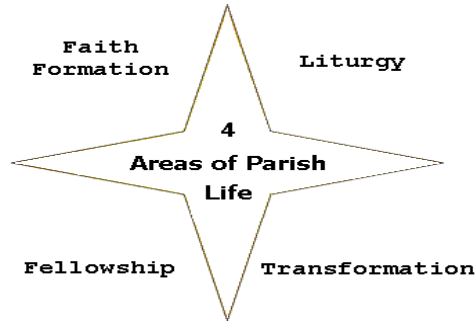




Our Lady of Victory

490 Charles Street
Gatineau, Québec
J8L 2K5



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

3rd SUNDAY OF ADVENT

DECEMBER 16 - 17, 2017

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



MASSES

Tuesday	Dec. 19th	OLV @ 7:00 pm	PENITENTIAL SERVICE
Thursday	Dec. 21st	OLV @ 10:00 am	NO MASS
Saturday	Dec. 23rd	St. Malachy @ 7:00 pm	Carl Price by Monique & Ken Simpson
Christmas Eve	Dec. 24 th	OLV @ 7:00 pm	All Parishioners of OLV & St. Malachy
Christmas Eve	Dec. 24 th	St. Malachy @ 9:00 pm	All Parishioners of St. Malachy & OLV
Christmas Day	Dec. 25th	OLV @ 9:00 am	All Parishioners of OLV & St. Malachy
Saturday	Dec. 30th	St. Malachy @ 7:00 pm	Donald McDonough by Greg & Patricia Lavell
Sunday	Dec. 31st	OLV @ 9:00 am	All Parishioners of OLV & St. Malachy
New Year's Day	Jan. 1st	OLV @ 9:00 am	All Parishioners of OLV & St. Malachy

WEEKLY RECEIPTS

OLV

ST. MALACHY

December 9 - 10, 2017 - Sunday Collection

\$422.00

\$222.00

OUR LADY of VICTORY & ST. MALACHY NEWS

Prayers and Sympathy: Please pray for the repose of the souls of **Manny Perras**, brother-in-law of Wilbert Somers and **Loretta Hodgson**, Bill Raby's sister. Our prayers and sympathies are with their families and friends at this time of loss.

OLV Sunday Collection Envelopes: We have found out recently that our printing supplier has closed their business. On Monday, December 11th we ordered from a different supplier and these envelopes will be in the first week of January 2018.

OLV - Mark These Dates on Your Calendar for 2018: More information to follow later.

- April 10th - **Card Party** in church hall
- May 18th - **Spring Supper & Balloon Auction**
- June 2nd - **Garage Sale** in church hall
- Sept 15th - **Family Gathering & Musical Afternoon**

Volunteer Appreciation and 75th Anniversary: More to come.

THE BISHOP'S MONTHLY INTENTIONS FOR DECEMBER 2017

"Let us pray for the older persons in our families and our communities whose experience and wisdom are inspiring models to our society where they contribute, in their own way, to the transmission of faith and the education of new generations."

Social Reflection: We are aware that life expectancy has significantly increased in our society. In Quebec, more than one in six persons belongs today to the 65+ category. The number of 100 year old people is also higher since the last decade. We may say that population aging is effective in Quebec and will go on as the large cohorts from the 50s and the 60s will get old. Older people often choose to live in their home as long as possible provided they get the minimal services required to do so. Are our governments on the lookout? Many services are also provided by close caregivers of all kinds and are a major resource today.

An Answer for Our Faith: In our families, the youngest are often attracted by older people and like to be in their company. The eyes of young children reflect meaningfully their high esteem for their grand-parents. "Grandparents are the pillars of the family, those who bear a story, your story. And they are often pleased to talk about it. Some grandparents have experienced painful times. They may then talk about war memories or major historical moments." Aren't they also wise persons who can share their faith with younger generations? What is the grandparents' role, according to you? It would be interesting also to gather grandparents to share their perception of their role in the transmission of faith and the education of younger generations. Such an exercise would be an interesting activity to implement in our Christian communities.

Question we ask ourselves: I encourage an attendant or a worker in a health department in emphasizing the good work I witness. I pay a visit to an older person who is living alone in this Christmas period and I encourage grandchildren to visit their grandparents.

Fr. Albanus' Reflections on the Sunday Liturgy The Joy and the Voice

Third Sunday of Advent is called **Gaudete Sunday** because the Mass for today in its original Latin text begins with the opening antiphon: '**Gaudete in Domino semper**'- Rejoice in the Lord always. The Prophet Isaiah in the **first reading** announces happiness for all the broken-hearted. He encourages the Jewish exiles returning from Babylon to rejoice because their God, Yahweh, is their strong Guide, Provider and Protection.

The Prophet exclaims: *I will greatly rejoice in the Lord, my soul shall exult in my God.* In the responsorial Psalm, Mary rejoices in the great blessing given to her: *My soul magnifies the Lord and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior* (Lk. 1:46ff). St. Paul too, in the **second reading** echoes the same theme of joy. He advises the Thessalonians to 'rejoice always' by leading blameless, holy and thankful lives guided by the Holy Spirit. Why? Because the second coming of Christ is near and He is faithful in His promise to reward them.

The **Gospel** speaks about John the Baptist. It tells us that John came to bear witness to Jesus as the Light of the world. John wants all the Jews to rejoice because the long-expected Messiah, the Light, will remove the darkness of sin from the world. The humility of the Baptist stands out in this Gospel. He tells the priests and Levites who challenge him that he is not the Messiah. John calls himself the 'voice'. A voice is a combination of sounds that convey a message. A voice disappears once the message is passed and only the message remains. The sincerity and commitment of John are evident in his devotion to be just a voice witnessing to the coming of the Light into the world, and then, once his mission is accomplished, he disappears to avoid drawing the people to himself rather than to the Light. He expresses the same sentiment when he says *'He must grow greater, I must grow less'* (Jn. 3:30). His work is to prepare the people for the Messiah. We rejoice too because, like John, we are chosen to be bear witness to Christ, the Light of the world. Again, how can we recognize the 'voice' showing us the Light among so many voices? Are we ready to open our hearts and minds when we hear the 'voice' or are we going to close them or allow them to be blinded as some did despite the voice of John the Baptist?

As brothers and sisters of Christ and members of His Church, our mission is to reflect Christ's light to others as the moon reflects the light of the sun. We should be the 'voice' proclaiming Christ to others. Do we at times have the tendency to proclaim ourselves rather than proclaim Christ? During this Advent, it is pertinent that we reflect Christ's sharing love and unconditional forgiveness. In communities, there are people who are in darkness and poverty; those who lack the real freedom because of their evil addictions and bad choices. We also have those who are deafened and blinded by the cheap attractions of the world. Others are lonely, unwanted, rejected and marginalized. Like John we are called to bring the true Light of Christ to illumine the lives of these people during this Advent season. They need our sharing love, overflowing mercy, unconditional forgiveness and humble service. But we can only do this by repenting of our sins and renewing our lives, by engaging ourselves daily in prayers and frequenting the sacrament of reconciliation and participating in the Eucharist and feeding on the Word of God and performing works of mercy. **Happy Sunday!**

COMMUNITY NEWS

Heart & Soul Christmas Concert: Thursday, December 21st at 7:30 pm at OLV.

Free Christmas Get Together: The 10th annual "À Noël on se rassemble - At Christmas We Get Together" celebration will once again be held on Christmas Day. This traditional supper is free and is open to all. Everyone is welcome - families who cannot afford a Christmas, those individuals who find themselves alone, perhaps grieving over a loss, or those individuals simply wishing to join in on a Christmas celebration. Again this year, the event will be held at the ***Bowling Alley situated at 210 Sauvé Street starting at 5:00 pm.*** In addition to a traditional Christmas supper (buffet style), the evening will be filled with entertainment, games and gifts. Last year, 130 people participated in this celebration, even Santa Claus who surprised everyone.

The "At Christmas We Get Together" dinner has become a community project to which many citizens contribute: donations, making gifts, one family provides desserts, another prepares the meal, a school class makes the centerpieces, and much more. "I am moved every year by so much help and involvement from many people and organizations, without them this dinner would not be so remarkable" says the founder and organizer of the dinner, Émilie Barrette.

For those who have no transportation, free transportation to the site will be available upon request. More than one third of last year's participants benefited from this service. Those wishing to participate in the dinner simply have to confirm their presence by calling 819-775-1735.