



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

## What is the Works of Mercy Initiative? By Kristin Black, Coordinator



### Newsletter Features

- What is the Works of Mercy Initiative?
- Parish Liaisons
- Fundraising Fun
- How can you help?

### 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

Often I'm asked, "What is the Works of Mercy Initiative?" It is hoped this article will offer an overview. The Works of Mercy Initiative (WMI) develops and supports programs and enrichment opportunities focused on bringing the Catholic tradition of the works of mercy alive in the communities of participating parishes and the surrounding community. Having evolved over the past several years, some highlights of where we are today include:

### Good Neighbor Program

Helping local children feel comfortable and confident to face the school day and be ready to learn, the Good Neighbor Program supplies clothing care packages to children in need. Referrals are made by local schools, Social Services, food pantries, parishes and other local agencies. Over 150 children have been helped so far during the current school year.

### Called to Serve Family Sunday

A day to come together for prayer, enrichment and hands on works of mercy. Planting seeds in our youngest and fostering growth in teens and adults, this day helps build leaders in service and working for justice. Participants engage in works of mercy to benefit local organizations and programs that help those in need. They are encouraged to make a commitment to living the works of mercy and spreading the compassion of Christ to all those they encounter.

### Celebration of Ministry

Parishioners gather annually for an evening of prayer, reflection, and fellowship to celebrate God's work being performed through parish ministry and ministry in the community.

### Pastoral Care

Visitation ministers complete training to prepare them to bring Christ to ill and homebound members of their parish communities. Ongoing enrichment opportunities on topics relevant to this vital ministry are also provided. In addition to enrichment, a networking and support group of parish pastoral care coordinators meets monthly to support those who are leaders in ministry and explore ways to work together to ensure all those in need are reached.

### Prayer Blanket Ministry

Cozy fleece blankets, made in prayer, by parish youth are given to youth who are dealing with life struggles such as illness, grief, homelessness, abuse, or poverty.

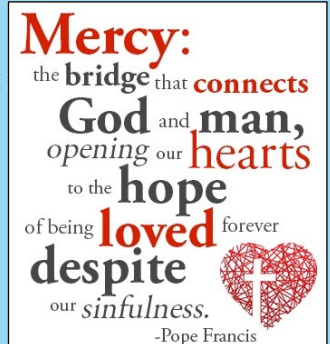
### Jail Ministry

The WMI looks for ways to support ministry in the Schenectady County Jail and seeks to further investigate ways to be a resource for families of those incarcerated and for those transitioning back into the community.

### Social Justice

The WMI seeks to be an information channel to help raise awareness about suffering and injustice in our society and how we are called to make a stand for change.

God has called each of us to live the works of mercy, a tremendous privilege and responsibility. How will you answer His call?



Visit our website to check out our monthly Jubilee Year of Mercy calendar!

## PARISH LIAISONS

In order to help establish a communication channel between the WMI and participating parishes, we are excited to welcome our first Parish Liaisons. Appointed by and working with the Parish Leader & parish WMI Board representative, liaisons will help share and promote information about WMI programs, events, and activities in their respective parish. This newly established role will be in full swing by September 2016. Please welcome those who have made a commitment to this role:

- Our Lady of Fatima: To be determined
- Our Lady of Mt. Carmel: Jackie Oliveira
- Our Lady Queen of Peace: Barb Dunigan
- St. Adalbert's: To be determined
- St. Anthony's: Ron McClosky
- St. Gabriel the Archangel: To be determined
- St. John the Evangelist: Anna Marie Montanaro
- St. Joseph's: Mary Jane Foley
- St. Kateri Tekakwitha: Chris DeLuke
- St. Luke's: Mary Ann Fiminski
- St. Madeleine Sophie: To be determined
- St. Margaret of Cortona: Barb Dunigan
- St. Paul the Apostle: Diane Bouchard

Parishes listed as "to be determined" are still in the process of identifying a liaison. If you would like to volunteer, please contact us.

### Here's how you can help

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!**



**Fundraising Fun** Thank you to all those who joined in the fun at our Mystery Dinner Theater fundraiser on May 1!

Special thanks to all those who helped make the event a success through your donations of time, talents and resources...

Fr. Vincent Ciotoli, Deacon Joe Brennan, Barb Dunigan, Our Lady Queen of Peace Parish, Christian Pivacek, Amy & Sophia Sacchetti, Karlie Ullman, Omar Munroe, Toni LaFond, Michael Dessingue, Lina Antenucci, Diane Bouchard, Fr. Dominic Isopo, Fuller Black, Joseph Reimann, St. Kateri Tekakwitha, St. Adalbert's, St. Joseph's, St. Luke's, Diane Orlando, Peg Broady, Villa Italia, Frank Gallo & Son Florist, Uncle Rico's Pizza, Target, Walmart, Sweet Frog, Splash Nail Spa, Mallozi's, Vineyard Wines & Spirits, Mia Maria Beauty Boutique, Chipolte, Rainbow Corner, Patty Tobin Fine Fashion Jewelry, Oneida/Eagle Crest Vineyards Wine



The "Pink Ladies" are ready to Rock N' Roll at the 50's themed Dinner Theater

### 3 Ways to make a gift

- 1. Online:** go to [www.worksofmercyschdy.org](http://www.worksofmercyschdy.org)
- 2. 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
- 3. 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.**

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