

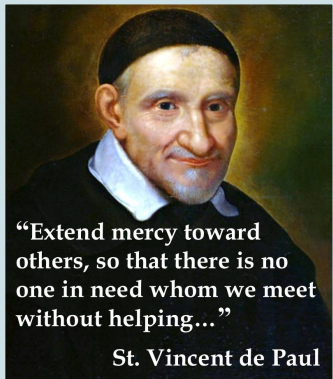


Schenectady Area Roman Catholic Churches

# 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

## Celebration of Ministry



"Extend mercy toward others, so that there is no one in need whom we meet without helping..."

St. Vincent de Paul

### Newsletter Features

- Celebration of Ministry
- Good Neighbor Program
- Save the Date

### 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

The Works of Mercy Initiative's **Celebration of Ministry** was held on May 22nd at St. Luke's Church. This annual event brings together those dedicated to living the works of mercy through ministry in their parish communities and the Schenectady community at large.

"Tonight we celebrate the commitment that each of us has made" said Kristin Black "and pray that our resolve does not waiver, but continues to grow." A panel of speakers offered testimony about how their ministry has helped others and how it has also enriched their own lives. Speakers included Sharon Maneri (Bereavement Ministry), Jack Pudney (Visitation Ministry), Mary Ann Conway (Jail Ministry), Kathy Spano (Food Pantry), and Angela Leo, who is currently discerning a religious vocation. At the conclusion of Kathy Spano's testimony, all applauded in agreement when she said "Living a life of service is creating a life of joy".

This special evening allowed participants the opportunity to renew their baptismal commitment to discipleship by living out the corporal and spiritual works of mercy.

How will you live the works of mercy this summer? To share your story or to view a video of this event, go to [www.facebook.com/WorksofMercy](http://www.facebook.com/WorksofMercy).



Living the Works of Mercy Awards were presented to the Jail Ministry Team of Our Lady of Fatima Church (pictured above) and to Sr. Linda Neil & Sr. Ann Christi Brink from St. Joseph's Place.

## Volunteering to be a "Good Neighbor"

On Tuesday mornings, you can hear the sound of laughter and conversation coming from the classrooms of the former Our Lady of Mount Carmel School on Pleasant Street. That's because the volunteers for the **Good Neighbor Program** are happily working on sorting and selecting

clothes for the children who need them. "I enjoy helping and I want all children to have what my children had growing up." said Doreen, a volunteer from St. John the Evangelist Church. Jean added "It is important and fulfilling work." Marie, a retired teacher, wished there (continued on page 2)

## **Volunteering to be a "Good Neighbor"**

had been a resource like the **Good Neighbor Program** when she was still working. "Teachers were always looking for sources and often used their own money or their own kids' clothes to provide things for their students because we knew that the number one reason that kids don't go to school is if they don't feel comfortable about what they are wearing."



**Much needed shelves were purchased thanks to a grant from Stewart's Holiday Match Foundation**

Thanks to the generous donations of clothing and to the efforts of our volunteers, 300 local children have been provided with clothing care packages since the beginning of the 2016-2017 school year. As the school year comes to a close, we are still filling requests for children who do



not have summer clothes for playing in the warm weather. Donations of short sleeve shirts, tank tops, shorts, bathing suits and even flip flops are welcomed!

To find out how you can help, please go to our website [www.worksofmercy.org](http://www.worksofmercy.org) and click on the "Good Neighbor Program" tab.



### **SAVE THE DATE!**

**CALLED TO SERVE FAMILY SUNDAY**

**November 12, 2017 - 2:00 PM**

**St. Paul the Apostle Church**

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

**Check our website for updates. [Worksofmercyschdy.org](http://Worksofmercyschdy.org)**

The **Works of Mercy Initiative** is funded in part by the annual collection taken up in each of the 13 participating Schenectady area parishes, grant awards, fundraising events and individual donations. 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.

**Thank you for considering a gift today!**



### **Here's how you can help:**

**Online:** go to [www.worksofmercyschdy.org/donate](http://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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**C/O St. Luke's, Church, 1241 State St., Schenectady, NY 12304**

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