

Malachi Matters

The ministries at St. Malachi that matter
to the faithful and to our neighbors



Summer 2025

CC BY 4.0

Oh, What a Night!

Kay Vine, former Malachi Center Board Member

(and part of the original work crew that transformed the old trucking warehouse into Malachi Center)

On Tuesday, April 29, Malachi Center filled its house with smiles, good energy, and good wishes.

In part, the Annual Meeting and Volunteer Appreciation Reception was an early celebration of the 40th Anniversary of founding in 1986. But more: recognizing the "village" that has and continues to support its ministry in the St. Malachi neighborhood. A packed room of individuals, family groups, and corporate organizations were recognized for their many efforts to make this mission of mercy and care continue to support its neighbors.

Opening prayer and welcomes were offered by Fr. Michael Gurnick (St. Malachi Administrator), Nate Cross (Director), and Sarah Partington (Board President). Highlights of current efforts were then shared.

One young man recently earned his Eagle Scout badge by having the Center's kitchen renovated with paint, new flooring, and a ceiling. His impassioned pleas garnered most of the necessary supplies donated! Many families, churches, and organizations have worked to make the Christmas celebration a brighter one for the Center's adopted families. The Center has also worked during the past year to extend its outreach by establishing new partnerships: it is now a proud partner with Sew 4 Service; Pearl's Closet is a safe place for teen girls to find prom items and other clothing; laundry availability is now possible for those with no access to washers and dryers.

St. Malachi members recognized for their support and service include: Peggy Cooney, Cathy Graham, Nancy Saegel, Jeanette Shemo, Henry and Ann Speier, Peter Toomey, and Kay Vine.

Details about the Center's official 40th Anniversary event (to be held in September 2025) will be announced in the coming weeks.



Contact Us

School Building # 200
Washington Ave.
Cleveland OH 44113
on W. 25th at Detroit

Newsletter Editor:
Newsletter@StMalachi.org

Catechetical Leader:
Stephanie.P@StMalachi.org

Bulletin:
bit.ly/StMalachiBulletin
bit.ly/StMalachiBulletinInserts



Office@StMalachi.org
216-861-5343

Learn much more about the Ministries at StMalachi.org



Keeping Vigil

Kay Vine, Liturgy Commission Member

Each year as the season of Lent and Holy Week (with its many services of ritual and prayer) come to a close, Catholic congregations are called to further renewal and change. On Holy Saturday/Easter Vigil, the nighttime liturgy begins with a lighting of new fire. A Paschal Candle is prepared, blessed, and lighted with it. Then, the candles held by the faithful are lighted by passing this new fire to each other.

In 2025, both St. Malachi and St. Patrick parishes joined in this ancient ritual at St. Malachi Church. Celebrating this liturgy with them were Cleveland Auxiliary Bishop Michael Woost, Fr. Michael Gurnick, and Deacons Bill Staab and Paul Kipfstuhl. Following the ritual of new fire were a gloriously sung Exultet intoning the joy of this event, Old Testament readings, a New Testament reading, and the Gospel. Bishop Woost then spoke with all gathered and during his homily noted that this was a



liturgy of change for all of us. Through new fire/light, newly blessed water, renewal of baptismal promises, reflecting on the scriptures shared, and choral, instrumental, and congregational music, we are in some way changed.

This is especially true for our newest members who were received into the Church during the Vigil liturgy. Two were baptized, confirmed, and received communion; two came into full communion as they had received Christian baptism earlier in their lives. Two others had been received in separate rites due to extraordinary circumstances.

This joyful and jubilant celebration ended with blessings, alleluias, and congratulatory applause.

Of course, there was great hospitality shown in the Hall after the liturgy: friendship and food carefully prepared and served. And, then, the dawn of Easter!

Thanks be to God. Alleluia!



Run/Walk? Possible Tornado? Wait a Week!

Sharon Lowe-Chapman, chair

The spirit of community, tradition, and resilience was vibrant at the 46th Annual St. Malachi Church Run/Walk Presented by Merriman Legal! While the official run day on March 15 was canceled due to inclement weather, the St. Malachi Run community united just a week later for a meaningful makeup run/walk along the Towpath Trail.

This year's event was held in memory of Francis McGarry, a beloved Malachi Run team member and a Cleveland Irish community pillar. Francis was the founder of the Bluestone Hibernians and Bluestone Charities, organizations dedicated to friendship, unity, and Christian charity. He was also honored as the 2025 Hibernian of the Year and made significant contributions as a writer and contributor to the Irish newsmagazine. Francis brought spirit, humor, and heart to everything he did – his presence was profoundly missed and fondly remembered.

The Towpath Trail course itself carried a special sense of nostalgia, echoing earlier Malachi Run routes that descended into the Flats, stirring memories for longtime participants of the Run's roots and history.

And while we've taken time to reflect, we're also eager to look ahead!

Mark your calendars – the 47th Annual St. Malachi Church Run/Walk will be held on Saturday, March 14, 2026, and we're planning some exciting new features. We'll be unveiling a brand-new course, rolling out fresh swag, and organizing a special kickoff run event in September to build community and momentum as race day approaches.

Stay tuned for more details – and thank you for helping keep the Malachi Run spirit alive for 46 years and counting!



In Loving Memory of Francis McGarry, Founder of Bluestone Hibernians 2025 Hibernian of the Year

*A voice of the Cleveland Irish community and friend
of the Malachi Run*

*"He reminded us that heritage thrives when people
come together – and he had a rare gift for connect-
ing others to do great work in the community."*

Remembering the Community of St. Malachi

Kay Vine, St. Malachi Archivist, Community President 1997

In April, the CSM would have celebrated its 50th anniversary as a Personal Parish of the Diocese of Cleveland. It was recognized in 1975 and throughout its history with St. Malachi, helped create and develop many outreach ministries (Monday Night Meal, Malachi Center, Malachi House, the Malachi Church Run ...) as well as a vibrant Sunday liturgy with exceptional music. It

was known for its development of its initial Steering Committee as the forerunner of a Parish Council – as well as lay leadership in pastoral care, work with the poor, and liturgical ministry.

Fr. Paul Hritz was its first pastor. In 2009, The Community was merged by Bishop Lennon with the Parish from which it sprung.

Holy Night Hike

A Spiritual Journey of Unity and Reflection

Sharon Lowe-Chapman

On Holy Thursday, April 17, 2025, St. Malachi parishioners led a powerful and moving Holy Night Hike, connecting seven inner-city parishes in Cleveland. This event, in collaboration with the Diocese of Cleveland, brought together the faithful for a night of prayer, reflection, and community.

The hike, which spanned several Cleveland neighborhoods, started at St. Malachi and included visits to St. Patrick, St. Emeric, St. Wendelin, St. Augustine, St. Andrew Kim, and St. John Cantius. As participants walked, they reflected on the significance of Holy Thursday, commemorating the Last Supper and the beginning of the Easter Triduum.

The Holy Night Hike was not only a spiritual journey

but also an opportunity to strengthen the bonds of unity within the Catholic community. Through shared moments of prayer and reflection, the event highlighted the importance of walking together in faith.

Among the participants were St. Malachi Church Run/Walk participants, returning to St. Malachi to join in this spiritual journey. Many of them expressed their deep appreciation for the event and promised to return next year to make the Hike a tradition.

We are grateful to everyone who participated, and we look forward to making this event an annual tradition for our parishes!



And a one, and a two, and ...

...off to the dance floor they went!!

Lou Keim

On February 15 St. Malachi hosted a Palentine's Day Dance of food, music, dance, and friends in their Hall in the school building.

A DJ offered a mixture of music with a dance for everyone's delight along with a photo booth for some extra fun. This event was coordinated with the skills of Cathy Graham. The decorated hall, the masterpiece of Jan Durkalski, began to look like a great big valentine. And the donated raffle baskets were coordinated with the skills of Cindi Condol!!!!

Donors of the creative, beautifully displayed raffle baskets were Suzanne Patton, Jeff/Jean Leitch, Cindi/Dan Condol, Nancy Saegel, Will Meany, Kay Vine, Bill/Cathy Graham, and Rick/Cathy Verrell. The happy raffle winners of these baskets went home eager to explore all that was just won!!!!

With the assistance of faithful volunteers, the dance – held for the first time in many years – proved to be a joyous time for all attendees! It was not intended to be a "fund"raiser but it surely was a "fun"raiser!!!!



Celebrating Our Neighbors and Community

June 21, 2025

Carrie Sekerak, Communications Commission

All are welcome: 3rd Annual "Songs for the Soul" Free Outdoor Concert on Saturday, June 21 from Noon to 3 PM in the Malachi Parking lot for an afternoon of live music by Motown performers "New Connections" (back for the 2nd year), community tables, church tours, food trucks, and – new this year – a lemonade stand!

Plan on staying for the 4:00 pm Vigil Mass for an encore of "spiritual food."

Sponsorships are available! Volunteer opportunities are available.

Contact Margaret Armstead at Margaret.A@StMalachi.org to join in the fun!

The Caring Continues

Fr. Michael Gurnick, Pastor

With sincere gratitude for all of our supporters, we at St. Malachi continue to move forward with the parishioners of St. Patrick Parish.

On April 27, St. Malachi Church officially became part of St. Patrick Parish. We remain open as a place for prayer and outreach to those who rely on our care. Designated as a special place for prayer and mission, our community will continue with all of our outreach ministries.

We are privileged to continue serving the hungry, homeless people, and others who struggle to meet essential daily needs. Our hope is to build upon the rich customs of both parishes as we enter this new chapter of our history – together.

Thank you for your continued support as we serve our neighbors here in The Old Angle on Cleveland's Near West Side.

Your generous support will allow us to provide services such as the Back Door Ministry, which serves more than 125 lunches Mondays through Fridays. We also are able to provide Monday Night Meals and Saturday Morning Breakfasts for more than 250 people each week. This is all because of you and others who take seriously the call to love one another, especially those in most need.

As St. Malachi partners with St. Patrick Parish, we will continue to serve our friends on Cleveland's Near West Side for years to come. Again, thank you for your friendship and support!

Save the Date!

Songs For The Soul: Celebrating our neighbors and community.

In the church yard, June 21, Noon to 3 PM. Mass at 4 PM.

Malachi Matters Summer 2025

When Annunciation Parish merged with St. Malachi in 1916, the Statue of St. Patrick was transferred, later rescued from the fire, and now stands over the shrine altar at the Vermont Street entrance.

Did You Know?

2459 Washington Ave.
Cleveland OH 44113

St. Malachi
Church

Celebrating More
Than 150 Years of
Faithful Service in
the Old Angle!



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