

Human Concerns—Outreach Ministries

Christmas Food Baskets

Parishioners provide residents of Wexford Village apartments and others in our parish neighborhood a basket of grocery staples to help them celebrate Christmas. A few days before Christmas you can help assemble and distribute over 100 baskets of non-perishable and fresh foods.

Community Meal Program

Parishioners provide and serve a noon meal to those in need at Luke House on Ingersoll Street on the fourth Wednesday of the month. You can help by preparing food for the meal and/or volunteering to help serve the meal.

Food Collection

On the third Sunday of each month, parishioners bring non-perishable food items to Mass. These food items are given to the St. Vincent de Paul and Wexford food pantries, as well as to neighbors in need. You can help by bringing in food or by transporting the donated items to the food pantries on the third Sundays.

Giving Tree

During Advent, donated unwrapped Christmas gifts are placed under the tree in the Parish gathering area. Some of these gifts are given to parish and neighborhood families who need assistance. St. Vincent de Paul receives the rest of the Christmas gifts to distribute.

Justice and Peace Committee

This group facilitates learning about, advocating for, and responding to issues of peace and social justice in our parish, community, nation and world. The foundation of all Catholic social justice teaching is the dignity of the human person. The **Respect Life Subcommittee** builds on this foundation by helping St. Thomas Aquinas parish to celebrate October Respect Life Month, as well as addressing other life issues throughout the year.

Mgolole Orphanage

This group coordinates outreach to the children of this orphanage in Tanzania by sending people and funds. Funds are used for beds, medication, playground equipment, tuition, books, and uniforms as well as building maintenance, labor expenses and expenses to irrigate and cultivate land to grow food.

Middleton Outreach Ministry (MOM)

St. Thomas Aquinas is one of 12 churches in the Middleton and West Madison area that formed MOM. We reflect the compassion of Christ as we offer help and hope to our neighbors in need via the food pantry, clothing closet, housing help, and Program for Older People (POP). Food and all material items are free to those in need. At Christmas, a complete dinner is served and many families participate in the Sharing Christmas program.

One-A-Week Club

The Red Cross Blood Center needs help to ensure an adequate blood supply. Any eligible blood donor from the parish is invited to participate. When you donate blood, please be sure to record your donation in the One-A-Week Club Book under St. Thomas Aquinas.

STACKS for Love

STACKS (St. Thomas Aquinas Crocheting and Knitting for Love) is made up of women and children who crochet and knit or who would like to learn. Yarn donated by parishioners is used to make prayer shawls, baby blankets, Afghans, lap blankets, etc. The items made by this group are donated to various local organizations that help others in need. This group gets together the first and last Saturday of every month from 1 – 3 PM.

St. Vincent de Paul

Members of the St. Thomas Aquinas Conference participate in many activities intended to recognize the face of Christ in those in our community who are in need. These activities include stocking the Society's food pantry, preparing lunches for the residents of Port St. Vincent, collecting school supplies for the children of homeless and low income families who have requested our help. Furniture, clothing, bedding and household items are provided when needed. Financial assistance is given to get utilities turned back on and for rent assistance.

Waspam, Nicaragua

The purpose of this outreach effort is to reach out to the people who live along the Rio Coco River in the northeast part of Nicaragua by assisting the parish community of St. Rafael in Waspam. Past activities include collection of goods and supplies that are sent to Nicaragua and the provision of long-term funding for development projects. Visits are made to Rio Coco from Madison and to Madison from Rio Coco. This committee continues to work on meeting the needs of the Waspam parish community.