



Roman Catholic Churches of the Schenectady Deanery

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

Welcome Spring

Deanery Spotlight: Combating Homelessness

Living the Works of Mercy

How do you live the works of mercy? When have you performed or received the corporal and/or spiritual works of mercy?

Share your works of mercy experiences on our facebook page. Can't think of one? What better time to start than the present. Choose a work of mercy and find a way to help someone in need and then tell us about it!

facebook.com/worksofmercy

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

Homelessness is a struggle many families face. Imagine not knowing where you and your children will sleep. Two Schenectady parishes have made the commitment to welcome local families as they take steps toward establishing and maintaining stable housing and self sufficiency through the Family Promise program.

St. Kateri Tekakwitha and St. Gabriel the Archangel & St. Madeleine Sophie parish communities became host congregations for Family Promise. Families participating in the program will be welcomed and hosted at the parishes during designated weeks. Families receive services during the day through the Family Promise program at a Day Center located in Albany.

Ron Severson of St. Kateri Tekakwitha describes how the beauty of the Family Promise program is that it "addresses the needs of whole families and emphasizes keeping the family together during a homelessness crisis situation".

Family Promise relies on dedicated volunteers though host congregations and support congregations. While host congregations provide for the basic needs of the family for a week at a time, support congregations provide essential help. As Catholics we are called to become involved in our communities by helping those in need. By extending the compassionate hand of Christ through our work.

Pastoral Care to the Sick, Elderly and Homebound

Volunteering to help with the Family Promise program is a hands on work of mercy. This valuable program is made possible by the contributions of host and support congregations of many faiths. In Schenectady, contact Ron Severson at: christianservice@stkateriparish.org OR Gloria Towle-Hilt at 355-0421. To learn more about Family Promise: capitalregionfamilypromise.weebly.com

Being present to those who are sick, elderly and homebound is a ministry that simply cannot be overlooked. It is a ministry that brings great joy to both those who give and receive. Those who participate in this ministry also often bear the burdens weighing heavily on those to whom they minister. The Pastoral Care to

the Sick, Elderly & Homebound Formation and Skill Building Workshop helps prepare visitation ministers to bring Christ to those in need of his comforting presence. Congratulations to the participants who will complete this workshop series this May. Please keep them in prayer as the begin or continue in ministry.

Annual Celebration of Ministry

Parishioners from around the Schenectady Deanery gather together for an evening of prayer, reflection, and fellowship to celebrate God's work being performed through parish ministry and ministry in the community. These works of mercy that are performed on a daily basis demonstrate the commitment Catholics are called to make to bringing Christ to those in need. Making a commitment to being aware of those in need and being present to help.

As part of this year's Celebration of Ministry, the Bereavement Ministry of St. Kateri Tekakwitha is recognized for its history of dedication to being present to those who are journeying through the loss of a loved one. For the past decade this ministry has grown to include help with funeral Masses, gestures of love and support on anniversaries and holiday, hosting annual All Souls Day services and evenings of reflection and prayer, and sponsoring a Memories Group and Healing Together Support Group. Ministry team members demonstrate a commitment to their brothers and sisters in Christ by being present to be Christ to those in need. They embrace the words we hear from St. Teresa of Avila, "Christ has no body but yours, No hands, no feet on earth but yours..." Being the body, the hands, and the feet of Christ is what living the works of mercy is about. Thank you to the team members of the Bereavement Ministry of St. Kateri Tekakwitha and all those who perform works of mercy.

Helping Local Children

All children should start each school day ready to learn. The Good Neighbor Program strives to help local children be ready to learn by providing clothing to those in need to help them feel more comfortable and confident to face the school day. Providing children with appropriate clothing may help

boost self esteem and reduce bullying. The Program has helped over 200 local children this year and continues to receive referrals from schools, social services, and parish ministries. You can continue to help by donating gently used or new clothing and new underwear and socks.



Bereavement Ministry
St. Kateri Tekakwitha

The **Works of Mercy Initiative** is funded in part by the annual collection taken up in each of the parishes of the Schenectady Deanery, 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:

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