



ASCENSION  
CATHOLIC CHURCH

# ASCENSION ASSEMBLY

SOCIAL JUSTICE COMMISSION



SOCIAL JUSTICE

# How the Commissions Work Together



### Engagement

When the Holy Spirit inspires people to connect to our mission, this team is ready to welcome them into our parish family.



### Evangelization

After the invitation to join is accepted, these programs help reveal the truth, goodness, and beauty of our faith.



### Faith Formation

Ongoing formation helps strengthen practicing Catholics and share spiritual heritage with newcomers.



### Liturgical Life

Our spiritual hunger is satisfied in the Eucharist and through the gift of the Sacraments, made manifest in our Liturgical life.



### Social Justice

Our relationship with Christ and confidence in truths of the Gospel deepens our faith, calling us to serve those in need.



### Stewardship

With grateful and generous hearts, we give our first fruits back to God, and work to ensure that our mission can continue.



### Education

We look to the future, forming the next generation into active, engaged Catholics ready to take ownership and live faithfully.



**Starts over again!**





SOCIAL JUSTICE

# The Social Justice Commission

The Social Justice Commission members help foster a culture of life and dignity of each person.

Together they:

- Promote the family and community to strengthen the common good.
- Build appreciation for both personal and social responsibilities.
- Nurture a commitment to caring for the poor and the vulnerable.
- Embrace our stewardship of creation.

Ministries and Programs:

Society of St. Vincent de Paul, Reach Out Program, Casserole Bakers, Food Bank Volunteers, Respect Life Committee





EMPOWER  
THE LAITY

## The Social Justice Commission

While continuing to prepare and empower laity for leadership roles within the church, we need to build connections among all our members. We must work collaboratively to evangelize effectively.

- Building Connections
  - Reach Out is providing service opportunities for 7th-12th graders on Reach Out Sundays.
  - The 40 Days for Life Committee works with Ascension School to have an all-school Rosary for Life on their Day of Prayer.
- Working Collaboratively
  - The Casserole Bakers have collaborated with the Reach Out Program and now supply casseroles to the two Reach Out recipient parishes in addition to the Missionaries of Charity. In the future, they plan to collaborate with the Ascension Food Pantry (part of St. Vincent de Paul) to provide casseroles.
  - The Green Team (part of the Social Justice Commission) is collaborating with the Little School to provide seedlings on Earth Day 2023.





EMPOWER  
THE LAITY

## The Social Justice Commission Cont.

While continuing to prepare and empower laity for leadership roles within the church, we need to build connections among all our members. We must work collaboratively to evangelize effectively.

- The Green Team worked with the Fair Ascension Committee to coordinate recycling efforts at Fair Ascension and plan to expand that effort in 2023.
- The Respect Life Committee collaborates with Ascension School on the Deacon Robert Brooks Scholarship/8th grade Chastity Essay Contest.
- The Social Justice Commission is collaborating with Ascension School to introduce the 7 Themes of Social Catholic Teaching in their curriculum.





**FOSTER STRONGER  
COMMUNITY**

## The Social Justice Commission

Next, we must consider new and accomplished ways to engage to a higher level all our members, especially those already on campus for other activities. Build the community by lifting up all in prayer and charity.

All the Social Justice Ministries provide opportunities to volunteer with varying degrees of commitment levels.

Our ministries also provide various opportunities for parishioners to get involved without being a member. For example:

- Respect Life's Life Chain
- 40 Days for Life's Day of Prayer
- St. Vincent de Paul's Morning of Reflection
- The Green Team's plastic recycling initiative

The Social Justice Commission has provided, and will continue to provide, opportunities for parishioners to get involved. Such as:

- The Understanding Racism Workshop
- Just Faith Courses
- Opportunities to collaborate with Jubilee Community Church
- Rebuilding Together Rebuild Day







PROCLAIM THE  
GOSPEL ACCESSIBLY

## The Social Justice Commission

Third, we will proclaim the Gospel message in an authentic manner that is accessible to all. Make the Gospel message personal and alive as you share the truth, goodness, and beauty of God with others.

The Social Justice Commission and its ministries brings the Gospel of Matthew 25:35-36 ('For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, a stranger and you welcomed me, naked and you clothed me, ill and you cared for me, in prison and you visited me.') alive in the following ways:

- Feeding the Hungry
  - Reach Out's Meal-a-Month collection
  - The Casserole Bakers provide the Missionaries of Charity as well as the Reach Out recipient parishes with casseroles
  - St. Vincent de Paul conducts food drives
  - St. Nicholas & Ascension Food Pantries (both part of St. Vincent de Paul) provide food to those in need
  - Food Bank Volunteers assist the Food Bank in providing food to the hungry
  - St. Vincent de Paul's Homeless Ministry feeds the homeless at St. Vincent de Paul Church as well as the St. Peter & Paul Homeless Shelter
  - The Social Justice Commission works to promote Catholic Relief Service's Rice Bowl initiative





PROCLAIM THE  
GOSPEL ACCESSIBLY

## The Social Justice Commission cont.

Third, we will proclaim the Gospel message in an authentic manner that is accessible to all. Make the Gospel message personal and alive as you share the truth, goodness, and beauty of God with others.

- Clothing the Naked
  - Reach Out Program's monthly collections
  - Respect Life's Deacon Diaper Drive
  - St. Vincent de Paul's shoe & blanket drive
- Visiting the Lonely and Imprisoned
  - St. Vincent de Paul provides holiday cards for seniors in local nursing homes
  - The Social Justice Commission is working with the Criminal Justice Ministry to provide parishioners opportunities to assist with their clients
- Welcoming the Stranger / Respecting the Dignity of all Human Life
  - The Respect Life Committee fundraises to support Crisis Pregnancy Centers, sells Mother's & Father's Day cards to support Birthright Hillsboro, and hosts a variety of activities in January such as the crosses on the hill and the Roses for Life campaign
  - St. Vincent de Paul's Neighbors in Need program provides needy families assistance in paying bills. They also conduct a toiletry collection for families in need.

The Social Justice Commission continues to educate parishioners regarding the 7 Themes of Catholic Social Teaching and how these themes relate to daily life.







ENSURE STRUCTURE  
BENEFITS MISSION

# The Social Justice Commission

Finally, we must continue to ensure current structures are benefitting the mission. We must position our efforts in such a way all things work together for the good of all. We must engage that hard evaluation of each ministry's effectiveness. Each ministry should evaluate how their work directly enhances the larger community.

The Mission of the Social Justice Commission is:

To serve the parish as its primary resource and catalyst for the work of social justice.

Our parish Mission is:

Love God. Love Others. Make Disciples.

The Archdiocese's All Things New Renewed Mission is:

Enhance our evangelization efforts to those on the margins of society.

Our commission will continue to examine itself as well as each of our ministries to ensure we are effectively meeting each of these mission statements.

Pope Francis states in *The Joy of the Gospel*, "An evangelizing community gets involved by word and deed in people's daily lives; it bridges distances, it is willing to abase itself, and it embraces human life, touching the suffering flesh of Christ in others." The Social Justice Commission and its ministries will continue to strive to be an evangelizing community.



## **CONTACT INFORMATION:**

**Social Justice Commission  
Green Team**

**Kelly Bulanda  
Joanie Frank**

**socialjusticecommission@asc.church  
jfrank21@charter.net**

### **Ministries:**

**Society of St. Vincent de Paul  
Reach Out Program  
Casserole Bakers  
Food Bank Volunteers  
Respect Life Committee**

**Gary Volk  
Tom Massimino  
Mark Leifield  
Dick Sawyer  
Greg Miller**

**gtvolk@swbell.net  
lakecondo1@sbcglobal.net  
kyryra@aol.com  
dsawyer879@aol.com  
gmiller@newlifefurniture.net**



# *Winterfest 2023*

Learn more about our ministries and programs!

January 29, 2023 | MPR & Gym



# Questions?

If you have any questions, you are welcome to ask



# Thank You...