



PJM Newsletter

January/February 2020

Dear Volunteers and Friends,

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year! Emmanuel, God is with us! Let our hearts, minds and lives be open to His love, peace and joy in each and every moment. Let us not wait only for quiet moments in prayer to welcome Him, rather let us welcome this Christ-child into the often noisy, beautiful messiness of our imperfect lives.

Christmas Drive

Our annual Christmas Drive was extremely successful, because of you! This year we collected over 2,500 socks, thousands of travel size toiletries and hundreds of reading glasses. In addition to those items, we received numerous monetary donations which helped purchase rice krispie treats, candy canes, rosaries, bookmarks and pencils. During the second week of Advent, we sorted, packaged and distributed these items to six county jails, three juvenile detention centers and six prisons. We delivered 147 bags to our juvenile detention centers. They contained bookmarks, candy canes, pencils, toothbrushes and numerous travel size hygiene items. We also delivered 240 gift bags to those attending Catholic services in our prisons. These bags included small prayer books, bookmarks, rosaries and how to pray the rosary brochures. We then delivered 2,600 socks and rice krispie treats to our county jails. Throughout this next year, we will continue to supply our county jails with reading glasses and toiletries as needed.

We are grateful for you and the following 26 parishes and organizations who participated in this drive:

- Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Belmont
- Basilica of Saint Adalbert, Grand Rapids
- Blessed Sacrament, Grand Rapids
- Cathedral of Saint Andrew, Grand Rapids
- Dominican Center at Marywood
- Holy Family, Sparta
- Holy Name of Jesus, Wyoming
- Holy Redeemer, Jenison
- Holy Spirit, Grand Rapids
- Holy Trinity, Comstock Park
- Our Lady of Lake, Holland
- St. Alphonsus, Grand Rapids
- St. Anthony of Padua, Grand Rapids
- St. James, Grand Rapids
- St. Jude, Grand Rapids
- St. Francis de Sales, Holland
- St. Mary, Lowell
- St. Mary, Spring Lake
- St. Patrick - St. Anthony, Grand Haven
- St. Patrick, Portland
- St. Patrick, Parnell
- St. Paul the Apostle, Grand Rapids

- St. Pius X, Grandville
- St. Robert of Newminster, Ada
- St. Sebastian, Byron Center
- St. Thomas the Apostle, Grand Rapids
- Smith Haughey Rice & Roegge Legal Services

This drive would not be possible without you! Thank you for all your efforts to make it successful year after year. These donations help to remind those who are incarcerated that they have not been forgotten and are always in our prayers.

3rd Annual Volunteer Appreciation Dinner

All program volunteers and friends of the ministry, recently received an invitation to our 3rd Annual Volunteer Appreciation Dinner. We hope you can join us and speaker Father David Kelly, executive director for Precious Blood Ministry of Reconciliation, Monday, Feb. 10. This annual appreciation event is to recognize and express our appreciation for your dedication and service to our Prison and Jail Ministry. This event is free for all program volunteers and their guest. To learn more and to register click [here](#). Registration closes, Monday, Jan. 27.

The North Lake Correctional Facility

The privately owned [GEO Group Prison](#) in Baldwin is open. Catholic services are being held Friday mornings at 9 a.m. Chaplain Rich Rybka is their institutional chaplain. Prior to his work within this new GEO, Prison Chaplain Rybka served as a Forgotten Man Ministry Chaplain at Lake County Jail. Father Ron Schneider and volunteer Maria Geerlings are leading services twice a month in North Lake. If you are able to help serve in this facility, please contact me.

Newsletter Emails

Please take caution when viewing our Newsletter via a tablet or smart phone, that you do not 'unsubscribe' to our emails. While 'swiping' with your finger to view the newsletter, it is easy to hit the 'unsubscribe' button on the bottom of the page. When this happens, you will no longer receive newsletters or email blasts from the ministry. If you find you are no longer receiving emails from us, please contact our office. We will send you a 'resubscribe' email. After we receive confirmation from you stating you accept it, you can be added back to the contact list.

Please remember to read this newsletter completely. There is important information and resources included in the team updates and newsletter inserts. This month's "newsletter inserts" section has numerous informative and educational articles related to the work we do.

Wishing you all a Merry Christmas from our families to yours! Peace and many blessings today and throughout the New Year!

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Team Schedules

Carson City Team

[Carson City East and West](#)

Ionia Team

[Bellamy Creek \(IBC\)](#)

[Richard A. Handlon \(MTU\)](#)

[Michigan Reformatory \(RMI\)](#)

Kent County Team

[Kent County Jail Communion Service](#)

[Kent County Jail Bible Study](#)

[Kent County Juvy](#)

Muskegon Team

[EC Brooks \(LRF\)](#)

[Muskegon Correctional \(MCF\)](#)

[Muskegon County Jail](#)

Ottawa County Team

[Ottawa County Jail](#)

[Ottawa County Juvy](#)

Newaygo Team

[Newaygo County Jail](#)

Baldwin Team

[North Lake Correctional](#)

Ionia Team

At this time, neither MTU or the Reformatory have hired new chaplains. There will be

an officer working as the "acting chaplain" until these positions are filled. When the facility hires a new chaplain we will communicate that information to you. Thank you for your patience during this time of transition.

Kent County Team

Thank you to those who helped fill Christmas bags at Kent County Jail on Dec. 18. It was a wonderful time coming together to share Christ's love during this Christmas season. We along with the inmates, are very fortunate for your time and dedication to this ministry.

It saddens me to share that Gerry Barry, a Kent County Jail volunteer of 8 years, passed away on Saturday, Dec. 15. This ministry was truly blessed to have Gerry be a part of it, and he will greatly be missed. Eternal rest grant unto him, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon him. May their souls and the souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen.

Below is the Kent County Bible Request Form. Use this when an inmate lets you know they have a release date and would like a Bible. Have them fill this out and we will mail a Bible directly to their home address.

[Resource Request Form](#)

Muskegon Team

The men who attend our Catholic service at Muskegon Correctional would like to begin a Bible Study. This service has been approved by the chaplain. If you are interested and able to help lead this once or twice a month on Thursday evenings please contact Tricia at tworrell@grdiocese.org or 616-475-1255.

Ottawa Team

Please welcome Cathy Pearce to the Ottawa County Team! Cathy recently returned to the ministry and will help lead services in both the adult facility and the Juvenile Detention Center. After a short medical leave, Sharon Klassen also has returned to the Ottawa Team. Please welcome Cathy and Sharon back to the ministry.

Below is the Ottawa County Bible Request Form. Use this when an inmate lets you know they have a release date and would like a Bible. Have them fill this out and we will mail a Bible directly to their home address.

[Resource Request Form](#)

Resources for Juvenile Detention Centers

[Catholic Icing Website](#)

[Jesus Escapes to Egypt](#)

[John Baptizes Jesus](#)



Communion Service Sheets

January

[1-5-20 English Communion Service Sheet](#)

[1-5-20 Spanish Communion Service Sheet](#)

[1-12-20 English Communion Service Sheet](#)

[1-12-20 Spanish Communion Service Sheet](#)

[1-19-20 English Communion Service Sheet](#)

[1-19-20 Spanish Communion Service Sheet](#)

[1-26-20 English Communion Service Sheet](#)

[1-26-20 Spanish Communion Service Sheet](#)

February

[2-2-20 English Communion Service Sheet](#)

[2-2-20 Spanish Communion Service Sheet](#)

[2-9-20 English Communion Service Sheet](#)

[2-9-20 Spanish Communion Service Sheet](#)

[2-16-20 English Communion Service Sheet](#)

[2-16-20 Spanish Communion Service Sheet](#)

[2-23-20 English Communion Service Sheet](#)

[2-23-20 Spanish Communion Service Sheet](#)

Newsletter Inserts

[*Pope urges opportunities for prisoners to reform and reintegrate*](#)

[*MCC Applauds Bipartisan Success to 'Raise the Age' in Michigan*](#)

[*Editorial: Offer more Michigan residents a clean slate*](#)

[*GEO Group's Catholic shareholders want to change
Tacoma's private prison from within*](#)

[*College Behind Bars*](#)

[*Catholic Prison Ministries Coalition*](#)

**Need help with reflection time resources?
Check out the websites below.**

[Loyola Press Sunday Connection](#)

[USCCB Bible Reflections](#)

www.grdiocese.org

[PJM YouTube Channel](#)

[Prison and Jail Ministry Diocese of Grand Rapids Facebook](#)