

## Family

**How can you practice mercy and caring for those in your family and home?**

It is one thing to clean your room or do your own laundry. How can you serve your family by taking responsibility for cleaning a family space, or a younger siblings room or common family laundry? Not once, but as routine?

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Initiate a family night prayer routine, taking the lead to pray together at night or to unpack the upcoming Sunday Scripture readings you will hear at Mass once per week.

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Help a younger sibling to learn his/her prayers and mentor them at Mass, Help him/her to pay attention and to understand the gestures and postures for prayer such as when we stand, sit, kneel and responding etc.

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Simply make an intentional choice to speak to and ask parents, how you can help make family life flow better and share in caring for the family. Then do it, and check back in w/ your parent to discuss your progress and the impact is making on family life.

## Parish

**How do you want to participate as a fully initiated disciple in our Christian faith?  
How will you participate and contribute in the life and mission of our parish?**

Help with the upcoming development of OSM Parish's first Youth Ministry.

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Serve in liturgical ministry. Do you like to read? Become a lector, proclaiming scripture at Mass? Do you feel especially nourished by the Eucharist? Become a Eucharistic Minister for Mass. Do you want to help engage people more at Mass but helping to care for the environment and decorations?

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Do you want to help at our fellowship events such as new parishioner luncheons, parish picnic, and more?

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Do you want to help with our social justice work such as the "Just One Thing Drive", or Chicago Shares, or Feeding the Hungry, Delivering of meals for seniors, community garden care or Domestic Violence outreach?

## Community

**How do you want to participate as a fully initiated disciple in our Christian faith?  
How will you participate and contribute in the life and mission of our parish?**

Visit the elderly – in senior citizen center/residences or homes.

Perform volunteer work in your neighborhood

Join the Community Garden team at St. James Parish on Wabash.

Organize/Deliver care packs for parish shut-ins.

Help a handicapped person or support the family of a handicapped child by playing with or caring for the child.

Schedule to help at the Greater Chicago Food Depository.

Serve at Our Lady of Angels Mission

Initiate a clean-up campaign in a local playground, street, park, etc.

# Service Ideas

“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. . . .whatever you did for one of these least brothers of mine, you did for me.” MATTHEW 25:35-45

Complete instructions, due dates, and reflection sheets to complete the before and after you Missionary Service Initiative Reflection is found on the parish website Confirmation Page . Contact Mrs. Harrington for assistance with any of the above ideas and she will attempt to connect you with the appropriate contact.

The Missionary Service initiative part of the preparation for Confirmation is intended to help us more actively practice and be aware of what it means to live as a disciple. One of the most important lessons Jesus taught us was that we must be willing to be a servant to all people in His name. **This means that we must actually DO something to be a disciple of Christ!** By doing parish and community service, we demonstrate a willingness to show Christian responsibility to our mission. However, the first Church we know is our domestic Church, our family who were the first people to introduce us to Christ. We ask that you practice your service in 3 areas, family, parish, and community. The service should be based on the spiritual and corporal works of mercy and, most of all, on the example of Christ, who came to serve. When giving service, the following points should be considered:

- Your service is not just a task or job to be done. It is selflessly and lovingly helping those in need.
- Use the reflection sheets provided on the Confirmation website. The goal is to take on the mission of Christ by helping you take on the mind and heart of Christ, fulfill the needs of others and build up the Christian community.
- The giving of service should continue after your Confirmation and all through your life!

## THE CORPORAL WORKS OF MERCY



What are the Corporal Works of Mercy and how can we live them out?  
by Deanna Bartalini

- 1 FEED THE HUNGRY**  
So many people in our world do not have enough food. Ways we can help include: not wasting food, donating food to food banks, cook/serve for a soup kitchen, donate money. 
- 2 GIVE DRINK TO THE THIRSTY**  
Being thirsty is not just about wanting a drink. It is also about having clean water that you can drink and use for cooking and cleaning. We can help by not wasting water in our homes, donate money to a clean water project, carry water bottles in cooler in our car to give to homeless people. 
- 3 SHELTER THE HOMELESS**  
Many people live on the streets or in their cars instead of a home. We can donate supplies to homeless shelters like pillows, sheets and blankets; cleaning supplies and food. 
- 4 VISIT THE SICK**  
It is never fun to be sick, even with a cold, is it? We can take time to be kind to those who are sick by visiting them, calling them, sending a card or gift. This lets them know we are thinking of them so they will be less lonely. 
- 5 VISIT THE PRISONERS**  
Even though they are in prison, they are still a person to treat with respect. Not everyone can actually go to prison to visit but we can pray for them and donate things to the prison. 
- 6 BURY THE DEAD**  
No one really likes to think about death, especially of the people we love. If we know someone who has had a death in their family, it is nice to tell them that we are sorry the person has died. You can send a card to let them know you are praying for the person who died and for them too. 
- 7 GIVE ALMS TO THE POOR**  
Giving alms is another way of saying help the poor. It can be money, food, clothes, toys, books, time or anything else that people need. It is important for those who have all they need to share with those who do not. 

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## THE SPIRITUAL WORKS OF MERCY



What are the "Spiritual Works of Mercy" and how can we live them out?  
by Deanna Bartalini

- 1 INSTRUCT THE IGNORANT**  
Ignorant means someone who doesn't know something. All of us are ignorant about something! For example, I can't fix my car when it breaks down because I am ignorant about car repair. Some people don't know about Jesus or his mother Mary or the Catholic Church or what Communion is or why we go to Mass on Sunday so it's our job to teach them because we know. Remember though, to always teach with love, like Jesus. 
- 2 COUNSEL THE DOUBTFUL**  
Counsel is to give advice or help and doubtful means you are not quite sure about something. So when a friend asks you if God really knows everything or if Jesus loves us it's okay. Then you can tell them Yes! God does know everything and Jesus loves everyone. Doubting is not a bad, it means you are thinking and wondering. If you have a doubt, talk about it with someone you know will help you. And if someone talks to you, remember to be kind, like Jesus. 
- 3 ADMONISH SINNERS**  
Admonish is a fancy word that means to warn a person and sinners, well, those are people who commit sins. And that is pretty much all of us! Sometimes though, we notice a person doing something wrong, like being mean or lying or taking something that isn't theirs. We should speak up and tell the person to not do the wrong thing but to do the right thing. 
- 4 COMFORT THE SORROWFUL**  
When someone is sad, it is a good thing to try to make them feel better. Most of the all it takes is to listen to the person or a smile or some flowers or saying "I love you." It's not hard, but many times we are so busy or a bit selfish that we don't pay attention or make times for other people. Make time to share your love, like Jesus did. 
- 5 BEAR WRONGS PATIENTLY**  
Bear means to deal with, wrongs are when people hurt or annoy us and patiently means we don't get angry or yell or get back at the person. This is not easy but when we learn to control ourselves we learn that most times, people are not being mean on purpose. They might be having a bad day or didn't sleep or are sad. So if we are nice when people are not so nice, then maybe it will help them have a better day. 
- 6 FORGIVE OFFENSES WILLINGLY**  
This is a bit like Bear Wrongs Patiently except that now not only should we not get back at the person, we should also forgive them. Which means we have to not hold on to what happened to us but let it go so we can be friends again. 
- 7 PRAY FOR THE LIVING AND THE DEAD**  
Prayer is one of the most important and powerful tools we have in life. Prayer helps us know more about God and teaches us to go to God first because he will always help us and wants what is best for us. Pray every day for the people you love and those you don't. 

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