

ANNUNCIATION HOMELESS MINISTRY



Great Lent is almost upon us. During Great Lent, we are encouraged to take forty days to prepare ourselves and our families to be spiritually ready and worthy of celebrating and worshipping the Resurrection. We are encouraged to fast, pray more, and practice intentional charity (almsgiving).

Almsgiving is an act of love that can deepen our prayer life and bring a greater sense of meaning to fasting. When we give alms, we make a concrete donation of ourselves (through money, time, talent, or service) to others. Almsgiving helps us say, in crystal clear terms: “Here is what I can offer, and I offer it out of love for you (and God) because I care about your welfare.”

The Homeless Ministry is collecting items for our annual “**Blessing Bag Drive,**” which will be distributed at Aviator Park on March 30th to those experiencing homelessness. Please sign up [HERE](#) if you want to donate, or don't hesitate to contact Angela Godshall with any questions. Many of the requested items can be found at the Dollar Tree. Please place your donations in the Homeless Ministry basket located on the balcony level by the Resource Center. *Thank you!*

As we begin the Triodion and prepare for Pascha, let us abide by the Hymn from the Matins of Forgiveness Sunday:

“The arena of the virtues has been opened. Let all who wish to struggle for the prize now enter, girding themselves for the noble contest of the Fast; for those that strive lawfully are justly crowned. Taking up the armor of the Cross, let us make war against the enemy. Let us have faith as our invincible wall, prayer as our breastplate, and as our helmet almsgiving; and as our sword, let us use fasting that cuts away all evil from our heart. If we do this, we shall receive the true crown from Christ the King of all at the Day of Judgment.”

In Christ's service,
The Homeless Ministry