

PRESENTATION PRESS

Vision Statement

Our Lady of the Presentation is a vibrant, Eucharist-centered community offering all Catholics participation in sacraments, social action and Christian education.

Mission Statement

To share our gifts by providing opportunities for spiritual growth in worship, service, education and community activities, is our mission.

The Mission Within the Mission Trip *by Christy Gruenbaum, Director of Youth Ministry*

Whenever our interior life becomes caught up in its own interests and concerns, there is no longer room for others, no place for the poor. God's voice is no longer heard, the quiet joy of his love is no longer felt, and the desire to do good fades." Pope Francis, Evangelii Gaudium

Every summer since 2004, our Youth Ministry has made a commitment to set aside a week to help our teens step away from their own interests and concerns and make room for others. The summer Mission Trip provides youth an opportunity to quiet themselves long enough to hear God's voice. This experience helps them to acknowledge and respond to the stirring within their hearts to share their gifts in service and in "doing good" for others.

Our parish offers many opportunities to live out our Gospel call to serve, but the summer Mission Trip is a special time dedicated to high school teens and young adults. A youth summed up the Mission Trip by saying, "It's when I felt closest to Christ and discovered a passion to serve others." Another said, "I really found my faith when we were on the mission trip."

The road trips are long with minimal sleep on the floor of a classroom, yet offer the opportunity for our youth to meet hundreds of Catholic teens from across the country. They serve side by side doing the difficult and dusty work at a work site. It proves to be the opportunity of a lifetime and the chance for our teens to focus without distractions, to feel God's love and share God's love. This experience helps them make a strong connection to our faith and our call to serve.

Our daytime hours are spent in service. Work has included building wheelchair ramps, painting homes, assisting with childcare at locations for low income families or children whose parents are in prison, helping at food pantries, soup kitchens and retirement facilities. Last summer, we created mosaics in a neighborhood working to curb gang violence. All is closely tied to the major themes of Catholic social teaching and we spend time making that connection.

Catholic social teaching is a central and essential element of our faith. Catholic social teaching is built on a



commitment to the poor, and is based on and inseparable from our understanding of human life and human dignity. Every human is created in the image and likeness of God and is worthy of respect.

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We know that every person we meet has inherent dignity and a right to a life consistent with that dignity. We are mindful that human dignity comes from God, not any human quality or accomplishment. We know that our commitment to the Catholic social mission must be rooted in and strengthened by our spiritual lives. We attend daily Mass and participate in sacraments. We serve others, laugh, lose sleep, eat questionable food and learn and use new skills. We stretch the boundaries of what we've known and broaden our perspective of our world.

This July, we will serve at Catholic Heart Workcamp in Allentown, Pennsylvania. The mission of CHWC is twofold: to share the love of Christ as we serve the neglected, broken-hearted and the marginalized in any way needed. Equally, to inspire participants to live as disciples of Christ through serving others as a way of life and to foster the Catholic faith of each participant through the sacraments, prayer and involvement in social service.

It is in our relationship with God that we experience the conversion of heart necessary to truly love one another as God has loved us. Our mission? To make room for others, to hear God's voice, to do good, to LOVE – deeply and completely.



A Need Far Greater Than Our Own

By Jane Krawczyk, Director of Stewardship

There are times in our lives when we need to take a look at where we are headed, what decisions have led us down the path we are on and what changes, if any, need to be made in our lives. It is easy to live day to day in the rush and busyness of life and never slow down long enough to reflect on what we value most and how we spend our time and resources as it relates to our greatest values.

Over the last several months, we have taken time to look at how, as a parish, we share our time and resources as it relates to one of our greatest values - Mission & Outreach. We are a large parish with many different ministries and it is easy to spread ourselves thin in an attempt to support many different charitable causes. We reach out to Lee's Summit Social Services, St. James Place Community Kitchen, Project Uplift, our sister community San Rafael Cedros, El Salvador, and many other causes. As we reflected upon our parish Mission & Outreach efforts, we asked ourselves who we are called to serve as a Catholic faith community and where we are called to make a real difference. It is evident that we must take time to reflect on where and how we use our time and resources. Are we doing so in such a way that we impact the lives of others in a real and lasting way? We are very blessed at Presentation Parish and God calls us, both individually and as a faith community, to reach out to those with needs far greater than our own.

Recently, I was talking with a friend I've known the past 10 years who always possesses a peace and joy-filled spirit. I asked her when this peaceful transformation took place in her life. She said, "When we met 10 years ago, there were some really yucky things going on in my life. Actually, those yucky things haven't changed. I have changed."

In the midst of our everyday lives, regardless of the busyness or the yucky things that occur, it is important to take time to reflect on what we value most and where we need to change. As a faith community, we will continue to discern what changes we need to make within our Mission & Outreach ministry so that we can better serve those most in need. We invite you to join us and share your time and resources in ways that will make a real and lasting difference in the lives of those with needs far greater than our own.



Ways To Serve Through Mission & Outreach



St. James Place Community Kitchen

Our parish serves the working poor and homeless in Kansas City the 1st Thursday and 3rd Tuesday of the month at St. James Place. Volunteers help serve already prepared food, wash dishes and clean up after meals are served. We need 10 volunteers and 2 adult drivers each time. Check the bulletin for upcoming dates.



Our parish helps Project Uplift serve Kansas City's homeless every 2nd Monday of the month. Four volunteers are needed each time. We carpool from Presentation and travel to the Uplift warehouse at 16th & Prospect to load trucks with meals, water and other supplies. After loading, we accompany the Uplift drivers to make deliveries to homeless camps.



Lee's Summit Social Services

Monthly Food Drive



Our parish helps feed the hungry by hosting a food drive the first weekend of the month. A list of items needed is published in the bulletin the week before the drive.

Advent Giving Tree

Each year, our parish collects donations for Christmas gifts for adults, teens and children. Last year, 1,000 tags were taken from the tree.



Giving Baskets

Each July, our Children's Faith Formation ministry collects school supplies for LSSS "Back To School" drive.

To volunteer at St. James or Project Uplift, contact Christy Gruenbaum, 251-1107 or email cgruenbaum@olpls.org



Our Lady of the Presentation Church
 130 NW Murray Road
 Lee's Summit, MO 64081
www.olpls.org

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Opportunities for Worship, Service, Education and Community

SUMMER

June

- 13: Project Uplift
- 13-15: Forgiveness Workshop
- 18: Pilgrimage to Conception Abbey
- 20-24: Vacation Bible School
- 21: St. James Community Kitchen
- 23: Young Families Picnic
- 25: Hispanic Ministry Children's Day

July

- 4: 4th of July Mass, 9am
- 7: St. James Community Kitchen
- 9-10: LS Social Services
Free Blood Pressure Checks
- 11: Project Uplift
- 19: St. James Community Kitchen

August

- 4: St. James Community Kitchen
- 6-7: LSSS Food Drive
Free Blood Pressure Checks
- 8: Project Uplift
- 12: Movie Night
- 13-14: CFF Registration
- 15: Feast of the Assumption Social
- 16: St. James Community Kitchen
- 20-21: Divine Donuts
- 25: Lectio Divina
- 28: K of C Parish Breakfast

