

## **Opportunities to Reach Out and Serve Others at Holy Apostles**

Holy Apostle's Church Family believes that God calls all of us to be "missionaries" as we grow more and more in love with Him! We want to share the Good News of Jesus with others in ways that are welcoming, fun, and creative ... assuring all that they are loved by God. Everyone is invited to share in the blessing of serving others. The following are some of the ways that we do this.

- \* Neighborhood Dinner - Every month we serve a wonderful meal to our neighbors! Cooks, dish washers, servers are always needed!
- \* Christmas Blessing Project - we help our neighbors to have a beautiful Christmas with their children. We give gifts, food and prayer to those who come to our day of caring. You will be as blessed as the families we serve!
- \* Easter Bread - 500 Loaves of Bread are baked by members of our Church Family and then brought to our neighbors. The bread symbolizes that dying and rising of Jesus as we invite all to our Easter Celebrations!
- \* Reading, Music and Dance Camp - the "two best weeks of the Summer" are spent with children from our neighborhood instilling a love for reading, fine tuning vocal chords and moving to the beat! So much FUN is had by all.
- \* Ice Cream Socials - I scream, you scream, we all scream for ice cream! On these special summer nights we gather with our neighbors to relax and enjoy a wonderful treat!
- \* Faith Formation - It is so important for our children to be strong in their Faith and know that God is always there for them. Religious Instructions is given to the children each week during the school year. RCIA classes are also held weekly as we help those who want to join our Church. Catechesis of the Good Shepherd is a new program for 3,4, and 5 year old to learn about God and Church - the children are loving it!
- \* Ongoing Faith Formation - We believe that we must continue to learn and grow in our faith throughout our entire lives. Both in the Fall and in the Spring various Programs are offered to help us to do this. Book studies are also held periodically.
- \* Mission Trips - Our young people are encouraged to think of those who are less fortunate. They give of their time and newly acquired talents as they build ramps and decks, paint, install new flooring etc in areas of the country they are stricken with poverty. We are proud of our Youth!
- \* Life is a gift from God. Holy Apostle's is a PRO-LIFE Community. Each year we take our young people to the March for Life. Other Church Family members take time to help at various places that assist moms in need, others prayerfully protest at Planned Parenthood, 40 Days for Life and more. this is important to us.

These are just a few things that we do! You would be welcome to join us at any time. We have FUN! Please contact the Rectory Office and a nice person will contact you very soon! 585- 254-7170

## Christmas Grace

*"O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant,  
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem;  
Come and behold him, born the King of angels;  
O come, let us adore Him, O come, let us adore Him,  
O come, let us adore Him, Christ, the Lord!"*

*On this Christmas Day we gather to adore the child in a manger who changed the world and continues to change the hearts of each one of us! O God of Love, we are thankful for the gift of Jesus, who became our Prince of Peace!*

*We also ask for special blessings on this holy Christmas Day. We pray for all those who have gathered at this table. Thank you for the love that is shared amongst family and friends. May we continue to strengthen one another with the wonderful love that has been given to us by God.*

*We pray for those who could not be with us this day but are present in spirit. We ask for protection for those who are dear to us and are separated by miles. We also ask that those who have passed on may be enjoying the peace and beauty of their heavenly home.*

*We pray for those who are poor in body, mind and spirit. We ask that the Prince of Peace offer them comfort this day.*

*And now, O God, we ask you to bless this food which we are about to share and the time we have together. May we be nourished in body and in heart and in spirit. We ask for all of this through Jesus, our Wonder Counselor and Prince of Peace! Amen.*

