

# Malachi Matters



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

Fall 2025

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## St. Malachi's New Chapter

Rev. Michael K. Gurnick, Pastor

If there is one word that can describe St. Malachi, it's "adaptable." This has been proven to be true since its founding in 1865 as a spiritual home to the Irish Catholics in the Old Angle on Cleveland's Near West Side. Throughout our history, St. Malachi has repeatedly adapted to meet the needs of each generation.

Today is no different as our community of faith adapts to present-day needs. We continue to offer spiritual and pastoral care to hundreds of individuals and families who call this home. Although we are now officially part of St. Patrick Parish, our campus buzzes with activity every day of the week, from gathering for the 10:00 AM Sunday Mass to hosting a hot meal program six days a week. We also continue celebrating weddings and funerals, as well as other liturgical and spiritual events. Our friends in various stages of recovery still call this home as they receive support through AA and other programs.

While our parish is now an oratory (a place designated for worship) with St. Patrick Parish, our mission to serve those in need continues unchanged. We are grateful to our friends throughout Northeast Ohio for your continued support through gifts and volunteering. These services that we provide are only possible because of the good people who share in our work. We may have changed our official status, but St. Malachi is here to

stay and be a vital part of the community. We also look forward to growing along with St. Patrick as we share some of the same goals of feeding those who hunger or need basic essentials.

The annual St. Malachi Church Run/Walk in March is our major event that raises awareness and necessary funds for our ministries. The growth of this event only demonstrates the kindness of thousands who share in our mission of service.



As we discover new opportunities as part of St. Patrick Parish, St. Malachi Oratory will always be a place of welcome and a community that takes seriously the Lord's call to "love one another." Change can be challenging but it's never slowed us down before. After all, we're adaptable.

Again, our sincere thanks for continuing the journey with us!

## Bishop's Mass

April 11

Peter Toomey, Editor

Bishop of Cleveland Edward Malesic will celebrate a Mass of Thanksgiving with the parish on the St. Patrick campus on April 11, 2026. 4:30 PM. Mass will be followed by a Parish Celebration.

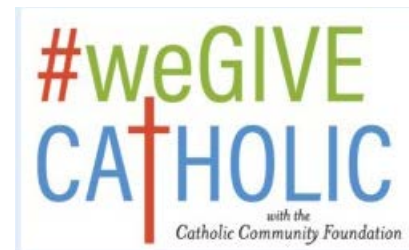
## Treasured Statement

"St. Malachi has been my home parish for almost my entire life. It was my parents' and grandparents' parish as well. Even after we moved from Winslow Ave. we came back to St. Malachi for Mass mostly due to Fr. Paul Hritz and his teaching/ministry/counseling. He made everyone feel God's presence. People got involved, gave of their time and talent. It was all God's plan. After years of helping with every aspect of ministry and activity at St. Malachi while enriching our own spiritual calling, we continue to work with St. Malachi. It is truly our HOME!"

# "We Give Catholic" Appeal

Nadge Herceg

We come together again for St. Malachi's tenth #weGIVECATHOLIC campaign on December 2, 2025 with Early Giving beginning on Saturday, November 22. It's Northeast Ohio's online day of Catholic giving, to raise awareness and generously support our caring for others in our area.



Because of St. Malachi's generous donors in 2024, we raised \$54,073 to support our parish ministries, which made our campus safer for our parishioners and guests. We also received the \$1,000 third prize in the "Small but Mighty" Parish category. Our charitable Matching Donor contributors brought excitement and energy to the event.

Over the past nine years, #weGIVECATHOLIC has become a major fundraiser for our parish, allowing St. Malachi to increase its outreach services to our poor and homeless neighbors while nurturing the spiritual growth of its parishioners. Our parish therefore remains a vibrant community with a wide range of ministries that cater to the diverse needs of our parishioners and those we serve.



## Treasured Statement

"Forever gathered around the communal table are kindred spirits, past and present, who remind, encourage, and strengthen us on our Christ-centered journey and mission."



## Treasured Statement

"We treasure St. Malachi's commitment to and care for our brothers and sisters who live on the margins of society, specifically the friends welcomed at the Back Door Ministry and Monday Night Meal. The Homeless Jesus sculpture in front of the church is another symbol of what we treasure about this community."

## St. Malachi Ministries Continue to Thrive!

Jeanette Shemo

Ask anyone what they know about St. Malachi Parish and they will respond "their ministry to the poor."

St. Malachi has a long history of caring for the poor. It all started during the Great Depression when the practice began of passing out sandwiches at the back door of the rectory to the neighbors who were homeless. The practice revived in the 1970s when Fr. Paul Hritz became pastor and rejuvenated serving the poor sandwiches and coffee under the title of **Back Door Ministry**, followed by **Monday Night Meal**, **Saturday Morning Breakfast** and **Mother Teresa Ministry**.

Now that St. Malachi is an Oratory of St. Patrick Parish, we continue the high priority toward our spiritual growth as well as providing nutritious meals to our homeless and low-income neighbors plus financial assistance for rent and other critical needs.

Expenses to cover these ministries exceeded \$93,000 this year. It is only through your generosity, #weGiveCatholic, St. Malachi Run, and grants that we can continue our service to the poor.

Please continue to support these much-needed ministries to those who rely on St. Malachi to provide them with services and hot nutritious meals.

## Contact Us

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# Songs For the Soul

## Faith, Music, and Neighborhood

Carolyn Sekerak, Communications Committee

The third annual *Songs for the Soul Concert* at St. Malachi Oratory on Saturday, June 21, proved once again that music truly brings people together. Nearly 100 neighbors and parishioners gathered for an afternoon filled with soulful melodies, delicious food, and meaningful connections.

Many first-time attendees discovered us while participating in the Superior Viaduct Bridge Tour, drawn by the soulful music echoing from our grounds. Among our special guests was Pastor Willie Armstead from St. Mark's Baptist Church, making his first visit to St. Malachi. "I really had a good time and most importantly, felt good," he shared, capturing the welcoming spirit that defines this annual celebration.

Church tours remained a cornerstone of the day's activities, with more than 120 visitors exploring St. Malachi's sacred spaces and learning about our deep roots in the Old Angle community. Guests were particularly fascinated by our distinctive features: the iconic green neon cross, our historic baptismal font, the replica of Ireland's first Celtic cross adorning our main altar, the moving Pietà replica, and the thought-provoking Homeless Jesus sculpture. Each artifact tells a unique

story about St. Malachi's vital role in shaping our neighborhood's spiritual and cultural landscape.

This year, we also introduced a new informational handout explaining St. Malachi's significant transition to an Oratory, helping visitors better understand our evolving mission and identity.

Musical group "New Connections" returned for their second consecutive year, delighting the crowd with a wonderful selection of Motown classics that had people singing along and showing off their soulful side. Carter's BBQ made its third annual appearance, serving up crowd-favorite barbecue from its popular food truck. Adding a sweet touch to the festivities, the "Sunday Skool Bus" ice



cream truck made its debut offering a variety of cool treats on a sunny, summer day. The community tables offering resources and information were well visited.

"There was a true sense of homecoming and a 'family-feel' this year, with neighbors as young as 4 years old and as old as 90+ coming together to enjoy the music and day's activities," reflected Event Chair Margaret Armstead. Some enjoyed dancing, others enjoyed watching and swapping stories about past experiences on our campus.

The soulful celebration continued at our 4pm Vigil Mass with soloist Sandra Chapman.

The success of *Songs for the Soul* depends entirely on the dedication of our planning committee and the hard work of our volunteers. We also extend our heartfelt appreciation to visitors from St. Patrick Parish, whose presence added to the fellowship that makes this event so special.

Our heartfelt gratitude goes to this year's generous sponsors and donors:

- Anonymous
- B & R Machine Co.
- Dorothy Briggs
- Molly Bullock
- Jim's Livery Service
- Lou Keim
- Lakeside Supply Company
- Catherine Ma
- Nancy Saegel
- Judy & Jim Slivka
- St. Raphael Parish

Stay tuned for more details as plans for next year's celebration unfold.

Together, we'll continue creating moments where music, faith, food, and fellowship unite us all.

### Treasured Statement

"I treasure so many things! Liturgies, outstanding homilies, and wonderful music. I also treasure the relationships born of worshipping together. St. Malachi has become enmeshed in our lives."



### Treasured Statement

"We came to St. Malachi looking for a meaningful worship experience. We found that along with lifelong friendships with like-minded, service-centered individuals helping us on our journey. St. Malachi is our home. We have friends that we consider family. We raised our children here. It is an integral part of our lives."





# We Hold a Treasure

Gathered for you by Lou Keim and Kay Vine, long-time, active members

From the hymn, "Earthen Vessels," based on verses from I and II Corinthians. By John Foley, SJ. c. 1975/1991.

This hymn we often sing tells us we are blessed to remain with a church redesignated as an Oratory in April 2025. As we begin to settle into this new reality, we have asked a number of long-term, active members about their decision to stay the course. One question was posed to them: "What do I treasure about St. Malachi?" Words like "home," "homebase," "ministry and service to others," and "living the beatitudes" were frequent responses.

We had asked. Here are two of the responses with which we were blessed. Others are shared throughout this publication as **Treasured Statements**.

"All my many years at St. Malachi were filled with love, fun, service, and more activities than I can remember. I treasure the OPPORTUNITIES I have had to grow spiritually and as a contributor to this dynamic presence we call St. Malachi. For this I am grateful!"

"I treasure the fact that St. Malachi has instilled in me the reality that 'We Are Church'. The liturgy and the people help me know what I need to be and do as a Christian."

Truly, we do hold a treasure. The earthen vessels of prayer, service, the bearing of God's light to the wider neighborhood, and a continued presence are all part of Faith made live and nourished by the Eucharist. It is not with 'gold' and manufactured things that we best praise God and love others. It is in "gathering around the communal table" and a wide range of ministries that help us lift each other and our neighbors up.

A recent article published after the Conclave that elected Pope Leo XIV challenges us in the words of Canadian Cardinal Michael Czerny responding to the question "Will the Church change or stay the course?" His reply, "The choice is not between continuity and change. The choice is to go forward, and that includes both continuity and change."

As we move forward, let us reflect on all these "treasured statements" finding strength to both continue and change.

If you would like to share your own visions of the Oratory's future ministry, please feel welcome to offer them at [ParishCollaboration44113@gmail.com](mailto:ParishCollaboration44113@gmail.com).

## Yes, I want to help the Ministries at St. Malachi Church!

\$5000      \$2500      \$1000      \$500      \$250      \$100      other \$\_\_\_\_\_

Donor's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

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City, State, Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

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Conveniently donate online at [FaithDirect.net](https://FaithDirect.net)

My gift will be matched by my (or my spouse's) company      Yes      No

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Mail to 3602 Bridge Ave, Cleveland OH 44113

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St. Malachi Church is a 501(c)(3) - your contribution is fully tax deductible.

Thank you for your generous support!

If you have questions or would like further information, contact the Office at 216-631-6872 or [Administration@StPatrickBridge.org](mailto:Administration@StPatrickBridge.org)

Visit our website at [StMalachi.org](https://StMalachi.org)