

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.

SERVICE - WHAT'S THE POINT?!

“When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, he will sit upon his glorious throne, and all the nations will be assembled before him....Then the king will say to those on his right, ‘Come, you who are blessed by my Father. Inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world. For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, a stranger and you welcomed me, naked and you clothed me, ill and you cared for me, in prison and you visited me.

Then the righteous will answer him and say, ‘Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you drink? When did we see you a stranger and welcome you, or naked and clothe you? When did we see you ill or in prison, and visit you?’

And the king will say to them in reply, ‘Amen, I say to you, whatever you did for one of these least brothers of mine, you did for me.’” *Matt. 25:31-40*

What powerful words! We are so closely united to Christ that when we do good, we do it to HIM! By our generosity, we feed HIM, we clothe HIM, we comfort HIM! This is our mission as Christians...to love all people because they are made in God’s image and they are precious. To help you on the pathway to fulfilling this mission, we have included a service component in the Family Centered Faith Formation program.

We ask that you perform two projects each 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 report on the website and send it back electronically. 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 given here. If you have new ideas for service projects, please let us know so we can pass them on to the other families.

Love One Another!



WORKS OF MERCY SUGGESTIONS



Below are the traditional Works of Mercy (found in Matthew 25:35-46) and some suggestions for performing them during this time of social distancing.

The Corporal Works of Mercy

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.

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.

These Service Ideas are from ProjectGivingKids.org (PGK) They were especially good when Covid hit but continue to be great ideas for anytime. You are not limited by these, however; any project that exhibits one of the Corporal or Spiritual Works of Mercy that you can do as a family and not receive payment would qualify:

- Lift the spirits of hospital patients and their families by creating a [Joke Book](#)
- Take care of the pups not seeing quite as many visitors at a shelter near you by baking a round of [Dog Biscuits](#) (skip the sale this time around) or making [Craft Braided Dog Toys](#) for a local shelter or SPCA. Be sure to call them ahead of time to let them know your plans and see what else they might need.
- While we are all looking for a bit of hope, write [Cards for Hope Kits](#) to accompany toiletry kits for vulnerable groups
- If crafting is your thing and a no-sew option is preferable, make [No Sew Baby Blankets](#) for babies born into poverty
- For those preferring to keep the crafting a little simpler, make book marks for emerging readers and donate them to a local library.
- Support our military troops who are isolated from their families often for months on end, by doing a service project like those listed on www.operationgratitude.com
- Seniors served by Meals on Wheels are often alone for much of the year. Make their day by [Making Birthday or Holiday Cards](#) to accompany the meals that keep them

nourished. Check out <https://mowfni.org/meals-on-wheels/will-county/> to find out how to deliver the cards and learn about other ways you can help.

- Using one of the many grocery delivery services available today, deliver food and/or other necessary supplies to an elderly grandparent/family member, neighbor or friend.
- Ask neighbors to drop off food in a box by your front door that you can then take it to a local food bank. You can find a location near you by going to <https://www.feedingamerica.org/find-your-local-foodbank>
- For kids with musical or other talents, hold a live video concert for those you know who are stuck at home and lonely, with limited human interaction... use FaceTime, Zoom, Facebook video, Skype, Hangouts, or your favorite live video service.
- Decorate [**Kindness or Happiness Rocks**](#) and leave an inspiring message in a garden, park or other place where a neighbor might be trying to escape the confines of home for a few moments of restoration
- Consider grabbing grocery or restaurant gift cards for medical workers who face long hours and missed days off and help provide for their families as they help provide for all of ours... buying gift certificates also helps support local restaurants who are being hit hard economically right now.
- Check in with your other favorite local nonprofit(s) and ask where they see the gaps – and help fill them as best you can

Every big challenge offers the opportunity to bring out the best in humanity. Let us show **that** to our children as the days ahead unfold.