

Malachi Matters

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



Winter 2024

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Parish Collaboration Update

Plans for a Hopeful Future

Fr. Michael Gurnick, Administrator

Change comes with many challenges; it also invites us to embrace new opportunities as we prepare for tomorrow. In the Book of Jeremiah it is said, *"for I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future."* (29, 11).

With gratitude for our parishioners, friends, and generous benefactors, St. Malachi and St. Patrick reached an important milestone in our process of coming together.

Joined by Patricia Masterson and Stephanie Perez Williams, Co-Chairs of our Collaboration Steering Committee, I met with Bishop Edward Malesic on September 17 to propose plans for the collaboration initiative between St. Malachi and St. Patrick. This proposal reflects a year-long strategic planning process for St. Malachi to become an oratory of St. Patrick Parish. In this plan, St. Malachi Church will be a place designated for worship with a specific focus on ministries of charity and outreach. The oratory, continuing its long service to both the members and the neighborhood, will be a vital part of St. Patrick Parish.

This relationship – referred to as The Collaboration – between the two communities will allow us to share important resources such as pastoral staff and will invite opportunities for experiences of vibrant Worship, Faith Formation and, of course,

our many Outreach Ministries. While each church building will remain open, we'll need to determine the appropriate use of all other buildings on each campus.

Soon our next phase begins, known as the Implementation Phase, which includes forming teams to help carry out our plans. Parishioners have been invited to actively lead in this process as we implement the proposals made to the bishop. Some of these areas include: aligning our staff, adjusting our liturgical schedule and other prayer experiences, expanding opportunities for faith and spiritual development, and continuing our care for those in need, including our Back Door Ministry, Monday Night Meal, Saturday Morning Breakfast, and our existing partnership with Saint Vincent de Paul's Food Pantry and dinners on Tuesdays and Thursdays.

And we never do these things by ourselves. St. Patrick and St. Malachi are both blessed with a rich history of partnerships in our neighborhood. These include Stella Maris, Malachi Center, West Side Catholic Center, Malachi House, civic leaders, local churches, and other resource centers throughout our community.

We are grateful to you and all those who support us as we take the next exciting steps forward in hope – together!

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Learn much more about the Ministries at StMalachi.org

Keeping the Faith

Peter Toomey, Archive Committee (and Matters editor)

Many have heard me mumble "The Holy Spirit will pull that kinda stuff on ya."

Recently, two things –

- I attended the November men's inter-faith retreat. And was reminded that The Second Vatican Council (Nostra Aetate) instructed us "to reach out in respectful dialogue with the followers of the world's religions".
- I'm part of the (extremely) small but mighty team helping Archivist Kay Vine sort through tons of "old" St. Malachi items, seeking to identify, sort, and preserve the "valuable". Because our history helps us remember who we are.

I found this clipping – and you can tell why it resonated.

1943. Mere days after The Fire. In the "Tidings" newsletter which Lakewood United Methodist Church still publishes today.

During our Collaboration process, my prayer is that we will take to heart their prayer: "May you rise again to serve your people ... marking west-of-the-river as God's country." So be it.

Even though we are not of the same faith, we would like to pay tribute to old St. Malachi, the church that has stood for seventy-five years at Cleveland's gateway to the West Side and recently destroyed by fire. Along with historic St. John's, old Franklin and Circle Church you once ministered to the pioneers of the West Side, rich and poor alike. Just a stone's throw from your door step, stood the old Astor Trading Post—the first building built on the West bank of the Cuyahoga; only around the corner still stands the hall in which Abraham Lincoln made his first political speech in Cleveland. Thousands have knelt at your altar—but countless thousands more of every faith have been inspired by the sight of your glowing cross lifted high above and in defiance to the sweeping display of liquor posters draped about the surrounding vista. May you rise again to serve your people in this parish and in even greater glory erect another cross landmarking west-of-the river as God's country.

Rain or "No Shine"...

... did not keep the annual St. Malachi picnic from happening on a rainy Sunday.

Lou Keim

On September 29, all were gathered at the West Creek Reservation under the Keystone Pavilion. The day began with the Sunday Mass with Fr. Michael Gurnick surrounded by the talented voices of the choir.

Umbrellas were lined up as attendees socialized and ate a scrumptious potluck assortment of tasty foods. Hosting the event was the Hospitality Committee that provided the main course and drinks. In attendance were parishioners from St. Malachi and St. Patrick and the L'Arche Community all sitting together. Keeping in tune were the sounds of the rain drops but that was drowned out with the chattering and laughter of 100 folks.

It will take more than heavy rain to cancel a planned picnic with attendees spending time together worshiping and socializing!

It is an annual event!! Plan to mark your 2025 calendars!!



Monday Night Meal Has Returned!

John Hisel, Mike Pellegrino, Henry Speier, Denise Sutam – MNM Coordinators

Monday Night Meal has restarted by serving take-out meals, on hiatus from July 29 due to a shooting near the St. Malachi School Building. No guest or volunteer was injured in the incident. After discussing with volunteers, the leadership team suspended Monday Night Meal while safety protocols were being evaluated with a security consulting practice, including:

- Developing a St. Malachi/St. Patrick Code of Conduct. It was derived from similar codes at public facilities such as libraries, reviewed by volunteers, and will be posted in the halls of St. Patrick and St. Malachi.
- Providing security personnel. After extensive consideration and discussion of limited options, decided to provide unarmed security personnel with training in conflict de-escalation.
- Evaluating the infrastructure of the facility from a security perspective. Modifying strategic doors with a fob system, ensuring proper function of doors for emergency egress, expanding lighting and video surveillance. Some of these changes cannot be implemented without additional funds, so we're pursuing grants and outside funding.
- Evaluating people flow into the hall to better observe guest behaviors and diminish opportunities for altercations in the queue for meals.
- Providing volunteers with training in addressing periodic incidents of aggression and conflict. Volunteers and staff members of St. Malachi and St. Patrick received a two-hour conflict de-escalation training – similar to the 2100 Lakeside Shelter's, which operates without armed security personnel or police and relies on properly trained staff to de-escalate incidents that occur.

When deemed appropriate, the Monday Night Meal will return to dine-in service. Prior to the incident, the Meal averaged 140 diners each Monday and served about 200 meals including second servings.

Looking to the future, it is evident that MNM needs to augment its volunteer base to continue to operate and not burn out its committed volunteers. MNM offers a wide variety of opportunities:

- The main course is prepared by cooks who volunteer once a month. A meal caller contacts the volunteer and verifies the main course and recipe, published at <https://sites.google.com/view/st-malachi-mnm/home>. Meals are cooked at individual homes and brought to St. Malachi either on Sunday or Monday before the Meal. As multi-decade stalwarts retire or move away, we need new volunteers.
- Monday afternoon at 3 PM, volunteers set up the dining hall, reheat the main course, and prepare the side dishes and desserts. Others arrive at 4-4:30 PM to prepare place settings, plan the dinner service, and divvy assignments. Dinner service is from 5-6 PM with clean-up concluding before 7 PM. Volunteers may participate in any portion of this process, with additional support required at 3 or 6 PM.
- Generous businesses donate bakery goods. Donuts are used as dessert and bread is provided with meals. Additional volunteers are needed to pick up those goods and slice the bread on Sunday afternoons or Monday mornings.

All these procedural 'tasks' are accomplished by volunteers' willing hands. But most importantly, done with loving hearts. To replace folks retired or moved away, those tasks need more hearts that are open to caring for the lonely and oppressed – by feeding the hungry.

The need for Monday Night Meal is demonstrated not only in the numbers historically served, but also by the chance occurrence when previous guests ask when the Meal will return. To all those who are supporters of Monday Night Meal, we share with you the numerous expressions of gratitude and thanks that we receive from our guests each week.

Back Door Ministry

Throughout the cooling Autumn months, "Feed My Sheep" continues to be honored at the corner of West 25th and Detroit in the historic Old Angle.



Sponsor the St. Malachi Church Run/Walk

For Support, Visibility, and Community Impact

Sharon Lowe-Chapman, Chair

Join us in supporting the 47th Annual St. Malachi Church Run/Walk on March 15, 2025! This beloved event is more than a race – it's a powerful opportunity to contribute to St. Malachi Parish's outreach ministries, which provide essential services like food and assistance to those in need throughout Cleveland. This year, we're aiming for a record turnout of 4,000 participants, bringing together runners, walkers, families, and even pets for a day of community and impact. Your sponsoring the St. Malachi Church Run/Walk is a way to play a pivotal role in this effort while benefiting from valuable visibility in front of an engaged, supportive audience.

Sponsorships begin at \$500 and offer a variety of benefits, from logo placement on race day materials and website mentions to social media recognition and more. With the new peer-to-peer fundraising option this year, participants will also

be inviting friends and family to support their race efforts, amplifying the reach of your brand across runners' extended networks. This added level of engagement means that your sponsorship will be seen not only by the thousands present on race day but also by an even larger connected and engaged network across the entire community.

As a sponsor, you'll gain visibility among St. Malachi's extensive friend base and align your brand with a mission that resonates deeply with the Cleveland community. Don't miss the chance to connect with our audience while supporting a cause that truly changes lives. To learn more about sponsorship packages or to reserve your spot, visit StMalachiChurchRun.com. Together, let's make the 47th Annual St. Malachi Church Run/Walk a day to remember and a powerful step forward for those in need!

Ancestors, Remembered, Revered

Indigenous peoples revere their ancestors for their wisdom and rely upon them for guidance. We Catholics honor ours on All Souls Day. Throughout the month of November, St. Malachi erects shrines of images of those who have preceded us in faith. So that we may reflect on the things they taught us, the modeling they shared with us, the blessing they were to us. And remember.



In case "Did You Know" was "NO"...

The La Salle Club of St. Malachi Parish, established in 1894 and located in the school, developed some of Cleveland's greatest boxers. Under Fr. MacHale's direction, it progressed notably and remained the center of physical well-being for its members until 1921. Right here, in The Old Angle!

La Salle Club Out to Regain Boxing Glory

The old La Salle Club, which flourished for 30 years and developed some of Cleveland's greatest fighters, including Johnny Kilbane, Cal Delaney and many others, will be revived on the West Side if present plans mature.

An initial step toward the club's rebirth will be taken Tuesday at Banater Hall when Matchmaker Tommy Lowry presents an attractive amateur boxing card for the benefit of St. Malachi's Church.

Lowry and Hugh Lavelle, who was president of the La Salle Club when Kilbane won the featherweight championship from Abe Attell in 1912, have the backing of Father George Martin, pastor of St. Malachi's, and Father Thomas Sullivan, his assistant, in the effort to reorganize the club.

Lowry has developed a fine group of West Side Irish lads as amateur boxers, among them Pete McNamara, Jackie Keough and Jackie Biggins, all of whom will appear on Tuesday's card.



PETE McNAMARA

Litanies Of Remembrance

Kay Vine, longtime St. Malachi member/former Sacristan

Since All Souls' Day of 2001, St. Malachi has had a time for remembrance so that its members and others can have family, friends, and associates commemorated. Since then, the service has become a Mass of Remembrance at one of the weekend liturgies near All Souls/All Saints Days.

The Liturgy Commission has over time created a beautiful environment in the church during the Mass's Universal Prayer/Intercessions. When each name of that year's deceased is called, a family member or friend comes forward to light a candle symbolizing that person's eternal life. Afterwards, there is a shared meal or reception in the Hall. Small votive candles carrying the name of each person called are given to each family.

This is both a solemn and soothing service. It has also become a time for many to share their grieving and be assured of the wider faith community's support. Each of the hundreds of names that have been called represents part of St. Malachi's litany of life.

On November 2, the 2024 Mass of Remembrance was celebrated.



The La Salle Club of St. Malachi
Parish developed some of
Cleveland's greatest boxers,
1894-1921, in the school.

Did You Know?

2459 Washington Ave.
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St. Malachi
Parish

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



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