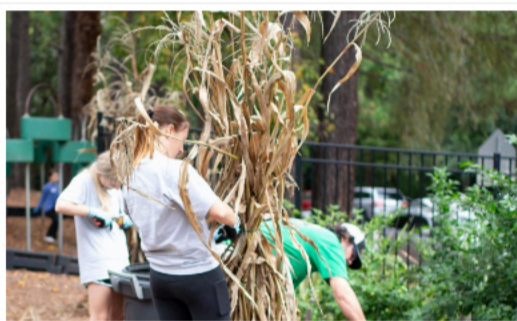


A Day 4 Him Event Brings Students and Parishioners Together in Compassionate Service

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER



Our Lady of Lourdes CATHOLIC CHURCH



Our Catholic faith calls us to live radically in a world that tells us to live for ourselves. Our call to serve must be two-fold — to serve the Church and our own parish but to also serve and witness to our community. A Day 4 Him is our parish's response to that call. In two parts throughout the year, our parishioners come together to care for our school and parish home and also to step out into the community as Christ's hands and feet.

This year, Cherie Behrens and Morgan Mitcho are coordinating A Day 4 Him. The first event was held in the fall and brought about 300 volunteers. Cherie is looking forward to an even greater turnout on March 2, when our parishioners will go out into the community to serve. A Day 4 Him began in 2015 as an effort to bring the students and parishioners together in service.

"When your kids are in middle school and older, it can be hard to get them motivated to get involved and give back," Cherie says. "This event brings everyone of all ages together."

The fall service day was the first of this event since 2019 and was a great success, with a chance for community bonding over breakfast provided by the Knights of Columbus. The volunteers accomplished a huge amount of cleaning and landscaping around the church and school. The March event will bring parishioners into collaboration with a variety of organizations in the community. We will work with Habitat for Humanity, Note in the Pocket, Alliance Medical Ministry, Oak City Cares, and Raleigh Rescue Mission, just to name a few. Cherie hopes that this introduction to all the opportunities in the community will help parishioners take the next step in their journey of service.

"Every year you could choose to work with a different organization to see what might resonate with you," Cherie says.

There is something about working together that can make strangers feel like family. For a big parish, it's a great opportunity to make new connections and turn acquaintances into friends. Cherie was a participant for a few years before taking over as a coordinator.

"I loved meeting new people in the parish and being able to put names to faces that I see in church all the time," Cherie says.

Cherie and Morgan have made an effort to make sure that everyone can get involved in some way. In the fall, there were many projects for families with children to help with. In March, the projects will be geared towards older students and adults, but childcare will be offered at the parish campus so that more families are able to participate.

"It feels good to give back and to serve," Cherie says. "We hear about it and know we should be doing it, but we get so busy that it can be hard to do it on our own. This gets us started."

Parishioners can register online for A Day 4 Him, held on March 2. Visit the parish website for more details www.ourladyoflourdescc.org.