

Malachi Matters

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

Summer 2023

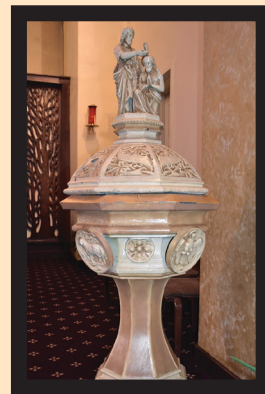


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Generous Donors Refurbish Baptismal Font

The Baptismal Font has held a prominent place in St. Malachi Parish since 1867. Rescued from the fire that destroyed the original church in 1943, the font was re-installed in the new Church in 1947. After 156 years of service, the font began to show its age.

Thanks to the generosity of former MNM Coordinator Patrick and Kathy Dowd, the font was sent away to be refurbished. After several months, the baptismal font was returned to the Church and unveiled on Easter Sunday. Parishioners were in awe of the font's fresh new look – simple yet dignified, allowing the focus to be on the sacrament of Baptism.



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Learn much more about the Ministries at StMalachi.org

This thing called a *Malachi Moment*

Peter Toomey, Malachi Matters Editor

I'm usually unseen behind the scenes. But this issue, I need to share. We received the next two stories, with similarity of "theme" that struck me. You readers aren't regularly around campus, so I should tell you: There's this "thing" that we call "a Malachi Moment".

You know we're into being an uplifting presence – for our Members in their faith journey, for them to actively exercise their faith through good works, and for those in need in our inner city neighborhood. You have so often supported us. So you appreciate it's not surprising that, on any given day, we face a "what do we do NOW" moment. A need appears. How do we respond?

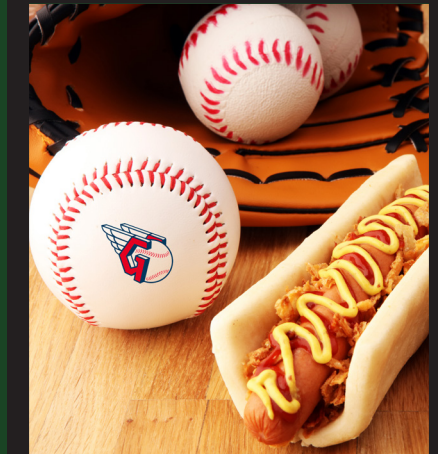
Then – unexpected, unbidden, unannounced, often unknown – "something" happens that provides an answer. The resolution. Those are "The Malachi Moments". When we are reminded that what we do here is important. Because The Higher Power sent to our door the resource we needed to meet the need that this same Power had also guided to our door. So . . .

Hot Dogs From Heaven. Sort of.

Frank Herceg

- **Fact:** The first Monday in April 2019 was Opening Day at the Jake.
- **Fact:** Monday Night Meal serves every Monday night.
- **Fact:** The field was frozen over, so the Indians game was postponed.
- **Fact:** MNM had meatloaf on the menu that Monday. But by mid-afternoon we only had enough meatloaf to feed maybe 100 guests, not our expected 300.
- **Miracle:** One of the vendors from the Indians game arrived with 340 hot dogs, buns, and all the condiments.

MNM served hot dogs on Opening Day.
Thank you, Holy Spirit



Unexpected Blessing From an Unconnected Source

Nancy Saegel

[Editor's note: Malachi Center was founded in 1985 by St. Malachi Parish as a safe haven for the surrounding community. Mission: to empower the individual, nurture the family, and build the community. One way of continuing to help is "Sewing With Friends", under the loving care of parishioner Nancy Saegel. For almost 20 years at the Center, women meet to visit, lunch, and sew.]



Adaeze E., a Cleveland Metropolitan Schools senior, joined Sewing with Friends at Malachi Center this November. Her goal was to learn to sew and add to her portfolio as she applied to college-level fashion design programs. Adaeze, a very accomplished student, did not have the opportunity to learn to sew until now. Her College Now advisor suggested she try Sewing with Friends.

Generous donors had reached out to a Parish member to share with the Center many yards of attractive fabrics. From this bounty of materials, Adaeze was able to obtain a burgundy wool to complete a pair of slacks to submit with her portfolio. She also chose a pretty woven plaid. Now our motivated seamstress/designer is working on a complex, lined, women's suit to wear at her graduation!

Another example of the good that occurs when friends muse "I wonder whether St. Malachi could use my ... ?"



Spring Into Action – and into beauty – and glory

Henry and Ann Speier

[Editor's Note: Spring Into Action is Saint Ignatius High School's annual day of student-led community service to Ohio City neighbors. Students lead projects at various sites as families, friends, and alumni help give back to the community through spring clean-up work.]

To: Daniel Flanagan, Charlie Medvin, and John Thompson at St. Ignatius H.S.

Subject: THANK YOU: Spring into Action at St. Malachi - 2023

Dear Danny, Charlie, and John,

Simply put, you and the rest of the St. Ignatius Team are amazing. As we walk around the campus at St. Malachi, we are in awe of all the work that was accomplished as part of Spring into Action with your small but mighty team and our St. Malachi volunteers. This is especially true considering the weather challenges experienced on that day.

- Over 2500 sq ft of garden weeded and cleaned out.
- Twelve cubic yards of mulch spread across the campus. Including laying down paper prior to adding the mulch to limit weed growth.
- Twelve boxwoods planted.
- Spring flowers whose blossoms had fallen folded over to improve appearance.
- 15-foot-long drain pipe ditch dug.

In addition, you also spread a dynamic energy and planted a sense of joy. Thinking back on that day and your inspired team, we feel a glow of hope that breaks through cynicism. The comradery between all the volunteers was palpable. The gentle humor with comments such as the "A-team" added to the fun.

We also thank you for the work that you put into communicating with us as the changing conditions caused us to reassess our goals. Because you did such a good job communicating, you helped us be prepared to maximize the talents that were available on that day.

St. Malachi is a parish that is struggling with the realities of the inner city and an older community. The great start to our planting season would not have been possible without St. Ignatius. Please share our appreciation with the rest of your awesome team.

Sincerely, Henry and Ann Speier

P.S. Gratitude to Kathy and Peter Burke for their complete clean out and make-over of the bed along Vermont Avenue. And to those individuals who have offered to maintain specific beds on the property going forward. All of which uplifts worshippers, neighbors, and passersby, all to the greater glory of God.



St. Malachi's Long History of Serving the Poor

The *Homeless Jesus Sculpture*, part of the Matthew 25 Collection by artist Timothy Schmalz, has found the perfect home at St. Malachi Parish. Dedication to serving the poor has been St. Malachi's mainstay. From its early days, the parish aided and ministered to the Irish immigrants who came to the United States. As the years went by, St. Malachi continued to care for its people. Lead by Fr. Molony, St. Malachi was instrumental in cleaning up the neighborhood around the parish and reducing crime. During the Great Depression, St. Malachi began to serve sandwiches to the poor and hungry from the back door of the rectory. This practice was revived by Fr. Paul Hritz in the early 1970s and it continues to grow and develop as the needs of our homeless and less fortunate neighbors continue to intensify.

Because the need to take care of our neighbors and homeless individuals is so great, St. Malachi's Food Ministries have expanded their services. **Back Door Ministry** offers a hot nutritious lunch from Monday through Friday. **Monday Night Meal** serves a sit-down dinner every Monday evening with the help of volunteers who prepare the main portion and bring it to the hall. **Saturday Morning Breakfast** provides a relaxing breakfast in our parish hall where guests enjoy a hearty meal and visit with friends.

With the impact of COVID and the economy affecting our less fortunate neighbors and friends, St. Malachi's Food Ministries continue to meet the needs of the poor by addressing *both* nutrition and other hungers, such as the need for human care and concern.

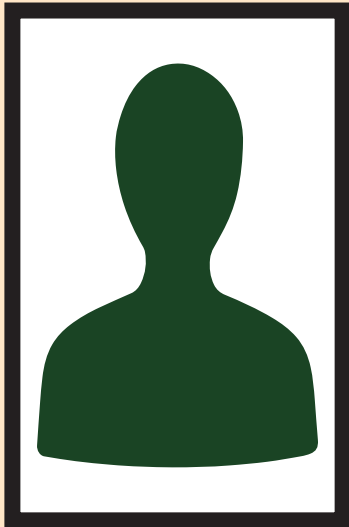


Historic Malachi Ministry Creates New Paths

Judy Stowe

Substance abuse touches every aspect of our lives and where we live. The Samaritan Ministry of St. Malachi Parish was created in 1978 by former pastor Fr. Paul Hritz and parishioner John Miclea (with strong support from his wife, Inez) to provide education and helpful tools for families, professionals, and others who interact with individuals struggling with alcohol and other drug-related issues. The name for this ministry was chosen from Luke's gospel about the Good Samaritan who was the only one to stop on his journey to help a wounded victim.

Since 1978 hundreds have attended the program, which has been presented with different titles and in various formats and frequency. In addition to advertising, registration and Zoom presentation support from the Alcohol, Drug Addiction and Mental Health Services (ADAMHS) Board of Cuyahoga County, they now allow the Samaritan Ministry to offer CEUs to professionals.



There is no picture because our programs maintain anonymity

The current one-day program, called Addiction Awareness for the Family, provides educational sessions to increase awareness of substance-related effects on family members and friends, deepen understanding of addiction as a brain disease, offer helpful resources, explain the 12 Steps, and suggest ways to strengthen the Church's ability to minister to those who experience problems caused by substance abuse.

The Samaritan Ministry members involved in planning and presenting the program are:

- Hollis Johnson
- Jim Joyner, LICDC-CS
- Lori Joyner
- Jackie Krejcik, MA
- Judy Stowe, MA LICDC-CS (chair)
- Elena Yanchar, DO.

During COVID, the Zoom program on April 19, 2022 reached 130 viewers! On March 30, 2023, because of the gracious hospitality of Stella Maris, a hybrid format drew 50 attendees to their state-of-the-art auditorium with 27 more on Zoom.

To further the impact of the Samaritan Ministry, proceeds from the program registration fee are now given to St. Malachi's Mother Teresa Ministry, which provides crucial aid to those in extreme need (rent, utilities, transportation) who might otherwise become homeless.

The Ongoing Challenge

Statistics suggest that two-thirds of the US population use alcohol and other drugs; one in five of these have major life issues (impaired driving citations, health issues, family and job problems); one in ten develop the disease of alcoholism/addiction, which affects at least four to five others in their lives. Despite parish bulletin articles, brochures, ADAMHS advertising, and these data, the stigma surrounding addiction still results in sparse family attendance.

Your Help Is Needed!

If you know of others who are trying to cope with addiction themselves or in their families, please pass the word about this program which has been lovingly described as "a little-known gem."



Feed My Sheep – we do what we can, Lord

Jeff Walters, Monday Night Meal Coordinator

I served as a volunteer for Monday Night Meal for about five years prior to the pandemic. I was on the team that would take meals to the Lakeview high rise building. I enjoyed the work, the people we served, and the people I worked with. I find volunteering is a great way to get out of our own head and live in the moment (reality) and let go of over-thinking.

After almost a three-year hiatus, the Monday Night Meal restarted on February 13 and although it is not the same, it is still meeting the core function of providing a good home-cooked meal to guests from the neighborhood. Prior to COVID, MNM was serving 250-300 guests (between the hall and the Lakeview high rise). Today we seat approximately 100 guests every Monday and distribute approximately another 100 take-out meals. Our cooks are making approximately the same volume of food as pre-COVID – and we are using all of it.

New volunteers are always welcome – even if our food serving requirements are fully staffed – because in addition to a meal we serve conversation and fellowship to our guests.

With very few exceptions our guests appreciate the time in the hall, enjoying a good meal and friendship.



Malachi Matters Summer 2023

St. Malachi School was blessed with the Ursuline Sisters at the front of the room: one of the first schools in the Diocese taught by the famed educators of youth.

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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