

# Feeding God's Children

**What's Hours is Yours:** we created this Feeding God's Children campaign and this list to provide you with virtual and physically-distanced event ideas to use this fall.

*Please be mindful of your local guidelines regarding gathering size, masks, and other COVID-19 precautions. If you are unsure of how to make your event work, contact the Fraternal Outreach Team. We want you to have a successful event, and that includes staying safe and well! The ideas below are meant to be performed by an individual or by a small group, such as your family.*



## Apple Picking

Head over to your local apple orchard with your family. Pick a bushel for your household and pick up an extra bushel to donate to your community food pantry. Everyone loves farm fresh apples, and you'll be supporting a local business!



## Pumpkin Carving

Not able to attend your favorite Halloween events? Use a video platform to host a virtual pumpkin carving contest. Participants can make a donation to enter, and the proceeds can go to the winner's favorite charity.



## Leaf Raking or Fall Clean-up

A great outside, socially-distant event is to rake leaves or assist with brush clean-up for your fellow parishioners, elderly neighbors, or anyone physically challenged who needs some extra support in the yard. Consider asking your parish priest or staff if they know anyone in need of yardwork.



## Generous like St. Nicholas

While Christmas isn't about the presents, it's always fun to give and receive. Many families are not able to provide the traditional Christmas morning of presents under the tree. Do you know a child or family in need? If not, check in with your parish or local schoolteachers and ask if they know of any families or children in need. Once you identify a child or family, ask for their Christmas lists! You might be surprised at the items on the list – sometimes a new backpack or a set of pajamas is at the top. Purchase a few items and gift wrap them. Present them to the family (directly or through your contact) to brighten their Christmas.



## Deliver Coffee and Socks to the Homeless in your City

As the days get colder, reach out to the dwelling impaired of your area with a cup of hot coffee (or hot cocoa) and clean, dry socks.



## All Treats, No Tricks

If you go Trick or Treating this year, consider donating some or all of the candy you receive.



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## Immunity Drive

Donate cold care items such as unopened boxes of tissues, hand sanitizer, cough drops, and other simple health items to the elderly to keep immune systems strong during the fall and winter seasons.



## Hot Cocoa Jars

Who doesn't enjoy a sweet treat every now and then? Fill mason jars with the ingredients for hot cocoa, such as chocolate and marshmallows, and donate them to your community food pantry to brighten someone's day.



## Virtual Reading with Seniors

Work with your local senior care center to set up video sessions with center residents and ask fellow members who (or whose children) would like to participate in a "read aloud". Seniors and children can take turns reading different age appropriate books to each other.



## Birthday Cards for Kids

Grab some art supplies and make birthday cards for kids! Think especially of foster children, those living in a shelter, or children who don't expect to receive birthday cards. This fun service project will bring joy to children in need, who often feel forgotten, and brighten your family's day!



## Birthday Boxes for Kids

The birthday box is a "party in a box" delivered to children or adults who may not otherwise have a celebration on their special day. Many food pantries or shelters accept these birthday boxes, but we recommend confirming a recipient before you start assembling! Consider wrapping shoe boxes in plain white paper, decorating the paper, and filling the boxes with cake mix, plastic silverware, paper plates, napkins, candles and small favors.



## Operation Gratitude

Operation Gratitude works to forge strong bonds between Americans and their Military and First Responder Heroes through volunteer service projects, acts of gratitude, and meaningful engagements in communities nationwide. With November being an annual celebration and memorial to veterans, visit this organization's website to learn how you can assist and support those serving our country.



## Donate Blood

There is always a need for this lifesaving gift! You might be surprised at how easy it is to donate or how many locations around you accept blood donations. While you could partner with an organization like the Red Cross to organize a blood drive, you can also visit a center and make a one-time donation yourself.



## Celebrate St. Francis!

St. Francis is the patron saint of animals. Host a drive for animal care supplies to benefit your local shelter or make dog chew toys out of gently used shirts and clothing to donate.





## Cleaning God's House

Perhaps you love a clean and tidy home and strive to keep it that way. Think of God's House – more commonly known as church! Does the parish staff need volunteer cleaners? Not only do the priest's garments and vessels used during Mass need to be cleaned, the physical building needs some attention. Now more than ever before we are paying attention to the hygiene of churches. What can you do to help keep your church (or even church grounds) clean?



## Food on Overdrive

Ask local businesses, like restaurants, if they have any food left over from the day that was not used. Coordinate collecting those items and distribute to people in need. You may ask for oversupply items or even imperfect items as these often get discarded.



## Warm Hearts, Warm Hands

This time of year is perfect for a winter clothing drive! You'll want to collect the items well before the temperature drops below freezing so the people you're donating to can use the items. Keep this collection broad and collect all winter gear, or be specific and choose something such as boots, coats or gloves. It's up to you!



## Reading for Good

Check in with friends and family. See if they'll participate in this reading challenge with you! For every book you read, ask one friend or family member to donate a new or gently used book to a local school or shelter in your name. Or, for the younger crowd, ask your friends and family to sponsor your time spent reading! For every hour you read, ask one family member or friend to donate to your favorite cause or organization.



## College Care Kit

Whether they are stuck at home or still on campus, college students and seminarians are always need of extra support and pick-me-ups especially as they head into finals week. Gather coffee, chocolate, Easy Mac, pens, prayer cards, snacks, and any other items that may spread joy and support for our students! Pack up the items and ship or hand deliver them.



## Collecting the Favorites: Food, Book and Supply Drives

Host a Thanksgiving-themed food drive. Each day of the week features a different food such as Macaroni Monday or Cranberry Thursday. Remember to do this well before Thanksgiving so the people to whom you are donating can enjoy the meal on the holiday!

Build a list of items your local school, shelter or food pantry needs via an Amazon Wishlist, and have the items shipped directly to the facilities. No contact needed, and you can do this from the comfort of your couch!

