St. Theresa's Catholic Church
DIVINE MERCY OUTREACH

Poverty Hidden Within Our Wealth

Dear Parishioners,

Last year, St. Theresa Divine Mercy Outreach provided nearly $130,000.00 in assistance to the less fortunate. We live in the wealthiest county in the nation, and yet hunger and homelessness are a way of life for so many of our neighbors. Of the 375,629 residents in Loudoun County, 3.8% or 14,274 live below the poverty line. Requests for help are on the rise, but thanks to the generosity of so many of the parishioners of Saint Theresa, we are able to help at least some of our brothers and sisters to keep or put a roof over their heads, fill their empty stomachs, and put clothes on their backs.

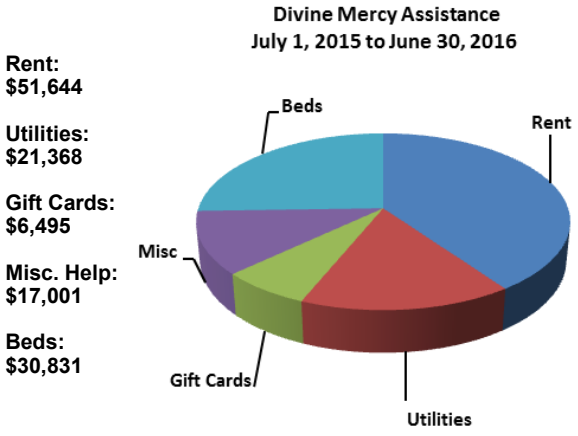
Our Lord reminds us that what we do for the least ones – His brothers and sisters – we do for Him (Matthew 25. 35-36). We are called to put the corporal works of mercy into practice. Saint Theresa of Calcutta, who was just canonized by our Holy Father, felt a call to serve the poorest of the poor in the world. Opportunities to practice mercy are right here before us: let us respond to our Lord's call to service – His call to love!

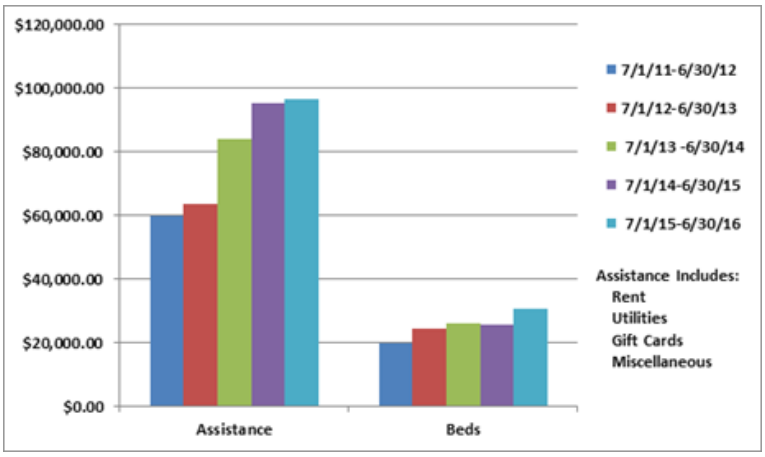
I hope you will take a few moments to peruse this newsletter and acquaint yourself with some of the various ministries of Divine Mercy Outreach. We need money and material assistance, but even more, we need individuals who are willing to make a hands-on difference in the lives of others.

Sincerely in Christ,

Marianne Guidos
Director, Divine Mercy Outreach

How Your Donations Help the Needy in Loudoun County





Merciful Harvest

St. Theresa Church

It is my privilege to announce the 6th annual Merciful Harvest on November 12th. It's our opportunity to provide winter coats, clothes, and other necessities to our neighbors in need. Please read the following information about the event and be generous in responding with your time and talent (we need many volunteers), as well as your donations.

Deacon Paul

For information or questions about Merciful Harvest please contact: Deacon Paul at: deaconpaul@saintheresaparish.com or 425-512-3351

Corporal Works of Mercy: "Clothe the Naked" and "Shelter the Homeless"

Coat Drive

Weekends of October 23rd and November 6th

There are families in need who come to us each year looking for warm coats. Please help and consider purchasing or donating a coat for an adult or child to keep them warm this winter!

Drop off new or gently used adult or children's coats in all sizes at the church. It is appreciated if gently used coats are laundered prior to donation.

Sue Ciavarro at **703-966-5949** or **Ciav4@verizon.net**

Gathering Leaves of Mercy

Look for the leaves on the trees in the entrances to the church. Gather as many leaves as you would like, and purchase the item written on each. Items will be used to help needy families and individuals at Merciful Harvest.

Items may be left in the **Divine Mercy boxes** at the rear of the church..

Clothing Donations Needed

Toddler through High School sizes Fall / Winter clothing (gently used - no tears or stains). It would be appreciated if clothing was washed prior to donation.

Donations will be collected on STTACK weekends: **October 16th, 23rd, 30th, and November 6th.**

Drop your donations in the containers marked STTACK at the entrances of the church.

Hats, Gloves, and Scarves Needed

Adult and children sizes (please wash used items).

These items will be given out to families at the Merciful Harvest event.

Questions? Please contact:
Marianne Mazzatenta:
marianne.mazzatenta@gmail.com

New Socks, Tee Shirts and Camisoles Needed

Adult, teen, and children (all sizes).

Questions? Please contact:
Meghan Johnson at meghandy@verizon.net

These items may be left in the Divine Mercy Outreach boxes at church.

STTACK (St. Theresa Teens Accept Clothing for Kids)

Teens and VIRTUS Trained Adults Needed

October 16th, 23rd, 30th and November 6th
Time: 4 PM - 6 PM

Teen and adult volunteers needed on the above dates. Meet in the school cafeteria to sort and tag clothes to be given to the needy at Merciful Harvest. Enjoy pizza and raffle prizes on each STTACK date. Bring a hat, a pair of gloves or a scarf and receive a raffle ticket for each item you donate for Merciful Harvest!

Contact Bea Craig at **571-439-0364 or bukraa1@gmail.com**

Bed / Furniture Ministry

Many folks face the challenges of losing their homes and furniture, and end up on the street or in a shelter. Once they leave the shelter and start over, they end up eating and sleeping on the floor. Here's a way you can help. **Monetary donations** help purchase beds and cribs, and donations of **kitchen tables and chairs**, donations of new or gently used **comforters** and new or gently used **blankets** (all sizes, especially twin size) and **new bed pillows** are needed!

Volunteer your time! We need volunteers to deliver these items to families. If you have a mini-van, SUV, or trailer hitch (we have a trailer that can be used), please consider donating your time to help. If you don't have a large enough vehicle to help but can offer to help move the items, please let us know.
You can truly make a difference in the life of someone who is struggling.

Join this group of awesome volunteers by contacting: **Eric Baird**
703-330-8720 or furniture@saintttheresaparish.com

Corporal Works of Mercy: "Visit Those in Prison" and "Comfort the Sick"

Agape Letters to Inmates

Due Friday, October 14th (Letters should be dropped off to Divine Mercy Outreach at the parish office)

Some inmates from the jails and prisons in our diocese will be attending Kairos Retreats with the intention of helping the men develop a closer relationship with God. The participants will receive agape letters, letters of prayer and encouragement, that can be written by anyone wishing to share Christ's love. In many cases, the men are no longer in contact with their friends and family, and are in even greater need of love from another Friend in Christ.

If you feel called to participate in this act of mercy, there are specific guidelines for these hand-written letters. For additional information contact:
Tricia Suarez at **triciasuarez@gmail.com**

Volunteer for Merciful Harvest

Setup on November 11th
Event on November 12th

- **Spanish translators**
- **Set up helpers**
- **Clean up helpers**
- **Floor helpers**
- **Table servers**
- **Greeters and runners**
- **Help with clothing**
- **Food and clothing checkout**

Please check the Sunday Bulletin for information on the Merciful Harvest website, which will be up and running soon. Go to the parish website to obtain information and to volunteer.

Visitation Ministry

Reaches out to those who are elderly, disabled, or ill and homebound by visiting, praying with, or by running an errand for them. Please consider being the Hands and Feet of Christ and share His love with those who are homebound.

To request a visit or to volunteer, please contact:

Erin Byrne
byrne.erink@gmail.com

Divine Mercy Prayer Group

Rosary
Divine Mercy Chaplet
Optional Study Group

Thursday: 9:30 AM

Join us for prayer and fellowship!

For additional information contact: Sue Burns
703-729-3174 or smburns92046@verizon.net

A Few of the Members of Divine Mercy Prayer Group

Front from left: Sue Burns and Jean Connors
Back from left: Annemarie Malloy, Chantal Uwamaliya, Una Giachinta, Farida Milton, Dianne Mabery and Mary McNamee

Little Flower Consignments had another very successful sale on September 24th! Thank you to each and every volunteer who works so diligently every Spring and Fall to provide a resource for affordable clothing and other children's items to the community, as well as significant funding for Divine Mercy Outreach. God bless you all!

Corporal Works of Mercy: "Feed the Hungry" and "Give Drink to the Thirsty"

A $20 Donation Buys 1 Bag of Groceries for a Family Attending Merciful Harvest

Each family or individual attending **Merciful Harvest** is given a bag of groceries. Please help us fill one or more bags with your donation.

Monetary Donations will be collected on November 5th and 6th

Salvation Army Meal Program

St. Theresa's Outreach Ministry, along with other local churches, has partnered with the Salvation Army of Leesburg in a program to make and serve meals to people in need in our Loudoun County community on the weekends. **Our parish helps on the 3rd Saturday of each month.** To find out what items are needed and to sign up to volunteer, go to the parish website> Divine Mercy Outreach >Divine Mercy Food Programs > Salvation Army Meal Program.

Current need for volunteers to drive the Canteen truck!

For additional information, please contact:

Rania Gizzi: 703-464-9706 or raniagizzi@yahoo.com
Lauri Malacarne:703-729-4437 or laurimal@aol.com

Festival of Trees

Saturday, December 5th (after 5:30 PM Mass) and Sunday, December 6th (after all morning Masses and 12:30 PM Mass)

During this annual charity event we raffle off pre-lit, themed trees and wreaths decorated and donated by our parishioners and parish organizations. The Festival has tasty baked goods to sample and St. Nick makes an appearance. Join the fun and help a good cause! This event raises money to help families in need through Divine Mercy Outreach.

To reserve a theme for your tree or wreath or for further information contact Dee Lavanty:
301-785-0779 (cell) or jtrinc@erols.com

To donate baked goods for this event contact:
Mary Sinnott at allthesinnotts@verizon.net

Daily Bread Ministries

Day Workers

Members of this Daily Bread Ministry prepare 60 bagged meals on Friday evening.
Meals are delivered on Saturday by 7 AM to day workers in Leesburg.

Current needs include:

- Fruit cups, pudding cups, breakfast bars
- Peanut butter (large, jar), grape jelly
- Granola bars, other healthy snacks

Contact: Bernadette Miller
703-726-9163
bernadettefmiller@yahoo.com

Backpack Buddies

Backpack Buddies provides children from food insecure homes with healthy weekend meals during the school year. The children, selected by parent liaisons working for the schools, receive a backpack containing six balanced meals and healthy snacks at the end of every week. We are currently sponsoring 22 children attending Ashburn public schools.

Current needs include:

- Cereal boxes - regular sized or individual serving sized
- Boxes of Mac and Cheese
- Hormel Compleat or other all-in-one heat-up dinners
- Cans of soup, tuna, or chicken

Volunteers are needed to package food each week and deliver bags of food to local public schools by Thursday.

Contact: Beth Renzette
703-507-8575
bd@renzette.org

Donations for either Day Workers or Backpack Buddies can be left in the DAILY BREAD MINISTRY box at the Blessed Mother side entrance to the church

Gas Gift Cards Needed

There are homeless who live in their car, and other struggling families, who are in need of gas gift cards. If you can donate a gift card, please drop it off in our black lock box or at the parish office.