

Service Opportunities Based on the Works of Mercy

Feed the Hungry:

- Volunteer at a local soup kitchen
- Collect donations to provide Thanksgiving Dinner for those in poverty. Check with places like the Outreach House in Lombard
<https://www.theoutreachhouse.org/get-involved>
- Make a meal for someone who is going through a hardship like the loss of a loved one, or has just welcomed a new baby.
- Pick up leftovers from a bakery or restaurant and deliver to a food bank - contact these facilities prior to your arrival
- Work a shift at Feed My Starving Children
<https://www.fmssc.org/get-involved/volunteer/>
- Volunteer your time at a food bank
<https://www.volunteer-northernilfoodbank.org/youth-volunteering/>
- Help the Knights of Columbus at a pancake breakfast
- Assemble food baskets for the needy

Clothe the Naked:

- Participate in or organize a clothing drive to collect winter clothes for places like the Outreach House in Lombard, PADS, or Bridge Communities in Glen Ellyn
- If you know how to knit, crochet, or sew, create hats or blankets to donate to those in need
- Participate in a Christmas giving tree. Get involved by helping to deliver the gifts collected.

Shelter the Homeless/Welcome the Stranger:

- Get involved with Habitat for Humanity
<https://www.habitat.org/volunteer/near-you/youth-programs>
- Participate in Sleep Out Saturday through Bridge Communities on November 2nd.
<https://www.bridgecommunities.org/news-events/sleep-out-saturday>
- Help with PADS. Find out if you can decorate one of their spaces for the holidays.
<https://dupagepads.org/volunteer/>

Visit the Imprisoned:

- Learn what the Catholic Church teaches about capital punishment. Contact the Prison Ministry office to see what you can do to help those in jail.
<https://www.ilcatholic.org/prison-and-jail-ministry/>
- Help someone who is "imprisoned" by a disability.

Comfort the Sorrowful:

- Send a card/flowers/meal to someone who has lost a loved one.
- Visit with an elderly parishioner whose spouse has died.

Bury the Dead:

- Call Catholic Cemeteries of Joliet Diocese and ask if you can help with Fall or Spring cleanup of the grounds <https://cemeteries.diojoliet.org/homepage>
- Ask Catholic Cemeteries if they need help around the holidays
- Make a meal for a grieving family
- Help a widow or widower in need of yardwork or housework
- Visit a cemetery and pray a rosary for those who have died - this is especially a wonderful idea on the Feast of All Souls Day November 2nd
- Pray the Rosary at an Abortion Clinic for the lives of those lost to abortion. Contact 40 Days for Life <https://www.40daysforlife.com/en/downersgrove>

Pray for the Living and the Dead:

- Make a prayer list of people you know who are sick and pray for them every day.
- Make a prayer blanket/card/object that can be given to a person who would be comforted in knowing that someone is praying for them.
- Contact a local hospital and ask how you can help

Visit the Sick:

- Make a Meal at the Ronald McDonald House of CDH in their "Meals from the Heart" program. <https://rmhccni.org/get-involved/meals-from-the-heart/>
- Get a group together and visit a nursing home. Call in advance.
- Make note cards or visit homebound parishioners
- Shovel snow, rake leaves for a homebound parishioner
- Help the St. Vincent de Paul Society
- Deliver books and magazines to patients in the hospital
- Play board games with seniors in assisted living facilities