



Society of St. Vincent de Paul - Our Lady of the Atonement Catholic Church

15415 Red Robin, San Antonio, Texas 78255

(210) 695-2944 x 115

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"No work of charity is foreign to the Society."

THANK YOU for your Donations!



Atonement Academy Upper School Student Isabella McHugh delivering toiletries for the homeless to St Ann SVDP

We only had one weekend to collect toiletries for the homeless before the virus shut us down. But, many thanks to those who were able to donate! You can imagine how thrilled we were to receive a call from Atonement Academy student Isabella McHugh. She wanted to know if there was anything the students at the Academy could do for our St. Vincent de Paul Society. I shared with her our shortage of toiletries for the homeless. Isabella spoke to the school headmaster and received approval to collect more items from her classmates. Thank you, students, for your generosity and willingness to serve the poor!

WE ARE STILL HERE TO HELP

Although you don't see SVDP passing out donation envelopes at month end, please know that we are still receiving calls from parishioners and families in need and are always available for home visits and conversation. **Your** wellbeing is very important to us.... especially now.

Our SVDP members want to share some of the ways we've been coping. We recommend the following books for Do-It-Yourself Retreats that can be done in your home and on your time schedule: *Consoling the Heart of Jesus*, by Michael E. Gaitley, MIC, (Inspired by the Spiritual Exercises of St. Ignatius) and *Consecration to St. Joseph – The Wonders of our Spiritual Father*, by Donald H. Calloway, MIC.

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Our Lady of the Atonement – an Anchor During the Pandemic and Political and Social Strife

The turmoil caused by the events of these past months has affected every part of our lives – especially how we worship. We are grateful that our parish continues to take precautions to safely reopen. We are proud that our priests have kept their focus on the salvation of souls. They have granted us access to the Mass and the sacraments – and especially Holy Communion on the tongue - when many churches across the country have denied it! Our priests and deacons are delivering encouraging and thoughtful sermons. Live internet videos of the daily and Sunday masses allow everyone to participate and not feel isolated. And, we pray that it won't be long before we are all under one roof again.

We are Still Here to Help (continued from left column)

We also find consolation in these bible verses, quotes, thoughts: "Do not be afraid, nor be dismayed, for the LORD your GOD is with you wherever you go." *Joshua 1:9* * And do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul... *Matthew 10:28* * "Let nothing disturb you, Let nothing frighten you, All things are passing away: God never changes. Patience obtains all things. Whoever has God lacks nothing; God alone suffices," *Teresa of Avila*. * "I say this simple, powerful prayer throughout the day - three times in succession.... Thank you, Jesus. Thank you, Jesus. Thank you, Jesus." * "I keep repeating to myself the Serenity Prayer: God, Grant me the Serenity to accept the things I cannot change, the Courage to change the things I can, and the Wisdom to know the difference." * "And, I also try to remember to give thanks for everything." * "Lord, Jesus Christ, Son of the Father, send now your spirit over the earth. Let your Holy Spirit live in the hearts of all people, that they may be preserved from corruption, disaster, and war. May the lady of all peoples, Mother Mary, intercede for us." * "I go to Mass every morning and receive the most precious body of our dear Savior." * "We cannot forget to turn to God during these confusing times and ask for His mercy from the virus and all this unrest." GOD BLESS YOU!

WHAT HAS BEEN GOING ON WITH MY LIFE!?!

We all have unbelievable stories to share as we maneuver through these confusing times. I am only one person and I feel like I've been thrown into a river with white water rapids bobbing up and down wondering when is God going to pull me out! I can only see my 90-year-old mom at her assisted living window. (sigh!) Our daughter (a registered nurse) drove up to New York to spend 8 weeks on a Covid-19 hospital floor and drove back home through the riots. Our son and his young family arrived at a Mexican mission hospital to begin their work as nurse missionaries. Another son contracted the virus and recovered with minimal symptoms. I fear that my husband with underlying medical conditions will get the virus. I want to give my 3 grandkids hugs. I miss visiting family, friends, SVDP members, and Atonement parishioners.

And as I take a deep breath, I remember that God is in control of our lives. There has to be a silver lining. For me, that silver lining is to focus on GRATITUDE. I started praying more. I found a Liturgy of the Hours app for my phone. I conscientiously began praying the rosary daily with my husband and saying the Chaplet of Divine Mercy. I started watching Our Lady of the Atonement masses every day on the internet. (*Thank you, Father Lewis!*)

I am beginning to feel more joy and peace when I recall all the good things God has provided for me and my family – even in the midst of this chaos. All my adult children still have their jobs. One son is now working from home and is thrilled to be so personally involved in the care of his infant son. (What a blessing!) My husband and I are grateful to have each other. We go on drives out in the country. We are getting better at planning menus - and I have become a better cook. There is more time for projects around the house - like sewing quilts and putting together 1000-piece puzzles. We've set up lawn chairs in our front yard for visits with neighbors and friends. We video chat with our children and grandkids. My mom is doing well. And we are all healthy.

I am just one person with just one perspective. This pandemic has placed unimaginable trials in your path, too. But I know God will help us navigate the chaos. We just have to take hold of His hand and follow His lead. May God bless you and keep you safe...and sane! *An Atonement Vincentian*

If you or someone you know is in need of assistance or a home visit, please call us at (210) 695-2944 x 115

Our Lady of the Atonement, show thyself to be a mother to thy children, who have recourse to thee. Obtain for us dear mother a faith and love sincere, in trials and temptation, the grace to persevere!

Prayer for The United States of America

*Composed by His Excellency Archbishop Carlo Maria Viganò
(former papal nuncio to the United States)*

Almighty and Eternal God, King of Kings and Lord of Lords: graciously turn your gaze to us who invoke You with confidence. Bless us, citizens of the United States of America; grant peace and prosperity to our Nation; illuminate those who govern us so that they may commit themselves to the common good, in respect for Your holy Law.

Protect those who, defending the inviolable principles of the Natural Law and Your Commandments, must face the repeated assaults of the Enemy of the human race. Keep in the hearts of Your children courage for the truth, love for virtue and perseverance in the midst of trials.

Make our families grow in the example that Our Lord has given us, together with His Most Holy Mother and Saint Joseph in the home of Nazareth; give to our fathers and mothers the gift of Strength, to educate wisely the children with which you have blessed them. Give courage to those who, in spiritual combat, fight the good fight as soldiers of Christ against the furious forces of the children of darkness.

Keep each one of us, O Lord, in your Most Sacred Heart, and above all He whom Your Providence has placed at the head of our Nation. Bless the President of the United States of America, so that aware of his responsibility and his duties, he may be a knight of justice, a defender of the oppressed, a firm bulwark against Your enemies, and a proud supporter of the children of light.

Place the United States of America and the whole world under the mantle of the Queen of Victories, our Unconquered Leader in battle, the Immaculate Conception. It is thanks to her, and through your Mercy, that the hymn of praise rises to you, O Lord, from the children whom you have redeemed in the Most Precious Blood of Our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

WELCOME TO OUR LADY OF THE ATONEMENT, FATHER JENKINS!

OLA-SVDP extends a heartfelt welcome to you and your family! We know you haven't been able to meet most of us face-to-face yet. But, please know that we are so grateful to have you in our parish family! Prayers for a smooth transition.

Thank you, OLA parishioners. Our monthly collections are on the last Sunday of each month. SVDP provides a lifeline of critical support - especially in times like these. We don't have an online system to receive donations. However, your continued support would be greatly appreciated. At any time, you can place donations in the wall box in the narthex or mail a check (payable to SVDP) to: SVDP c/o Our Lady of the Atonement Catholic Church 15415 Red Robin Road, San Antonio, TX 78255