

Malachi Matters

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



Fall 2023

CC BY 4.0

Letter to Our Benefactors:

Dear Friends of St. Malachi Parish and Ministries,

We have some exciting news to share with you! After a year-long strategic planning initiative process, and based upon possible options recommended to the Diocese of Cleveland, Bishop Edward C. Malesic has proposed that St. Malachi Parish will become an oratory* and collaborate with St. Patrick Parish on Bridge Avenue. Together, these two communities will strengthen the pastoral and charitable work of the Church on Cleveland's West Side.

* Many folks ask what an oratory is. Basically, according to Canon Law, an oratory is, "a place for divine worship designated by permission of the ordinary for the benefit of some community or group of the faithful who gather in it..."

The strategic planning process was initiated as St. Malachi experiences declining enrollment and a substantial decrease in weekly collections. However, the proposed oratory remains a vibrant presence at the corner of West 25th and Detroit as it continues to serve the homeless, hungry, and others

within our community who lack basic needs. Bishop Malesic recognizes the importance of St. Malachi's mission and hopes to see it thrive in this new context.

Moving from a parish to the status of an oratory will allow St. Malachi, in partnership with St. Patrick Parish, to focus on its mission of service while remaining open for Sunday Mass and other occasions for prayer. St. Patrick will extend its pastoral care to include the territory surrounding St. Malachi and provide clergy and other administrative support to the oratory. It is also important to note that both churches will retain their respective names.

As St. Malachi and St. Patrick Parishes move in this highly collaborative direction, a process will begin in early 2024 to address the many aspects of this new relationship. This fall both parishes will continue to hold conversations for parishioners to offer their input.

St. Malachi relies on the generous support of thousands of friends to continue our mission and I hope that readers find this message helpful. St. Malachi remains open, remains committed to serving those in need, and remains hopeful for a bright future!

In addition to our continued partnerships with Malachi Center and Malachi House, our Back Door Ministry provides more than 125 daily meals and our Saturday Breakfast and Monday Night Meals are hosting a significant increase of guests each week.

On behalf of our parishioners and our friends who benefit from the essential services we are able to provide, I thank you for your continued support of our ministries. We can't do them without your help!

As we enter into this new chapter, please come and join us for Mass on Saturday evening (4:00 PM) or Sunday morning (10:00 AM) and be sure to mark your calendar for our popular Annual St. Malachi Church Run on March 16, 2024.

Great things are happening on Cleveland's West Side – and you make it possible. Again, thank you for your kind support and care for our small-but-mighty family!

Gratefully yours in Christ,
Fr. Michael K. Gurnick
Parish Administrator

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Learn much more about the Ministries at StMalachi.org

Songs for the Soul

Music Celebration Brought Joy To The Block

Carolyn Sekerak

On July 24th, St. Malachi hosted "Songs for the Soul," a free, outdoor concert on the parish grounds. I recently sat down with Margaret Armstead, the event's chair, to recap the highlights of the event.

Q: How did the idea for Songs for Soul come about?

A: The idea for a new event to bring people together was born out of the parish's recent Radical Hospitality and Strategic Planning Option Team discussions – and conversations with our neighbors in the community. Our ministerial leadership wanted to do something new and different to reach our neighbors and help them feel a welcome part of our parish.

Q: Who came up with the name for the event?

A: I did! Music is one of the ways we can get together, and music has the unique ability to bring joy to your soul, no matter your nationality, age, race, or background. At the first planning meeting, we came up with our event tagline, "Celebrating Our Neighbors and Community," to focus on unity through music.

Q: Who sponsored the event?

A: We received generous donations from the following companies and individuals: Master Products Co., Jim's Livery Service, St. Raphael Parish, St. Patrick Parish, St. Malachi Parish, St. Peter Parish, St. Ignatius High School, B&R Machine Co., Sainato's Trattoria, Lakeside Supply Company, Margaret Armstead, Dorothy Briggs, Cathy Jacob, Charlene McElwee, Ginny & Duane Drotar, Brad Stemen & Jennifer Hilmer, Hollis Johnson, Judy Stowe, and an anonymous donor.

Q: What did the event involve?

A: Our planning committee worked hard to make the day joyous! Day-of-volunteers helped everything run smoothly! The day included a welcome prayer, musical performance by the band "Cats on Holiday" and one of our own local musicians "Sun Down" (from the One Accord Musical Group), food trucks, food giveaways, and church tours and Malachi Center art room tours. The day ended with 4:30 PM Mass and lively gospel music from our choir. Soloist Sandra Gay Chapman sang a moving version of "His Eye is On the Sparrow."

Q: What surprised you the most about the event?

A: The generosity and skills of the event planning committee! They each brought a different gift, from sign design to event logistics and more, they really came

together to make the event a success! We are happy to report we met our goals for this first-time event! About 100 individuals came and went throughout the day including neighbors, parishioners, and passers-by. The Bridge Tour happening nearby drove in a lot of new visitors from far and wide!



Q: What was the impact of the event?

A: The spiritual impact of the day was bountiful. Fr. Gurnick shared that one man spoke to him about returning to church after a long absence. We also met many St. Malachi Center and School alumni who enjoyed seeing the church again! The volunteers and sponsors made it a memorable day for all who participated. "A good time was had by all!" remarked committee member Hollis Johnson.

Q: What's next? Will there be a 2nd Annual Concert and, if so, what will be different?

A: Plans are in the works for a similar event next summer (tentatively June 22, 2024). Next year, we'd like to expand the day's entertainment, food and activities for all ages, and attract even more neighbors next time around!

**"Music is the healing force of the world
It's understood by every man, woman, boy, and girl"**

- The O'Jays

© Warner Chappell Music, Inc.

New Twist to #weGiveCatholic

Early Giving Begins November 19th at 12 AM!

#weGIVECATHOLIC
with the Catholic Community Foundation | November 28, 2023
Northeast Ohio's Online Day of Catholic Giving

This year #weGiveCatholic is scheduled for Giving Tuesday, November 28, 2023. But Wait! On-line Giving will begin at 12 AM on Sunday, November 19th! We encourage you to take advantage of this extra time and make your donation early! Early donations will be revealed to the public on Giving Tuesday at 12 AM! The goal is to build momentum so that by 12 AM on November 28, we are on a roll to a successful event for St. Malachi Parish.

Special thanks to all who supported last year's event. We raised a total of \$92,490 for our Back Door Ministries including \$2,000 for First Place in the "Small but Mighty Parish" Category and \$4,325 in the 2 PM Boyd Watterson Match. This far exceeded our goal of \$60,000!

With faith that our donors will continue to support our ministries, this year's goal is \$95,000! Our theme this year is **Our Ministries: The Heart of St. Malachi**.

Please consider partnering with us from November 19th through November 28th at 11:59 PM to raise funds for our parish ministries, which include all our ministries to the poor – Mother Teresa Ministry, Back Door Ministry, Saturday Morning Breakfast, and Monday Night Meal, as well as our ministries for our parishioners.

This will be our fourth year offering the Matching Donor Program. The excitement created by this program is phenomenal and the reason behind the large increase in donations over the last three years. Please consider being a Matching Donor this year! You can

match donations up to a certain dollar level. You be the judge!

As a Matching Donor....

- You **PARTNER** with St. Malachi to raise funds for our Parish Ministry Programs.
- You **IMPACT** the community and motivate them to participate in the giving process and raise additional funds.
- You **BRING** excitement to the day ... donors want their funds matched by you!
- You **RECEIVE** recognition for your generosity to the Parish. You are named in all publications, emails, and announcements.
- You **SUPPORT** St. Malachi Parish!

To learn more about St. Malachi Parish and our ministries, click on this QR code and visit our #weGiveCatholic page.



SCAN ME

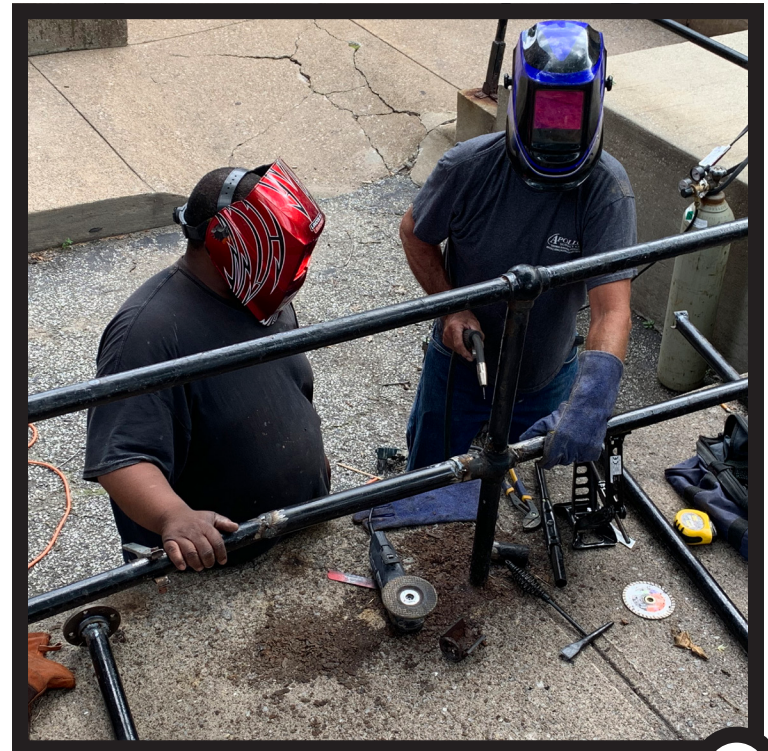
St. Malachi Volunteers

There will be a great big thank you for all St. Malachi volunteers on October 28 at the Music Box, 1148 Main Avenue, Cleveland with a gathering beginning at 11:30 AM. If you have volunteered even an hour when you are able or you volunteer for many hours each week, this event is to celebrate you for your contribution to the life of this special place.

Mark your calendars: it promises to be a good time on the river!

Please RSVP to 216-470-2304 or 216-221-3276.

Music Box
Supper Club



Willie and Steve – our trusted Maintenance Staff repairing a rusted railing and welding in a new piece.

New Coordinators Spark Back Door Ministry

Meet Eleshia and Judy!

Jeanette Shemo

We welcome our new Back Door Ministry Coordinators who share this position and continue to provide hot, nutritious meals to our guests Monday through Friday from 10 AM to 1 PM. Eleshia Johnson joined our staff a year ago coordinating the Saturday Morning Breakfast and has recently taken on the additional responsibilities of the Back Door Ministry. She shares this position with Judy Mazur, a long-time Back Door Ministry volunteer who also joined our staff a year ago.

Both Eleshia and Judy are devoted to our ministry. Eleshia shared that St. Malachi called to her. She loves cooking and taking care of others. Her prior jobs have all been community-focused. She found over the years that everyone needs to talk to someone and needs to eat. She noted that many of the people we serve need to find resources. They are lost and do not know what to do or where to go to get the resources they need. She believes that the Back Door Ministry offers our guests a place to relax, enjoy a nutritious meal, and communicate with others to find the resources they need.

Eleshia loves her job and enjoys bringing smiles to those she serves. She said that no matter the circumstances, there is always someone worse off than you. Over her life she has had her ups and downs and feels it is her responsibility to do something for others and bring a smile to their faces.

Judy sees the face of Christ in each person she serves. She shared that everyone has worth and dignity. Understanding that many of our guests have problems chewing, she emphasizes the need to offer softer foods that are easier to chew. Her goal is to use the food donated to the Back Door Ministry to create meals that are economical as well as tasty and delicious for our guests.

Judy believes that the Back Door Ministry should be inspirational for our volunteers. While they are volunteering, they should experience a fun, healthy atmosphere and a non-stressful environment. The volunteers should see the value in the people we serve – as well as the value of their work. This can only be accomplished if we make them feel comfortable and provide a fun environment so that they come back.



Judy And Eleshia

Meeting, Greeting, and Sharing

Kay Vine, St. Malachi Parish Archivist

In addition to the wonderful sounds of the First St. Malachi Songs for the Soul Outdoor Concert on June 24, we had a special opportunity to spend time with visitors. A few days after the event was announced, the planners thought it would be the perfect time to open the Church and welcome all – as our entry doors often proclaim. A few weeks later we learned that the Superior Viaduct would also be open for tours the same day. What a good piece of timing.

Many came into our small, but mighty neighborhood. It was the first time we'd been able to have large groups for some time due to COVID closures. Prior to that, for nearly two decades we had hosted numerous tour groups. So, on June 24 it was a delight for our volunteer 'guides' to welcome nearly 100 guests in the few hours we had.

All were delighted to see the interior. Many had their own stories to share of family celebrations held here, being part of Urban Community School when it was on the St. Malachi campus, or offering encouraging comments about the value of this place of worship and its service to God's people.

If you would like to join in the joy of Meet and Greet, gather a group of family/friends. There is much to learn about this Church established in 1865 and its historic artifacts, one of which was shown at the Chicago World's Fair in 1893. Please contact us: we'd be glad to oblige. Perhaps we can even work out the timing before or after Mass.

St. Malachi Parish Office:
216-861-5343.



Monday Night Meal Progress

Lou Keim

There has been a changing of the guard at the Meal and it is a trio. It consists of Mike Pellegrino, Henry Speier, and John Hisel. The team begins at 3:00 PM every Monday to perform their tasks to get ready to set up for neighboring guests to arrive. We – and those guests – are blessed to have such a committed trio of coordinators. All three are retired and happily work together to perform their particular tasks.

- **Mike** stated that this is the right time for him to give a little more service. He and his wife Carol Schiro have for many years volunteered as cooks and he has such a commitment to the ministry that he decided to do his part and volunteer in person.
- **Henry** began volunteering years ago as a Lenten project and has never left. He thanks Malachi's and feels blessed to have gained much about giving and what it means to continue the wealth.
- **John** is pleased to be a volunteer of a mission-related ministry. For some time, he had been a part of such ministries as the Finance Council, etc. and now feels he is a volunteer of a very important ministry that feeds those who are in need.

The number of guests who attend the Meal is slowly growing; presently it serves 150. The trio is grateful for the volunteers who are present each Monday; there is always a need for consistent volunteers.

AMEN to all those who bring their commitment to serve our neighboring guests for a weekly meal!



Malachi Matters Fall 2023

The cornerstone of the new St. Malachi Church was laid Nov. 11, 1945. A copper box in the cornerstone holds historical data: pastors and associates, Pope Pius XII, current president of the U.S., Ohio's governor, mayor, state legislators and City Council members.

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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