

INCARNATE WORD REACH OUT MINISTRY

On the third Sunday of each month, the Incarnate Word Reach Out Ministry asks our parishioners to donate to a special collection that benefits three local St. Louis area parishes in need.

This month, all donations deposited in the Reach Out wooden collection boxes at the entrance to church will benefit:

St. Cecilia Parish... and Elementary School is located in south St. Louis at 5418 Louisiana Ave. It is over 100 years old and was scheduled to be closed six years ago, but the Archbishop stepped in and overrode that decision because of its unique Hispanic specialty in the St. Louis area. Did you know that over half of all Catholics in the United States under the age of 30 are Hispanic? The average age of a parishioner at St. Cecilia is 35 years old and the parish averages over 150 baptisms and 50 weddings per year! Predominantly Hispanic, the school has over 220 students from preschool through 8th grade.



Although the church and its parishioners struggle financially (90% of students receive free or reduced tuition), St. Cecilia's boasts a very vibrant community with strong family values, strong work ethic and strong faith. By supporting this parish, we are breaking the cycle of poverty in this young and lively Hispanic community.

Our Reach Out donations will help this parish in need in three ways:

1. The church has many deferred maintenance issues that are not being met by the weekly collections (that average \$200).
2. Many parishioners have lost their job and need help to pay for basic needs such as rent, utility bills and food.
3. The parish supports a Food Pantry that is in need of supplies to support many families in the parish.

For more information about St. Cecilia Parish, their website is www.stceciliaparishstl.org or call (314) 351-1318.