

**Collaboration Implementation 2025
St. Malachi Parish & St. Patrick Parish**

Frequently Asked Questions

Q: Where are we in the Implementation Process?

A: We are right on schedule. Each of the 8 Implementation Teams are preparing a brief presentation to one another on March 22. Each team will present the Mission Statement, By-Laws, and positions for council/commission membership. After any final adjustments, all parishioners will then be invited to review and discern their possible involvement on these commissions and councils which will provide ongoing leadership for our parish.

Q: How many people have been involved in our Collaboration Process leadership?

A: Taking into consideration our Collaboration Steering Committee, the Recommendation Work Groups (2024) and now our Implementation Teams (2025), we have been blessed with the involvement of over 80 parishioners representing both parishes.

Q: How are parishioners being kept informed of the Collaboration Process?

A: Over the past 18 months, we have had listening sessions, town hall meetings, and other small groups as the ordinary ways that conversations are conducted. Information is conveyed via the parish bulletin (especially with inserts), pulpit announcements, email updates, and information found on both websites.

Q: Is this Collaboration just another way of saying it's a merger?

A: While this is technically a merger, as has been discussed since last year, our Collaboration Initiative honors the fact that one parish (St. Malachi) is experiencing a change of status (eg. becoming an oratory) while St. Patrick remains a parish with the addition of an oratory and expanded territory. Unlike other mergers, both the parish and the newly designated oratory will still bear their own names and will continue with many of their ministries and customs.

Q: Will either parish be getting a new name?

A: St. Malachi Parish will become St. Malachi Oratory and St. Patrick Parish will remain. However, the way we go forward communicating our new relationship is currently being discussed by our Communications Implementation Team members who have come up with some creative ideas. The bishop recognizes our desire to maintain both names to honor their histories.

Q: May a St. Malachi member remain registered solely at the oratory?

A: Because an oratory is the designated church building, all members are registered with the actual parish. Any parishioner is welcome to worship at either church location.

Q: Both parishes have various funds with specific purposes and donors have given with specific intention. Will these be respected, even after we come together?

A: Yes, these “restricted funds” will each be described in a Memorandum of Understanding to preserve the specific purpose of each fund. These would include, but are not limited to, St. Malachi Food Fund, St. Patrick’s Restoration Fund, and other funds named in honor of individuals or designated for specific purposes. This will ensure that these funds honor the purpose for which they were established.

Q: Will our weekend and weekday Mass schedules remain the same at both places?

A: We will eventually need to adjust our liturgical schedule at both places. A survey is currently being designed by one of our Implementation Teams and every parishioner will be invited to participate. Your input is valuable as we study the number of participants at each Mass, the availability of trained ministers and musicians, and considerations based on clergy availability.

Q: How will we right-size each campus and will either church building close?

A: Our Facilities team has been assessing these needs and are recommending that a consultant will be invited to lead us as we study the needs of our parishioners, our mission, and how our physical buildings are equipped to serve these needs. However, both church buildings will remain open and used solely for sacred worship and other experiences of prayer/devotion.

Q: What does the Bishop’s March 9 Decree actually mean?

A: On 27 April 2025, St. Malachi will no longer have the status of a parish and will shortly thereafter be designated an oratory of St. Patrick Parish via a second decree. When any decree of this nature is promulgated there must be a waiting time to allow people the opportunity to absorb the information and to make appropriate plans.

Q: When will St. Malachi officially become an Oratory?

A: Shortly after St. Malachi becomes part of St. Patrick Parish (27 April 2025), a second decree will be coming from the Bishop declaring St. Malachi an oratory.

Q: Will St. Malachi and St. Patrick each have its own priest and staff?

A: No. In anticipation of St. Malachi becoming an oratory, the two parish staffs began working as one staff as of July 2024. Because the oratory is a part of St. Patrick, the pastor serves both.

What questions do you have?

Please send us a message at: parishcollaboration44113@gmail.com.