

# PREPARES

Pregnancy & Parenting Support

A PROGRAM OF CATHOLIC COMMUNITY SERVICES

**April 2019**

*As we enter Holy Week, the words of Pope Francis remind us:*

*"Let us leave behind our selfishness and self-absorption, and turn to Jesus' passion.*

*Let us stand beside our brothers and sisters in need,  
sharing our spiritual and material goods with them.*

*In this way, concretely welcoming Christ's victory over sin and death  
into our lives we will also radiate its transforming power to all of creation."*

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

### **St. Gabriel's Baby Boutique (Port Orchard)**



*Cheryl Gudger (Parish Coordinator), Anita Brenner, Eileen Robinson, and Maryhamilton Worm.*

Since March of 2017, volunteers at [St. Gabriel's](#) Baby Boutique in Port Orchard have served over 100 families – many of whom return monthly to receive essential needs such as clothing, diapers and wipes. In 2018 alone, the boutique served 144 children. Together, this amazing team of women has developed a remarkable ministry for families in need. On March 25<sup>th</sup>, after serving more than 10 families during the hours of the boutique, they took time to enjoy one another over a pot luck lunch and celebrate the birthday of one of their volunteers, Sandy Price. Afterwards, Donna Cheesebrough, PREPARES Program Manager, facilitated a retreat which included a reflection on the Annunciation of the Lord as well as on Lenten fasting.

Thanks to these wonderful women, the PREPARES Baby Boutique at St. Gabriel is thriving!

### Parish Spotlight - St. Pius X (Mountlake Terrace)



*Loretta Gardner, Astrid Rivera, Joann Montgomery and Angela de Vivas*

PREPARES at [St. Pius X](#) (Mountlake Terrace) partners with a talented group of women who knit and crochet delightful items for infants and beautiful prayer shawls that provide comfort to those in need. A part of the Respect Life Committee of St. Pius, these women meet monthly to pray together, share designs and colorful yarns and work on their creations. Many of these items end

up in bags provided to families at PREPARES Community Baby Showers where they are destined to bring a smile to mothers and their children. .

PREPARES is so grateful to these caring women who so generously share their God-given talents!

---

## 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>.

---

## This Month's Helpful Handout: Diapers - A Critical Need

During the first three years of life, one of the most basic needs babies have is for clean diapers, but the families of infants and toddlers living in poverty often cannot afford a consistent supply of diapers. On average, babies need 6 -10 diapers a day, which costs around \$80 per month. Neither SNAP (food stamps) nor WIC program benefits can be used for purchasing sufficient diapers and other daily necessities. This is why diaper drives are such an important component of a parish's PREPARES ministry.

To learn more about why diapers and wipes are such a critical need, please click [here](#) to access the link to the Helpful Handout: **Diapers - A Critical Need**.

---

## Palm Sunday

On this day of great rejoicing,  
Lord Jesus Christ, when we welcome  
You as our King and Savior,  
we also walk in the shadow of Your cross.

Hosanna! we cry.  
Blessed are You who come  
in God's name to save us.  
Hosanna!  
Strengthen our faith on this Palm Sunday  
so that when the time comes  
to carry the cross we might still  
call out to You with heartfelt praise.  
Give us the grace and the courage  
to follow You this Holy Week  
from death to resurrection,  
from darkness to the fullness of light.  
We need You,  
Lord Jesus Christ, our Savior.  
Hosanna!



Amen.

*Source: Face Forward*

---

### Upcoming Events

- Easter - **April 21<sup>st</sup>**
- St. Luke Mother's Day Tea - **May 5<sup>th</sup>**
- PREPARES Spring Retreat - **May 11<sup>th</sup>**
- Mother's Day - **May 12<sup>th</sup>**
- St. Pius X Community Baby Shower - **May 19<sup>th</sup>**

Blessings to you as we enter Holy Week,

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

**PREPARES of Western Washington Team**

100 - 23rd Ave South, Seattle, WA 98144

206-737-9264



**VOLUNTEER**



**DONATE**



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.

A PROGRAM OF



**CATHOLIC COMMUNITY SERVICES**

**SERVING PEOPLE OF ALL BELIEFS**