

The Christian Service Commission

Needs You --

And There Are Many Ways To Help!

To Become A Member Contact Donna Allai at 734-671-3036 or Diane Hepner at 734-789-1903. Please Read On To Find Out What We Are Doing In Our Community.

"The Christian Service Commission exists as a model and resource to put the social teaching of the Church into action. The Commission empowers the members of the parish to fulfill the Church's mission of love, justice, freedom and peace by communally responding in an organized way, to societal and individual needs. The Commission creates and/or promotes programs which strive to address human needs and achieve justice whether locally or in the broader communities of Vicariate, Archdiocese, state, nation and world."

This pamphlet is intended to highlight some of the ongoing activities of the St. Roch Commission but is certainly not all inclusive. Annual and one time events such as the Giving Tree and Disposable Diaper/Fleece Snowsuit Drive for St Dominic Outreach Center in Detroit are among the many events that also keep our members and volunteers busy throughout the year. The Commission meets the 2nd Tuesday of the month in the Social Hall at 7:00 p.m. Please join us to find out more about the Commission and how to become a member or volunteer for specific activities.

St. Vincent de Paul. The St. Roch Flat Rock Conference continues to minister to many individuals and families throughout this area. In addition to Home Visits to provide emergency assistance and resources for those in need, other programs include clothing drives, rebuilding bicycles to donate to children who don't have bicycles, identifying families for the Giving Tree at Christmas and many other activities. We are looking for more volunteers to join the Society. Please contact Marshall Brulez at Brulezfamily@comcast.net.

Lenten Soup Suppers. Beginning Ash Wednesday and each Wednesday during Lent, a light supper and discussion are held before the 7:00 p.m. Mass. This provides an opportunity for Parish Members to share a meal and their thoughts on various "Lenten" topics. All donations collected at these dinners are given to the St. Roch Chapter of St. Vincent dePaul to help them in their ministry to those in need in the surrounding Communities. To volunteer call Marilyn Bafunno at 734-379-1101.

The Giving Tree is displayed each year starting in mid-November and is an opportunity to help needy people in our Community during the holiday season.

Nursing Home Visits. Parish volunteers come to Applewood Nursing Home every Tuesday from 10:00 a.m. to Noon to minister to the sick, bring Communion and offer prayers and support to the patients. Hearthstone Assisted Living on Allen Road is also the site of visits from parish volunteers. To volunteer, contact Kay Kinsey at 734-782-2144.

Southshore Medical Center. Oakwood Southshore Medical Center welcomes parish volunteers to minister to patients in several areas of the hospital, bringing Communion and offering prayer and support to the Catholic patients. This ministry is ongoing seven days a week. If you are interested in supporting this ministry, contact Chaplain Beverly Beltramo at 734-671-3647.

ChristNet. Founded in 1992, ChristNet is a faith based rotating shelter among churches in the Downriver area. Guests can stay up to 30 days and are provided with a bed, breakfast, bag lunch and dinner. They are able to shower and have their laundry done and are taken to a warm place during the day. St. Roch volunteers provide help making and serving Thursday evening dinner although help is needed in many areas. For more information, visit www.Christ-Net.org Volunteers are needed for the various activities associated with ChristNet. Donations of food are also welcome. Contact Donna Allai at 734-671-3036.

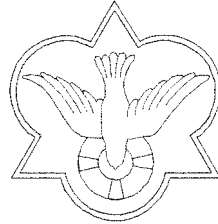
Red Cross Blood Drive. St. Roch Christian Service Commission sponsors two blood drives each year in the Social Hall. One drive is held in the Winter and one in the Summer. Lunch is provided to the workers and served by Christian Service members Donna Allai and Mary Ann Knight.

Habitat for Humanity - A Christian Ministry.

Habitat for Humanity International is a nonprofit, ecumenical Christian organization dedicated to eliminating substandard housing and homelessness worldwide and to making adequate, affordable shelter a matter of conscience and action. Local involvement through St. Roch consists of providing a meal once or twice a year for the volunteers at a work site. This is coordinated through Loretta Alman and the members of the Christian Service Commission, working with parishioners who have signed up to volunteer with HFH. On line volunteer sign-up is available for those who would like to help build a house. You can identify your association with St. Roch on the volunteer form or form a group to work on a house together with carpooling to the site. St. Roch is associated with the Habitat for Humanity in Monroe, Michigan. For more information go on line to www.habitatmonroemi.org.

The Helping Hands Food Pantry is housed at Community Lutheran Church in Flat Rock. Our parish has supported this pantry for years with donations which are delivered each week where they are sorted, boxed and passed out to the area hungry on Wednesday mornings. Thanks to the generosity of our parishioners we do make a difference in our Community. You can help by making donations or volunteering on Wednesdays between 9 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Funeral Luncheons. The St. Roch family supports one another at this most vulnerable and sensitive time through our prayers and condolences, as well as through tangible effort serving the funeral luncheon. This allows grieving family and friends to spend time remembering and alleviates the burden of entertaining. Through parishioner food donations and a kitchen crew with a desire to serve, all are afforded this opportunity. Those who wish to participate can sign up with Theresa in the Rectory office.



The Away From Home Care Packages Ministry sends packages 4 times a year to young people from our parish who are away from home at college or in the military. The packages contain food and gift items along with a personal note and is our way of reminding them that they are still part of our parish community and that we are thinking of them, praying for them and wishing them well. There is always a need for volunteers to help collect names and addresses. Help is also needed collecting donations of items, cash donations for postage and assembling the packages and writing notes. Contact Dan or Marilyn Bafunno at 734-379-1101 or e-mail Bafunno@aol.com or mbafunno@aol.com to volunteer.

Soup Kitchens. Volunteers support several soup kitchens in the area. Duties can entail anything from just serving a meal to shopping, cooking, serving and clean up and anything in between. It is an unforgettable experience to help those in such desperate need. Our biggest payback is a smile from an individual that does not have much to be happy about. The Manna Soup Kitchen is on the 1st Monday of the month from 6 a.m. to Noon. Contact Maria Howes at 734-782-6342 for more information on how you can participate in this most rewarding service.

Creative Hands Group: Volunteers sew, knit or crochet hats for premature infants, lap blankets for those in wheel chairs, and many other garments for those in need. Volunteers are also needed to donate patterns, material, etc. Call Donna Allai @ 734-671-3036.

Heartbeat of Monroe offers alternatives to abortion and provides many services to women with problem pregnancies. St. Roch participates in the Layette and Material Goods Ministry through the annual baby shower drive held in April. For more information or to volunteer, contact Pam Armiak at pamarmiak@att.net or call 734-675-4407.

Other Ministries: Visits to the sick and transportation to Church for those unable to drive are also coordinated through the Christian Service Commission.