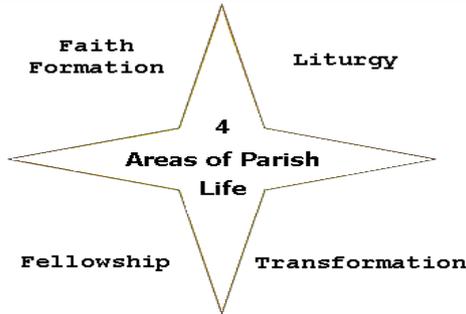




Our Lady of Victory
490 Charles Street
Gatineau, Québec
J8L 2K5



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

**1th SUNDAY OF LENT
FEBRUARY 29 - MARCH 1, 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 | |  180, boul. Mont-Bleu Gatineau (QC) J8Z 3J5 www.diocesegatineau.org |

MASSES

| | | | |
|----------|----------------------|-------------------------|---|
| Thursday | Mar. 5 th | OLV @ 10:00 a.m. | All Parishioners of OLV & St. Malachy |
| Saturday | Mar. 7 th | St. Malachy @ 7:00 p.m. | All Parishioners of St. Malachy & OLV |
| Sunday | Mar. 8 th | OLV @ 9:00 a.m. | Jack Flynn by Clare & Family Linda Allen by Lucille & Susan Allen Alma Miller (3rd ann) by Darlene & Family Tom Laframboise by The Estate |

| WEEKLY RECEIPTS | OLV | ST. MALACHY |
|--|----------|-------------|
| Feb. 22-23, 2020 - Sunday Offering | \$390.00 | \$335.00 |
| Feb. 22-23, 2020 - Fuel | 289.00 | 119.00 |
| <i>Thank you for your contribution</i> | | |

BISHOP'S INTENTION FOR MARCH, 2020

Together with Pope Francis, let us pray that the Church in China persevere in fidelity to the Gospel and grow in unity.

Social Reflection: Who being at school in the fifties or sixties did not bring his 10 cents or 25 cents to "buy Chinese children?" As China has become a great world power, the situation has changed. Relations between China and our country were going quite well in recent years, but they became much worse when, at the request of the United States, we arrested Ms. Meng Wanzhou. China, in retaliation, arrested and detained two Canadians on the charge of espionage. What about freedom and democracy?

An Answer to our Faith: Yes, schoolchildren "bought some Chinese kids". This work of the Holy Childhood was part, I think, of evangelization, proclamation of the Good News requested by Jesus in Matthew 28:19. Since the return of Christ to the Father, missionaries have travelled many distances to respond to the call of the mission. They have even gone as far as China. Thanks to this, Christians were born there and lived there rather peacefully for years. However, religious freedom has taken a heavy blow since the arrival of Mao and the foundation of the Republic of China. In the face of repression in that country, churches that wanted to remain connected with the Holy See had to go underground in order to survive. Others, those of the Patriotic Association of Chinese Catholics (PACC), the official Church, have become dependent on the state, which itself has appointed the bishops. The Vatican had to excommunicate these bishops. Therefore, in 2018, Pope Francis, in order to allow the reconciliation of the two communities, signed an agreement with Beijing lifting the excommunication of bishops ordained without a pontifical mandate. He said he hoped for "full and visible unity of the Chinese Catholic Church." Could he do otherwise?

Action I Take: Pope Francis "invite all Chinese Catholics to become artisans of reconciliation, to re-establish full communion. To open a phase of more fraternal collaboration, in order to assume with renewed commitment, the mission of proclaiming the Gospel." On this first Sunday of Lent, I read the first pages of the Letter of Pope Francis to the Catholics of China.

Fr. Albanus' Reflections on the Sunday Liturgy

Temptations

Lent is basically a time of intense spiritual preparation for conquering our temptations. It is a period of forty days following the example of Jesus who prepared forty days in the desert for His public life. Lent affords us the opportunity to renew our lives for the celebration of Easter with our Risen Lord who conquered sin and death by His suffering, death and Resurrection. Today's readings present us two contrasting reactions to temptation. They teach us that we are always tempted by the devil, by the world and by our own selfish interests. Thus there is need for us to cooperate actively with God's grace to conquer our temptations. The first reading from the book of Genesis describes Original Temptation: '*You will be like God, knowing good and evil.*' Adam and Eve were given the possibility of making a choice to live for God, depend upon and be obedient to His will, or to say No to God. That temptation led them to an act of faithlessness and sin. This act of disobedience of our First Parents is taken up by St Paul in the second reading. He reflects on how the choices of Adam and Jesus affect us. The disobedience of Adam brought him and us death and a broken relationship with God. But we are saved and offered new life because of the fidelity of Christ.

The Gospel of Matthew which we read today presents to us that contrast to Adam's disobedience in Christ. Christ conquered temptation by relying on Faith in God's Word and authority. It teaches us how the "desert experience" of fasting, praying and soul-strengthening enabled Jesus to confront His temptations successfully and then to preach the Good News of salvation. The tempter urges Jesus to turn stones into loaves of bread; but Jesus rejects that temptation to reduce His Divine mission to satisfying His own immediate, temporal needs. Secondly, the tempter suggests that Jesus prove that He is really the Son of God by jumping off the pinnacle of the Temple; but Jesus rejects the temptation to put God to a test. Finally, Jesus rejects the temptation to idolatry, even if that worship would enrich and empower Him with all the kingdoms of the world.

Temptation is an unavoidable part of life for us all. Everyone is tempted to seek sinful pleasures, easy wealth and a position of authority, power and glory, and to use any means, even unjust or sinful ones, to gain these things. Jesus is our model in conquering temptation by strengthening Himself through prayer, penance and the effective use of the Word of God. So during this Lent, we should confront our evil tendencies with prayers (especially by participating in Holy Mass), with penance and with meditative reading of the Scriptures. Reflectively, life is a struggle between sin and grace, selfishness and holiness. We succeed in life in the measure that we put aside sin and try to live by the grace of God. Again to rationalize away these temptations, so that things become socially acceptable and politically correct, is itself an insidious temptation. We cannot dictate for ourselves what is right and wrong or draw for ourselves the boundaries of "acceptable behavior", unencumbered by any notional commandments of God. We must rather submit our behavior to the Gospel of Christ. We are to grow in holiness by prayer, reconciliation and sharing during Lent. This entails finding time to be with God, speaking with Him, reconciling with God through the sacrament of Reconciliation, and with others by asking for forgiveness and forgiving others; and sharing our love with others through selfless and humble service, almsgiving and helping those in need. Happy Sunday!

Lent: Our Mountain Climbing towards Easter has begun

Last Wednesday we began our journey to Easter with Ash Wednesday. The church has taken on a Lenten look.

How will we mark our 40-day trek to Easter? The traditional Lenten practices of prayer, fasting, and almsgiving are aiming to get us in shape for Easter.

Prayer: Our Sunday liturgies, with their rich Bible readings, provide the basic orientation for Lent.

Fasting: We diet; we cut down on food and drink for a variety of reasons. During Lent we could refrain from some food, from a drink, from a party, from a video or movie as a gesture of solidarity with so many of those in our world who have no choice in these matters for the simple reason that they do not have them.

Almsgiving: This flows naturally from the previous two practices. Almsgiving says we care for others even to the point of depriving ourselves from something. How about if we put the money that we save by some form of fasting aside and make it into our contribution to the special ***Development and Peace*** Lenten collection that will be held later in Lent?

The tree of solidarity that is Development and Peace — Caritas Canada



In 1967, the Bishops of Canada sowed a seed of solidarity, seeking to nurture a movement for social justice. This seed took root and blossomed into a strong tree. Its roots are the thousands of Canadians who support the organization by donating time and money. Its branches are partners who flourish and help build a world of justice. Their work bears fruit for millions of people in the Global South who are taking charge of their own destiny.

The **Symbols of Solidarity** table set up in our churches during Lent reflect the threats faced by the people of the Amazon and the work done by ***Development and Peace***'s partners to combat those threats. A new symbol will be added to the table over the next four weeks. This week's symbol is a burnt stick to symbolize illegal logging and deforestation.

Consult the Mini-magazine inserted with today's bulletin to learn more about Development and Peace's work, or go to the website at: <https://www.devp.org/en/lent/resources>.