

Kansas St James Parish of Ohio, just on the outskirts of Fostoria off 23N on CR 25, is in the business of assisting people and agencies in time of need. When the original church building in Kansas OH was closed and torn down, parish members knew they would continue to meet the objectives of their mission statement: "To continue growing stronger in our commitment to our faith and our parish community; To worship together; To make God's love known to others through Christian education; To serve the needs of our community through outreach programs". Even prior to moving into their new church building in 2012, the parish members were committed to their outreach program and continue to support and contribute to the needs of surrounding communities.

The Outreach Program and Fund that has been established has helped many individuals as well as charitable organizations. To date, just over \$63,000.00 has been paid out to assist with those needs. Some of the charities are: God's Storehouse-Bradner, Living Hope Ministry, Special Kids Ministry, Assumption Sisters of Nairobi, St James/St Andrew's Prayer Shawl Ministry, Fostoria High Street Methodist Food Pantry, Mission trip to Arizona Indian Reservation, ISOH, Kansas Volunteer Fire Dept, Household of Faith Ministry, Toledo Community Tissue and Organ Bank, Fostoria Emergency Food Program, Fostoria Cash Mob Ministry, CITI Ministries, Fostoria EMS, Harvest of Hope, Bettsville Food Pantry, Friends of St Francis X Cabrini and St. Francis' Human Trafficking program.

In addition, St James furnishes gifts for qualified families at Christmas, and throughout the year, clothing and other items are collected and distributed as needed. Assistance is given to those who can demonstrate a need with rent, heating, electricity bills, groceries, medical bills, transportation and other necessary items. Greeting cards made by the younger members of the parish are given to nursing homes and hospitals throughout the year. In 1989, St James formed a choral group to perform "*His Last Days*", a Lenten tribute celebrating the Resurrection of Jesus. . To date 148 people have performed in this group comprised of members of different faiths and several communities. Over \$32,000.00 in donations, from more than 42,000 attending the 217 performances through the years, has been given to various charitable causes.

Requests for assistance may be made to any member of the Kansas St James congregation who can approach the Outreach committee. These members then research the details of the request, while maintaining privacy of information. Guidelines and limitations are set up, and assistance is rendered as determined to be fitting to each situation.

Despite the disruption that occurred when the building Kansas St James called home since June of 1889 was lost, the parish plans to continue to grow in faith, fulfilling its Outreach Mission and thriving as a viable and loving parish.

Kansas St James Parish of Ohio - 6482 CR 25, Fostoria OH 44830

