



St. Patrick Parish with St. Malachi Oratory

Moving forward together as
the heart and hands of Christ

St. Patrick Parish Office
3602 Bridge Avenue
Cleveland, OH 44103

St. Malachi Oratory Office
2401 Washington Avenue
Cleveland, OH 44103

216-631-6872 | www.StPatrickBridge.org | www.StMalachi.org

20 July 2025

Dear Parishioners of St. Patrick Parish with St. Malachi Oratory,

After consultation with members of our parish staff and pastoral councils, and with helpful feedback from our liturgical survey in May, the following revised schedule for weekend liturgies will go into effect **6 September 2025**:

Saturday Vigil	4:30pm - St. Patrick *
Sunday Morning	8:30am - St. Patrick
	10:00am - St. Malachi
	11:00am - St. Patrick

A Word about Saturday Vigil Mass

Our Mass count at both campuses indicates that only one combined Saturday Vigil Mass is necessary. Because the St. Patrick church building is utilized more often on Saturdays, due to the number of funerals and afternoon weddings, it makes sense that we ordinarily heat only one building in the cold weather in order to conserve energy and money. There are also more parking spaces close to the church entrance for those in wheelchairs, walkers, and others who struggle to walk long distances.

While these factors contribute significantly to this decision it should be emphasized that the **4:30pm Mass, while on one campus, will be re-organized** to accommodate liturgical ministers (lectors, Eucharistic Ministers, musicians, greeters/ushers, etc.) from both campuses who regularly serve at the vigil mass. All ministers are welcome and encouraged to become involved in this new arrangement as the liturgy of one community and will have a meeting in August to discuss preparations moving forward.

Realizing that both church building interiors have limited seating options for those in wheelchairs and who may need chairs with arms, we're planning to remove some pews to make space for this arrangement in each church.

A Word about Sunday Morning Masses

While we are presently blessed with the assistance of Fr. Mark Hollis (retired, in-residence) and Fr. Dan Reim, SJ (staff member of St. Ignatius High School), the current

Sunday morning schedule will remain the same; however, should we no longer have the availability of either priest, we will need to revisit the Sunday morning schedule. A number of considerations will be necessary, including the spacing between start-times and even the number of liturgies. Again, for the time being, we'll keep the current schedule for Sunday morning.

A Final Thought

As liturgies are shaped by the community of people who gather, I am aware that any change is difficult. I take this very seriously and appreciate that some parishioners will not be pleased with the elimination of one of our Saturday Vigil Masses. My invitation is for us to see ourselves as one liturgical community as we move forward. There is a place for everyone, and discovering those possibilities together has great potential to enhance our Saturday Vigil experience.

May we continue to grow as one parish blessed with an oratory as we discover what awaits us – together.

Respectfully yours in Christ,



Rev. Michael K. Gurnick
Pastor

** It was suggested that we consider rotating between the campuses, especially in the summer months, as the St. Malachi building is air-conditioned (perhaps after Memorial Day through Labor Day). We will discuss this in early 2026 to determine this option based on at least two important factors: attendance and needs of those who regularly worship at the 4:30pm Vigil at that point, and the state of available parking due to the construction project of the new apartment building near St. Malachi. I will work with Parish Pastoral Council and our Liturgy & Worship Commission to explore this "summer Schedule".*