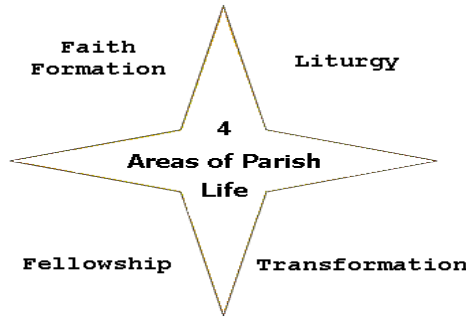




**Our Lady of Victory**  
 490 Charles Street  
 Gatineau, Québec  
 J8L 2K5



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

**FIFTH SUNDAY  
 OF EASTER**

**APRIL 28-29, 2018**

**Sunday 9:00 AM**

**Celebration of the Eucharist**

**Saturday 7:00 PM**

**Pastor** Father Albanus Ogowuihe  
**Rectory** 490 Charles Street, Gatineau, Québec, J8L 2K5  
**Secretary** Monique Simpson  
**Email** [olv@videotron.ca](mailto: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](http://www.stmalachyolv.com)



180, boul. Mont-Bleu  
 Gatineau (QC) J8Z 3J5  
[www.diocesegatineau.org](http://www.diocesegatineau.org)

**MASSES**

Thursday	May 3 <sup>rd</sup>	OLV @ 10:00 am	<b>Mary Doherty</b> by Family & Friends <b>Evelyn Robitaille</b> by Family & Friends
Saturday	May 5 <sup>th</sup>	St. Malachy @ 7:00 pm	<b>Nora Somers</b> by Suzette Thompson & Family
Sunday	May 6 <sup>th</sup>	OLV @ 9:00 am	<b>Mary Doherty (1<sup>st</sup> ann)</b> by Susan & Family <b>Rose Weatherdon</b> by The Family <b>Joe Allen (10<sup>th</sup> ann)</b> by Lucille, Susan & Linda <b>Mass of Thanksgiving</b> by a Parishioner <b>Special Intention</b> by a Parishioner

<b>WEEKLY RECEIPTS</b>	<b>OLV</b>	<b>ST. MALACHY</b>
April 21 - April 22 - Sunday Collection	\$520.00	\$316.00
April 21 - April 22 - Fuel	414.00	138.00
April 18 - Card Party	1,300.00	

**Monthly Prayer Intentions of Our Bishop - April 2018**

**'For all volunteers who devote themselves to our society and our Church, in the manner of Jesus that they flourish in their invaluable service to mankind and in solidarity with community organizations. We praise you Lord!'**

**Questions I ask:** "Come, to the waters, without money and without cost," Isaiah 55. Am I a volunteer? If not, what prevents me from being one? I inquire about the need for volunteers in my Church.

## Fr. Albanus' Reflections on the Sunday Liturgy

### Abiding in Christ

Today, the 5th Sunday of Easter, our readings emphasize the need for Christians to abide in Christ as a condition for producing fruits of kindness, mercy, charity and holiness.

The **first reading** testifies to the abundance of spiritual fruits yielded by the apostles because of their close bond with the risen Lord. It describes the aftermath of His transformation from an enemy of the early Christian movement to a God-chosen instrument bringing the Gospel to non-Jews. It tells us how the Lord pruned the former Pharisee, Saul of Tarsus, a fanatic who had persecuted the Church, to produce a fruit-bearing branch called Paul, the zealous Apostle to the Gentiles, entirely dedicated to the proclamation of the Gospel. Even Paul's forced return to Tarsus for a brief period is an example of God's pruning of the vine to bring forth a greater harvest, namely, the mission to the Gentiles. St. John in the **second reading** explains that only if we remain united to Christ by putting our Faith in Him and drawing our spiritual strength from Him, will we be able to obey God's commandments, especially the commandment of love. The Gospel is taken from the Last Supper discourse. Jesus uses His favorite image of the vine and branches to help His disciples understand the closeness of their relationship with Him and the necessity of their maintaining it.

There are many passages in the Old Testament that refer to Israel as the vine (Ps 80:8-16, Is5:1-7, Jer2:21, Ez.15:1-8, 17:5-10, 19:10-14, and Hos.10:1). Since the original chosen people have become a degenerate vine producing wild and bitter grapes, Jesus makes the unique claim that He is the true and ideal Vine and His disciples are the living and fruit-producing branches and His Heavenly Father is the Vine-grower, He (Christ) is the Vine, His disciples are branches and those who do not abide in Him are useless branches, suitable only to be cut away and thrown into the fire. Jesus is the true Vine, because the old vine, the original chosen people, was succeeded by the new Vine, the Church, the Mystical Body whose Head is Christ (cf. 1 Cor.3:9). To be fruitful, one must be joined to the new, true Vine, Christ. It is living the life of Christ, the life of grace, which gives the believer the nourishment which enables him or her to yield the fruits of eternal life. This image of the Vine also helps us to understand the unity of the Church. St. Paul explains that we are Christ's Mystical Body in which all the members are intimately united with the Head and united to one another (1 Cor. 12:12-26; Rom 12:4-5; Eph 4: 15-16).

Pruning is mentioned in the **Gospel** today. Pruning is an essential part of growing fruit-producing branches. Dead branches are cut away to save the vine. Other branches are pruned so that they would bear more grapes than leaves in the next growing season. Here, John describes God as the Vine-grower who has planted a vine, Jesus. He removes every branch that bears no fruit and prunes the other branches, so they may bear more fruits. Jesus tells His apostles that they have already been pruned by the words He has spoken to them. We need to abide in Jesus as a condition for fertility. Through His word, God brings to light our limitations, our defects, all that keeps us from producing fruits of love. Jesus tells us that we cannot bear fruit unless we abide in Him just as He abides in us. Abiding in Christ means that God has to be inside us and we have to be inside God. We abide in Christ by drawing near to God and by experiencing His being near to us; that is, by living every moment as He has commanded us to do, with radiant presence of Christ all around us.

Fruit-bearing in Christian life is not of our own independent and unaided making. The Holy Spirit who dwells within us trims and prunes us, teaching us Himself and reminding us of what Jesus taught. We also need to prune ourselves, cutting out of our lives everything that is contrary to the Spirit of Jesus and renewing our commitment to the Christian ideals in our lives every day is the first type of self-pruning expected of us. We also prune ourselves by practicing self-control over our evil inclinations, sinful addictions and aberrations. We have to prune ourselves of our selfish and prejudicial tendencies toward people who are different and treat others with charity and openness. Jesus prunes, purifies and strengthens us by allowing us to face pain and suffering, contradictions and difficulties with courage of our Christian conviction. We unite ourselves to Christ, the Vine, by personal and liturgical prayers, by frequenting the sacraments, especially the Holy Eucharist and Reconciliation; through daily and meditative reading of the Scripture. Selfless, loving acts of kindness and mercy and forgiveness enable us to abide in Jesus, the true Vine, as fruit-bearing branches. **Happy Sunday!**

## OUR LADY of VICTORY & ST. MALACHY NEWS

**Mass Changes:** There will be **NO** masses on Thursday May 10 & May 17 as Father will be away. On Saturday, May 12 and Sunday, May 13 Father Michael will preside both mass celebrations.

**Special Blessing:** Last Sunday, René and Marilyn Charron, were given a special blessing by Father Albanus for their 60<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary. Congratulations.

**Father has requested that if anybody who has a special event, to advise the office and steps will be taken to fulfill your request.**

**OLV Garage Sale:** Scheduled for Saturday, **June 2** from 9 am to 3 pm. Contact Monique at 819-986-3763 for drop off. REMEMBER NO FURNITURE, CLOTHES, SHOES or LARGE OBJECTS. *Will accept pocket books, dishes, toys, records, and any other small items you wish to donate.* **All monies raised goes to the upkeep of our church.**

**OLV Family Gathering & Musical Afternoon:** Please mark Saturday, **September 8** on your calendar. More information will be coming shortly for this event.

**Heart and Soul Singers Support OLV:** The concert will be held on Thursday, **May 3<sup>rd</sup>** at 7:30 pm. ***Ticket prices are \$10.00 or 2 for \$15.00. Children under 13 are free.***

**OLV Spring Supper and Balloon Auction, May 18th - We Need your Support:** This year's menu for the supper will be spaghetti, meat sauce, buns, salad and homemade desserts followed by our popular Balloon Auction. This is a change from past spring suppers, as the event will be catered. The new reality is that we no longer have the resources available to stage an event with a more elaborate menu. While the method has changed, we still need to have fundraisers to offset our operational costs and therefore, we need your support.

As per usual, cocktails will be served at 4:30 pm with supper at 6:00 pm. The price of tickets is \$20.00 for Adults, \$5.00 for Children aged 6 to 12 and free for Children under 6 years of age. **Tickets will go on sale April 28<sup>th</sup>.**

As in past years, we are asking parishioners to donate items for the auction, preferably gift certificates from local businesses, and gift baskets of homemade items or plant arrangements. Donations should be received no later than May 15<sup>th</sup>.

## COMMUNITY NEWS

**Relay for Life:** The walk for Cancer will be held on Friday, June 8 under the Brady Bridge. Anybody wishing to donate may give your donations to me and I will give it the event. All cheques must be made to *CANADIAN CANCER SOCIETY* and receipts will be issued in early 2019. (Thanks Monique)

### \*\*\*\*\*Our Lady of Victory Financial Statement 2017\*\*\*\*\*

As an insert in today's bulletin, you will find a copy of the 2017 financial statement. This is a good news report with a year-end surplus of \$9,275. There are several reasons for this surplus, as follows:

- Excellent financial support on the part of our parishioners;
- A generous legacy donation of \$10,000 from the Estate of Eric (Buddy) Ryan;
- The conversion from heating oil to natural gas; and
- The prudent management of expenses on the part of the Wardens, the Treasurer and the Parish Secretary.

***If you have any questions regarding this report, Nancy Lanthier and Bill Cameron will be available to take your questions at the monthly coffee and fellowship scheduled for Sunday, May 6th after the 9:00 am mass celebration.***