

# PREPARES

Pregnancy & Parenting Support

A PROGRAM OF CATHOLIC COMMUNITY SERVICES

**March 2019**

*"As Lent is the time for greater love, listen to Jesus' thirst... 'Repent and believe' Jesus tells us. What are we to repent? Our indifference, our hardness of heart. What are we to believe? Jesus thirsts even now, in your heart and in the poor."  
- St. Teresa of Calcutta*

## **A PREPARES Response.....**

### **PREPARES State Meeting**



PREPARES Program Leaders from the three dioceses in the State of Washington met in Spokane last week for two days of sharing and planning. Since its founding as a state-wide initiative in 2014, PREPARES has been responding with compassion and respect to the emotional and material needs of families with children from pregnancy to age five. Our vision is that any mom, no matter where she lives in the state, can reach out to her local parish and be served. We still have much to do to make that vision a reality, but we have made significant progress. Today, we are engaged with over 150 parishes statewide and we are active in 34 of 39 counties. Much of the discussion was focused on strategic planning to grow and sustain the ministry. One promising area to pursue is how we can increase our partnership with Catholic Healthcare across the state. We also spent time planning for PREPARES participation at the upcoming Cornerstone Conference to be held in Tacoma in October of this year. We hope to see you there!

While we were in Spokane, we were blessed to be able to attend Ash Wednesday services together at [St. Aloysius](#) on the campus of Gonzaga University. Pictured above from left to right: Syndee Saucedo (Central Washington), Carol Ryan (Western Washington), Ellie Toone and Lisa Green (Eastern Washington), Erin Maguire and Donna Cheesebrough (Western Washington).

## Parish Spotlight - Christ the King (Seattle)



Since the establishment of their PREPARES ministry at [Christ the King](#) (Seattle), parish volunteers have created a multi-faceted ministry that includes an active Baby Closet, Companions, Community Baby Showers and two annual Diaper Drives. Their most recent Diaper Drive was held February (2<sup>nd</sup>-24<sup>th</sup>) and they collected over 2400 diapers and more than 2000 wipes!

A special thanks to Parish Coordinator Mari Caceres and parish volunteers Maria Valencia, Teresa Banderas and Rosario Corrigan. We are so grateful for the amazing work they do to support families in need in their community!

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### Share your Parish's Mother's Day Plans on Groopit

Many parish PREPARES programs hold special events related to Mother's Day. This is your chance to share what you are doing this year. Simply take a photo that is representative of your PREPARES Mother's Day plans and post on Groopit with a brief description of what you are doing. For example: "*St. Pius X is holding a community Baby Shower on May 19th.*" Feel free to include important details about your plans so that others may get inspired.



Not a member of our online community yet? You can access the flyer on how to join [here](#). Then download the app "letsgroopit" from the iOS App Store or Android App Store or you can use the web version at [www.letsgroopit.com/PREPARES](http://www.letsgroopit.com/PREPARES). Be sure to set your browser to allow notifications. Follow these instructions: <https://bit.ly/2MP71RV>.

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### This Month's Helpful Handout: Cultural Competence

Building cultural competence is ongoing work, deepened by encounter and nurtured by reflection and practice. It is difficult to learn deeply about another's culture without first examining one's own. Encouraging volunteers to start with their own self-awareness and then using some of the resources in this month's helpful handout can be a meaningful way to build these competencies.

To learn more about how to build cultural competence as a group, please click [here](#) to access the link to the Helpful Handout: **Deepening Cultural Competence as a Group.**

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## Lenten Prayer of Transformation

Loving Father,

I invite you into my life today  
and make myself available to you.  
Help me to become the best version of myself  
by seeking your will and becoming  
a living example of your love in the world.  
Open my heart to the areas of my life  
that need to change  
in order for me to carry out the mission  
and experience the joy you have imagined for my life.  
Inspire me to live the Catholic faith  
in ways that are dynamic and engaging.  
Show me how to best get involved in the life of my parish.  
Make our community hungry for best practices  
and continuous learning.  
Give me courage when I am afraid,  
hope when I am discouraged,  
and clarity in times of decision.  
Teach me to enjoy uncertainty and lead your Church  
to become all you imagined it would be  
for the people of our times.



Amen.

Source: <https://dynamiccatholic.com/best-lent-ever/prayers-for-lent>

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### Upcoming Events

- Annunciation - **March 25<sup>th</sup>**
- Easter - **April 21<sup>st</sup>**
- St. Pius X Community Baby Shower - **May 19<sup>th</sup>**

God Bless,

Donna, Erin, Carol, Teresa, Lisa, Mary Pauline and Guillermina

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**VOLUNTEER**



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To learn about updates and upcoming PREPARES events, please visit us on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/PreparesWW](http://www.facebook.com/PreparesWW)

Please consider joining us in walking the journey with families in your own parish community. For more information please visit our website at [www.preparesforlife.org](http://www.preparesforlife.org). If you know of others who might be interested in volunteering and or learning more about PREPARES, please forward them this message or have them contact us directly.

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SERVING PEOPLE OF ALL BELIEFS