

Practical Ways to LIVE OUT THE TALONS & BE THE CHURCH during the COVID-19 Pandemic:

As a Fenwick community, we encourage all our members to put their faith into action during this challenging time. During this pandemic, please consider one of the following ways to assist those in need in our local area. We hope you find this list helpful for doing what you can to care for the most vulnerable and marginalized in our local communities. This list was created from partnerships that Fenwick has with local charitable organizations, churches, and community members.

SERVICE IDEAS:

Provide food and other assistance to men, women, and children in need:

- Hope House Mission <http://hhmission.org/covid-19/>
- City Gospel Mission <https://www.citygospelmission.org/covid-19/>
- A Child's Hope International - Make food packets for hungry children all over the world <https://thechildrenarewaiting.org/portfolio/hands-against-hunger/>
- Joshua's Place – donate money or make student meal kit donations <http://www.joshuasplace.cc/>
- Matthew 25 Ministries - All volunteers must pre-schedule by emailing Shelly Clos at shelly@m25m.org.
- St. Vincent DePaul in Dayton <https://stvincentdayton.org/about-covid-19>

Show love and support to local senior citizens in need of support:

- Fill the Truck is providing supplies to seniors in need of assistance. <https://www.fillthetruck.org/locations.html>
- Create and send cards to elderly relatives, neighbors, or even people you've never met at local nursing home facilities.

Support local businesses by shopping online or in stores, buying gift cards, tipping more than usual, etc. (using all recommended safety precautions).

Help children and their families:

- Send a card to a child in the hospital. <https://www.nationwidechildrens.org/greeting-card>
- Project Linus - Make and donate blankets to children in need of a big hug. Blankets are collected locally & distributed to children in hospitals, shelters, & social service agencies. <https://www.projectlinus.org/>
- Be a virtual mentor with Big Brothers Big Sisters of Butler County. Check out <http://www.bbbsbutler.org/> for more info or text "HS Big" to 513-857-1491 or email Katy.Roberts@bbbsbutler.org.
- Be a tutor to small children at SLINKY Tutoring. Contact Gina Craft at gmatcraft@gmail.com or at 937-514-3793.

Provide support and encouragement to health care workers, soldiers, delivery drivers, etc.:

- Write letters and/or make drawings of encouragement and support for health care front line workers at local hospitals, doctor's offices, pharmacies, etc.
- Make crafts or write letters to be included in soldier care packages. [Operation Gratitude](#) can help you come up with ideas and find a donation center near you.

Make and donate masks <https://www.joann.com/make-to-give-response/>

Record books on video or offer Zoom tutoring sessions for younger students.

Provide virtual assistance for the blind: Be My Eyes is a free app that connects blind and low-vision people with sighted volunteers and company representatives for visual assistance through a live video call. <https://www.bemyeyes.com/>

Donate blood According to a recent [press release from the American Red Cross](#), as the novel coronavirus continues to spread, we can expect to see a decrease in those eligible (and willing) to donate blood. Here is what they have to say about the current situation:

“Right now, the American Red Cross encourages healthy, eligible individuals to schedule a blood or platelet donation appointment at redcrossblood.org to help maintain a sufficient blood supply and avoid any potential shortages. Donating blood is a safe process and people should not hesitate to give or receive blood. The need for blood is constant, and volunteer donors are the only source of blood for those in need of transfusions.”

Create and post instructional videos that help others learn a new skill.

Pray: Pray for all those who are affected by this outbreak - the poor and vulnerable, those who work in the medical field, those who are sick or have sick family members, and all of the members of our community who are working diligently to keep us all safe.

- Recently, the Holy Father invited Catholics and all people of goodwill to pray the Luminous Mysteries of the Rosary in solidarity of seeking intercession from Our Lady during these challenging weeks and months ahead.

Other resources and helpful links:

- Catholic Social Action Office Archdiocese of Cincinnati <http://www.catholiccincinnati.org/ministries-offices/catholic-social-action/>
- Catholic Charities Southwestern Ohio <https://ccswoh.org/>