



Schenectady Area Roman Catholic Churches

Works of Mercy Initiative *in Motion*

Our Lady of Fatima, Our Lady of Mt. Carmel, Our Lady Queen of Peace, St. Adalbert's, St. Anthony's, St. Gabriel the Archangel, St. John the Evangelist, St. Joseph's, St. Kateri Tekakwitha, St. Luke's, St. Madeleine Sophie, St. Margaret of Cortona, St. Paul the Apostle

A New Service-Personal Care Closet

Many people in our community struggle to make ends meet. While programs exist to help families with many necessities, access to personal care items is not consistent. These items can't be purchased with SNAP benefits (commonly referred to as food stamps) and are not always readily available in food pantries, where many low income community members seek assistance. Having access to personal care products is important for the overall well being and dignity of a person.

Over the years there have been many occasions when social workers referring children in need of clothing have mentioned that the child also needed personal care products to help prevent them from being teased and to make them feel more comfortable. Consumers of services at local pantries often seek these products as well and being able to say "yes, we can help" is the goal of the Personal Care Closet.



Housed in Our Lady of Mt. Carmel's Monsignor Spina Center, volunteers will package personal care kits. Kits will include all the basic things needed for personal care, such as shampoo, soap, toothbrush & toothpaste, deodorant, toilet paper, feminine hygiene products, and more. Packaged kits will be distributed to those served through several local parish-based organizations, including the St. Luke's Daily Bread Food Pantry, St. Vincent de Paul Society Food Pantry at St. Paul the Apostle, St. Madeleine Sophie's Food Pantry, and to children through the Good Neighbor Program.

You can help by donating personal care items or volunteering to help! Watch for more information in your parish bulletin or check our website.

Ministry Experience Spotlight

by Jim & Toni Lechowicz, St. Paul the Apostle Church

Last summer we became part of Communion Outreach Ministry by leading communion services several times a month for residents of Kingsway Community's Parkland Gardens and Kingsway Manor. Jim prepares the daily readings and a reflection. Toni leads the service by reading the worship aid in Braille.

This ministry is spiritually fulfilling as it provides us with the opportunity to share the word and body of Jesus with others who may not be able to attend Mass. The residents look forward to us coming for both the spiritual benefits and socialization. It is a blessing to be open to God's will in providing for His people. We read in Ps. 71:9 the importance of visiting the elderly, "Do not cast me off in my old age: do not forsake me when my strength is completely spent." We are humbled by this privilege to be of service to the community and "make straight the way of the Lord."

SAVE THE DATE!

**CALLED TO SERVE
FAMILY SUNDAY**

**November 11, 2018
2:00 PM**

St. Paul the Apostle Church

Join together for an afternoon of prayer, learning, and hands on works of mercy!



The Good Neighbor Program continues to help local children feel comfortable, confident, and ready to learn. To date over 1000 clothing care packages have been provided to children in our community thanks to your donations and the dedication of our volunteers!

Volunteers give more than their time and resources, they give of their hearts. Tuesday mornings, Our Lady of Mt. Carmel's Monsignor Spina Center is bustling with volunteers ready for the days assignments. Sorting through clothing donations, stocking shelves, and carefully picking outfits to fill the referrals received for the day. Each child is given a care package that was packed with love. The hope is that this small act of kindness will have a big impact for the child who receives it. Pope Francis tells us, "There is no love without works of charity. Service towards our brothers and sisters springs from the heart that loves" (@Pontifex, May 16) Please help us continue to show love to children in our community. Check your parish bulletin or our website for our most urgent inventory needs.

In Memory



Jack Pudney

**Born into
Eternal Life
February 18, 2018**

"And the King will say to them in reply, Amen I say to you, whatever you did for one of these least brothers of mine, you did for me" (Matthew 25:40) An integral part of the developmental phases of the Works of Mercy Initiative, Jack truly embodied the spirit of the works of mercy. Jack's compassion for the sick, elderly, and homebound drove him to help spearhead programs that would subsequently prepare parishioners to bring Christ where He is needed most. In addition to the efforts Jack put into training programs, he was always willing to lend a helping hand, a listening ear, and a caring heart. An accomplished man, a family man, and a man of God, Jack was a true example to us all. "Well done, my good and faithful servant." (Matthew 25:23)

CORPORAL WORKS of *Mercy*

- Feed the hungry
- Give drink to the thirsty
- Clothe the naked
- Shelter the homeless
- Visit the sick
- Visit the imprisoned
- Bury the dead

SPIRITUAL WORKS of *Mercy*

- Instruct the ignorant
- Counsel the doubtful
- Admonish sinners
- Bear wrongs patiently
- Forgive offenses willingly
- Comfort the afflicted
- Pray for the living and the dead

**Watch your
parish bulletin &
our website for
information
about upcoming
programs!**

Your Donations Are Needed

The **Works of Mercy Initiative** is funded by the annual collection taken up in each of the 13 participating Schenectady area parishes, individual donations, grant awards, and fundraising events. Your support ensures that the Works of Mercy Initiative will be able to continue to fulfill its mission to identify those who are most in need and connect them with others to experience Christ's healing touch.

Here's how you can make a gift today

- Online:** go to www.worksofmercyschdy.org/donate
- Mail:** Make your check payable to "**Works of Mercy Initiative**" and mail to: **WMI**, C/O St. Luke's Church, 1241 State St, Schenectady, NY 12304
- Collection:** Place your donation in an envelope clearly marked "**Works of Mercy Initiative**" and drop into the collection basket at your home parish.



For more information about the Works of Mercy Initiative contact:

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