

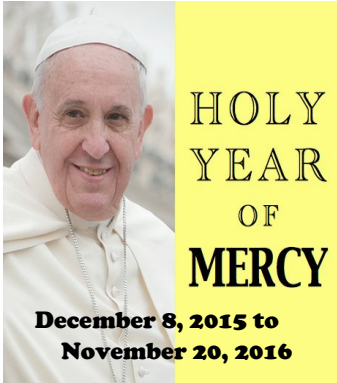


Schenectady Area Roman
Catholic Churches

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

Called to Serve Family Sunday



Newsletter Features

- **Called to Serve Family Sunday**
- **Just One Gift**
- **Good Neighbor Program**

Works of Mercy: Corporal

1. Feed the Hungry
2. Give Drink to Thirsty
3. Shelter the Homeless
4. Clothe the Naked
5. Visit the Sick
6. Visit Imprisoned
7. Bury the Dead

Spiritual

1. Instruct the Ignorant
2. Counsel the Doubtful
3. Admonish Sinners
4. Bear wrongs patiently
5. Forgive Offences
6. Comfort the Afflicted
7. Pray for the Living and the Dead

What better way to approach the upcoming Holy Year of Mercy than to come together in the spirit of the Catholic tradition of the works of mercy. Luke 6:27-36 tells us, "But to you who are listening I say...Give to everyone who asks you, and if anyone takes what belongs to you, do not demand it back. Do to others as you would have them do to you. If you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? Even sinners love those who love them. And if you do good to those who are good to you, what credit is that to you? Even sinners do that. And if you lend to those from whom you expect repayment, what credit is that to you? Even sinners lend to sinners, expecting to be repaid in full. But love your enemies, do good to them, and lend to them without expecting to get anything back...**Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful.**"

Are you listening? Pope Francis challenges us all to listen and to act. **"Mercy...is the best thing we can feel: it changes the world"** (catholicnewsagency.com). Change starts inside each and every one of us. We must

open our minds, our ears, our eyes, and most importantly, our hearts.

On November 8, Catholics from around the Schenectady area will gather for **Called to Serve Family Sunday**; a day about learning to live the works of mercy. This day of prayer, enrichment and service is sponsored by the Works of Mercy Initiative and local Faith Formation programs. The day is about planting seeds that will lead us all to be constantly mindful of the needs of those around us and to show mercy to all those we encounter.

Workshops will focus on ways to be merciful, including visiting the sick, feeding the hungry, reaching out to the bereaved, prison ministry, working for justice, supporting veterans, and respecting life. The Holy Year of Mercy calls for all of the faithful to live the works of mercy. Participants in Called to Serve Family Sunday can take what is learned and incorporate it into daily life. Living the works of mercy is about having mercy at the forefront of all that is said and done. How will you be merciful this year? Share your works of mercy experiences on facebook at facebook.com/worksofmercy.

Just One Gift

Want to know how one donation reaches out to many who are hungry, in need of clothes and shelter, in prison or ill? When you make a gift to the *Works of Mercy Initiative*, you provide warm and properly fitting clothing to a child in a local elementary school,

which helps them feel more comfortable and confident to face the day; you help offset the cost of training for visitation ministers from your parish to visit hospitals, nursing homes and the homebound; you support events (continued on page 2)

Being A Good Neighbor

The Good Neighbor Program of the Works of Mercy Initiative sends a message of love and hope for the children and families served. Children learn better when they feel better and being comfortable and confident is part of feeling better. Referrals are received from around the community, including local elementary schools, the Schenectady Department of Social Services, food pantries, parish Faith Formation programs and the City Mission. The Good Neighbor Program has provided care packages to almost 100 children already this school year. Last year, over 250 children were served. The support and generosity of the parish communities through clothing and monetary donations allows these works of mercy to continue to positively impact the world around us. Collectively we can change the world. The children we help today are the leaders of tomorrow.

“Words cannot express my heartfelt gratitude...for all the wonderful clothes, school supplies, shoes, sweatshirts, backpacks and pure love that was packed into the bags...”

Just One Gift

(continued from page 1) imprisoned.

such as **“Called to Serve Family Sunday”** which in turn teaches family members how to give food to homeless shelters, fill Christmas Stockings for children in need and provide comfort and support for the bereaved, our troops, veterans and the

Soon your parish will have a special collection for the *Works of Mercy Initiative*. Please be generous. **Your ONE gift** will show works of mercy to so many who need it most.

For more ways to donate to the Works of Mercy Initiative please read below.



Back to School Smiling Faces

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

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:

Kristin Black, M.S.W.

worksofmercyschdy@live.com

C/O St. Luke's, Church, 1241 State St., Schenectady, NY 12304

(518) 347-0871 www.worksofmercyschdy.org

Follow us on Facebook: www.facebook.com/worksofmercy