



Catholic Social Services
Diocese of Fall River

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Faith in Action

HAPPY VALETINE'S DAY

Valentine's Day is celebrated around the globe and offers us an opportunity to let those whom we care about know we are thinking of them. In the 18th century, friends and lovers alike exchanged small tokens of affection and handwritten notes. Since then the celebration of Valentine's Day has taken on a life of its own.

If you look up the origins of St. Valentine's Day, you find a faithful man who shared his message of love. He willingly gave of himself to help others. The tradition of sending a card or a note began, according to legend, with a brief note to the young girl he healed of blindness—signing it *your Valentine*. It was his way of letting her know he was thinking of her and praying for her continued well-being.

As children we looked forward to receiving cards from classmates and special treats from family members. It was a celebration of "love" in all its precious forms.

For those of you who volunteer at Catholic Social Services and its sites, you embody Valentine's Day all year. You provide comfort, you give of yourself, and in the work you do, you let others know how special they are. Your actions speak louder than any "handwritten" note and your gifts of kindness and compassion speak volumes, making a world of difference to those you help along the way.

As February 14 approaches, please know **YOU** are **ALL** our special Valentines!. Thank you for your selfless acts of love and your willingness to go above and beyond to serve others. It is this unconditional love that makes the greatest impact on others.

Happy Valentine's Day!

A Valentine Prayer



I said a Valentine prayer for you and asked the Lord above to fill your heart and bless your soul with the precious gift of love.

I asked Him for sincere love the kind that's meant to stay just like the generous love you give to those you touch each day.

I prayed for love from family and from every cherished friend. Then I asked the Lord to give you His love that knows no end.



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SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST

- **Volunteers: We need your help to update your information, Email: rsaraiva@cssdioc.org or call 508-674-4681 Ext. 1111.**
- **Happy Birthday to all our volunteers who celebrated a birthday in January and will be celebrating in February. We would love to honor and recognize YOU! Email your name and birthday to rsaraiva@cssdioc.org or call 508-674-4681 Ext. 1111.**





VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES...

Bilingual speakers to translate and interpret for clients.

Food Pantry Volunteers.

Volunteers to sort and organize donations at various sites.

Volunteers to help with miscellaneous tasks at our shelters.

Food preparers, cooks, servers, greeters, and clean-up crew for the Soup Kitchen .

There are many more opportunities throughout our agency and its sites.

For more information, contact Rose Mary Saraiva, Volunteer Coordinator at 508-674-4681 Ext. 1111 or via email at rsaraiva@cssdioc.org

BECOME A VOLUNTEER TODAY!



IN IT TOGETHER

February focuses on bonds, togetherness, and the importance of letting others know they are loved and thought of. In February, not only do we celebrate Valentine’s Day, we also celebrate marriages and couples, and what those bonds mean in our lives and the lives of others.

Over the years, couples who have been together for a while are asked, “What is your secret?” “What has worked for you?” Individuals looking for that “secret formula” that will help them strengthen their relationship, weather the storms of life, and somehow grow old together.

Brightside.me list the following advice: *Be yourself, be honest. Stay positive. Be thoughtful and support each other. Demonstrate your love. Give each other space. Respect each other. Don’t let jealousy in. Don’t try to change each other. Create memories together. Dream together.* Great advice, which many couples who have been together for a while would say is true.

Over the years, CSS has been and continues to be blessed with so many individuals who give freely of their time and talents-and for that, we say “Thank you.” But lets look at “togetherness” and see what it means to many of the couples who choose to “volunteer together.” For them, it is a chance to be together, while doing something they love. It is an opportunity to share their blessings with others. It allows them to give back. We have all heard the expression, “Two are better than one” and luckily for CSS and the people we serve, we have many couples who agree and willingly work side by side to make a difference.

In the month of February we would like to honor those couples who go above and beyond—together.

Gayle & Bob Enos
Leah & Jack MacComber
Robin & Peter Muise

Elvira & Jim Gardner
Ann & Bob Marklin
Tom & Elaine Sullivan

Barbara Najjar & James Hijiya

These couples not only share their love with each other, but share their love for all humankind. They give of themselves to ensure that others do not go without, to brighten another’s day, and to be that beacon of hope in the midst of life’s storms. For their dedication, not only to each other, but to the good works that make a difference in other’s lives, we are truly grateful.



Not only do they dare to dream, they continually create new memories while serving others. To these and all the couples out there -

Happy Valentine’s Day.

Celebrating a February Birthday:

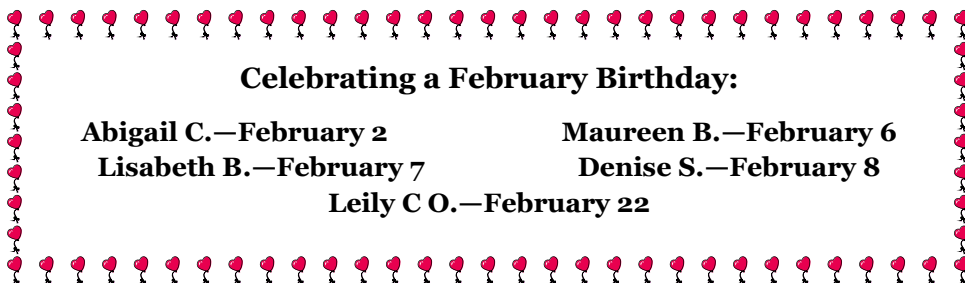
Abigail C.—February 2

Maureen B.—February 6

Lisabeth B.—February 7

Denise S.—February 8

Laily C O.—February 22





“GIFT OF GIVING” - ALL YEAR LONG

The holiday season is behind us, we have begun a new year with so much promise ahead. We have hopes that 2022 will be a much better year than 2021. Yet for so many there is still the struggle to make ends meet.

There is always the need for donations, for help, and for those who want to make a difference. We had so many families and individuals who came to our doors seeking help during the holidays, and we made it our goal to ensure they got it. Fortunately, gift cards helped to make up for what we lacked in our Donation Room.

We could use your help spreading the word. Often individuals, families, community organizations and business are looking for ways to give back –they just do not know where to start. If you know of someone who is looking for a way to help—send them our way.

We have compiled lists of needed items, which include clothing items for children, as well as adults, among other basic needs items. We are experiencing a greater demand for clothing as families who have been displaced coming knocking at our doors. To find out what items are needed, call us at 508-674-4681. Thank you for all you do!

“To ease another’s heartache is to forget one’s own.”
-Abraham Lincoln.

PRESIDENTIAL FUN FACTS...

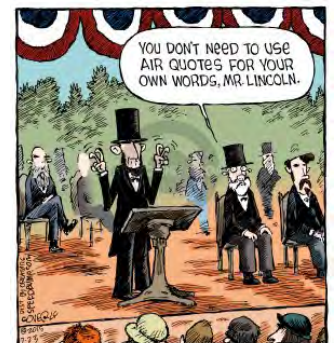
George Washington:

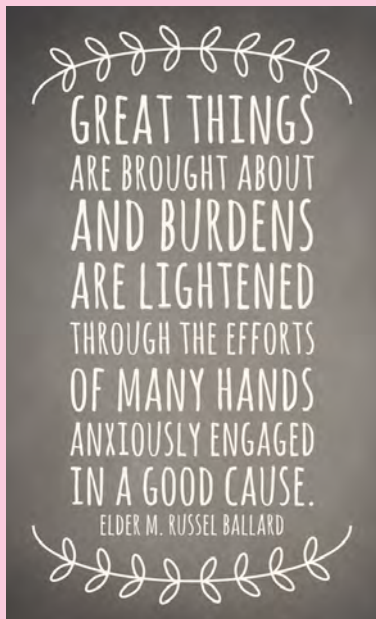
- ◆ Was the fourth tallest president at 6 feet, 2 inches.
- ◆ He only had one original tooth when he became president.
- ◆ His teeth were not wooden.
- ◆ He created his own breed of dog—the foxhound.
- ◆ He only had a grade-school education—he was mostly self-taught.
- ◆ He was the first to sign the United States Constitution.
- ◆ He was unanimously elected president twice.
- ◆ He was fearless in battle.
- ◆ His actions saved the Revolution twice.
- ◆ He had no biological children of his own.



Abraham Lincoln:

- ◆ Was the tallest president at 6 feet, 4 inches.
- ◆ He was the first president born outside of the original thirteen colonies.
- ◆ He was the first president photographed at his inauguration.
- ◆ He was the first president to wear a beard.
- ◆ He had the largest shoe-size documented—size 14.
- ◆ He and his wife held séances in the white house-both had a great interest in psychic phenomena.
- ◆ He was the only president to receive a patent, for a device for lifting boats over shoals.
- ◆ His son Robert was in Washington when his father was killed, was there when Garfield was shot, and when McKinley was assassinated-that is some bad juju!
- ◆ He never slept in the Lincoln Bedroom.
- ◆ He is enshrined in the Wrestling Hall of Fame.





Happy....



Community in Action -

Calling All Organizations, Social Groups, Clubs...

Is your group, organization or club looking for a way to give back? We may be the answer.

Often members are looking for ways to get involved, to be the change, or simply make a difference in someone's life. Many organizations and clubs provide scholarships that have long-lasting benefits for the recipient. But what if you can be the change not just once, but throughout the year—365 days?

How you may ask? Easy, partner with Catholic Social Services and let us be the focus of your charitable works.

Over the years, many social groups, organizations, and so on have partnered with CSS to be the difference. United Way, Council of Churches, St. Vincent de Paul Society, St. Joseph Sodality, Toys for Tots, and many others too numerous to list. In addition, we have many private sector donors who provide much needed funding to keep many of our programs going strong.

How can your group help out? By holding clothing drives for new clothing, collecting gift cards, and brand new coats, just to name a few. We have a list of all the items that are needed to meet individual's and families' basic needs.

One of our newest partnerships is the **Polish Women's Business and Professional Club of New Bedford**. Their focus is to gather items throughout the year that will benefit those served through CSS. Under the guidance of Mary-Beth Swiszc, Community Service Committee Chairwoman, the Club will gather much needed items to help us better serve the community.

Thank you Mary-Beth Swiszc and the membership of the Polish Women's Business and Professional Club for making us the focus of your charitable works in 2022.

For more information on how your club or organization can help,
call us at 508-674-4681

CORI FORMS

Don't forget to send in your CORI Forms.

The form and a photo ID can be emailed to rsaraiva@cssdioc.org; if you choose to mail in the form and ID, please make sure the envelope is addressed to my attention and sent to CSS, 1600 Bay St. Fall River, MA 02724. If you wish to fax it in, also make sure my name is in the attention line and fax it to 508-675-2224.

