

# ST. MALACHI & ST. PATRICK



## IMPLEMENTATION



9 March 2025

Dear Parishioners and Friends,

It's official and we're on schedule with our Collaboration Initiative!

Since July 2023, when Bishop Malesic determined St. Malachi would become an oratory and St. Patrick would be the sponsoring parish, nearly 80 people from both parishes have provided strong leadership through the stages of preparation and transition. I am most grateful to our Steering Committee members, with the untiring guidance of Rosie Dolan-Baker, for their vision and direction as we work to make this collaboration initiative a success.

Attached is the official Decree from Bishop Malesic honoring what we have been working on since 2023. I am grateful to the bishop for his posture of listening and open reflection with us through the process. I am also grateful for his sincere respect for our proposed collaboration model and affording us the time for implementing this new chapter in a manner that welcomed everyone's input.

So, as you read the document, please keep in mind a few important points:

1. Canonical language, like civil law language, is technical. This type of language is clear and direct. While this is good, I do realize that some of the language can be jarring, especially with words such as "extinctive union," "extinguished" and "subsumed."

What is described in this document is precisely what we've been working toward for the past eighteen months: St. Malachi as an oratory is part of St. Patrick and remains open for divine worship while continuing its unyielding attention to ministries of charity. While parishioners of St. Malachi will become parishioners of St. Patrick, any parishioner may choose to participate in liturgies and events at either campus.

Please remember that all our efforts these past eighteen months have been moving toward this reality and our implementation teams (made up of both parishes) remain committed to ensuring recognition of the rich traditions and contributions of both St. Malachi and St. Patrick. I invite each of us to put each term in its technical context while remembering that we are on course with what has been recommended through our process and now is being implemented by our parish leadership teams.

2. Some may wonder as to why the word "oratory" is not mentioned in this decree. A good question. The answer? Once St. Malachi is officially sponsored by St. Patrick, another Decree shall be issued by the bishop designating St. Malachi as an oratory.

It is my understanding that this would occur shortly after 27 April 2025, which is the date this current Decree goes into effect, and once we're officially joined in this manner. Again, this is simply a part of the formal process and, ultimately, will result in what we've been working toward.

3. When you read the seven points in the Bishop's Decree, please recall that every one of these are in response to our process and our recommendations presented to Bishop Malesic. Each point is intended to clearly address ideas and concerns parishioners have voiced since July 2023. This pertains to a reasonable liturgical life, healthy faith formation, and matters of financial stewardship (eg. respecting designated funds through Memoranda of Understanding, etc.).

As this decree goes into effect – as well as the forthcoming decree in April, regarding the specific designation of St. Malachi as an oratory – we are right on schedule and ready for the important pastoral implementation including planning ways that we can honor our past and discover our future as two communities that are unique and united on Cleveland's Near West Side.

Please continue to pray as we begin to see concrete fruits of our labor. May the Lord extend special graces to all of us during this holy season of renewal.

Sincerely yours in Christ,



Rev. Michael K. Gurnick

Pastor, St. Patrick / Administrator, St. Malachi

Cc: The Most Reverend Edward C. Malesic  
The Reverend Gary D. Yanus