



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

**SECOND SUNDAY
OF LENT**

FEBRUARY 24 - 25, 2018

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

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
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Office Hours **Monday** - 9:00 am - 12:00 pm
Wednesday - 9:00 am - 11:00 am
Thursday - 1:00 pm - 4:00 pm
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MASSES

Thursday	Mar. 1 st	OLV @ 10:00 am	James, Margaret & Tom Dorion by The Estate
Saturday	Mar. 3 rd	St. Malachy @ 7:00 pm	Father Fortin & Bernadette by Ginny Roos
Sunday	Mar. 4 th	OLV @ 9:00 am	Norah Renwick (5th ann) by Nicole Charbonneau Muriel Preston by Gail, Neil & Family Alma Miller by Family & Friends Evelyn Robitaille by Regis Lemieux Beatrice Bonin by Debbie Dorey Landry

WEEKLY RECEIPTS

OLV

ST. MALACHY

Feb. 17 - 18, 2018 - Sunday Collection

\$521.00

\$341.00



Building cultural and religious tolerance in Lebanon

During this second week of Share Lent, we focus on the organization Adyan, a **Development and Peace** partner that contributes to peace in the Middle East by fostering cultural and religious tolerance. Adyan offers a wide range of programs, including conferences, training sessions, and workshops on peace, reconciliation, and coexistence. In this part of the world, wounded by past and present wars, Adyan's work is essential and your support is indispensable to them. "At Adyan, we promote spiritual solidarity, which means integrating the other into my thoughts and prayers. I must integrate the suffering of others and understand it." - Nayla Tabbara, Director of the Institute of Citizenship and Diversity Management at Adyan.

Fr. Albanus' Reflections on the Sunday Liturgy

Lent: Suffering, Sacrifice and Glory

Today's readings speak of transformation and invite us all to cooperate with the grace of God, with the assistance of the Holy Spirit to transform our lives especially during this Lenten season. The first reading presents the story of encounter between God and Abraham. Abraham's life was transformed because of his trusting faith in God and his obedience to God's order to sacrifice the only son of his old age. He became the supreme model of Faith in God's promises and obedience to His Holy Will. God had promised that Abraham would become father of many nations. How could this be possible be if Isaac were to be a sacrifice? Abraham trusted that God was both faithful enough and powerful enough to keep His promise. The reward was the renewal of promise: he would be the father of great race; his progeny throughout the world would receive blessing of God. Not only would Abraham's descendants be blessed, but all the nations of the earth would be blessed in him. In the Divine sparing of Isaac, Israel was to learn that theirs was a God who was not appeased by human sacrifice but by the sacrifice of a contrite spirit and a humbled heart. There is a clear parallel in this story. Abraham and Isaac are a prototype of God the Father and His Son, Jesus. The difference is that while Isaac was spared at the last moment, Jesus had to die. Just as to sacrifice his only son did not make sense to Abraham, it made even less sense to the disciples of Jesus that God could allow their Lord and Master Jesus to be executed. This only became clearer after the Pentecost for the Apostles. Eternal salvation was brought about by the suffering, death and resurrection of Jesus.

There is also a parallel in this reading with the first reading. There is both the image of a Father's willingness to give up his son and the son's readiness to accept the father's will wholeheartedly. In this letter to the Roman, Paul assures us that it is by the perfect obedience to the will of His Father, expressed in His suffering and death, that Jesus was glorified and made our Heavenly intercessor. He affirms that He who gave His Son for us will give us all the things with His Son. We therefore should have confidence in God because it is Christ Jesus at the right hand of the Father who intercedes for us, and nothing can separate us from the love of Christ for us. St Paul says '*if God is for us, who is against us.*' God's love has no limit as He offered His Son to die for us. The incarnation and the crucifixion of His Son for us is our hope that God will give us His assistance we need to get to Heaven. This reading shows how the love of the Father is final and gratuitous and cannot be destroyed by the sins or infidelities of people. The Gospel is the story of transfiguration. The event was the opportunity for Jesus to consult His Heavenly Father and ascertain His plan for His Son's suffering, death and resurrection. Secondly, God was to make Jesus' chosen disciples aware of Jesus' divine glory so that they might discard their worldly ambitions and dreams of a conquering political Messiah and be strengthened in their time of trial.

On Mount Hermon, while praying, Jesus was transformed into a shining figure, figure of Heavenly glory. God the Father, Moses and Elijah approved the plan regarding Jesus' suffering, death and resurrection. God's words from the cloud "*This is my Son, the Beloved; listen to Him!*" which find parallel in Mk 1:11 (Baptism), and 15:39 (Calvary) summarize the meaning of Transfiguration, that on this mountain, God revealed Jesus as His Son – His Beloved – the One in whom He is always well pleased and the One to whom we must listen.

At Mass, the bread and wine we offer on the altar are transformed into the crucified and risen, living body and blood of Jesus. Like the Apostles at the transfiguration, each Holy Mass should be our source of heavenly strength against temptations and renewal especially during this Lent. The Holy Communion should be the source of our continuous 'transfiguration,' transforming minds and hearts so that we may do more good by humble and selfless service to others. Our sacraments have transforming effects on us. They make us sons and daughters of God. In moments of doubts and during our dark moments of despair and hopelessness, the thought of our transformation in Heaven will help us to reach out to God and listen to His consoling words, '*This is my beloved son or daughter.*' Through our Lenten sacrifices and acceptance of our daily crosses, we may grow closer to Jesus in His suffering, share in the carrying of His cross and finally share the glory of His final 'transformation,' His resurrection.

We need mountain-top experience in our lives. We share in that experience in our lives when we spend extra time in prayer during this Lent. Our fasting is important too and keeps us to store up spiritual energy which helps us have thoughts that are higher and nobler than our usual mundane thinking. It puts us closely in touch with God and makes us more willing to help the hungry. During this season, we need transformation in our lives so that we may seek reconciliation instead of revenge, love our enemies, pray for those who hate us, give to the needy without expecting a reward, refuse to judge others and make friends with those we don't naturally like, hold back on harsh words, let love rule, forgive those who hurt us or hate us. **Happy Sunday!**

Defibrillator Training OLV

A Defibrillator was recently installed in the church basement on the wall between both bathrooms. The Defibrillator was purchased in recognition of a generous donation from the Estate of Buddy Ryan. While it is prudent to have such a medical device in the church, it is essential that we have individuals trained on how to use it. Therefore, the Parish is offering free training on the use of the equipment. Volunteers may register with the Office Administrator at 819-986-3763.

OUR LADY of VICTORY & ST. MALACHY NEWS

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**

Still collecting: *Used stamps, egg cartons and food for our local food bank.*

Community News

Celebrate St. Patrick with The Lyon Street Celtic Band: St. Andrews United Church is pleased to bring back, by popular demand, the Lyon Street Celtic Band. The concert will be held on **Saturday March 10th at 7:00 pm**. Tickets are \$10 in advance and \$15 at the door – free for children 12 and under. Refreshments will be served - also, a chance to win a door prize. **For tickets see Greg Guest** or e-mail at: st.andrews.buckingham@gmail.com. Money raised from this concert will benefit St. Andrew's roof repairs.

Lenten Theatre Presentation in Ottawa: During this period of Lent, 9th Hour Theatre Company is hoping that your church will help us to spread the optimism and good news of the Gospel by passing on information to your church community about our upcoming production of the beloved musical **Godspell**. It is being produced at Centrepointe Theatre from March 8 to March 17. The message of **Godspell** is literally taken from the biblical parables found in Matthew and Mark and is, of course, family friendly. Our updated interpretation lovingly presents these parables through energetic music, song, and movement that celebrate Christ's resurrection. Find out more about the play at <http://www.9th-hour.ca/the-stories/the-2018-season/godspell/>

We appreciate your consideration in sharing our good news with your community. Thank you. David Plouffe [\(613\) 836-8815](tel:6138368815) Associate Producer, 9th Hour Theatre Company.