



**ST. PATRICK'S SOCIAL CONCERNS MINISTRIES**  
**ST. PATRICK'S CATHOLIC CHURCH • ROCKVILLE, MD**

# SOCIAL CONCERNS MINISTRY

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"I tell you the truth, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did for me."

– Matthew 25:40

To support any of our Social Concerns Ministries with a financial contribution, please make a check payable to:

"St. Patrick's Social Concerns"

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"Celtic Cross" by Steve Snodgrass

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# CATHOLIC SOCIAL TEACHING

## The Underlying Tenets of Service

As Catholics, we are called to stand up for the suffering and the defenseless. We are called to recognize the dignity of every person and respond to their needs of hunger, loneliness, illness, or lack of basic necessities. Sometimes, we are called to address root causes through advocacy. The responsibility of charity and justice belongs to each of us, and together we can truly make a difference, and we have!

"You have been told, O mortal, what is good, and what the Lord requires of you: Only to do justice and to love goodness, and to walk humbly with your God."

— Micah 6:8

# The Seven Themes of Catholic Social Teaching

1. Life and Dignity of the Human Person  
Human life is sacred and the dignity of every person is the foundation of a moral society
2. Call to Family, Community, and Participation  
Persons are not only sacred but also social
3. Rights and Responsibilities  
Human dignity can be achieved only if human rights are protected
4. Option for the Poor and Vulnerable  
Our Catholic tradition calls for the protection of the poor and vulnerable
5. The Dignity of Work and the Rights of Workers  
The dignity of work has to be protected, including the right to productive work, decent wages and economic initiative
6. Solidarity  
We are one human family regardless of our national, racial, ethnic, economic or ideological differences
7. Care for God's Creation  
We are called to be good stewards of God's creation

# CHARITABLE GIVING

## Emergency Financial Assistance

Supported by donations, the Social Concerns Office provides assistance towards rent and utilities and other emergencies on behalf of individuals and families in need within our parish boundaries. Our parish is now forming the St. Brigid of Ireland Ministry as a means to enhance our outreach through home visits and prayer.

## Poor Box Ministry

Social Concerns evaluates possible beneficiaries for the weekly Poor Box. A team of dedicated money counters meets faithfully every week to record collections for a variety of charitable organizations, keeping track of St. Patrick's generous donations.

## St. Brigid of Ireland Ministry

Pope Francis has encouraged the Church to be apostles and go out to meet the poor where they are. The newly forming St. Brigid of Ireland Ministry is St. Patrick's response to Pope Francis' challenge. The ministry is comprised of individuals who come together to prayerfully consider emergency financial assistance requests and visit two-by-two with those in need within the community.

"Baby Blues" by Sharon Mollerus • <https://www.flickr.com/photos/clarity/152304856>

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# MINISTRY TO THE SICK, HOMEBOUND & IMPRISONED

## Welcome Home Reentry Program

Catholic Charities runs a prison outreach ministry to support men and women returning to their communities after incarceration. Support includes mentoring, employment assistance, as well as contributions. St. Patrick's supported this effort through Poor Box donations as well as through a collection of toiletries and other essentials through our Easter Butterfly Cross. We hope to expand the ministry by providing mentors to help those returning to their communities.

## Friendly Visitors

Visit with elderly or home-bound parishioners, helping with paperwork, light cooking, shopping, transportation to/from appointments or simply spending quality time in fellowship.

## Transportation Ministry

Volunteers are needed to provide transportation for individuals to/from Sunday Masses. This ministry presents a unique opportunity to forge new friendships and help a fellow parishioner; please consider offering this service.

Steve Goldhammer • (301) 570-9613  
segoldhamm@aol.com

**"Because with us what is highest must be at the service of others."  
– Pope Francis, 3/28/13, Holy Thursday Homily  
at Prison for Minors "Casa del Marmo"**

"Prison Cells" by miss\_millions • <https://www.flickr.com/photos/marineperez/4698707308>  
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# THE “TWO FEET” OF SOCIAL ACTION

## Charitable Works

The left foot is charitable works—helping people survive their present crisis, by providing food, clothing, shelter, and transportation for the elderly; sponsoring an immigrant family; helping to pay rent or other necessities; or helping people get access to public resources.

“Religion that is pure and undefiled before God and the Father is this: to care for orphans and widows in their affliction and to keep oneself unstained by the world.”

— James 1:27



# Social Justice & Systemic Change

The right foot is social justice/systemic change—working to remove the causes of the problems, by working with people who are poor to secure decent jobs, organizing with them to be effective in the political arena or in getting businesses to treat them fairly, helping with voter registration drives, and getting government agencies to change policies that impede people who are poor from achieving their fair participation in government protections and assistance.

- Promote solidarity among parish and community in need through partnerships
- Empower those with limited resources by support self-help organizations to break cycle of poverty
- Provide educational resources to parishioners regarding social issues
- Provide opportunities for reflection/action
- Encourage legislative/political advocacy

"Running Shoes." Taipei, Taiwan by Luke Ma • <https://www.flickr.com/photos/lukema/8183925418>  
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# PARTNERS IN FAITH

## Partners in Faith

PIF began as an effort to build a sense of community by partnering with area shelters to better serve those in need and expand our outreach. We formed "partnerships" with Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary Parish's newly-named St. Francis Outreach Center, Chase Men's Shelter, Kennedy Cluster Project, Nativity Women's Shelter, and Stepping Stones Shelter. PIF meets monthly to consider various drives and activities to support our brothers and sisters in need. The drives are run on a roughly quarterly basis, collecting such items as clothing, paper products and school supplies. In terms of activities, PIF has organized family game nights, back pack assemblies, and a picnic for Stepping Stones Shelter.

## Furnishings for Families

Volunteer with a team of parishioners from St Patrick's Partners in Faith Ministry who help families move from a shelter into permanent homes by collecting gently-used, donated furniture and delivering it them in their new homes. Trucks, drivers and muscle are always needed to help make deliveries.

Jamie Fillet • (240) 888-8777  
filletjamie@hotmail.com

## Cup of Joe

Help assemble nutritious breakfasts for residents of Nativity Women's Shelter in D.C, a low-barrier shelter. Since 2013, St. Pat's Partners in Faith Ministry has supported this effort with the help of the Youth Group, Special Needs Ministry and other volunteers.

Bob Hill • (301) 871-5141  
rchill52@gmail.com



## Family Game Nights

Teens and young adults of St. Patrick's help supervise and participate in games and activities for children at the Stepping Stones family shelter on a quarterly basis.

Joan Lane  
j.jlane@verizon.net

## Birthday Celebrations

St. Patrick's Faith-in-Action kids bring joy to the residents of Chase Partnership House by helping them to celebrate their birthdays with birthday cakes or cupcakes and home-made birthday cards.

Chuck Cozad • (301) 570-0073  
chuckcoz@verizon.net

## St Joseph's Coat of Many Colors

St. Patrick's participates in the Catholic Charities-sponsored annual coat drive to provide coats, hats and gloves to individuals and families in need in the D.C. Metro Area.

St. Patrick's School coordinates this effort on behalf of the parish.

"So in everything, do to others what you would have them do to you."

— Matthew 7:12

# INTERNATIONAL OUTREACH

## Haiti Outreach

Help support Life Connection Mission, an organization dedicated to helping people in Montrouis, Haiti by providing education, housing, medical support, and other necessities. St. Patrick's supports their efforts through various fundraisers, including an annual yard sale and mulch sale as well as annual drives for clothing, shoes, and hygiene products. The funds raised also support annual mission trips which afford volunteers an opportunity to provide direct, hands-on support.

Christie Anne Short  
Principal, St. Patrick School  
[ChristieAnne.Short@StPatrickADW.org](mailto:ChristieAnne.Short@StPatrickADW.org)

## Holy Land Ministry

In anticipation of Christmas, St. Patrick's hosts a group of artisans from Jerusalem offering a beautiful array of hand-made religious items which make for perfect Christmas gifts. Proceeds support the continuity of this industry in the Holy Land.

## Lenten CRS Rice Bowls

Catholic Relief Services was founded in 1943 by the Catholic Bishops of the U.S. to serve WWII survivors in Europe. Since then they have expanded to reach more than 100 million people in 93 countries on five continents. Through the efforts of the parish, school, and School of Religion, St. Patrick's contributed more than \$650 to CRS's collection in 2013 and just over \$1,000 in 2014.

# SOCIAL JUSTICE & ADVOCACY

## Faithful Citizenship

Advocate for issues of importance to Catholics, whether through a letter-writing campaign or attending Lobby Night. This is an opportunity to speak out or support social causes important to Catholic witness.

See Maryland Catholic Conference for additional opportunities:  
<http://www.mdcathcon.org/>

## Domestic Violence Intake

Volunteer lawyers conduct intake of immigrant victims of violence at Montgomery County's Family Justice Center. FJC is a community-wide collaboration of public and private agencies in the county working to assist domestic violence victims with VAWA and U-Visa cases, protective orders, and counseling.

## Justice & Advocacy Council

The J&A Council of the Archdiocese of Washington strives to address the needs of the poor and vulnerable in Montgomery County through legislative advocacy in such areas as affordable housing, access to health care, and support for immigrants.

## Lenten Simple Suppers

The Social Concerns Office hosts speakers and a light meal before the Stations of the Cross on Fridays during Lent. In 2013, the Environmental Ministry hosted a speaker/supper. In 2014, the Respect Life Ministry (supported by Faith-in-Action kids) hosted two speakers: (1) Bud Reinke, director of the Gabriel Project and several "Angel Friends" who shared practical and spiritual experiences of walking with a mother through a crisis pregnancy and (2) Sarah Yaklic, a speaker from the Archdiocese who spoke about the influence in her life of St. Gianna Molla, Patron Saint of Mothers and the Unborn."

# RESPECT LIFE MINISTRIES

## Respect Life Ministry

This active ministry supports a variety of advocacy, drives, education, and fundraising efforts throughout the year to protect life from conception until natural death:

- Annual fundraisers supporting local pregnancy centers:  
Baby Bottle Campaign (Oct.)  
Christmas Card Sale (Nov-Dec)  
Mother's Day Flower Sale (May)
- Local & National Outreach  
Lobby Night (Jan)  
March for Life in D.C. (Jan)  
Rosary for Life (Jan.)  
"40 Days for Life" Campaign in Montgomery County (Oct & May)

Helen Toussaint • (301) 460-7219  
mht6kids@gmail.com

## St. Patrick's Tepeyac

St. Patrick's honors Our Lady of Guadalupe—Patroness of the Unborn—on her Feast Day of December 12 every year. In addition, on the 12th of every month, St. Patrick's hosts a Tepeyac prayer service after the 9:10 weekday Mass.

Ana Maria Blautzik • (240) 669-6359  
anamblau@hotmail.com

"Before I formed you in the womb I knew you."  
— Jeremiah 1:5

# SPECIAL NEEDS MINISTRIES

## Special Needs Ministry

The Special Needs Ministry strives for full inclusion of persons with different abilities into every aspect of parish life. In partnership with neighboring faith communities and Upcounty Community Resources (UCR), St. Patrick's has held liturgical events, social and service opportunities.

## Faith and Light

Part of St. Patrick's Special Needs Ministry, "Faith & Light" is a spiritual and social community for individuals with different abilities, their families and friends.

Teresa Perez • (301) 949-8589  
perezfamily92@msn.com

Paula Kearney • (301) 924-1107  
kearneyjp6@gmail.com

## UCR Art Class

Upper Montgomery County Community Resources (UCR) offers a weekly art class for individuals with special needs.

Liz Demaree • (240) 614-0444  
liz@ucresources.org

## UCR "Zam Dance" Class

St. Patrick's opens up its gym for a weekly UCR Zamba class for individuals with developmental differences. The classes are open to individuals who are wheelchair bound.

Liz Demaree • (240) 614-0444  
liz@ucresources.org

## The "Upper Room" Ministry

Join fellow survivors of trauma in this PTSD support group centered around sharing and prayer.

Jim McNulty  
TheUpperRoomPTSD@yahoo.com

# HOLIDAY OUTREACH

## Christmas Holiday Giving

Every year, hundreds of St. Patrick's volunteers assemble Christmas food baskets and provide children's gifts for approximately 400 individuals and families in need in the 20853 zip code. In 2013, St. Patrick's provided 1,500 Angel Tree gifts.

Ann Rote • (301) 924-0691  
annierote@comcast.net

## Thanksgiving Holiday Giving

Every year, St. Patrick's provides Thanksgiving food baskets to individuals and families in need with the help of hundreds of volunteers, sorting food and assembling and distributing baskets. In 2013, St. Patrick's assembled over 1,000 meals. For the entire holiday season the efforts coordinated by St. Patrick's resulted in charity worth some \$67,000 for the holiday meals.

David Gagan • (301) 929-9205  
dgagan@juno.com

## Easter Butterfly Cross

During Lent, a large cross is decorated with beautiful butterflies. Each butterfly identifies a gift for one of usually three charities. In 2012, the beneficiaries included (1) the Benedictine School for children with developmental disabilities; (2) Life Connections Ministry serving those in Haiti; and (3) Prison Outreach Ministry. Through this ministry St. Patrick's parishioners provide educational toys, books, and games, and assorted toiletries.

## SOME Shoe Box Christmas Gifts

St. Patrick's parishioners collect, assemble and deliver shoeboxes filled with toiletries, scarves, hats and gloves for SOME (So Others Might Eat) which distributes the boxes to the homeless in Washington, DC. St. Patrick's is among the top 5 contributors to SOME annually.

Steve & Mary Ann Bruce  
StPatShoobox@verizon.net

# OTHER OPPORTUNITIES TO SERVE

PS  
IN  
COMPAN

## Run for Vocations

St. Patrick's joins other parishes in the Archdiocese to participate in the annual Run for Vocations to raise awareness and offer prayer and financial support for vocations to the priesthood. Priests, seminarians and lay people sign up to run the Marine Corps Marathon or 10K and commit to a fundraising minimum to support seminarians. Run for Vocations began in 1999 as a program to pray and sacrifice for our future priests. In 2009, in addition to individual runners, parish teams began to form. St. Patrick's was blessed to have our team captain, Karen Jones at the helm from 2010-2013. The Lord called Karen home in 2013, after fighting a courageous battle with cancer. Team Karen/St. Patrick's RFV Team strives to honor Karen's legacy of love for our priests and seminarians. Please help us grow "Team Karen"!

Joe & Mary Ann Petruccelli  
(301) 871-1178  
stpatricksrfv@gmail.com

## Christian Unity Fellowship

Join with various Christian communities in an annual service of prayer and music in observance of the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity. Donations in 2013 benefited the Missionaries of Charity's Gift of Peace House.

## Health & Wellness Ministry

Join parish doctors, nurses and other health professionals in a new ministry which will provide blood drives and blood-pressure screenings, CPR training, health and nutrition education, and other health & wellness options for parishioners.

Patrice Kelly • (301) 641-8581  
kellychirigos@verizon.net

# FOOD COLLECTION & FOOD PANTRIES

## Assumption Parish Outreach

Help with quarterly collections of canned food, household items, toiletries, & financial aid to support our sister parish's Pope Francis Center in Southeast D.C.

Phil Chimento • (301) 980-8911  
pfc@ieee.org

## Father McKenna Center

Join St. Patrick's parishioners and other area volunteers by making and serving food to homeless individuals at the Father McKenna Center in D.C.

Don & Pat Kisicki • (301) 774-3112  
pdkisicki@verizon.net

## Chase Partnership House Food Delivery

Chase Partnership House Food Delivery – Help prepare and deliver ready-to-serve dinners to Chase Partnership House, a shelter for men in recovery.

Peg Bilodeau • (301) 980-8156  
norbeck6@hotmail.com

## "Share in Hope" Food Drive

St. Patrick's parish and school contributes significantly to Catholic Charities' annual Lenten food collection which supports local pantries.

"I was hungry, and you fed me."  
— Matthew 25:35



## Greg Gannon Canned Food Drive

Support a parish-wide, fun-filled community event of neighbors helping neighbors. The GGCFD was brought to St. Patrick's from Blessed Sacrament Parish in DC. St. Patrick's launched its first drive in 2013. More than 200 volunteers participated and it generated a collection of more than 15,000 canned goods! Consider joining the planning team or join with friends and neighbors to help with collection in your area. This is a great opportunity for families/kids.

Sandra Ames • (301) 260-0559

amessandra@verizon.net

Helen Domenici • (301) 580-6182

hdomenici@gmail.com

## St. Martin's Food Pantry

St. Patrick's collects donations of nonperishable foods and baby products which are delivered to St. Martin's Food Pantry 10 months of the year.

Glen Terzi • (301) 570-5958

terzig@westat.com

## SOME Meals for the Homeless

Volunteers prepare and deliver hot meals to the homeless at SOME (So Others Might Eat) on the first Sunday of each month. (Several volunteers also work at SOME's kitchen.) St. Patrick's provided about 5,000 meals in 2013 and through the generosity of the St. Pat's SOME team, our parish was recognized as a "Charter Member" for 35+ years of service.

Tricia Young • (301) 929-9051

pappyandtrish@juno.com

## St. Patrick's Food Pantry

St. Patrick's Pantry provides non-perishable foods to individuals and families in need throughout the year. Donations are provided by the parish community on a weekly basis and through drives. New volunteers always welcome—great opportunity for families.

Amy Rios

missamy272001@yahoo.com.

"Au marché de la Boqueria à Barcelone" by Anne Arnoùld  
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"In this life we cannot do  
great things. We can only do  
small things with great love."

— Mother Teresa

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