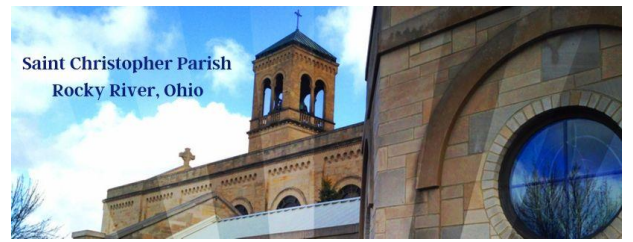


SAINT CHRISTOPHER SOCIAL CONCERNS

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Thank you for signing up to receive information from the Saint Chris Social Concerns Committee (SCC). We appreciate your continued interest in the Social Concerns Committee and looking for ways to help others.



Many churches and nonprofits have suspended or modified volunteer efforts for health reasons due to the coronavirus.

We continue to offer suggestions and ideas for you to consider during these times. **Prayer**, as you might expect, comes first. Listed next are **volunteer opportunities** and **charitable actions**, followed by **advocacy and education**.

Please consider keeping informed of the changing situation and social concerns issues via our Facebook page. Go to: <https://tinyurl.com/stchris-scc> (St. Chris Social Concerns Committee) to join. Just click on the box: **Join Group** on the main picture. If you have a problem, let us know. We value your input regarding this newsletter. Please send ideas and comments to John Hosek: jjudehosek@gmail.com.

PRAYER FOR THE APRIL 2021

From the Catholic Health Association:

A composite image for Earth Day. On the left, a pair of hands holds a small green seedling with two leaves growing out of a mound of soil. The background is a soft-focus natural setting. On the right, a green rectangular box contains white text for a prayer.

A Reflection for Earth Day

God,
Creator of All,

We offer our prayer in gratitude and humility that we might heed your call to care for one another through our care of the least, the lowest and the most vulnerable of all your blessed creation.

Grant, we pray, the courage to speak on behalf of the soft soil under our feet, the running and still waters, the warmth of the sun on our face, and all the crawling, flying and swimming creatures you love. May our courage to speak translate into actions that protect our planet—so that our children and their children might enjoy the fruits of what we sow.

In your name, we pray.
AMEN.

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APRIL 2021 SOCIAL JUSTICE DATES

(FROM THE CATHOLIC SOCIAL JUSTICE RESOURCE CENTER)

April 7th: World Health Day

April 18th to 24th: National Volunteer Week

April 22nd: Earth Day

April 30th: Arbor Day



VOLUNTEER AND CHARITABLE OPPORTUNITIES

SAINT CHRISTOPHER PARISH

“Called for More” Disciple Maker Index Parish Survey

Our parish is participating in a diocesan wide survey that will be taking place over the next few weeks. This survey instrument entitled, Called For More, is a national program prepared by the Catholic Leadership Institute and already done in 37 dioceses in the United States. It is designed to listen to parishioners in support of parish and priestly life. The hope is to obtain an ideal leadership profile of priests, an ideal profile of a parish and a snapshot of the faith journey of parishioners.

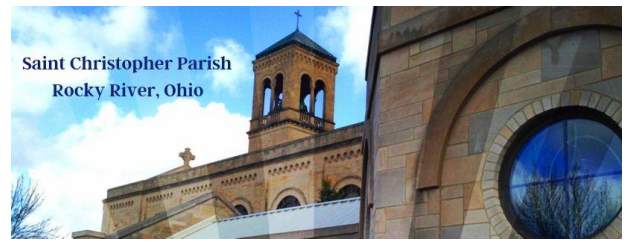
The main instrument of the program is a 75-question survey for all parishioners to reflect on two things, individual spiritual growth and engagement with the parish. The survey should take 10 – 15 minutes to complete and is available from Saturday, February 20 to Monday, April 19 through an online link available below. Paper copies are available at the Parish Office and Priest’s Sacristy in church for those who prefer that method. Gayle Cilimburg is the “Primary Point of Contact” for our parish if you have any questions.



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Some of you might wonder how this will be different from the parish survey we did in 2018. That was a helpful process for our parish and the Pastoral Council continues to develop goals and action steps as a follow-up, with many items already in place. This diocesan survey will support and augment what we are already doing and further validate and encourage goals and plans we are already trying to implement in our community. I invite and encourage your participation in this diocesan effort.

Thank you for your participation, Fr. John Chlebo

[THE SURVEY CAN BE ACCESSED HERE](#)



ROCKY RIVER ASSISTANCE

Due to the COVID-19 public health crisis, the RRAP has limited the monthly Pack & Sort to Rocky River Women's Club members only.

However, you may drop off non-perishable items at Lake Road Market at 20267 Lake Road anytime. The needs for April are canned beans and canned meat (chicken and fish).

The RRAP needs monetary donations to continue assisting our neighbors in need. Tax-deductible donations can be made online via PayPal: <http://www.rrwc.org/donation> or by checks made to Rocky River Assistance Program, mailed to: P. O. Box 16724, Rocky River, OH 44116. If more convenient, you can also mail grocery gift cards to RRAP. Giant Eagle, Heinen's and Target cards in \$25 increments are the most helpful.



SAINT COLMAN PARISH

The next Neighborhood Meal will be on April 24. For the foreseeable future, the meal will be a to-go meal. For information, please call 216-651-0550.

We thank our dedicated volunteers who have worked hard to plan for a safe reopening of this vital program for our Parish and our neighborhood.

To donate, please send checks to St. Colman Church, 2027 West 65th Street, Cleveland, Ohio 441102.



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ROCKY RIVER/LAKEWOOD MEALS ON WHEELS

Rocky River Lakewood Meals On Wheels is continuing to deliver freshly made, nutritious meals during the COVID-19 pandemic. We have implemented strict sanitation procedures to protect our meal recipients, volunteers, and staff from contact with and transmission of the virus.

Planning ahead, we have given all our recipients a supply of non-perishable food to have on-hand in the event that we are forced to suspend our normal operations at some point in the future.

We have the capacity to serve more people who are finding it difficult to purchase or prepare healthy meals. If you or someone you know – friend, relative, neighbor – needs our service, please contact us at (440) 333-6298, and browse our website for more information.

For more information about Rocky River Meals on Wheels visit www.mealsonwheelsrr.org.



WEST SIDE CATHOLIC CENTER



Important update regarding COVID-19:

Please check out the West Side Catholic Center at the following sites to keep informed of the status of their programs:

[CLICK HERE FOR INFORMATION ON ITEM DONATIONS AND DROP OFF TIMES](#) (Donation hours: Monday-Friday, 8:30am-1pm. Two parcel limit.

[CLICK HERE FOR A FULL LIST OF UPDATES TO OUR RESOURCE CENTER PROGRAMS](#) (Resource Center hours: Monday-Friday, 9am-1pm; Saturday, 9am-10am and 4:30pm-5:15pm for meals only)

Thank you for your donations of new or gently used items for our Clothing and Household Distribution Program. We ask that you bring only season appropriate, practical clothing that is either new or clean and gently used. Our space is very limited. We can only accept TWO bags per delivery. Please note: *WE DO NOT ACCEPT FURNITURE.*

We can accept donations Monday through Friday 8:30AM to 1:00PM.



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SAINT VINCENT DEPAUL SOCIETY

Please check out Saint Vincent DePaul at the following site to keep informed of the status of their programs:

https://www.facebook.com/pg/svdpcle/posts/?ref=page_internal

Donate safely and securely online today! Or to make a gift by mail, please make your check or money order payable to “St. Vincent de Paul Society” and mail to: St. Vincent de Paul Society Care Club, 1404 East Ninth Street – Third Floor, Cleveland, OH 44114.

Thank You! Click here to donate to a hunger center: <https://donate.svdpcle.org/hunger-center-donations/>



THE GREATER CLEVELAND FOOD BANK



Volunteers are crucial to all operations of the Greater Cleveland Food Bank, whether in traditional roles (collecting, sorting, and repacking food that comes through our warehouse every day) or using special skills to support with administrative functions or special projects.

In 2019, more than 21,000 volunteers contributed more than 92,000 hours of service to the Food Bank, a savings of more than two million dollars in salaries and benefits, allowing for additional food to be provided to our agencies and clients.

Reach Volunteer Services by phone at 216.738.2053

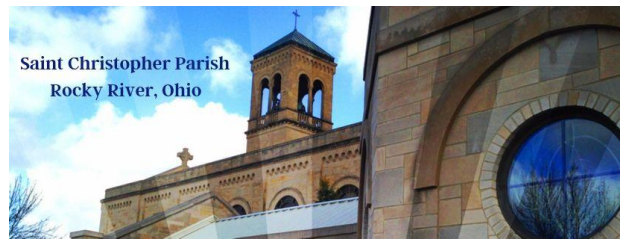
Get started by clicking on one of the options below:

- [Learn more about our different project areas!](#)
- Interested in bringing a group out to volunteer? [Click Here](#) to fill out a volunteer group request form.
- [Learn about our Skill-Based Volunteer Program!](#)
- If you or your group is interested in having a member of our Speakers Bureau give a presentation on the Greater Cleveland Food Bank and our Advocacy efforts, [Click Here!](#)
- [View Our FAQ Page](#)

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FRONT STEPS



Help us touch lives and end the cycle of homelessness for men, women and children in Cuyahoga County.

Together, we can make a difference and empower those who seek a better, healthy and more fulfilling life.

Front Steps can carry out our work within the community thanks to the support of our generous donors and supporters. Learn more about how you can get involved through donation, volunteerism or sponsorship.

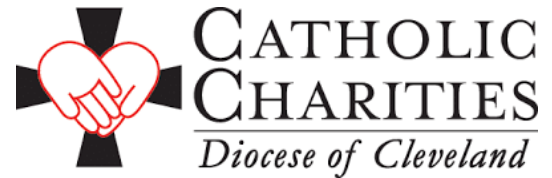
<https://www.frontstepsservices.org/donate>

EDUCATION AND ADVOCACY OPPORTUNITIES



CATHOLIC CHARITIES USA (CCUSA)

CCUSA Advocacy and Social Policy team advocates for policies that uphold human dignity and promote integral human development. Informed by the experience of local Catholic Charities agencies, we urge policy makers to see the faces of those in need in their communities and to create policies which assist and support them.



Sign up for Washington Weekly and receive Advocacy Alerts:

<https://www.catholiccharitiesusa.org/our-vision-and-ministry/advocacy/action-center/>

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SOCIAL ACTION OFFICE OF THE DIOCESE OF CLEVELAND

The Social Action Office of the Diocese of Cleveland seeks to shape a more caring society and a more peaceful world through justice education, advocacy, community development and organizing. Our work is based on the call of the Gospel to work for the respect and dignity of all human life, the elimination of poverty, to speak out against injustice, and to promote the common good. The office is composed of County-based social action offices, and office for the Catholic Campaign for Human Development and Catholic Relief Services.

<https://ccdacle.org/social-action>

CURRENT ACTION ALERTS FROM THE DIOCESE:

Click here for the most recent Action Alerts from the Diocese:

<https://www.ccdacle.org/service-areas/diocesan-social-action-office/advocacy/take-action-now>

ACTION ALERTS FROM THE CATHOLIC CONFERENCE OF OHIO:

Click here for Action Alerts from the Conference:



<https://www.ohiocathconf.org/issues/category/legislative-action-alerts>

UPCOMING WEBINARS

DIOCESAN SOCIAL ACTION OFFICE

Care for God's Creation Parish Network Online Gathering: **Monday April 12, 2021 -- 7:00-8:30 PM**

"PEOPLE FOR TREES (AND NATIVE PLANTS)"

Hosted by: Diocesan Social Action Office staff

Presented by: Sandra Albro, Director of Community Partnerships and urban greening specialist at Holden Forests and Gardens

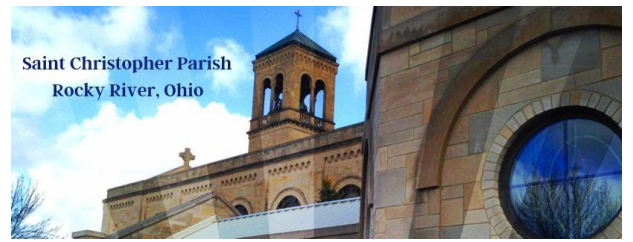


Parishes, schools, religious communities, families, students are invited to this online sustainability presentation and networking event.

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Sandra Albro, Director of Community Partnerships at Holden Forests and Gardens, will present Holden's newest "People for Trees" initiative to re-forest CLE's and NE Ohio's declining tree canopy that has had wide-ranging impacts.

Discussion will include how parishes, schools, households can "tree up" and also shift to native plants/pollinators for better regional soil, water, air, ecosystem quality and for a better world.

To RSVP or for more info, email: Jeff Campbell, DSAO, at jcampbell@ccdoble.org.

(NOTE: An event Zoom link will be sent to those who RSVP)

WEST SIDE CREATION CARE TEAM

Creation Care Earth Day Prayer Service: **April 22nd at 7 pm**

Prayer is perhaps the most important thing we can do to care for God's creation. You are invited to celebrate Earth Day by participating in a Zoom prayer service, <http://bit.ly/WSCCT-EarthDay-2021> passcode: earthday

The service, "Restore Our Common Home", was written by Catholic Climate Covenant and is being hosted by the West Side Creation Care Team with support from the Cleveland Diocese Social Action Office.

