The Catholic Community of Gloucester & Rockport
Holy Family Parish – Our Lady of Good Voyage Parish

The Works of Mercy

The Works of Mercy are actions that extend God’s compassion, love, and mercy to those in need. More specifically, the Spiritual Works of Mercy are those actions through which we help others meet their emotional and spiritual needs. The Corporal Works of Mercy are those actions through which we help others meet their temporal or material needs.

The Corporal Works of Mercy
Feed the Hungry
Give Drink to the Thirsty
Clothe the Naked
Shelter the Homeless
Visit the Sick
Visit the Imprisoned
Bury the Dead

The Spiritual Works of Mercy
Counsel the Doubtful
Instruct the Ignorant
Comfort the Afflicted
Forgive Offenses
Bear Wrongs Patiently
Pray for the Living and the Dead

According to the Catechism of the Catholic Church (CCC): “The works of mercy are charitable actions by which we come to the aid of our neighbor in his spiritual and bodily necessities. Instructing, advising, consoling, comforting are spiritual works of mercy, as are forgiving and bearing wrongs patiently. The corporal works of mercy consist especially in feeding the hungry, sheltering the homeless, clothing the naked, visiting the sick and imprisoned, and burying the dead. Among all these, giving alms to the poor is one of the chief witnesses to fraternal charity: it is also a work of justice pleasing to God (2447).”

During the Jubilee Year of Mercy, Pope Francis has called all of us to rediscover these Spiritual and Corporal Works of Mercy as a way of living more deeply as disciples of Christ Jesus in the true spirit of the Gospel. Each month, the Holy Father will offer some simple ways of living out the Works of Mercy in communion with his monthly prayer intentions and with fellow believers throughout the world. These papal suggestions for prayer and action will be printed in our parish bulletin and posted on our website at ccgronline.com/mercy.

For more information about upcoming programs and events commemorating the Jubilee Year of Mercy in the Catholic Community of Gloucester & Rockport, please see a member of our pastoral team; contact Father Jim at 978-281-4820 or frjim@ccgronline.com; or contact Cliff Garvey, our Associate Minister, at 978-281-4820 or cgarvey@ccgronline.com. Please join us! All are invited! All are welcome!