

Social justice is at the heart of our Catholic faith. Simply put, it is the action we take to preserve the dignity of every person, mirror God's love for all, and love of our neighbors, through service and advocacy. How is this implemented at Holy Name?

Holy Name is a "community for others" precisely because our parish reaches out beyond the parish's membership to alleviate suffering, learn about pertinent social justice issues, and advocate for just policies that protect every person's God-given dignity. Our direct service activities include:

- The St. Vincent DePaul Society, which is currently collecting gifts through our Giving Tree and provided Thanksgiving meals for families in need. The society also helps people in crisis situations with emergency assistance.
- Food drives, such as the one we are doing this Advent for Second Harvest
- The myriad of activities done by our Reverence for Life group.
- Working with organizations such as Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of New Orleans to advertise volunteer opportunities.
- The hours of service provided by the parents and children of HNJ School, such as participating in Covenant House's annual sleep-out and the blankets made by the 7<sup>th</sup> graders on their retreat.

Service is one part; advocacy is another. We are working with Catholic Charities on the Global Thrive Act, which is sponsored by the global agency Catholic Relief Services. There is also a petition right now to end solitary confinement in Louisiana.

We need help in identifying opportunities and expanding our reach, especially at a time when so many are suffering in the wake of the Covid pandemic. We are going to start a Social Justice Commission of parishioners to help with this task; please contact Diane Blair at [dblair@hnjchurch.org](mailto:dblair@hnjchurch.org) to be a founding member of this commission!!

We'd invite you to look at all of the opportunities listed above at <http://hnjchurch.org/serve> . Our activities for Advent are at <https://hnjchurch.org/advent-service>