

ST. MARK Catholic Church is Alive and Well!!!

In the past 4 weeks, this is what YOU have done:

- Our Tithing Allocation Committee approved 5 grants to local organizations that will support a continuing Adult Education program, a Bereavement organization, a shelter exclusively serving victims of domestic violence in Northern Virginia, a local after school program to assist low-income immigrant youth acclimate and acculturate to their new surroundings and homeless shelter in Washington, D.C.
- Thanksgiving Clothing Drive brought in and moved out 8.1 tons of clothing to 14 local organizations using the help of 150+ volunteers (many were teenagers!).
- Our Hot Meals Ministry cooked, delivered and fed 125+ homeless/low income folks in Fairfax Co.
- Our Prayer Shawl Ministry knitted over 100 hats, scarves and baby blankets for the homeless and distributed them to the Hope Center and various adopted families through our Giving Tree program.
- Our Gift of Peace Ministry made and delivered dinner to the Gift of Peace House in Washington to help feed HIV clients
- Support Our Troops Ministry put together 89 packages of needed items and 129 plates of baked goods and mailed them to our Troops overseas.
- ESL concluded their Fall session with a wonderful CHRISTMAS party hosting over 120 of our current ESL students. 6 Computers were given away at the party courtesy of our Computer Repair Ministry.
- Our Funeral Reception Committee and Funeral Bakers Committee helped celebrate the beautiful life of long time

Parishioner, Sebastian Suriani in the Activities Center at *ST. MARK*.

- Our Giving Tree Ministry helped bring in and then distribute 2,171 CHRISTMAS gifts and \$19,310 in Gift Cards to 13 local organizations and adopted families.
- We collected 33 pints of blood for the Blood Drive.
- Our Second Sunday Sustenance group made over 100 sandwiches and delivered to the Embry Rucker Shelter.
- Our M&M (Seniors) group held their annual CHRISTMAS party and went on a couple of great field trips.
- Our Catholic Social Teaching Committee hosted a Speaker presentation on the current National Health Care situation.
- Our Hypothermia Shelter Ministry is in the midst of planning/helping the area churches that are hosting sites for the homeless throughout the winter.
 - A Small Faith Community Group collected \$660 that was contributed to DVAC (Fairfax Co. Domestic Violence Action Center) to provide emergency help with food, gas, and other necessities to assist victims of domestic violence and their families regain control of their lives.
 - The parents of the St. Mark Pre-school adopted 2 families in Triangle, Va. to collect gifts and cards for the children
 - The MOMS with Children in College group raised \$290 in gift cards to donate to Catholic Charities
 - 60+ people attended the beautiful Our Lady of Guadalupe Mass and Festival
 - Family Movie night brought in over 150 children and parents to watch a movie and drink Hot Chocolate...YUM!!

- YOU contributed 687 pounds of canned goods and \$478 at our Thanksgiving Day Mass. The food went to Food for Others, and the money went to FamilyPASS. 2 great local organizations that help those in need.
- Because of the great efforts of our Advocacy group, SALT, women are no longer shackled in prison and the prison families and children can have contact with their families as collect calls are now allowed. Also, enhancements were extended to Virginia's EIC to low-income workers and families for the 2013 tax year.

Thank you *ST. MARK* Catholic Church!