



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

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](http://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

Our Year in Review

Clothing Children Throughout Our Community

If you saw a lot of smiling faces in local schools this past fall, some of them could have been because The Works of Mercy Initiative's Good Neighbor Program was able to provide clothing care packages to almost 150 children since the August Back-to-School season.

Parishioners responded generously to bulletin notices announcing the **Good Neighbor Program Back-to-School Clothing Drive**. New and gently used children's clothing, sizes 4-18, were collected in each parish. Many parents who were school shopping for their own children bought additional items and donated them to the Program.

The focus then turned to making sure children would be ready for winter. In addition to winter clothing, winter coats, hats and mittens/gloves have been given to local children. The help of a local Daisy Girl Scout Troop, donations, and a connection with the City Mission made

providing winter gear to children a reality.

"It's all about taking care of the children" says Marie Montone. Marie and her husband George, lead program volunteers in putting together the clothing requests as they come in. Each package contains enough clothes, socks and underwear to get a child through a week of school. Sometimes items such as pajamas, sneakers, and winter gear may also be included.

Throughout the year, teachers, social workers, social service caseworkers and parishes make referrals when they have a child in need who they think could use the program's help.

In addition to clothing, monetary donations come in handy when inventory of a particular size is low or if a child has a special need. Your gift to the Works of Mercy Initiative helps make sure that these children will be more comfortable and confident to face the school day!

Called to Serve Family Sunday

Parishioners from around the Schenectady area joined together for an afternoon of prayer, enrichment and works of mercy on November 9, 2014. Led in the Celebration of Mass by Bishop Sharfenberger, attendees were prepared to spend the afternoon learning about how they can become leaders in service

and working for justice in their community. As servants of Christ we all made a commitment to live the works of mercy and help our brothers and sisters. We are never too young or old to begin showing compassion to those in need around us.

(continued on reverse)

Called to Serve Family Sunday (continued)

The youngest of children can begin to build character traits that will develop them into leaders in works of mercy by learning to work together, share, help and befriend each other. Called to Serve Family Sunday was a day about planting these seeds in our youngest and fostering growth in our teens and adults so we will collectively spread the compassion of Christ to everyone we encounter.

Workshops offered attendees the opportunity to learn about the works of mercy. Together attendees made Veteran's Day cards bringing well wishes, thoughts and prayers to local Veteran's at the Albany Stratton VA Medical Center; crafted prayer blankets for children who are homeless, ill, grieving or experiencing a life struggle; assembled comfort kits for Christ Child Society to distribute to a local shelter for victims of domestic violence and their children; stuffed Christmas stockings for children who have a parent incarcerated at the Schenectady County Jail; and helped put together care packages for the Works of Mercy Initiative's Good Neighbor Program. Attendees also learned about visitation ministry to the sick, elderly and homebound members of our parish communities and viewed the documentary "A Place at the Table" to learn about hunger in America and join in a discussion about this important local and national issue.

The Works of Mercy Initiative and the Faith Formations programs of the Schenectady Deanery hope to continue to partner to offer future programs such as this.

Fostering Hope

Weekly ministry at the Schenectady County Jail gives residents the opportunity to experience Christ's love. Time spent with the ministry team opens a pathway for personal growth and spiritual development. Mary Ann Conway, one of our dedicated team members, shared about a weekly exercise asking

participants to reflect on scripture. Imprisonment can elicit feelings of despair. Mary Ann described how one participant used the reflection exercise to develop personal steps to becoming a better person. The Ministry team helps people through dark times and keeps them hopeful for the future.

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!



For more information about the Works of Mercy Initiative contact:

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(518) 347-0871 www.worksofmercyschdy.org

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SAVE THE DATE

Pastoral Care to the Sick,
Elderly and Homebound
Formation and Skill Building
Workshop

Six Session Workshop Begins
April 15

Call (518) 347-0871
for more information.

Here's how you can make a donation:

Online: go to www.worksofmercyschdy.org/donate

Mail: Mail your check payable to "**Works of Mercy Initiative**" 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.