

Ministry of Service

St. Joseph Cares members work to serve the needy residents of Portage County and have logged hundreds of cases ranging from utility payments, payment of security deposits, payment of back rent to avoid eviction, the purchase of food, supplies, and medicines, gasoline, etc. Most cases are referred to us from Catholic Charities, the Salvation Army, and Family & Community Services of Portage County, with payments made to landlords, utility companies, etc. and not the client. Monthly contributions are made to Portage County Catholic Charities and the 4C's Food Cupboard (Crestwood Coalition for Community Care). Since inception, they have collected and distributed over \$90,000 with most of the donations coming from monthly parish collections.

St. Joseph Cares is ready to serve our own parish and surrounding community. If you have a need, please call and let us know. All requests for help are strictly confidential. We will do whatever we can to meet your needs. This is why we are here.

People call the Parish Office (330-274-2253) for help after being referred by other agencies, from periodic notices in the parish's bulletin, or by word of mouth. Secretaries take name, phone number, and assistance needed. Then, the St. Joseph Cares member who handles cases is contacted who then contacts the person in need and does what they can to help.

In addition to providing helping those in need, the group is currently involved in several ministry activities including:



St. Joseph Cares also serves those who use the Phyllis Zumkehr Portage County Clothing Center, 3377 St. Rt. 59, Ravenna, on the second and fifth Tuesday of each month from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. A program of Family and Community Services, the Portage County Clothing Center provides gently used clothing to low income families and individuals at no charge and also reduces the waste stream by recycling used clothing. Donations of clothing in good condition are accepted at the Center. For more info., call 330-296-0503.

On the third Wednesday evening of each month, they entertain the folks of the Arbors of Streetsboro (formerly Maplewood Care Center) with a Bingo



Night. Time is spent with the residents of this long-term skilled nursing care and short-term rehabilitation facility, who get great pleasure from their attendance. Bingo gifts and refreshments are also supplied (donations are greatly appreciated!).



To help supply the Free Clothing Giveaway organized by Mantua Center Christian Church and Hilltop Christian Church, St. Joseph Cares holds clothing drives prior to the giveaway weekends. Providing free clothing to families in need, the events are held every two months from 9:00 a.m. to Noon at the old Mantua Center School (11741 Mantua Center Rd.). You do not need to be a resident, there is no limit, and no questions are asked. Donations of clean, wearable condition clothing for all ages are welcome 24/7 at yellow bins located at Mantua Center & Hilltop Christian Churches. Find them on Facebook at Free-Clothing-Giveaway.



The group sends care packages to members of our parish who are serving in the military. If you have a son, daughter, or spouse who is currently serving and would appreciate this outreach, please forward their contact information to Angi Daczko (adaczko@roadrunner.com).

In addition, those who have lost a loved one or who are on our prayer intention list are sent a card from this group.

Adoption of several families at Christmas time, working to make their days special by providing gifts and food.

Start Talking!

Building a Drug-Free Future

In 2016/2017 an effort to bring more awareness to the addiction epidemic was also taken on. Bulletin blurbs highlight area programs and events to address this problem. Start Talking Portage is a local group of public and private Portage County residents dedicated to the critical fight against drug addiction. The coalition partners include resources from county medical, health and rehabilitation, law enforcement, local clergy, and private citizens. The group sponsors awareness about this epidemic through meetings, drug prevention programs and presentations. Start Talking Portage meets on the fourth Thursday of each month at 6:00 p.m. at Christ Lutheran Church, S.R. 44 in Mantua. All are welcome. Please join them.

Following St. Joseph Parish's

Mission Statement:

"... a welcoming family

of believers who:

witness the gospel,

are committed to our

Baptismal call to Discipleship

in Jesus Christ,

and further the Kingdom

through our ministry

and worship".

Works of Mercy

THE SEVEN CORPORAL
WORKS OF MERCY

THE SEVEN SPIRITUAL
WORKS OF MERCY

1. Feed the hungry.
 2. Give drink to the thirsty.
 3. Clothe the naked.
 4. Shelter the homeless.
 5. Visit the sick.
 6. Visit the imprisoned.
 7. Bury the dead.
1. Counsel the doubtful.
 2. Instruct the ignorant.
 3. Admonish sinners.
 4. Comfort the afflicted.
 5. Forgive offenses.
 6. Bear wrongs patiently.
 7. Pray for the living and the dead.

The actions of St. Joseph Cares are led by the Holy Spirit and based on the Corporal and Spiritual Works of Mercy.

The Corporal Works of Mercy are found in the teachings of Jesus and give us a model for how we should treat all others, as if they were Christ in disguise. They "are charitable actions by which we help our neighbors in their bodily needs". They respond to the basic needs of humanity as we journey together through this life. Just as Jesus attended to the spiritual well-being of those he ministered to, the Spiritual Works of Mercy guide us to "help our neighbor in their spiritual needs".

All requests for help are strictly confidential.

Collections are held the second weekend of each month after Mass. Money collected for St. Joseph Cares is used to help people in our own parish and the community abroad.

100% of parishioner contributions to St. Joseph Cares go directly to helping people. Your generosity is greatly appreciated.

St. Joseph Catholic Church

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Mantua, OH 44255

Phone: 330-274-2253 / Fax: 330-274-2254

Website: www.stjosephmantua.com

Email: parishoffice@stjosephmantua.com

How Can I Get Involved?

- ♥ Join us at our meetings held the first Tuesday of each month at 7:00 p.m. in St. Joseph's Parish Center. All are welcome!
- ♥ Volunteer your time & talent.
- ♥ Support our causes with your treasures.
- ♥ Please offer your support & prayers for our efforts.

For more information,
please contact:

Joe Daczko, President
(330-274-0157 /
jdaczko@roadrunner.com)

or

Jan Seljan, Vice-President
(330-931-8087 /
heaveniniram@yahoo.com)

or

St. Joseph's Parish Office
(330-274-2253 /
parishoffice@stjosephmantua.com)

ST. JOSEPH CARES



Working to Serve
Needy Residents
of Portage County