



Announcements



Confirmation Several of our young people who have been guided in preparation for the sacrament of Confirmation, some who have been waiting over a year, will be confirmed this summer. On Tuesday 20 July at 7pm Julia Beninati, Michael Peters, Gretchen Quast and Reagan Quast will be confirmed by Bp. Hughes. The service will be live-streamed from St. Elizabeth's Church, Ridgewood. Fr. Bill will present the candidates and each one will have 4 guests to pray with them. On Tuesday 3 August, Alexandra Rossi will receive the sacrament of Confirmation at St. Peter's Morristown, presented by Megan Kendall and witnessed by 4 guests. To watch the services, visit the diocesan YouTube channel [youtube.com/c/dionewark](https://www.youtube.com/c/dionewark)



THE UNITED THANK OFFERING PRAYER Gracious God, we come before you in the knowledge that although we are varied in our gifts, we are united as laborers in your harvest. With grateful hearts, we give thanks for the blessings and challenges that inspire the work of the United Thank Offering. May the offerings given to UTO as an expression of gratitude go on to address the needs of our ever-changing world. All this we ask through Jesus Christ, whose life is a blueprint we strive to follow.

INGATHERING OF “BLUE BOXES” Martha Anderson will pick up your filled Blue Box or provide you with a new offering box. Simply contact her with your request. Manderson19@me.com 845.499.1870

For 2022, the focus for UTO grants is **Care of Creation**: *Turning love into action by caring for God’s creation to protect the most vulnerable — who will bear the largest burden of pollution and climate change — through justice, advocacy, environmental reparations, and the development of formational materials.*



Matching Grants for St. John's. Many employers offer matching grants. Does yours? If you don’t know, please look into it. If there is a matching grant program, your pledge to St. John’s might be matched by your company. St. John’s is now registered with Benevity and has received one matching grant this year. Please contact the Wardens, the Treasurer or the Priest if you have questions.

The Community Chefs is a grassroots program that provides cooked family meals to those in need every Friday. Here are the guidelines:

- Choose a one-dish recipe that provides a dinner for at least six people. Recipes that include vegetables are preferred since we are striving to provide as much nutrition as possible.
- Dinners can be either frozen, cooked or uncooked, but they should be cold at the time of pick-up.
- Meals will be picked up on Friday mornings for distribution at the Martin Luther King Center in the afternoon.

There are currently about 35 volunteer chefs and/or drivers. No one is expected to provide a meal every week, although many of the chefs do so regularly. Participating groups include St. John’s ECW, Germonds Presbyterian Church, the Council of Jewish Women, and the original cooks – Sophie’s yoga students.

The Martin Luther King Center has a large food pantry, but it also offers many other programs for families, seniors and students.

The link below gives a good introduction:

<https://www.facebook.com/watch/?v=836982223811463>.

If you are interested in becoming a “community chef,” please contact Kathy Lathrop at lathropkathleen@gmail.com.

Helping Hands: There is a constant need for personal hygiene supplies, in small sizes please as homeless folk have very limited storage and carrying capabilities. We need toothpaste, toothbrushes, shampoo, soap bars, razors and shaving cream. We always need clothing, particularly underwear and in these summer months we can only handle lightweight articles of clothing. At the best of times we have limited storage space and with the Covid restrictions even that is being tested.

An item easy to overlook is that “single-use” plastic bag given out in astonishing quantity by stores like Shoprite and CVS. Helping Hands can put them to a second, third and even further use. The meals we prepare these days must be taken away by the recipients, and “single-use” bags are ideal for that purpose. At present we need almost 1,000 bags each month, every one containing a day’s food for someone who otherwise would go hungry. The only conditions are that the bags be clean and without holes. Put them, and any other donations, in the storage bin beside the rear door of the church and mark your donation for Helping Hands. For more information, please contact James Fraser at 201 887 0994



New mutual aid organization: Common Food for Common Good. CFCG's mission is to maintain and cultivate community sustainable gardens throughout the area, bringing about several positive results:

1. Supplying food assistance with healthy, fresh produce to community members in need.
2. Curating a greater sense of community by inviting community members to help and work in our gardens.
3. Decreasing the reliance on large grocery store corporations, which will increase our community's food sovereignty and mitigate the negative impacts of grocery stores on the environment.

This season, please consider investing in our community's future. For more information contact our own Nick Haas <nickhaas16@gmail.com>

You are invited to submit your photos to add a personal parish family touch during our online liturgies. **We have set up a secure website for you to upload your photos:**

<https://photos.mikelpeters.com/>

Username: stjohs Password: upload

Local Food Collection Points: John Chapter six tells us about the feeding of the 5,000. While we can't accomplish this on our own, we can help.

Here's how we can help locally:

Ramsey Responds has put out an urgent request for all types of food. Donations may be dropped off on Tuesdays from 5-7PM behind St. Paul's Roman Catholic Church on Wyckoff Ave.

Center for Food Action has an ongoing need for personal grooming and hygiene items. Deodorant, shampoo, face and body lotion, shaving cream, lip balm, disposable razors and feminine products are items requested by clients.

Also needed are cleaning items such as laundry detergent, dish detergent and general purpose cleaning products.

Non-perishable food items are again being collected. Summer needs include simple-to-prepare foods and nutritious snacks for children. Always welcome are gift cards to supermarkets and monetary donations as CFA does need to purchase fresh produce, infant formula or items for clients with special needs. Donations may be mailed or dropped off to CFA, 90 Ridge Rd. in Mahwah. In person donations may be dropped off M-F from 10-2. CFA is very grateful for the support of St. John's.

The Community Thrift Shop: Summer clothing is now being accepted at the Community Thrift Shop located in the lower level of the Midland Park Shopping Center at the corner of Godwin Ave. and Goffle Road. Please, in season items only. We have been asked to remind contributors that men's suits, sport coats, dress pants and shirts with company logos on them are not accepted as they do not sell.

Small appliances, dishes, jewelry, and other household items as well as children's toys are welcomed. Clothing is limited to three large shopping bags or thirteen-gallon white trash bags per week. Books are limited to one bag. Please be sure items are clean and in working condition.

Donation days are Mondays from 10-2. Shopping days are Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday from 10-4. The shop is brimming with nice merchandise. Stop by and do some summer shopping. The bargains are unbelievable!

Please label your donation bags with our account number 21 as we receive a percentage of what items sell for.

If you have questions or need more information, contact Mary Welton (mhswelton@yahoo.com or 201-825-8629).

There is no shame in asking for help!

There can be a point when dealing with this pandemic, where not only does our spiritual health need help but our emotional and mental health need help. Bishop Hughes reminds us there is

no shame in asking for that. Contact our priest or another parishioner and talk.
If you are experiencing a crisis, or suspect someone you know is, the resources below are available to help now:

<https://covid19.nj.gov/>

NJ Mental Healthcares: 866-202-CARES (4357)

NJ Hope Line: 855-654-6735

Domestic Violence: 800-572-SAFE (7233)

Disaster Distress Helpline: 1-800-985-5990

National Suicide Prevention Lifeline: 1-800-273-8255

or suicidepreventionlifeline.org/chat

Crisis Textline: Text TALK to 741741

As we continue to actively be St. John's Church and Community in this time, please remember that there are multiple ways that you can continue to support the church electronically by Pledge or Weekly/Monthly donation.

You can:

Go to our website: <http://www.stjohnsramsey.org/> and click on the Online Giving email address

or

click the "**Donate Now**" button below.

[Donate Now](#)

Use our secure GivePlus+ application

Text to Donate to St. John's Ministries

Text number: 844-202-6980

To donate:

-Enter text number

-In the message, enter dollar amount,

followed by a space and then the fund code

(i.e. 25 fund)

General Fund – fund

Outreach – out

Annual pledge – pledge

Altar Guild – flower

GivePlus+ also offers an easy to use app (downloadable from the Apple Store or Google Play Store) for one time donations

AND

to set up recurring donations.

Sign up with your email and search for St Johns by zip code (07446).

[Learn More](#)