

History – *Sunday Mornings at St. Malachi* ***April, 2017***

In 2009 when the merger between St. Malachi Parish and the Community of St. Malachi occurred, the new St. Malachi Parish sought ways to live out our Mission Statement and build a strong, united parish. To that end, our new parish undertook the A.W.E. (Awareness, Welcoming, Engaging) process to develop a strategic plan to move into the future.

One recommendation that the Parish Council sought to develop was to create new experiences to provide members of the previous Parish and members of the Community of St. Malachi more opportunities to intermingle and get to better know each other.

During this time, the Council recognized that the Sunday Mass schedule (9:30AM, 11:00AM and 12:30PM) was in direct conflict with our PSR program that also occurred at 9:30AM. Before the merger, the 9:30AM Mass was a St. Malachi Parish Mass. There was no conflict for the Community of St. Malachi to have PSR at 9:30AM because they participated at the 11:00AM Mass.

Furthermore, we discovered that parents were bringing their children to PSR at 9:30AM, attending 9:30AM Mass themselves, picking their children up from PSR and then going home. Thus, some children did not attend Mass regularly. In addition, the families who preferred to participate together at 9:30AM Mass could not do so during the school year because of the PSR class schedule.

Seeking to address all these issues, Parish Council sought feedback from the parish in 2012-2013. This resulted a proposal entitled *Sunday Mornings at St. Malachi*. A majority of responding parishioners supported the proposal and Council decided to implement it beginning in January, 2014, with the understanding that it would be reviewed in a year.

At the 2014 Annual Meeting, parishioner feedback about the new format was sought and received. Generally, parishioners were pleased that opportunities for social interaction and adult education were being offered. (Pat Cleary-Burns and David Kennard were responsible for programming the first year and did an excellent job.) Also expressed at the meeting were concerns and suggestions for improving the program and schedule. Some of these comments and suggestions were incorporated into the following year.

At the 2015 Annual Meeting, there were further table discussions about *Sunday Mornings at St. Malachi*. (Chris Dusek had taken over programming at this point and has done a wonderful job!) Again, efforts to incorporate some of the suggestions into the programming were made.