

Outreach and Social Justice

St. Francis of Assisi is a welcoming and generous parish. As a parish we are committed to the principles of Catholic Social Teaching. We have two essential points of focus, and one cannot exist without the other.

- Works of Charity
- Works of Justice

For information or to participate in any of these programs contact (206) 242-4575 ext 29

- **Eucharistic Ministers to Hospital and Homebound** - Taking Eucharist to the homebound and Highline Community Hospital. Volunteers always needed.
- **Funeral Ministry** - Volunteers bring food for funeral receptions or help set up, serve and clean-up at the reception.
- **Bereavement Ministry** - During Advent a letter from Fr. Dick along with a gift of remembrance is sent to those who have lost a loved one during the year.
- **St. Francis Respect Life Ministry** – The dignity and sacredness of human life is the foundation of moral vision for our society. This belief is the foundation of all the principles of our social teaching.
- **50+ Plus Friends** – A group of parish members age 50 and above, as well as their friends of any age, who meet monthly for social and service activities.
- **MOM's Connection** – is a group of mothers with young children, who support and enrich each other, pray together, have fun, and make lasting friendships.
- **Knit and Chat Group** – Meets in the Parish Hall the first and third Wednesdays at 9:00 am for knitting techniques and fellowship. This group knits items to donate to the hospital, Pregnancy Aid and Warm for Winter.
- **St. Francis Quilters** – Meets in the Parish Hall the first Wednesday at 10:30 for quilting techniques. This group donates quilts to Outreach, Pregnancy Aid and other charities.
- **St. Francis Walkers** – Meet in the church parking lot at 10 am every third Tuesday of **rain or shine**. They proceed to a chosen location for the walk. Lunch together after the walk.
- **Survivors of Suicide** - S.O.S. Burien meets the 2nd Tuesday, 7:00pm in the Auditorium. For anyone whose life has been impacted by suicide. No fee. Contact Kathy Sterling 206-244-8729
- **Sandwich Makers** – Meet after morning Mass on the first Friday and the fourth Tuesday to make sandwiches for St. Martin de Porres and Lazarus Day Center.
- **Operation Rice Bowl** – A Lenten program of Catholic Relief Service in which our parish participates by holding Friday Soup Suppers as well as following home devotionals including filling our “Rice Bowls” with money which is donated to Catholic Relief Services.
- **Lenten Soup Suppers** – Parish Groups volunteer to sponsor a simple meal of soup and bread every Friday during Lent. Donations go to Operation Rice Bowl.
- **Sock it to Homelessness** – Homeless people are on their feet all day, and rarely have more than one pair of socks – and those are often wet. During the months of September and October we collect new men’s white socks for distribution to homeless men and women through the winter. We collect men’s socks because they are warmer than women’s socks.
- **Warm for Winter** – Throughout the year we collect hand-knit or handmade fleece hats and scarves for distribution to the homeless during the winter.
- **Thanksgiving Boxes** – After Halloween we begin collecting food items or money for food and turkeys to fill Thanksgiving Boxes that are delivered to those in need. The baskets are filled at a family potluck the Sunday evening before Thanksgiving.
- **Christmas Giving Tree** – The first weekend after Thanksgiving we put up our Christmas Giving Tree. Tags on the tree specify gifts to be purchased and put under the tree. We support 5 agencies with Christmas gifts.
- **Volunteer Chore Services** – A division of Catholic Community Services. Volunteers from St. Francis visit low-income elderly and disabled in our area performing simple household tasks or running errands, enabling these folks to remain in their own homes.

- **Highline Food Bank** – 18300 4th Ave. S., Burien. To volunteer or donate call (206) 433-9900 or Ron Purdin (206) 919-9414
- **Puget Sound Blood Center** – St. Francis holds quarterly Blood Drives. Watch the bulletin for details.
- **Hospitality House** – Helping homeless women find home, health and hope. Along with other area churches, St. Francis supports this Burien shelter for homeless women. To volunteer to prepare a meal or to stay overnight contact Linda Stryker 206-432-9213 or Maria Balsiger (206)242-3837
- **The Occasional Yellow Page** – As a service to the parish, this bulletin insert is printed about once a month advertising services, things for sale or rent and other information of use to the parish. To place an ad contact the Outreach Office (206) 242-4575 ext 29.
- **Crisis Referrals** – Contact the Outreach Office (206) 242-4575 ext 29.

Catholic Social Teaching is a rich treasure of wisdom about building a just society and living lives of holiness amidst the challenges of modern society. Following are the key themes of **Catholic Social Teaching**.

- **Life and Dignity of the Human Person** The Catholic Church proclaims that human life is sacred and that the dignity of the human person is the foundation of a moral vision for society. This belief is the foundation of all the principles of our social teaching.
- **Call to Family, Community, and Participation** The person is not only sacred but also social. How we organize our society -- in economics and politics, in law and policy -- directly affects human dignity and the capacity of individuals to grow in community.
- **Rights and Responsibilities** The Catholic tradition teaches that human dignity can be protected and a healthy community can be achieved only if human rights are protected and responsibilities are met..
- **Option for the Poor and Vulnerable** A basic moral test is how our most vulnerable members are faring.
- **The Dignity of Work and the Rights of Workers**
The economy must serve people, not the other way around..
- **Solidarity**
We are one human family whatever our national, racial, ethnic, economic, and ideological differences.
- **Care for God's Creation**
We show our respect for the Creator by our stewardship of creation. Care for the earth is not just an Earth Day slogan, it is a requirement of our faith.