

FEBRUARY: THE CORPORAL WORKS OF MERCY

“The works of mercy are charitable actions by which we come to the aid of our neighbor in his spiritual and bodily necessities. Instructing, advising, consoling, comforting are spiritual works of mercy, as are forgiving and bearing wrongs patiently. The corporal works of mercy consist especially in feeding the hungry, sheltering the homeless, clothing the naked, visiting the sick and imprisoned, and burying the dead. Among all these, giving alms to the poor is one of the chief witnesses to fraternal charity: it is also a work of justice pleasing to God:

He who has two coats, let him share with him who has none and he who has food must do likewise. But give for alms those things which are within; and behold, everything is clean for you. If a brother or sister is ill-clad and in lack of daily food, and one of you says to them, “Go in peace, be warmed and filled,” without giving them the things needed for the body, what does it profit?”

(Catechism of the Catholic Church, no. 2447)

1. Feed the Hungry ([2 Kgs 4:42-44](#); [Prov 22:9](#); [Isa 58:10](#); [Lk 3:11](#); [Jn 6:35](#))

Housing Families First provides families experiencing homelessness with the tools to achieve housing stability. You can make and deliver snack bags to Housing Families First with contactless drop-off. Include hopeful and positive messages with the bags.

[Create welcome snack bags](#)

2. Give Drink to the Thirsty ([Isa 55:1](#); [Matt 25:35](#); [Jn 7:37-39](#); [Rev 22:17](#))

Haiti Ministry: Did you know that less than ½ of Haitians have clean drinking water?

[Donate to our twinning parish in Haiti](#)

3. Clothe the Naked ([Matt 25:36](#))

CARITAS: Transforming lives. Restoring Dignity

The women in the CARITAS Emergency Shelter and in the Healing Place for Women need basic undergarments for every day life. Sign up to create a comfy kit.

[Create a comfy kit](#)

4. Shelter the Homeless ([Matt 25:35](#))

St. Peter's Pro-Cathedral Shower Ministry provides showers to the homeless and distributes clean socks, underwear, and undershirts. Drop off items at the entrance of the Cathedral of the Sacred Heart.

[Shower ministry list](#)

5. Visit the Sick ([Matt 25:36](#))

Children's Hospital of Richmond: It is hard to visit the sick right now, but you can [send words and pictures of encouragement](#) to the healthcare team at Children's Hospital of Richmond.

6. Visit the Imprisoned ([Matt 25:36](#))

Art of the Journey: At the Virginia Correctional Center for Women, art classes have restored a sense of humanity and hope.

[Donate to Art of the Journey](#)

7. Bury the Dead ([Tob 1:17](#))

Attend a Funeral Mass at the Cathedral of the Sacred Heart. If you have not done so already, [sign up for Cathedral of the Sacred Heart e-newsletter](#) so you know when a Funeral Mass is taking place.



Litany of the Way, Prayer for the Journey

As Jesus sought the quiet of the desert,
teach us to pray.

As Jesus washed the feet of his disciples,
teach us to love.

As Jesus promised paradise to the thief on the cross,
teach us to hope.

As Jesus called Peter to walk to him across the water,
teach us to believe.

As the child Jesus sat among the elders in the temple,
teach us to seek answers.

As Jesus in the garden opened his mind and heart to God's will,
teach us to listen.

As Jesus reflected on the Law and the prophets,
teach us to learn.

As Jesus used parables to reveal the mysteries of the Kingdom,
teach us to teach.

~from *Catholic Household Blessings and Prayers*

