

**Faith Formation**  
**St. Patrick Parish**  
**2020-2021**  
**Service Project Suggestions**



*When he had washed their feet, put his garments back on and reclined at table again, he said to them, Do you realize what I have done for you? If I, therefore, the master and teacher, have washed your feet, you ought to wash one another's feet.*

*I give you a new commandment: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you also should love one another. This is how all will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.*

*John 13: 4-5, 12-14, 34-35*

We have included a service component in our Faith Formation programs (Family Formation and CTN). The goal of a service project is for a family to put their faith in action and serve as Jesus. We ask that each family perform at least two projects this school year, one that reflects the Corporal Works of Mercy and one that reflects the Spiritual Works of Mercy. When you perform your projects, please complete the service project reflection. Paper copies are provided at the back of the Family Formation binders, or they can be found and completed online at [www.stpatrickyorkville.org](http://www.stpatrickyorkville.org) under "Faith Formation." Because we believe that parents have a unique role in the formation of their children's faith, we ask that you choose projects that your whole family can participate in and benefit from. If you involve your children in deciding which projects to perform, they will enjoy them even more!

**We hope this will be a wonderful experience for your family. You are not limited to the suggestions provided here, rather they are offered to inspire your family.**

## **The Corporal Works of Mercy**

*(from Matthew 25:35-46)*

1. Feed the hungry.
2. Give drink to the thirsty
3. Clothe the naked.
4. Shelter the homeless.
5. Visit the sick
6. Visit the imprisoned.
7. Bury the dead.

*Love One Another*



## **The Spiritual Works of Mercy**

1. Counsel the doubtful.
2. Instruct the ignorant.
3. Admonish the sinner.
4. Comfort the sorrowful.
5. Forgive injuries.
6. Bear wrongs patiently.
7. Pray for the living and dead.

# **Corporal Works of Mercy Ideas:**

## **Feed the hungry**

- 1) Eat less, and more simply, and give the money you save to the hungry. You can either help someone you know, or give to an organization that works with the world's poor. Here's an example of what one person did: He usually ate 2 strips of bacon for breakfast every morning. During Lent he sacrificed eating the bacon; then he bought a ham for a poor family's Easter dinner with the money he saved.
- 2) Go grocery shopping for someone who finds it hard to get out.
- 3) Donate food monthly to Kendall County Community Food Pantry to feed the needy in our area. It is located at 208 Beaver St., Yorkville, Illinois. To drop off donations, look for the Red Door, open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Items that are in continual demand include: pancake mix and syrup.
- 4) Cedarhurst of Yorkville (4040 Cannonball Trail) is a senior assisted living facility. Their 50+ residents love their sweets, puzzles and doing crafts to keep busy. Donations of pre-packaged desserts, 300+ piece puzzles or craft items (from places like Oriental Trading) are greatly appreciated.
- 5) Expand this work of mercy to include other kinds of hungers: What about those who hunger for a little affection, a little notice, a little encouragement, for acceptance. Keep looking for opportunities and you'll be sure to find them!

## **Give drink to the thirsty**

*Many of the suggestions for Feeding the Hungry also apply to this Work of Mercy.*

- 1) Most children in third world countries die before the age of 5 because of diseases associated with the lack of clean drinking water. Support organizations such as Catholic Relief Services which enable villagers to design and construct safe and clean drinking systems. Visit the website at [www.crs.org](http://www.crs.org) for more information.
- 2) Expand this work of mercy to include people who are thirsty for someone to listen to or someone to talk to. Become a pen-pal with a person who is isolated during this time.

## **Clothe the naked**

- 1) Live more simply by cleaning out your closet and sharing all those extra clothes with someone in need. Be sure those clothes are in good shape--with no missing buttons, stains or holes.
- 2) Provide new baby clothes, diapers and bottles for pro-life groups who help mothers-to-be. Gift cards to grocery stores, big box companies, gas stations, and ride share companies are also welcome. Waterleaf Women's Center would love to pass on your donations to moms in need. Donations can be dropped at 3055 E. New York St., Aurora, IL.
- 3) CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocates out of Kendall County located at 811 W. John St., Yorkville) are always in need of winter supplies, such as coats, hats, gloves, gift cards, non-perishable snacks and office supplies. Contact Nikki Osterloh at [nosterloh@co.kendall.il.us](mailto:nosterloh@co.kendall.il.us) if you would like to learn more about specific needs for individual families.

## **Shelter the homeless**

- 1) Support your local Homeless Shelter. Such as Hesed House in Aurora ([hesedhouse.org](http://hesedhouse.org) for list of current needs), or PADS of Kendall County. (Note: PADS opening date for Fall of 2020 is TBD.)
- 2) Respond quickly with clothing, cooking utensils, furniture or other needs when someone loses their home due to fire or flood or other disaster.

## **Visit the sick**

- 1) Check on a family member, friend or neighbor who is feeling ill and offer help. See if a person needs groceries, errands run or maybe assistance with outside chores.
- 2) Expand this Work to include much more than bodily sicknesses. What might you do to help those who are mentally ill, or depressed and in need of cheering? Send cards or set up times to call and chat.

## **Visit the imprisoned**

- 1) Investigate opportunities to help those in jail or prison near you. Many programs appreciate the donation of books or magazines for the inmates to read and study.
- 2) Go to [www.cjtinc.org](http://www.cjtinc.org) to learn ways to help with the Aunt Mary's Storybook project, special holiday communication projects and pen pal groups.

- 3) Remember those who are imprisoned in nursing homes or in their own homes, such as the handicapped, the elderly, the sick, the young mother. Offer to run errands and phone them to "check in"

### **Bury the dead**

- 1) Visit a cemetery. You might clean off the grave markers and read the name of the person who is buried there. Then pray for that person by name. Visit our own St. Patrick Cemetery on Cannonball Trail in Bristol.
- 2) Think how you might help someone who is suffering the loss of a loved one. Offer support while they are grieving. The loss is not over when the funeral is over. Check in by phone and see if they have needs or just need to talk.
- 3) Expand this Work to include burying grudges, old injuries or resentments that prevent healthy relationships with the living. Call someone and say you are sorry and rebuild that relationship.

## **Spiritual Works of Mercy Ideas:**

### **Counsel the doubtful**

- 1) Listen to someone who is having doubts about their faith and share your own certainty of faith. Or, connect them to a parish staff member or other person who can help them.
- 2) During these uncertain times, pray for professional counselors that are helping people in a truly positive way. Incorporate this in your daily prayers for a month or pray the rosary once a week for a month.

### **Instruct the Uninformed**

- 1) Make a presentation that teaches some aspect of the faith. When your family attends the Family Formation or CTN sessions, volunteer to offer your thoughts and insights so all will benefit.
- 2) Parents, volunteer to be a Catechist or CTN small group leader. You will show your child in a very real way the importance of your faith! Get input from your child as you prepare to teach a class.

## **Admonish the sinner**

- 1) Bring a Christian viewpoint into discussions of moral issues such as abortion and euthanasia.
- 2) Go to confession. Before we can help others overcome sin, we have to take a good look at our own failings.

## **Comfort the sorrowful**

*Many of the suggestions offered under "Bury the Dead" apply here as well.*

- 1) Remember the bereaved long after the funeral, at holidays both large and small (the first Valentine's Day after loss of a spouse, the first All Soul's Day after loss of a family member, etc.) or just on regular days.
- 2) Go to [www.operationgratitude.com](http://www.operationgratitude.com) to learn how you can support the military and first responders. Or go to [www.operationcarepackages.org](http://www.operationcarepackages.org) to learn how you can help support the military.
- 3) Equine Dreams provides therapeutic equine assisted activities to children and adults with special needs. Visit their website at [www.equinedreams.org](http://www.equinedreams.org) and click on their wish list to see how you can support their mission.
- 4) Cedarhurst of Yorkville (4040 Cannonball Trail) is a senior assisted living facility. Their residents send cards to the military troops. You can make cards for our troops, and the residents will sign their names and mail them out.

## **Forgive injuries**

- 1) Pray for God's help in forgiving injuries done to you. Pray for the person who has hurt you, not only that they'll change, but that God will bless them. It is important to forgive and to start over. What grudges do you hold from old injuries? What relationships need some loving work to revive the caring that used to be so mutual? As a family discuss forgiveness. Find opportunities within your family and outside of your family to offer forgiveness.
- 2) Ask for forgiveness. Adopt a regular custom of examining your conscience so that you become more aware of the damage you do to others and develop ways to avoid those actions. Go to confession.

## **Bear wrongs patiently**

- 1) Consider your situation in life and your responsibilities in family, work, school, church, volunteer efforts, social interactions--where can you more patiently bear authentic wrongs and give good example in patient coexistence to others? Discuss as a family and choose activities to work on.

## **Pray for the living and the dead**

- 1) Take time early in the day to write the names of five living persons who need your prayers in a special way. As you write their names, visualize them, hear their voices, and petition God for what they most need. Take time late in the day to write the names of five deceased persons who come to mind. Recall some event from their life that has made them significant to you.
- 2) Remember to include in your prayers not only family members and friends, but also business associates, people with whom we have difficulty, groups of people (such as refugees, victims of natural disasters, etc.), and of course, those who have asked you to pray for them.
- 3) Save your Christmas cards and take out one at a time during the year to pray for the people who sent you greetings.
- 4) Pray for an end to abortion at the Aurora Planned Parenthood. All ages can come and pray for the parents as well as the children affected by abortion.
- 5) Pray a rosary as a family for the volunteers and the life affirming services offered by the Waterleaf Women's Center in Aurora.
- 6) Take time to pray the Rosary as a family, or even a decade of the rosary, once a week.
- 7) Pray a rosary once a month as a family, for all the St. Gianna or parishioner prayer requests submitted to St. Patrick parish.