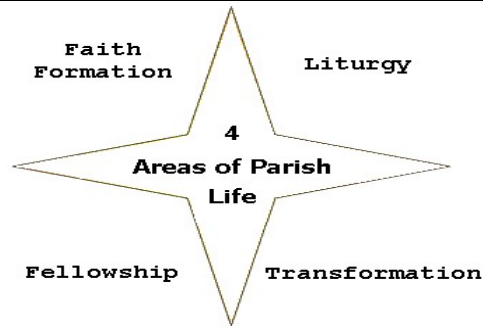




Our Lady of Victory
Built 1948
 490 Charles Street
 Gatineau, Québec
 J8L 2K5



St. Malachy
Built 1864
 3889 Route 315
 Mayo, Québec
 J8L 3Z8

2nd SUNDAY
IN ORDINARY TIME
JANUARY 16-17, 2021

MASS CANCELED

Celebration of the Eucharist

MASS CANCELED

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OUR BULLETIN TO KEEP YOU INFORMED DURING THE LOCK DOWN!

Fr. Albanus' Reflections on the Sunday Liturgy

The Christian Vocation



<u>First Reading:</u>	1 Samuel 3.3b-10, 19
<u>Psalm:</u>	Here I am, Lord; I come to do your will
<u>Second Reading:</u>	1 CORINTHIANS 6.13C-15A, 17-20
<u>Gospel:</u>	John 1.35-42

Today readings speak of Divine vocation. Each of us is called by God to be a witness for Christ by doing something for others with our unique gifts and blessings. They, therefore, remind us of our personal and corporate call to become witnesses for Jesus, the *Lamb of God*, by leading lives of holiness and purity. The first reading describes the call of Samuel. It tells us how Yahweh called Samuel to His service and how the boy Samuel responded to Him, saying, "*Speak, Lord, for your servant is listening.*" Samuel was called to communicate the will of God to the people as they were going through a difficult and uneasy period. God blessed him in the mission entrusted to him, and Samuel became an illustrious figure, ranking with Moses and David as a man of God. The Responsorial Psalm (Ps 40), says, "*Here am I Lord, I come to do your will,*" indicating that our vocation is to obey, to do what God commands us to do. In the second reading, St. Paul explains to the Corinthians that their Divine call is a call to holiness. They, thus, need to keep their bodies pure and souls holy because by Baptism they have become parts of Christ's Body and the temples of the Holy Spirit. Sexual corruption, according to St Paul therefore, is totally incompatible with the life of the baptized because they are now united to Christ and are one with Him. The thoughts, words and actions of the call (baptized) have to be those of Christ.

The Gospel of Today describes the meeting that every person is invited to have with Christ. Christ has the message of eternal life and many can meet Him only if someone tells them about Him. In it, John the Baptist claims that his vocation is to introduce Jesus to two of his disciples as the "*Lamb of God*," an expression that recalls the Paschal Lamb, whose blood was smeared on the doorposts of the Jews to save them from death (Ex 12:13). The expression also suggests Jesus' vocation to become a sacrificial lamb to atone for our sins. Every time we celebrate the Eucharist, Jesus is presented to us with the words of the Baptist "*Behold, the Lamb of God.*" The disciples followed Jesus to his residence, accepting his invitation to "*come and see.*" They stayed with him that day. They called Him "*Rabbi*" which means 'master,' or 'teacher.' Then Andrew brought his brother Simon to Jesus, introducing Jesus to him as the *Messiah*.

This Gospel describing the call or vocation of the first apostles challenges us to invite others to Christ by our Christian witnessing. Our Christian vocation is to live and die like the *Lamb of God*. We do that by leading pure, innocent, humble, selfless lives, obeying Christ's commandment of love; by appreciating the loving providence and protecting care of the Good Shepherd in his Church; by partaking of the Body and Blood of the Good Shepherd in the Holy Eucharist and deriving spiritual strength from the Holy Spirit through prayer and the Sacraments. We are called to die like the *Lamb of God* by sharing sacrificially our blessings of health, wealth and talents with others in the family, parish and community; by bearing witness to Christ in our illness, pain and suffering through our graceful acceptance of all of it; by offering our sufferings for God's glory, as penance for our sins and for the conversion of sinners. Bearing witness to the *Lamb of God* requires a personal experience of Jesus as our Lord and Saviour. We get this personal of experience of Jesus in our daily lives through the meditative reading and study of the Bible, through personal and family prayers and through our active participation in the Eucharistic celebration. Once we have experienced the personal presence of Jesus in our daily lives, we will start sharing with others the *Good News* of love, peace, justice, tolerance, mercy and forgiveness preached and lived by Jesus. This is what John the Baptist did. It is what Andrew did. Philip (Jn. 1: 45-51) and the rest of the Apostles also did that. We are all called to do the same. Happy Sunday!

Our Lady of Victory and St. Malachy News

Church Openings: Will advise all our parishioners when we have received word from the Diocese when churches can be opened again.

Funerals: Can proceed with 25 people during the Covid19 pandemic. Also the Covid-10 protocols will be followed.

Income Tax Receipts: Both parishes will issue out receipts in early 2021 for mass intentions, weekly envelopes and other donations. Our fiscal year ends Dec. 31, 2020.

On-Going Collections: During the confinement, parishioners are encouraged to continue to save used postage stamps, egg cartons, pop tabs and new and used candles. Once churches reopen, we can resume these collections.

Zoom Mass at St. Aloysius: There were some technical difficulties at St. Aloysius last Sunday. Their team is working on addressing these technical problems. We will monitor the situation.

A Prayer During Times of COVID-19

In this time of COVID-19, we pray:

When we aren't sure, God, help us be calm;

when information comes from all sides, correct and not, help us to discern;

when fear makes it hard to breathe, and anxiety seems to be the order of the day,

slow us down, God; help us to reach out with our hearts, when we can't touch with our hands; help us to be socially connected, when we have to be socially distant;

help us to love as perfectly as we can, knowing that "perfect love casts out all fear."

For the doctors, we pray, for the nurses, we pray, for the technicians and the janitors and the aides and the caregivers, we pray, for the researchers and theorists, the epidemiologists and investigators, for those who are sick, and those who are grieving, we pray, for all who are affected, all around the world... we pray for safety, for health, for wholeness.

May we feed the hungry, give drink to the thirsty, clothe the naked and house those without homes; may we walk with those who feel they are alone, and may we do all that we can to heal the sick - in spite of the epidemic, in spite of the fear.

Help us, O God, that we might help each other.

In the love of the Creator, in the name of the Healer,

in the life of the Holy Spirit that is in all and with all,

we pray. May it be so.

STAY HEALTHY and SAFE!