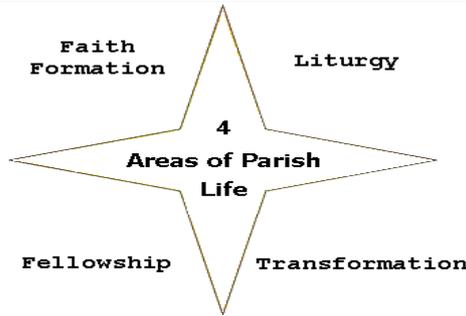




Our Lady of Victory
 490 Charles Street
 Gatineau, Québec
 J8L 2K5



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

17th SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME
JULY 25-26, 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	Aug. 1 st	St. Malachy @ 7:00 p.m.	Helen Weatherdon by Ethel Pearson
Sunday	Aug. 2 nd	OLV @ 9:00 a.m.	Tom Laframboise

WEEKLY RECEIPTS	OLV	ST. MALACHY
July 18 – 19, 2020 – Sunday collection	\$ 555.00	\$ 345.00
<i>Thank you for your contributions</i>		

Access to Parish Office

- Appointments with the Parish Secretary **must be** arranged by telephone
- Visitors **will be required** to wear masks and wash their hands prior to entering the Rectory
- Visitors will be required to dispose of masks and wash hands upon leaving
- Once individuals leave, affected areas will be disinfected

Fr. Albanus' Reflections on the Sunday Liturgy

Genuine Treasure!

The Word of God this Sunday teaches us that accepting Jesus as our God and sacrificing everything in life to do the will of God, is equivalent to discovering and possessing the most valuable treasure or the pearl of great price. Keeping a personal relationship with Christ and sharing His view of life are the most beautiful and the most precious things in the world. The **first reading** from the First Book of Kings narrates the story of King Solomon; how he chose the great treasure of accepting God to rule his life by doing God's will. Instead of wealth and victory, Solomon requested of God, an understanding heart, the ability to distinguish right from wrong, so that he might govern the people properly. Solomon was aware that whoever is in power could easily be misled and corrupted by sympathies, emotions, whims and unchecked passions. Power could lead people into making serious mistakes and being friends with those who are unjust to the people. Hence, Solomon asked for wisdom.

Wisdom gives us insight into what is truly important in life and making us aware of the meaning and purposes of living, of what really matters. It is an understanding of where our real well-being and happiness lie. It is indeed a "pearl" of great price that Jesus speaks about in the Gospel. Solomon teaches us to learn to cultivate the habit of praying for a heart and mind attuned to God's word and docile to His desires. Our prayer should consist in asking God for what He wants to give us that which makes us better able to do His will of loving service to others. Wisdom comes from God; with wisdom, all other blessings will flow. St. Paul teaches us in the **second reading** that the wisdom to perceive God's grace is essential for those who want to follow Him and to do His will, thus remaining in His kingdom.

The first two readings prepare us for the **Gospel** where Jesus invites us to choose wisely in life and to prefer the kingdom of God above all else. With the three parables of today's Gospel, Jesus concludes the chapter we began last two Sundays ago on the Kingdom of God. These parables are lessons in total attachment to Christ and detachment from the things of the world demanded of the disciple to make the reign of God in himself/herself and, in the world, a reality. In these stories, Jesus teaches that God's Kingdom is something of extraordinary value, like a hidden treasure or a costly pearl. Possessing it calls for a total commitment to preserving it. If the Kingdom of God is not seen as a "pearl of great value," people will not bother renouncing anything to attain it. Jesus Himself had to give up everything to do His Father's will. Renouncing everything for His Father's will made Him look foolish in the eyes of people. Jesus also expects His followers to do the same; to give up all for the sake of God's kingdom. God's Kingdom is God's reign in our hearts, lives, homes, society and the world. Only those who develop a searching mind and are willing to "sell" everything for the great treasure of God's Kingdom will be rewarded. That means having a personal relationship with Christ, making Christ's view and vision of life primary in our life and keeping everything else secondary.

Brothers and sisters, none of us can gain anything of value without renouncing something. Paul says "I regard everything as loss because of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord." (Phil: 3, 8). Again, "For to me living is Christ and dying is gain." (Phil. 1, 21). Most importantly, we have to renounce first our perception of what real treasure in life really is. It may sound logical that those who have not found Christ, the non-believers, the pagans, the atheists, think the Christians a bit mad. They cannot understand why they give up certain things and ways of life. We ought to avoid chasing false treasures like money, social status and pleasure. Jesus has come to offer us God's Kingdom, a pearl of great value. The genuine disciples are those who respond to this opportunity with joy and selfless commitment. They eagerly give top priority to doing God's will, whatever it may be. The pearls of life are the things of God; the love of family and friends, the support of community, and the sense of fulfillment that comes from serving and giving for the sake of others.

Again, the parables remind us that it is something urgent to take certain decisions. Life sometimes offers certain opportunities that should not be lost, since they will not come our way again. Choosing the Kingdom of God is not something that can be procrastinated. God's summons requires immediate response. Although we are baptized Christians who have heard the Gospel, we still need to pursue the true and full meaning of the Gospel which can escape us for many years. Many of us have heard the Gospel, time and again, but have never considered it as a treasure to be bought at any cost. We can always understand more, love more and serve more. The two discoveries in the parables are due one to luck and the other to diligence. Thus, Jesus wants to teach us by them that the kingdom of God is both a gratuitous gift from God, and the fruit of the search and diligence of humans.

Happy Sunday!

Our Lady of Victory & St. Malachy News

Prayers and Sympathy: Please pray for the repose of the soul of **Rita Parker** (Ken Simpson's mother). Service, with the immediate family only due to Covid-19 restrictions, was held yesterday at St. Gregoire's as per her request. Our prayers and sympathy are with his family and friends during this time of loss.

Prayers and Sympathy: Please pray for the repose of the soul of **Mathea Stevens**, Leila's mother, who died on Saturday, July 18. Our prayers go out to the rest of the family who are going through this time of great loss. May they all find the strength to fulfill her wishes.

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.

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.

WELCOME BACK and STAY SAFE