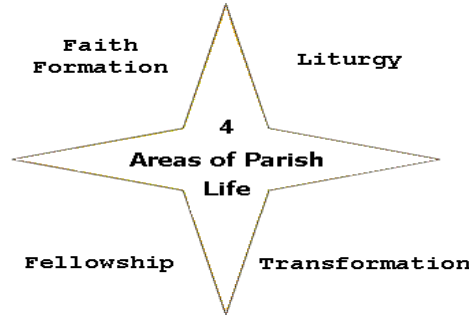




Our Lady of Victory
490 Charles Street
Gatineau, Québec
J8L 2K5



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

**3rd SUNDAY OF ADVENT
DECEMBER 15-16, 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
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



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Gatineau (QC) J8Z 3J5
www.diocesegatineau.org

MASSES

Tuesday	Dec. 18 th	OLV @ 7:00 pm	Penitential Service
Thursday	Dec. 20 th	OLV @ 10:00 am	James, Margaret & Tom Dorion by The Estate
Friday	Dec. 21 st	OLV @ 11:00 am	<i>Funeral Mass for Tom Laframboise</i>
Saturday	Dec. 22 nd	St. Malachy @ 7:00 pm	Nora Somers by Alvina Haley Kathleen Roos (6 th ann) by Ginny Roos
Sunday	Dec. 23 rd	OLV @ 9:00 am	Christopher Farnand (6 th ann) by The Family

WEEKLY RECEIPTS	OLV	ST. MALACHY
Dec. 8 - 9, 2018 - Sunday Collection	\$569.00	\$232.00
Dec. 8 - 9, 2018 - Donation		200.00

Christmas and New Year's Mass Schedule:

Saturday	Dec. 22 nd	7:00 pm	St. Malachy (Father Albanus)
Sunday	Dec. 23 rd	9:00 am	OLV (Father Albanus)
Monday	Dec. 24 th	7:00 pm	OLV (Father Bill)
		9:00 pm	St. Malachy (Father Bill)
Tuesday	Dec. 25 th	9:00 am	OLV (Father Bill)
Saturday	Dec. 29 th	7:00 pm	St. Malachy (Father Dan Hawkins)
Sunday	Dec. 30 th	9:00 am	OLV (Father Dan Hawkins)
Monday	Dec. 31 st		NO MASS
Tuesday	Jan. 1 st	9:00 am	OLV (Father Dan Hawkins)

NO THURSDAY MORNING MASSES DURING FATHER ALBANUS' ABSENCE

Monthly Prayer Intentions of Our Bishop December, 2018

Question I ask myself: Today is the Gaudete Sunday. Do I know a caregiver to whom I can offer some joy and support?

Fr. Albanus' Reflections on the Sunday Liturgy

Joy beyond worry, Light beyond darkness, Hope beyond despair!

Today, the third Sunday of Advent is called **Gaudete** Sunday. The introductory antiphon of today's Liturgy is, "**Gaudete in Domino semper**" (*Rejoice in the Lord always*) and the rose candle is lighted as an expression of our joy as the coming of Jesus, our savior, is near. The Liturgy bids us to be happy rather than be locked into an environment of despair and worry. The readings of this Sunday echo this sentiment of joy we are called to have. The Prophet Zephaniah, in the first reading, calls through the slums of a defeated Jerusalem, for a grand party to celebrate the real fortune of the people. He encourages Jerusalem and Israel to shout out for the joy of expecting her deliverance from the Lord. The responsorial psalm (Is 12:6) instructs us to shout and sing for joy for "*great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel.*" St Paul, from the prison, writes to cheer others up with an echo of joy: '*rejoice in the Lord....*' In the Gospel, John the Baptist – a wilderness voice in occupied territory – announces Good News to his country people and us.

These people all shared one belief: that the Lord was very near. God's nearness generated in them radical joy that no one could steal from them. Their joy in the nearness of God gave them a vision to see the far side of disaster and so moved them to draw others into that sense of joy. The picture of John the Baptist as a man who moves into deep joy is something a bit surprising. Why? John is usually seen as an austere, lonesome figure, with a weird wardrobe and diet; a man who rants and raves at anyone. But in the passage today, John was a magnetic character who intrigued people to seek him out and follow him. In his person, people could catch something of God's way. Therefore people ask him: "What must we do? In no uncertain terms, John explains the secret of Christian joy as our wholehearted commitment to God's way by doing His will. Happiness, according to him, comes from doing our duties faithfully, doing good for others and sharing our blessing with others. He preaches repentance: a change in the purpose and direction of our lives.

John challenges people's generosity and sense of fairness so that others may have reason to rejoice. We ought to give bread to the hungry and clothes to those who have none. John has answers for each group of persons. The tax collectors have to be just and keep to the going rate without overtaxing people to enrich themselves. The soldiers should not use their position as a weapon for their own reward but have to be content with their pay and stop extorting the poor and the weak. John's life and words make a great impression on the people that they think he might be the Christ. He does not claim to know *who* the Messiah is; all he knows is that *he* is not. That role is for someone else, one greater and more powerful than him.

Both John and Paul were executed. However, their shared radical sense of God's nearness was a power in them through their times of horror and difficulty, through the opposition determined to destroy them. Their trust and belief in God's nearness encouraged them beyond the reality of imprisonment and execution. During this Advent, we need such a power, a power of hope in God's abiding presence and nearness to carry out through difficult times, a power that prods us on when we face the reality of our weakness and limitation. Belief in the abiding presence of God who cares gives us a deep sense of joy in the midst of our stops and starts. That presence of God always challenges our generosity and calls on our sense of justice. It enables us to continue living even when our 'expectation' (Christmas) is yet to come. Happy Sunday!



Sign the Action Card. Spread the word!

Most of us living in Canada today can only imagine what it would be like to be forced to leave our homes. Yet, many of us have our own histories of migration, our own journeys. Who welcomed us or our ancestors? Who was it who encountered us on our own journey of migration? When Pope Francis launched the Share the Journey campaign in 2017, he invited us to open our hearts to hope and to spread a culture of encounter. But how do we do this? Where do we start? Jesus said, "I was a stranger and you welcomed me" (Mt 25:35). In saying this, he invited us to welcome migrants and to share their journey.

Development and Peace – Caritas Canada is proposing several ways to take action, one of which is to Sign the Action Card and educate your family and friends on the root causes of forced migration. The Action Card is our main call to action, to send a clear message to the Canadian government that it must do more to tackle the root causes of forced migration. We ask parishioners to Sign the Action Card which is distributed in our parishes this weekend. Or, you can sign the card online at: <https://www.devp.org/en/education/fall2018/action>

OUR LADY of VICTORY & ST. MALACHY NEWS

Prayers & Sympathy: Our thoughts and prayers are with Isabel and her family during this great time of loss. Let us pray for the repose of the soul of Tom Laframboise.

Penitential Service: Will be held on Tuesday, Dec. 18th at OLV at 7:00 pm.

Vacation: Father Albanus will be leaving on Dec. 27 and returning Jan. 29.

Request: Do you have any spare towels, face cloths, bed linen and blankets (for double bed) you would like to give? Please contact Monique to arrange drop-off.

COMMUNITY NEWS

Just Equipping - the organization that rents office space in the OLV Rectory, where your donation of clothes, suitcases and other items have gone. For parishioners' information, Just Equipping is a Canadian Charity committed to playing a crucial role in the-integration of offenders, the rebuilding of communities, the comfort of victims and the future of corrections. Just Equipping has projects in a number of African countries. The following is E's story.



E has just finished a 21-year sentence in a Rwandan prison following the 1994 genocide. During that time, he lost contact with his family, indeed with the entire outside world. When our chaplaincy team began speaking of Restorative Justice several years ago, in respect and prayer, he wrote a letter to the victim-survivor of his crimes. When he asked forgiveness for what he had done, she agreed to come and meet with him in prison. They met face to face along with the chaplains, listened to each other, heard the truth, and looked at ways of repairing the incredible harm done. He had killed her brother and all their children and thrown them in the lake. She asked questions about the tragedy. He answered in honesty and humility. She offered her forgiveness and they parted in peace. Now, several years later, he has been released. Our team was able to accompany him out through the prison gate and provide him with a suitcase, his first new clothes in decades and bus money. He is heading back to his small mountain community assured that he will be accepted by the survivor's family, and that he will not have to fear retribution.