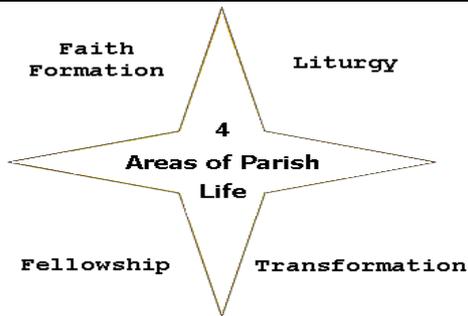




Our Lady of Victory
490 Charles Street
Gatineau, Québec
J8L 2K5



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

**16th SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME
JULY 18-19, 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
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MASSES

Saturday	July 25 th	St. Malachy @ 7:00 p.m.	Nora Somers by The Estate Mary & Michael McDonnell by Doris & Andre Prevost
Sunday	July 26 th	OLV @ 9:00 a.m.	Father Langevin by Regis Lemieux Helen, Harold & Sean Cullen by Norbert & Maureen Ricard

WEEKLY RECEIPTS	OLV	ST. MALACHY
July 11 – 12, 2020 – Sunday collection	\$ 1,398.00	\$ 670.00
<i>Thank you for your contributions</i>		

Access to Parish Office

- Appointments with the Parish Secretary **must be** arranged by telephone
- Entry to the Rectory will **only be** available through the front door
- Visitors **will be required** to wear masks and wash their hands prior to entering the Rectory
- At the front door, disposable masks and sanitizing solutions will be available
- Given the limited space in the Secretary's office, all contact will occur in Father Albanus' office where physical distancing is possible
- Gloves will be made available for the Secretary when handling cash transactions
- Visitors will be required to dispose masks and wash hands upon leaving
- Once individuals leave, affected areas will be disinfected

Fr. Albanus' Reflections on the Sunday Liturgy

Good and Evil and God's Patience.

On the 16th Sunday of the Ordinary Time, the readings present to us the image of God as a very patient and compassionate God. God is hopeful that the so-called "weeds" among us will be converted. They also advise us against being in a hurry to eliminate the "weeds" among us based on unwarranted and hasty judgement. The **first reading** from the Book of Wisdom presents a picture of a merciful and patient God, rather than the disciplining, strict, angry and punishing God presented in the book of Genesis. There is no one comparable to God whose care is for all people. This reading tries to answer the pressing question: why does God allow the bad to flourish? The author argues that God's moderation is not a result of weakness: His justice, after all, has its source in strength. God exercises leniency and clemency: that is, God can afford to let His enemies live, for they can never prevail, and given time, might repent. God's mercy is heaped on everyone in sight, even on traditional enemies. The Psalm describes God thus: "*Lord, you are good and forgiving.*" The **second reading** tells us that God's Spirit empowers us in our weakness and so we need to be patient with ourselves. When things are not going well, when we do not even know how to pray, when our weakness in whatever form is overcoming us, the Spirit moves in and takes over. The Spirit helps us in our weakness!

Today's Gospel contains three parables: The first (the wheat and the weeds) tells us how and why evil co-exists with good in the world and how we should treat the evil ones. The second (the mustard seed) and the third (the yeast) explain to us how God's kingdom or His rule grows in human heart and human lives from a very small beginning, by the power of the Holy Spirit. The parable of the wheat and the weeds which is mainly my attention in this reflection is an agricultural parable with allegoric interpretation. In this parable Jesus teaches us that we are the field of God; the ground He works as well as the plants He nurtures. We are the people God rests His hope upon and the people in whom He plants good seeds. We are the congregation He anoints with the Holy Spirit. The scandal of God's patience and forbearance with wrong doers appears in this gospel parable. Jesus presents in this parable a wise and patient God who allows the good and the evil to co-exist in the world so that the evil ones may come to conversion before their time ends to avoid God's punishment. "*Let the wheat and the weeds grow together till the harvest time*". The householder is worried that uprooting the weeds will endanger the wheat.

God gives us all (sinners) ample time to repent and, with His grace, change our lives. He calmly recognizes that there is evil in the world, but He sees that evil is no excuse for the good people not to do good with the power of God at their disposal (Kadavil, T). Through this parable Jesus calls us to be patient with those who fail to meet the high ethical standard expected of a Christian. There is much good in our world. But along with the good we cannot ignore the presence of evil. We find it difficult to reconcile the presence of evil especially when we see the good we try to do being frustrated by the evil persons in our midst. The parable of the wheat and the weeds gives us an insight into the manner in which Jesus would like us to view the problem of evil. It teaches tolerance, patience and willingness to open ourselves to God's love more and more.

This message is something that Jesus Himself lived throughout His ministry. He reached out to all sorts of people, mixing with whores, priests, crooks, scribes, politicians, children, tax-collectors, etc. Jesus knew that all communities are a mixture of the good and bad, the crooked and the cracked; and that it is not always easy to tell which is which. We may not be able to wish away altogether evil from the face of the earth but this should not frustrate us or stop us from doing good. While we must confront evil, we must continue to do good. We however have no authority to pronounce the final judgement on anyone. The last word cannot be said about anyone until death, and then it is God's part, not ours to say it. St. Paul underlines this same point when he says to the Corinthians: "*There must be no passing of premature judgement. Leave that until the Lord comes.*" (1Cor. 4:5). Those of us, who do good despite the obstacles thrown in our path, will never go unrewarded. Those who do evil with impunity will finally incur the wrath of God. God is indeed patient as He puts up with the malice in us. But He is the God of justice who rewards the faithful and punishes the unrepentant wicked.

Like Jesus, St. Paul, was aware that we can get it terribly wrong about people. There might be another story, another perspective, another time which we do not know about. Paul himself got it terribly wrong about Jesus when he persecuted His followers. But he changed from being a real weed to a real apostle of Jesus, even though some people thought that the last word has been said about him. If the final judgement is precisely that – final – the good hope is that there will be some changes before then. The '*weeds*' may transform into '*wheat*.' That hope should never be denied anyone. May God give us the gift of patience with Him and with one another. May He grant us the gift of positive transformation of our lives for His own glory and our salvation. **Happy Sunday!**

Our Lady of Victory & St. Malachy News

Our Lady of Knock Pilgrimage: Will **NOT** be held this year.

Parish Activities: No parish activities until further notice.

Mass Attendance (OLV): As a result of limited seating, Parishioners must telephone the Parish Secretary **no later than 10 am on Wednesday** each week to confirm their attendance at each upcoming Sunday mass.

Points of Clarification at OLV: Some parishioners may not be attending mass because of the guideline **regarding touching as few surfaces as possible**. Please note that **if** you require support by touching a pew, while accessing a seat or during communion, feel free to do so. *All surfaces will be disinfected afterwards.*

To maintain the 1.5 metre distancing requirements from the aisles, **only two** people can be seated in the pews in the middle of the church and **only one** person in the pews close to the windows. We recognize the inconvenience this creates but we **must** maintain the 1.5 metre distancing as mandated by the diocese.

COMMUNITY NEWS



La Mie de l'Entraide – our local food bank: Now that our churches have reopened for weekend mass celebrations, our two parishes can once again collect non-perishables for our local food bank. There is a current need for canned goods. Parish volunteers deliver these items every week to La Mie de l'Entraide which is situated at 129 Joseph Street. The food bank is also accepting egg cartons; **however there is no longer a need for plastic bread bags.**

The “anti-waste refrigerator” located in the side entrance to the food bank is now available year-round to collect surplus fruits and vegetables from farmers, community gardens, grocers and citizens. A more detailed list of items acceptable can be found on the refrigerator door.