

Malachi Matters

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



Fall 2024

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St. Malachi and St. Patrick

Moving Forward Together

Fr. Michael Gurnick, Administrator

St. Malachi has a bright future as we become an oratory in partnership with St. Patrick Parish. With this new relationship, St. Malachi continues to minister to the community around W. 25th and Detroit as we celebrate the Eucharist and other sacraments, serve the poor, and contribute to life in our neighborhood.

For the past year, a joint team of leadership from St. Malachi and St. Patrick has led the parish in discovering exciting ways of working together as St. Malachi becomes an oratory, a place of worship with a specific mission.

What's the mission? Rooted in our Catholic faith, we serve the poor and hungry – just doing it differently.

What's different? While continuing our important mission, we're discovering ways of working with St. Patrick and other neighborhood partners as we move forward. This includes the sharing of staff and other parish organizations as well as combining some of our resources. We're also addressing the upgrading and right-sizing of our two campuses as we meet today's demands.

Together, St. Patrick and St. Malachi will continue to serve more than 60,000 meals each year. Both campuses will continue to host recovery programs and other ongoing opportunities to assist our

friends. Through the efforts of our local St. Vincent de Paul Society and Mother Teresa Ministry outreach, people in the area will continue to receive personal assistance with rent, utilities, and other essential services. These efforts, combined with the work of our area partners, including Malachi Center and Malachi House, will continue to serve as a beacon of light and hope for years to come!

But our friends, volunteers, and supporters all know that we don't – and can't – do this work alone. We rely on your generosity as we pull together and continue our mission.

With your help, we'll be able to address some of the challenges of our aging buildings, which house our outreach programs and provide a place to host important gatherings in a safe environment.

As we formally submit our Strategic Plan this month to Bishop Edward Malesic and await his reply, we continue to explore the life-giving ways that our two parish families will work together as we strengthen our presence and service on Cleveland's Near West Side. A future filled with hope awaits St. Malachi and St. Patrick as we move forward – together!

Be assured of our sincere gratitude and continued prayers for you and all those who support us.

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Learn much more about the Ministries at StMalachi.org

Summer Changes to St. Malachi and St. Patrick Staffing

Jeanette Shemo, St. Malachi Administrative Manager, will become the part-time accountant for both parishes. St. Malachi Pastoral Minister Stephanie Pritts will minister as Catechetical Leader, also for both parishes.

Scott Menningen, Administrative Manager at St. Patrick Parish, will retire October 15. To streamline staffing, Bob Knopf joined us as Administrative Manager for both campuses. Continuing our presence at West 25th, Frank Budziak joined as the St. Malachi Campus Coordinator to oversee the buildings, ministries, and staff.

As an introduction, we asked each to share their stories and what brought them to our faith community.

Bob Knopf

As the new Administrative Manager for both St. Pat and St. Malachi, I have been learning the ropes for the past six weeks from Jeanette. My wife Flaviana and I live in Maple Heights and attend Holy Rosary Church. I have two grown sons, and we currently have several of my wife's family members from the Philippines including four grandchildren 14 -21. As you can guess, this keeps me on my toes.

I'm excited to be on the staff and have felt welcomed by everyone as I learn the lay of the land in Ohio City. Actually "excited" is not the correct word – when I wake up in the morning, I feel ten feet tall.

I developed my passion for the Near West Side with my first job as the youth physical director at the West Side YMCA on Franklin. I love the people in our area and its various cultures.

I accepted this position to be the best that I can be. My business career includes General Electric, a banker, a teacher, a business owner, and the business manager for a non-profit working with abused kids.

I believe that I have been called to be part of the future of St. Malachi. I look forward to meeting more of you in the upcoming months. And if you see me around, please say hello and introduce yourself.

Many of you may be asking what are my plans. Initially my plan is very simple – just continue listening, observing, and learning..... learning before I draw any conclusions. God bless and thank you!



Frank Budziak

I am married to my wife of 40+ years Mary Lou and we have three grown children. We are currently parishioners at St. John Cantius Church in Cleveland. I was a Math teacher immediately after college and then worked in the computer/I.T. field for 30+ years.

I was very involved at St. Thomas More parish as both a volunteer and also on staff heading up the PSR program for three years and as a full-time pastoral associate for a brief period. And a certified lay ecclesial minister in the diocese.

Having recently retired from I.T., I was volunteering for The Society of St. Vincent de Paul at a food pantry and also taking Communion to some of the people at Malachi House.



The Meal Ministries on Campus

There was terrible and terrifying violence twice in July adjacent to the parish – but not involving the parish or our volunteers. Outside parties reportedly drove up to settle a grievance with another outside party. Neither St. Malachi nor our people were targets.

Still, this was a frightening and traumatic experience. Leadership is working on security procedures, de-escalation training, and intervention techniques.

Since 1865, St. Malachi has served as a beacon in The Old Angle. First, literally, as a hilltop lamp guiding sailors returning to port. More recently as host for Monday Night Meal serving two hundred neighbors every week. And Back Door Ministry with daily coffee, sandwiches, soup, or whatever is donated. And Saturday Breakfasts for folks.

The Parish's Mission is simple – yet profound – “Eucharistic People. United in Prayer. Welcoming to All. Serving the Poor.”

Our Catholic faith teaches us that the Eucharist we celebrate weekly is truly the Body and Blood of the Risen Savior. St. Augustine 1600 years ago said “If we receive the Eucharist worthily, we become what we receive”. Inviting us to ask ourselves: what must our daily posture be?

A statue in our Church shows Jesus – with one hand on his heart amidst thorns, enflamed with love, and the other hand extended outward. Faith forces us to ask “If, through Eucharist, I am ‘Jesus’, to whom do I reach?”

One of St. Malachi's roles is to provide our community members with physical nourishment, a safe place to eat, companionship, and emotional and physical support. We have a long history of non-violence and offering our community a safe environment and helpful services.

We are grateful that this violence was not aimed at the Parish, the Meal, our volunteers, or our guests. Rather, apparently, at a passerby.

We recognize, sadly, that similar violent acts occur all too often, in many neighborhoods all across our city.

We know therefore that sadly we are not alone.



This realization reduces the horror not one single bit. But it actually invites us to reflect: how do we react?

Believing that in the Eucharist we “become like Christ”, we must accept that we are therefore ready, and capable, and perhaps even most suited to live The Mission's “Serving the Poor.”

And so we shall.

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We will continue to work with CPD Chief Todd, the City of Cleveland, and the Cuyahoga Sheriff, seeking more of the amazing support from first responders that we saw that evening. We are already grateful for increased law enforcement patrol presence.

One of the Parish volunteers noted: “Peace is not a passive state. It requires awareness and deliberate action to keep an area tranquil and secure for residents and visitors. It is also not just a church function. But the people of St. Malachi Parish and Malachi Center and Malachi House have been actively helping our neighbors respond to life on Cleveland's Near West Side – in which we also pray, work, and serve.”

Therefore, as “Eucharistic People”, we will continue the Mission's “Welcoming to All ... Serving the Poor” by being “United In Prayer”.

So we remain:
Praying – and working – for peace.

Songs for the Soul: God's Humanity on Display

Carrie Sekerak

The second annual *Songs for the Soul* free concert was celebrated in the Malachi Church parking lot on Saturday, June 22. The weather was HOT, but we had plenty of tents to protect everyone from the sun while enjoying entertainment and visiting informational tables – to bring joy and fellowship to our neighbors.

New Connections shared their vocal talents, performing Motown and R&B favorites that got everyone up and dancing. **One Accord** Gospel harmonizing group also performed. **Carter's BBQ and Uncle Mike's Sweet Treats** food trucks were back for a second year. Tours of the church offered participants a cool respite from the heat and a glimpse at the great artwork and history

of our parish and church building. New this year were the community tables, including: The Malachi Center, Courage to Caregivers, the St. Malachi Church Run, Western Reserve Historical Society, and St. Malachi Parish.

We thank everyone who made this day special, especially our generous sponsors, our planning committee (led by Margaret Armstead), our volunteers, our vendors (including the performers), and our neighbors who joined us for an afternoon of music, food, and fellowship! The day culminated with 4PM Mass featuring gospel sounds from our choir and cantor Sandra Gay Chapman. We are making plans for Songs for the Soul in 2025 and then hope you will too!

This poem, written for Margaret by an attendee, sums up the spirit and meaning of the day.

A Concert In the Afternoon – Plus Church

Maxine Taswell

Surrounded by Poverty, homelessness, and wealth. A hundred plus souls.

God's display of humanity danced, shared drops of love and collisions.

To almost complete this list of differences, less than 10 members of the Canine Community added to our mix.

We were formally entertained by a group who sang OLDIES, evoking memories of 'yore.'

Then "Thunder" arrived, men with no addresses who hushed our presence.

With music, they soothed and praised.

What a Concert! With Margaret Armstead directing!

Play on, Margaret! Play On!

Thank you to our sponsors!



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St. Raphael Parish



"Songs for the Soul"

Saturday Morning Breakfast

Great Crowds but Costly

Saturday Morning Breakfast has been serving our guests a hot breakfast inside the hall for more than two years, drawing more than 200 individuals and families every week! Volunteer groups from all over the area cook and serve the breakfast, giving of their time and talent each week. Food costs are increasing and the program has spent more than \$5,727 purchasing food in the last three months. A one-third increase from nine months ago. We rely on monetary donations to keep the program going. Any monetary or food donations you make to help defray the costs of food and paper products are greatly appreciated, not only by St. Malachi but by all those who enjoy this hearty breakfast every Saturday.

The menu consists of eggs, pork and chicken sausages, canned fruit, shredded cheddar cheese, fruit drinks, and grits. If you prefer to donate food, please contact Eleshia Johnson, our Saturday Morning Breakfast and Back Door Ministry Coordinator, at 216-861-5343 before making any purchases.

Click on this QR code and listen to Sundown as he shares about the Saturday Morning Breakfast. <https://qrco.de/beNrjS>



Parish Office to Move to School Building

With the sale of the rectory to Stella Maris progressing, the St. Malachi Parish staff who remain on campus overseeing the grounds, buildings, maintenance staff, and parish ministries will move to the school.

Our maintenance staff focused over the last several months on renovating a classroom across the hall from the Parish Meeting Room that will become the Parish Office. Plans are to vacate the rectory by the end of September.

In addition to the classroom renovation, entrances to the first floor of the hall were equipped with cameras and buzzers to admit visitors to the office, where they will be greeted by parish secretary Eileen Ladden and campus coordinator Frank Budziak.

Of the remaining staff, Stephanie moved to St. Patrick in early July and Charlene and Jeanette will follow soon as we move forward in the process of becoming an oratory of St. Patrick, with all ministries, Masses, and sacraments remaining at St. Malachi Parish.

50th Wedding Anniversary Couples Renew Marriage Vows at St. Malachi



Congratulations to parishioners Peggy & Jim Connell, Sandy & Carl Monday, and Ginny & Joe Nagel who celebrated their 50th Wedding Anniversaries this summer. Supported by family and friends, each couple renewed their marriage vows during Mass. To each of these couples: thanks for their witness to us all. May God bless them for many years to come and shower them with His love.

Construction of Lakeview Terrace Apartments Breathed New Life into St. Malachi Parish

Jeanette Shemo

Under the leadership and guidance of Fr. James Maloney, the first pastor of St. Malachi, and his successor Fr. John McHale, St. Malachi thrived.

But after the turn of the 19th Century, civic improvements, higher wages, and a desire for better homes enticed families to leave "The Old Angle". This coupled with the building of the Superior Viaduct, Buckley Blvd. improvements, construction of the High-Level Bridge, and the expansion of industry along the river, the "Angle" lost available land and housing.

By 1915, St. Malachi's enrollment dropped from a high of 2,000 families to 565 families. By 1928, to only 60 families. The parish had fallen into disrepair and by 1934 there was talk of combining St. Malachi with St. Patrick.

All this changed with the construction of Lakeview Terrace Apartments, located close to St. Malachi. The project opened in 1937 and housed 620 families, most of whom were Catholic. St. Malachi experienced new life and energy. Under the guidance of Fr. Thomas McKenney, repairs and reconstruction of the property and school were made and classrooms added to accommodate the children from Lakeview Terrace. An electric cross was erected on the tower of the Church – an indication that St. Malachi was revitalized.





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Did You Know?

Rumors of merging St. Malachi /
St. Patrick Parishes? -- inside:
- 1930s: see "Construction of
Lakeview Terrace" page 7
- 2024: see "Moving Forward
Together" page 1

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**St. Malachi
Parish**

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



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