

Meet the candidates for the 2020-2021 St. Malachi Parish Council

There are currently 5 vacancies on council – four, three-year terms and one, one-year term. Voting will take place from 10.3 until 10.13. One vote per parishioner (please). You may vote electronically at bit.ly/SMCCouncilVote or request a paper ballot from the rectory by emailing rectory@stmalachi.org or calling 216-861-5343. Council members will also be in the parking lot during the weekend with paper ballots after both masses.



Claudia Cabrera

I joined St Malachi in 2019, yet feel I've been part of this community much longer, mostly because of the warm welcome everyone has given to me. I have appreciated the opportunity to participate in St Malachi ministries; Near West Catholic Young Adults, PSR catechist, clothing ministry, RCIA companion, and picture taking for the Church Run. I am a research physician at two Cleveland Hospitals; a second year PhD student at CWRU; and take Continuing Ed Theology classes at St Mary's Seminary. I have been blessed to be a part of St. Malachi Parish, and hope to give back through participating on Parish Council. I bring the perspective of an engaged young adult, which is so important in our growing neighborhood. Also, I have a tremendous love for Christ and His Church that compels me to serve in whatever way I am called and needed.



Heather Gerheim-Gladden

I grew up in Lakewood, and attended Miami University. After two years living in the Columbus area, my family and I returned home to Cleveland. I currently live in Old Brooklyn with my two teens. We have attended St. Malachi for 19 years, since I was pregnant with my eldest! By day, I'm a Montessori teacher specializing in children aged 3-6. By night, I'm a mom, volunteer, knitter, and hiker. I wish to preserve the progressive commitment to social justice and equality that is such a part of the fabric of our St. Malachi community!



Stephanie Riccobene

I am a long-time member of St. Malachi Parish. I currently serve as a member and chair of the Social Action Commission, and served as an usher at 11:30 mass prior to the pandemic. I am an active volunteer/member of the Cleveland Catholic Worker Community, the Cleveland Nonviolence Network and the West Side Creation Care Team. I formerly served on the Advisory Board of the Commission on Catholic Community Action, and was a lobby associate with NETWORK, A National Catholic Social Justice Lobby in Washington, D.C. I earned a Master of Arts in Political Science at the University of Akron, and a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science at Cleveland State University.



Judy Slivka

I belong to the Sunday Choir, West Side Creation Care Team, Stewardship Commission and Book Group. I led the Organizational Task Force as a member of Council from 2014 to 2017. We studied the Parish and created new Council Guidelines and organizational chart that were approved by parish members. I recently retired from the VA where I was the director of Home Based Primary Care that provides services to 4,500 Veterans per year. I am submitting my name to be a council member during this critical time in the history of St Malachi Parish and promise to be committed to our mission of being a Eucharistic People, United in Prayer, Welcoming to All, and Serving Those who are Poor.



Melissa Smith-Morales

My name is Melissa Smith-Morales. I have been a member of Saint Malachi Parish since 2002, however throughout my childhood I regularly attended Mass at St. Malachi with my aunt. My Husband and I were married at St. Malachi and currently reside in the West Park neighborhood of Cleveland with our 2 daughters. I have been a teacher in the Cleveland Metropolitan Schools for 20 years, most of which have been spent at Paul L. Dunbar, the neighborhood school for families who live around St. Malachi. I hope to be elected to the Parish Council to serve the community which has been my spiritual home for most of my life and to help the parish continue its wonderful presence in the neighborhood.