

# ST. MALACHI & ST. PATRICK



## IMPLEMENTATION



30 May 2025

Dear Brothers and Sisters of Saint Patrick Parish,

As we now begin our journey as one parish family, one can imagine the strategic planning necessary for this new chapter. I am grateful to the parishioners who have been instrumental in helping us move forward together by actively participating in either, or both, of the past two phases: Discovery and Recommendation Phase (January – August 2024) and the Implementation Phase (January – May 2025) which had its last session on May 10<sup>th</sup>. With the formalization of our parishes now becoming one by virtue of Bishop Edward Malesic's official decrees\*, our dear people of the former Saint Malachi Parish are now joined to St. Patrick Parish. We are one parish with the blessing of an oratory.

The work of 60+ parishioners has contributed to a culture of mutual charity between our two communities and serves as the foundation for a collaborative vision as we proceed with our next phase.

And now it's time for our **Action Phase**. As all existing Councils and Commissions quietly dissolve on 30 June 2025, we will see changes being introduced during this important phase as our new Councils and Commissions commence on 1 July 2025. Some of these changes are:

- One Parish Council
- One Finance Council (while maintaining separate budgets for the 25-26 fiscal year)
- Six newly structured Commissions, each overseeing an area of pastoral life:
  - a. Liturgy & Worship
  - b. Faith Formation & Spiritual Life
  - c. Ministries of Charity & Social Concerns
  - d. Events & Community Building
  - e. Communications
  - f. Buildings & Grounds
- A Parish Logo that reflects our new relationship
- A uniform and consistent Communications Plan
- One Parish Bulletin
- A comprehensive Parish Calendar planned to streamline all events and activities for the entire parish community, now with two campuses
- Joint Liturgical Celebrations and Social Events that are being planned to mark this historical moment and unite our community.

Understandably, feelings toward this new relationship can be mixed for many folks out of their sincere love for what they had known, whether as a member since their childhood or

because they chose to become part of either faith community at some point in their lives. Nevertheless, I invite everyone to consider how you will play a part as we go forward – together.

Over the next several weeks, the parishioners will receive information about the new groups being formed and how you can get involved. There's not only room for everyone; we need everyone!

In one of his first homilies, Pope Leo XIV suggested that our late Pope Francis' death and then the election of a new successor to St. Peter truly points to the Paschal mystery during this particular Easter Season. I believe that our community has been experiencing this sacred mystery for the past two years as we rightfully mourn the loss of something deeply loved and are now being called to rise and greet this new era. Both on Bridge Avenue or at the Old Angle, may our light shine brightly for all to encounter the Risen Lord!

With gratitude for all who have come before us and with my personal prayers for you and your loved ones, I am honored to walk with you as Pastor of Saint Patrick Parish with St. Malachi Oratory.

Joyfully yours in Mary, Mother of the Church,



Fr. Michael K. Gurnick  
Pastor

\*Two decrees were promulgated by Bishop Malesic and published for the parish. The first decree essentially brought St. Malachi into St. Patrick Parish (March 2025) and the second decree (May 2025) declared St. Malachi as an oratory. Please visit our websites to read the actual decrees (<https://stpatrickbridge.org/we-are-now-a-parish-blessed-with-an-oratory/>)