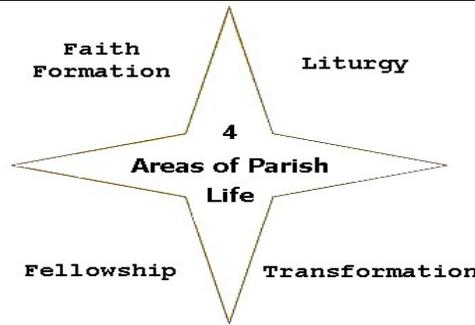




Our Lady of Victory
Built 1948
 490 Charles Street
 Gatineau, Québec
 J8L 2K5



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

1st SUNDAY of LENT
FEBRUARY 20-21, 2021

MASS CANCELED

Celebration of the Eucharist

MASS CANCELED

Pastor Father Albanus Ogowuihe
Rectory 490 Charles Street, Gatineau, Québec, J8L 2K5
Secretary 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

Saturday	Feb. 27th	St. Malachy @ 4:30 p.m.	James Gaspar by Cheryl & Peter Cameron
Sunday	Feb. 28th	OLV @ 9:00 a.m.	Diane Cameron by Linda & Bill Cameron

St. Malachy will also be opened on Saturday, February 27 for their 4:30 p.m. mass.

We are back on track at Our Lady of Victory church!

Effective **February 22nd**, the Outaouais region will go back to an orange zone. This means that we can reopen the church for the celebration of mass with a total of 25 individuals plus the volunteers. The same process as before will be in place where parishioners will be required to register for mass by leaving a voice mail with the Secretary on Thursday mornings. This is great news.

Also, parishioners will still be able to access the mass through Zoom – the link will be made available prior to the February 28th mass celebration.

For this Sunday, the link for the St. Aloysius mass celebration is:

<https://zoom.us/j/92467647686?pwd=dTlrUGsxTXQ0cTBpUmZzN25JTko3UT09>

Meeting ID: **924 6764 7686**
 Passcode: **cQxkL8**

The link will be open 15 minutes before the celebration.

Our Lady of Victory and St. Malachy News

Contact Father: Should you need to talk to Father Albanus, please call him at 819-663-5244.

Fr. Albanus' Reflections on the Sunday Liturgy

Lent: God Renews All



First Reading: Genesis 9.8-15

Psalm: Your paths, Lord, are love and faithfulness for those who keep your covenant.

Second Reading: 1 Peter 3.18-22

Gospel: Mark 1.12-15

Today is the first Sunday of Lent. During Lent we prepare for the celebration of Jesus' death and resurrection. This time we are called to reorder our priorities and change our values, ideals and ambitions through fasting, prayer and self-control. Today's readings refer to baptism directly or indirectly – baptism by which we share in the death and resurrection of Jesus. The **first reading** tells the story of the Fall and how the merciful God selected Noah and his family to renew the Covenant. The original covenant was broken through the Fall. The flood is, however, not a disaster caused by God; it is only the symbol of the terrible devastation brought about by the sins of people. God never approves of evil, but when He interferences, it is always to repair, reconstruct, to renew. God says, *"I establish my covenant with you, that never again shall all flesh be cut off by the waters of a flood, and never again shall there be a flood to destroy the earth."* To be noted is that this promise of God was unconditional, no string attached. Why? God's love is absolutely gratuitous. He does not wait for us to be good before being generous to us. Though He clearly sees that people are sinners, He loves them just the same; and this love transforms them into new creatures. Noah's rescue from the flood symbolizes how we are saved through the water of Baptism which cleanses us of sin and makes us one with Christ.

The Psalm (25) has a penitential tone (in line with Lenten time). The Psalm acknowledges human insufficiency and our radical dependence upon God, His mercy and forgiveness. The **second reading** from First Peter shows how Noah's episode prefigured Baptism. As Noah and his family were saved from the waters of the flood, we are saved through the waters of Baptism. Baptism is an outward sign of the New Covenant that God made with His people. It makes us adopted children of God, heirs of heaven and temples of the Holy Spirit. Through the waters of Baptism in which we die to sin, we become incorporated into the Church, the Body of Christ, and the living Christian community. The **Gospel** presents to us the temptation of Jesus. Mark describes the main temptation Jesus faced during His public life, namely, the temptation to become a political messiah of power and fame (according to the Jewish expectation), to use His Divine power for personal comfort, and to avoid suffering and death. The temptations Jesus faced and defeated help us to understand the conflicts that were in Jesus' own life and which will be found in ours too. Instead of yielding to the temptations, Jesus said a firm "Yes" to His Father's plan, even when it came to giving over His life. He faced and defeated the tempter by His forty days of prayer and penance in the desert immediately after His baptism. The Gospel also tells us how Jesus started preaching His messianic mission, *"The time is fulfilled. The Kingdom of God has come near; repent, and believe in the good news."*

Brothers and sisters, like Jesus, we have to conquer our temptations through prayer, penance and timely use of the word of God. This is even more pertinent during this Lenten period. Lent should be a time for personal reflection on where we stand as Christians in accepting the Gospel challenges in thought, word and deed. It is also a time to assess our relationships with our family, friends, working colleagues and other people we come in contact with, especially those of our parish. We should examine whether we are able to give any positive contribution to other people's lives and to eradicate the abuses which are part of our society. Lent reminds us that we have to take up the fight each day against the evil within us and around us, and never give up. Jesus has given the assurance that the Holy Spirit is with us, empowering us so that final victory will be ours through Jesus Christ.

Happy Sunday!

Lent - Our Mountain Climbing towards Easter has begun!

Last Wednesday we began our journey to Easter with Ash Wednesday.

When we return to our open churches next weekend, the church will have 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 diocese has produced an on-line special issue of the diocesan newsletter to share some resources that we might find helpful in our Easter preparation – at the following link: <https://www.usccb.org/prayer-and-worship/liturgical-year-and-calendar/lent>



The **Share Love, Share Lent** campaign is inspired by Pope Francis' encyclical, *Fratelli Tutti*. In his recent encyclical, Pope Francis calls upon us to live the love that would make us “one great family, where all of us can feel at home”; a love that “exudes compassion and dignity.” (*Fratelli Tutti*, 62.)

With the entire human family suffering from COVID-19, the *Share Lent* campaign invites us to **share love** and **express solidarity** with our sisters and brothers in the Global South, **whose vulnerabilities are being exacerbated** by the pandemic. Remembering the inherent dignity of all human beings, let us heed the Pope's reminder that “justice and solidarity, are not achieved once and for all; they have to be realized each day.” (*Fratelli Tutti*, 11.) You can find the full text of the Pope's encyclical at:

http://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/encyclicals/documents/papa-francesco_20201003_enciclica-fratelli-tutti.html

Follow the Share Lent campaign on-line at: <https://www.devp.org/en/campaign/sharelove>

Saturday, February 20, 2021 Meet our partners activity!

Our first web event for Lent! To mark the **World Day for Social Justice**, participate in a conversation between the Most Rev. Pierre Goudreault, Bishop of Ste-Anne-de-la-Pocatière, Que. and member of our national council executive committee; Fr. John Patrick Ngoyi, director of the Commission of Justice, Development and Peace (JDPC), a long-time partner of Development and Peace in Nigeria; and Gabrielle Dupuis, a young-adult member of Development and Peace and anglophone diocesan council chair for Ottawa-Cornwall. Janelle Delorme, animator for Manitoba and Thunder Bay will anchor the webinar, which will start at **1 p.m. Eastern time**.

To join the conversation, register at: https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZUofuuuqDMqGtM_SlShn5O_oUphPNsEanzt