will be sent to the diocese in order to prepare the final stretch of the Synodal Process. **Please register with the Secretary as soon as possible for this very vital workshop.** The final stretch of the Synodal Process will be a General Assembly to be held on May 2nd – this will be the most important meeting as we discuss together the pastoral guidelines that will guide the archdiocese for the next few years.