# ST. MARGARET MARY CATHOLIC CHURCH

# PARISH



# **UPDATE FEBRUARY 2022: ENGAGEMENT**

## **OUTREACH**

#### Goal

Increase multi-generational participation and ministry integration in parish sponsored community outreach programs by organizing 3-4 service projects focused on poverty within the local community.

#### Accomplishments

A Lazarus Ministry was formed to serve the working poor in our community. Lazarus has developed relationships with community partners to engage parishioners in serving families living in motels along Lee Rd. The ministry has led the following parish outreach:

- January 2020 and August 2021: Parishioners donated supplies for Back to School Drives supporting children at Lee Rd. motels. At the 2021 event, Lazarus partnered to offer mobile vaccines where 36 residents were vaccinated and began offering a prayer table.
- · Spring 2020-2022: Parishioners donated masks, household cleaning & hygiene supplies, distributing over 500 totes.
- Summer 2020 and 2021: Hot meals were served to 50+ motel families, serving 200 meals weekly for 8 weeks.
- Fall 2020: Parish volunteers distributed hundreds of food boxes to the Lee Rd. motel community in collaboration with Catholic Charities & SE Produce Council.
- January 2021: We hosted a Zoom meeting to encourage parish involvement and share about housing issues in Central Florida.
- November 2020 and 2021: SMM Thanksgiving Plus Stores provided food deliveries to Lee Rd motels.
- November 2021: Commemorated World Day of the Poor with a parish-wide Zoom with Dr. Stephanie Guittar, who shared her research on the struggles of the housed living in motels.
- January 2022: Lazarus in collaboration with the WP Neighborhood Center for Families, and with generous parishioner donations, provided transitional support to a family moving from a motel into permanent housing.
- Lazarus has collaborated with ministries such as Peace and Justice, Men Answering the Call, Men's & Women's Bible Studies, Mom's Group, Children's & Family Faith Formation, SMM School, Young Adults, and Pastoral Council to support needs for outreach projects.

### Status/Moving Forward

• The Lazarus Ministry is continuing to create opportunities for on-going SMM parish engagement and service in the areas of housing, mentorship, education, and event planning.







