

# Malachi Matters

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



Spring 2025

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## Our Progress Continues

Fr. Michael Gurnick, Administrator St. Malachi Parish

As St. Malachi and St. Patrick parishes continue our collaboration, we find ourselves in the midst of implementing the recommendations made in 2024. These recommendations cover all aspects of parish life including: Liturgy and Worship, Faith Formation and Spiritual Life, Ministries of Charity, Administration, Finances and Budget, Facilities, Events and Hospitality, Communications, and developing a new Parish Council. And there's more!

Based on the recommendations offered last year, our Implementation Teams are tasked with forming new commissions and councils as we come together. Countless hours by more than 50 parishioners from both communities, along with our dedicated staff members, are accomplishing the practical work required for this exciting new chapter on Cleveland's Near West Side.

While many folks are working on the practical pieces, we are also inviting all parishioners to participate in a special reflection series entitled *Divine Renovation*, based on the book by Fr. James Mallon. With each of the eight weeks offering a special topic based on Fr. Mallon's book, we seek to explore ways to strengthen our mission for our parishioners and for future Catholics who will call St. Patrick and St. Malachi their home. This is an opportunity for everyone to share their hopes and dreams as well as their questions and concerns. To learn more about this series, please visit: <https://StPatrickBridge.org/divine-renovation-book-study-mission/>

Thank you for your continued prayers and support as we discover the many new opportunities that present themselves as we move forward – together: “unique and united”.



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Learn much more about the Ministries at [StMalachi.org](https://StMalachi.org)

# Thank You for Supporting #weGiveCatholic!

Jeanette Shemo, Parish Accountant

Because of your generosity last December 3, St. Malachi Parish raised \$54,073 supporting our parish ministries and making our campus safer for our parishioners and guests. We also received the \$1,000 third prize in the "Small but Mighty" Parish category

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

We recognize our Matching Donors whose contributions brought excitement and energy to the event: three Anonymous Donors, Jim & Peggy Connell, Fred & Karen Kappus, Jeff & Jan Leitch, Carolyn Meyer, Tim & Diane Needles, Steve Switaj, and St. Malachi Parish Council members!

Special Thanks to our team: Nadge Herceg, Judy Stowe, Lou Keim, and Christy Bartley!

thankful  
-and-  
grateful

for your generosity to our  
200+ Catholic organizations

#weGIVECATHOLIC  
with the Catholic Community Foundation on #GIVINGTUESDAY  
Northeast Ohio's Online Day of Catholic Giving

## Save the Date!

The next #weGiveCatholic will be on Tuesday, December 2, 2025.

## What in the World is an Oratory?

Cathy Jacob

When a parish can no longer be viable as a full-service parish due to declining membership, finances, or other reasons, becoming an oratory or mission of another parish can be an option to closing. This is particularly appropriate when the parish in question has historically been an important site of worship and is known for a particular ministry. This certainly fits the description of St. Malachi, which has been a beacon of light for more than 150 years for Irish immigrants, the working poor, homeless and other marginalized people, and those in need of a spiritual home. The oratory or mission retains its identity and ministries – unlike a merger where the oratory loses its identity and closes its doors as a place of worship.

One coordinator of an oratory in Chicago likened the relationship of the oratory to its parish as a marriage – two unique entities unite for the good

of the whole while both maintain their uniqueness. As in a marriage, working together is an ongoing process, demanding continual respect, compromise, openness, and conflict resolution.

There is no one instruction manual for how this model should look. So we are actually creating what might become a model for other parishes. Currently we are in the Implementation Phase of our collaboration with St. Pat, as members of each congregation work out the details of how we blend together, hoping to have this completed by the summer. This is no easy task, requiring us to be open to the Spirit's inspiration and to each other.

Our goal: to be one parish with an oratory, two places of vibrant worship and active ministries, united and unique, thriving, and continuing to be a beacon of hope to our members and the people of the Near West Side of Cleveland.



# From the Pews: Meet Jan Durkalski

Carrie Sekerak, Communications Commission

When Jan found St. Malachi Parish in 1978, she was searching for more than just a place to worship – she was looking for a spiritual home where her young family could flourish. “I was looking for a Catholic parish that would embrace my family with vibrant music and liturgies – and ministries where we could live our Catholic faith by caring for people in need,” Jan recalls. In St. Malachi, she found a vibrant community that would shape her faith journey for decades to come.

Over the past 45 years, Jan has served the Parish in many volunteer roles, including choir member, Christian Formation instructor, Eucharistic Minister, Lector, member of Parish Council, and Monday Night Meal cook. As a Eucharistic Minister and Lector, she finds particular spiritual fulfillment. “I am honored to assist our priests as we nourish our fellow parishioners with the Word of God and the body and blood of Christ. That moment when I offer the body and blood of Christ stirs a passion in my heart,” she shares.

After retiring from a 35-year teaching career in Cleveland's inner-city schools, Jan stepped into the role of Parish Council President. Today, she helps guide St. Malachi during this time of transition and collaboration with St. Patrick Parish. Jan remains optimistic about the parish's future. “I hope that St. Malachi will continue to grow and thrive,” she says. “We are the heart and hands of Christ serving the people of the Near West Side.”

Jan's life centers on family and community. Born and raised on Cleveland's Near West Side, she attended Cleveland public schools, then John Carroll and Cleveland State University. She and her husband John share eight children, four in-laws, and three granddaughters. Together, they've participated in the St. Malachi Run for more than 25 years – a commitment that extended to Jan's work as a junior high school running team coach.

Through leadership and service, Jan embodies the spirit of community that has helped make St. Malachi what it is today.



New This Year  
**MALACHI MERCH**



Available at our Online Store. Flat Rate Shipping \$8.99 for all orders  
[www.stmalachichurchrun.com](http://www.stmalachichurchrun.com)



# Movement Towards Collaboration

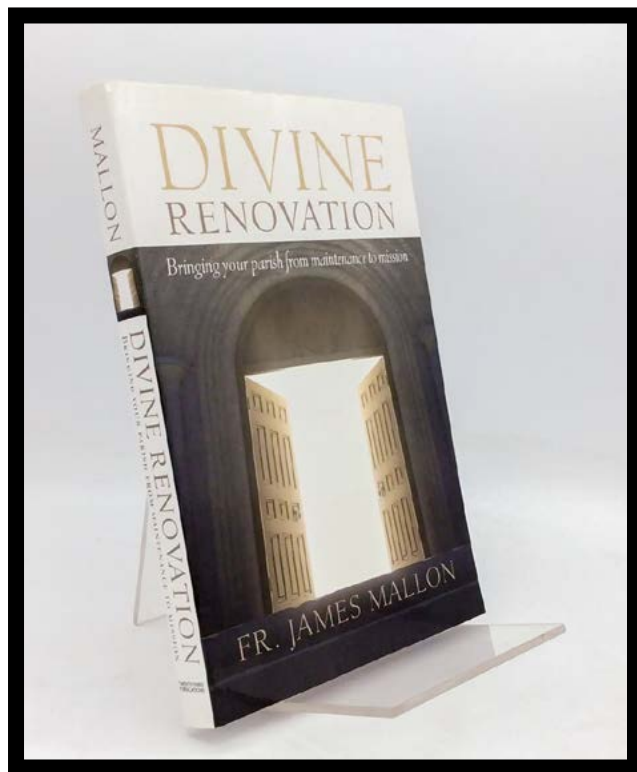
Stephanie Williams, Implementation Steering Committee Co-chair

From the beginning, *Divine Renovation*, by Fr. James Mallon, has been a part of our collaboration process between St. Malachi and St. Patrick. Fr. Gurnick and Rosie Dolan-Baker first shared this book with the Collaboration Steering Committee (CSC), during our launch in November 2023. From there, the CSC members came together to reflect on the message of "Maintenance to Mission" and have continued to use this phrase as inspiration as we have immersed ourselves into the collaboration process.

Additionally, we knew that this message needed to be shared further and so, as Work Groups were launched during our Explore and Recommend Phase, *Divine Renovation* was also distributed to each member of the work groups to inspire them as well. But this wasn't enough. As we continued thinking about the future of this collaboration, we knew that a parish-wide book study – inviting everyone from both St. Malachi and St. Patrick – could be another stepping stone uniting us together as we make this collaboration a reality.

With our collaboration, we have the opportunity to start anew. This doesn't mean that we scrap everything and start over. But rather, we continue what works and further aids our service to the Near West Side of Cleveland. Furthermore, we can work to streamline other aspects of parish life.

We want to spread God's love and share our Catholic faith. While maintenance is necessary to keep our facilities operational and our day-to-day happenings proceeding with ease, we don't want to lose sight of God's call to be disciples. Thus, we are encouraged that this Book Study supports us on our journey as we work to create a vibrant and sustainable church. We hope you are moved and inspired with us!



## St. Malachi Parish's La Salle Club

### The Catalyst that Launched the Growth of Boxing on the Near West Side

Jeanette Shemo, Parish Accountant

It was 1894, The Christian Brothers of the La Salle Order operated St. Malachi School for Boys. To encourage their students to engage in sports and other activities, Brother Salpocious founded the La Salle Literary and Athletic Club at St. Malachi School for Boys, which was located at Pearl St. (W. 25th) and Division. Boxing was one of the sports offered to its students.

Fr. MacHale took a deep interest in the La Salle Club. In 1902, he added rooms to the Club for members from St. Malachi School for Boys as well as students from St. Ignatius College (the future home of St. Ignatius High School). Adding to the gymnasium, which remained the focus of the club, now also reading rooms, a library, as well as singing, lecturing, and debating opportunities. The Club provided the boys a place to study and the silence needed to be successful students.

The La Salle Club garnered national attention in 1912 when it hosted the St. Patrick's Day parade in Cleveland and featured featherweight boxing champion Johnny Kilbane, who had learned to box at the La Salle Club.

In time, more and more professional training sites for boxing were needed and a host of nearby boxing gyms emerged. Popularity of the sport continued to grow so that in Cleveland in the 1920s it was considered "as a way to climb out of poverty".

Thanks to Brother Salpocious and his desire to offer sports to his students, Cleveland was blessed with a plethora of famous boxers including Tommy Kilbane (no relation to Johnny Kilbane), "Black Jack" McGinty, Johnny Risko, John M. "Jackie" Keough, and James Louis "Jimmy" Bivens!





# Irish Eyes Are Smilin' for the Malachi Run/Walk

## Now with a Hooley Trail & Online Store!

Sharon Lowe-Chapman, Run Chair

The 46th Annual St. Malachi Church Run/Walk returns on Saturday, March 15, 2025, kicking off St. Patrick's Day festivities with fitness, fun, and charitable spirit! Choose between a pet- and walker-friendly 2-mile course or a 5-mile route—or, for the ambitious, take on both races! The event begins with an 8:00 AM Mass, followed by a lively celebration featuring Fox 8's Kenny Crumpton, Browns/Cavs DJ Steph Floss, St. Eds Trash Talkers, and Irish music, bagpipes, and dancers.

### New This Year: The Hooley Trail!

Celebrate post-race with a Hooley Trail featuring five local bars, where participants (21+) can get their complimentary beer:

- Great Lakes Brewing Company
- Market Garden Brewery
- Nano Brew
- Market Garden Production Brewery
- Clandestina Mezcaleria & Tequila

With traditional Irish tunes from Ever Green and a DJ spinning beats at various stops, there's no better way to toast your race-day accomplishment!

### Get Your Lucky Swag!

Check out our new online store for Malachi-branded merchandise, available for shipping or purchase at packet pickups and on race day – just in time for St. Patrick's Day!

### Run for a Cause

Beyond the fun, the Malachi Run/Walk is a crucial fundraiser for Malachi Ministries, which provide support for Cleveland's most vulnerable populations. By participating, you're not just celebrating

– you're making a real difference in the community.

### Race Perks

- Long-sleeve Irish-themed shirt
- Finisher medal
- Complimentary craft beer (21+)

Registration is OPEN through race day! Sign up, donate, shop, or volunteer at:

[StMalachiChurchRun.com](http://StMalachiChurchRun.com).

Sláinte!



# 3rd Annual "Songs for the Soul"

## Free Outdoor Concert in June: Celebrating Our Neighbors and Community.

Carrie Sekerak, Communications Commission

Join us for a fun Saturday afternoon in the Malachi Parking Lot to enjoy live music, community tables, and food trucks!

Sponsorships are available and provide publicity and community exposure.

We are looking for planning committee members and day-of volunteers!

Contact [MargaretArmstead493@gmail.com](mailto:MargaretArmstead493@gmail.com) to get involved in the fun.



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

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

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

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

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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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Please charge my      VISA      MasterCard      Discover      AMEX

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St. Malachi Parish 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, please contact the Office at 216-861-5343 or [Office@StMalachi.org](mailto:Office@StMalachi.org).

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