



# PROJECT HOMELESS CONNECT

At St. Joseph Catholic Church

Once again, St. Joseph Parish will host Project Homeless Connect. Typically the fourth Thursday in January, this is a national day of care for the homeless that provides services for individuals and families who live in poverty. St. Joseph parish has hosted this event for the last several years as a way to answer our Catholic call to help those in need.

Service providers will gather in the Parish Hall and provide opportunities for dental and health care, haircuts, meetings with social service providers, and other services that people who live in poverty cannot typically afford.

Throughout the years of hosting Project Homeless Connect, St. Joseph eighth graders have served lunch for our guests and have found it to be a very rich experience. This experience of being present with and serving those in need in our community brings our teaching of the Catholic faith alive for our students and allows them to put their faith into action.

We may face some traffic challenges around drop-off at the beginning of the school day. Guests will be arriving before morning drop-off for hospitality in the Church before the event begins in Marian Hall at 9 am.

To accommodate guest drop-off, we will be changing traffic flow for morning drop-off:

- The main driveway entrance on Andresen – the south driveway that runs closest to the Church will be reserved for the arrival of event guests.
- We ask school families to use the north driveway, which runs along the north boundary of the property. The north entrance is not accessible from Andresen if you are driving north – you may need to change your travel plans to access this driveway.

We will have volunteers in the parking lots and at different locations around the perimeter of the school in order to provide traffic direction and supervision. We are also working with event organizers to communicate with volunteers and service providers about parking on Andresen Road and Highland Drive. The additional volunteer support we have in place helps make the day run smoothly.

## **Student Service Project for Homeless Connect**

Each year, we collect supplies for Homeless Connect guests. This is an opportunity for our students to live out their faith and to care for those in our community who are less fortunate. Listed below are the items we are providing and what your grade level is assigned.

- Kindergarten – Toothpaste & Toothbrushes
- 1<sup>st</sup> grade – Toothpaste & Toothbrushes
- 2<sup>nd</sup> grade – small Kleenex packets
- 3<sup>rd</sup> grade – small Kleenex packets
- 4<sup>th</sup> grade – granola bar/snack
- 5<sup>th</sup> grade – granola bar/snack
- 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup> – lip balm