

# Malachi Matters



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

Summer 2019

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## Administrator's Welcoming

Fr. Tom Mahoney

In Cleveland, the name "St. Malachi Parish" evokes many responses. It is a name that is held in many, many peoples' memory banks as a beloved and revered place. To so many of the West Side Irish community, it is remembered as a refuge for their desperately poverty-stricken forebears who came in the chaos that impacted the far western regions of County Mayo – especially a very poor Island in the back of beyond called Achill. St. Malachi was a Catholic community that received, educated, and formed their children and their children's children. When better times arrived, and the community moved little by little out beyond Edgewater Beach, the memory of and concern for the old parish remained very strong.



Fr. Tom Mahoney

When word of the newly formed program called Alcoholics' Anonymous began to spread out of Akron, the first AA meeting – the Angle group – formed at St. Malachi. St. Malachi has been a hospitable place for

folks suffering from alcoholism and other addictions down through the years to this very day.

Not very long after the Second Vatican Council ended, an experiment in parish life was undertaken with the establishment of the Community of St. Malachi. It was a nonterritorial parochial experiment that tried to study and apply the principles of the Council to regular parish life and draw a strong base of lay leadership to undertake a broader ministerial and service outreach. St. Malachi now became a daily provider of food and services to the neighbors who lived in public housing in the nearby Lakeview Terrace housing and the homeless community of the near West Side. The "Back Door" ministry was undertaken to provide, throughout the day, a nourishing snack to men and women who did not have access to protein. Peanut butter became the protein of the day. Slowly, as the ministry developed, a full meal began to be provided, with all the necessary nutrition. Members of the Parish undertook a Monday night meal that, again, served the nutritional needs of the full families in the neighborhood.

## Helping Lives in Crisis

Jeanette Shemo, Office Manager

Many of the people we serve are fragile and it only takes one incident to turn their world upside down. It may be due to an illness, loss of a job, or helping another family member rather than taking care of themselves. Whatever the reason, they suddenly find themselves faced with the possibility of losing their apartment and being out on the streets.

Our main focus is helping people who live in our neighborhood. For those who don't, we provide them with names and phone numbers of Catholic churches in their area who might be able to help them financially.

Today Ray came to see me. He is out on the streets again. He was renting a room at CMHA from his friend and paying him \$50 every two weeks. In the past we gave Ray money for rent to keep him off the streets. He had a job painting a house. We found out today that he was never paid for his work. Unfortunately, this happens. With our urging he applied for housing with CMHA and is still waiting for an answer. We provided him with information to connect



**St. Malachi  
Parish**

**Celebrating More  
Than 150 Years of  
Faithful Service  
in the Old Angle!**

# Meet Racquel Jones

## Back Door Ministry Kitchen Coordinator

Gary Pritts

Racquel Jones is the Kitchen Coordinator for the St. Malachi Back Door Ministry. This ministry operates out of the "Back Door" of the St. Malachi Rectory, and hence its name. People can come 365 days of the year between 8:30 AM and 3 PM for a meal.

Racquel is celebrating her one-year anniversary on the job, having started in July 2018. She brings extensive experience in food service, which includes running both restaurants and her own catering company. She is the mother of three adult children and is blessed with five grandchildren. She was educated in Catholic schools and is an active leader in her church, Grace Missionary Baptist Church.

"The Back Door is more than feeding people – it is nurturing souls, feeding the whole person: mind, body, and soul," says Racquel. "People come for more than food and there is much more to this ministry than simply physically feeding people. People do come for food, and also for encouragement, a sense of community, and to be greeted with a smile. They come for a place where someone knows their names and to be with people that they can depend on."

The Back Door relies on volunteers and donations. Racquel continues, "Volunteers come from all walks of life. Middle-class and affluent people come to help those less fortunate. Others come to satisfy court-ordered community service. Children and high-schoolers come with their family or to fulfill service hours. Still others are former clients who become volunteers."

When asked to share just one story about her experience at the Back Door, Racquel said that every day is a new story. She shared about last Thanksgiving.



Racquel Jones

"It was very cold last year. When clients came, they were surprised to receive a complete Thanksgiving meal, with all the trimmings. By lunchtime, a crowd had gathered and they were cold and hungry. We didn't have gloves, so I gave out socks for people to place over their hands, and handwarmers. As the day continued, the crowd grew larger. Quite a few people asked if they could use my phone to call their families, asking if they could come home and be with the family. It was heartbreaking. But at the Back Door, people had a sense of family. They left well fed, had a little more bounciness, and had an experience of being loved."

To volunteer, please call the rectory at 216-861-5343 or email [BackDoor@StMalachi.org](mailto:BackDoor@StMalachi.org). Donations of food may be left at the back door. Financial donations may be made via mail or the St. Malachi Website.

### Lives in Crisis (continued from p1)

with a social worker who provides housing options for the homeless. Ray has pneumonia now and spent three days in the hospital. He is desperate. Fr. Mahoney approved another \$50 for rent and Ray was grateful and was planning to contact his former employer with the hope of getting a job.

Sometimes it is helping with rent and other times it is just helping them navigate through the system – straightening out a misunderstanding over an electric bill or helping to complete paper work to get a new cell phone and sometimes it's just letting them use our phone so that they can take care of personal business.

## Contact Us

2459 Washington Ave.  
Cleveland, OH 44113  
[www.StMalachi.org](http://www.StMalachi.org)

**Newsletter Issues**  
[Newsletter@StMalachi.org](mailto:Newsletter@StMalachi.org)

**Parish Office**  
[Rectory@StMalachi.org](mailto:Rectory@StMalachi.org)  
216-861-5343

**Parish Council Chair**  
[CouncilChair@StMalachi.org](mailto:CouncilChair@StMalachi.org)

**Pastoral Minister and Religious Education**  
[Stephanie.P@StMalachi.org](mailto:Stephanie.P@StMalachi.org)





# "They all ate and were satisfied." (Mt. 14:20)

Nadge Herceg

Remembering the abundance of the loaves and fishes, Monday Night Meal (MNM) volunteers continue Jesus's miracle by weekly welcoming and feeding our neighbors. Between 17-20 cooks each week (80 per month) prepare home-cooked meals. Quarterly menus are distributed in advance. Additional volunteers donate salad fixings and fruit (300 pieces) weekly. Volunteers pick up donated baked goods from local stores.

Early meal prep begins at 3:00 PM to put together the side dish, salads, fruits, and desserts for our guests. The serving crew arrives between 4:00-5:30 PM. Before serving at 6:00 PM, prayers of thanksgiving are offered for the crew and our guests. Meals are also transported and served at the Lakeview Terrace high rise. After serving and enjoying the home cooked meal, it's like at home ... wash the floors, tables, and the dishes.

Jesus's miracle continues through the many dedicated and generous volunteers who meet the challenge weekly in preparing for 350 meals. The St. Malachi Food Fund supplements the numerous needs of MNM through purchases of ongoing supplies and side dish necessities.



## Miles that Help Make the Malachi Ministries Happen

Sharon Lowe-Chapman

The 39th chapter of the classic St. Malachi Church Run went off with flying green colors on March 16 as 3,600 Irish (and non-Irish) eyes were smiling on a sun-soaked Cleveland morning. Fr. Tom Mahoney, the administrator of St. Malachi Parish, was also smiling because the event would yield more than \$50,000 in proceeds for the Parish's many ministries. Those proceeds are thanks to the participants, direct donations, and the event's many sponsors, including presenting sponsor Onix Technologies and legacy sponsor Judge Daniel Gaul.

ter as we are celebrating the 40th anniversary of this time-honored tradition that enjoys enormous success because it kicks off the running season, celebrates Irish culture, and supports a Parish that cares for poor people! **So mark your calendar for March 14, 2020 and join in on the fun and fundraising!**

[www.RunStMalachi.com](http://www.RunStMalachi.com)



The day began with 8:00 AM Mass, followed by a 2-mile and a 5-mile walk/run, and concluded with an after party presented by Great Lakes Brewing Company at Mulberry's in the Flats. We are already busy planning next year's event which will be bigger and bet-





**St. Malachi  
Parish**

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## My Guardian Angel

Long-time parishioner

One cold morning I met Jane eating her breakfast from the Back Door Ministry on the curb in front of the Malachi sign. Jane shared with me that her birthday was in a few days and all she wished for was a pair of warm shoes. As we both looked down at her beat-up sandals with a pair of socks that a friend gave her, I exclaimed that I could help her get her wish and planned to meet her the next day. As I walked away I was trying to think of a very nice thrift store – then stopped and thought what was I thinking!!!! I will let her choose where she would like to get those new shoes.

As I met her the next day, she was already teary and saying that she never had anyone help her this way. Jane chose to go to Kohl's; and, as we rode, she turned on the radio and sang with every song. In Kohl's she chose her shoes. She also chose a package of socks and a blouse to be worn with slacks that she saved for special occasions!

On the way back to the church, she not only sang but cried, thanking Jesus for this special happening. On her birthday, I noticed her standing in line for her



meal as she stated that she hadn't received any cards nor a happy birthday from anyone. However, she proudly wore her new shoes, socks, and blouse and stated to everyone in line pointing to me: "This is my guardian angel!"

My thought in response was no, Jane, you are my guardian angel. You taught me not to make judgments as to where I would take you to get those shoes, to approach others with compassion, to extend kindness and really listen to another, and to become more aware of experiencing another's life that has never happened to me. I will be forever blessed, Jane, for having met you.