

# Outreach Conference 2020

## Prison Ministry Today - Mark Santana

**Synopsis:** Prison ministry in the midst of a pandemic.

1. Finding creative ways to serve when the prison doors were closed to volunteers
2. Through transitional housing community dinners, correspondence to prisoners, and books to local jails provided continued access to those in prison and formally incarcerated
3. Additional resources drawn from Orthodox Christian Prison Ministry (OCPM)

**Section 1:** Continuing the prison ministry mattered more than ever because the pandemic threatened to limit prisoner access to the Gospel message

1. Prison ministry is influential in that it introduces prisoners to the Gospel
2. Prison ministry restores prisoners to their families and their communities and reduces recidivism
3. As the faithful, we are called to deliberately do the work of Matthew 25

**Section 2:**

1. Serving and sharing meals with formerly incarcerated men at a transitional home
2. Parishioners correspondence with prisoners by letter through OCPM

3. Through donations of the Parish, Bibles and books to the local county jail and the transitional home
4. During the holiday season, we will be providing toys to the children of incarcerated men and women, along with a card and hand-written note from their parent
5. Men of the parish to provide mentorship to men soon to be released from the state prison and transitional house
6. Future service opportunities include a woman's transitional house, community dinners and mentorships

**Section 3:**

1. [www.theocpm.org](http://www.theocpm.org)
2. [www.dismas.org](http://www.dismas.org)
3. [www.ancientfaith.com/podcasts/anonymouspriesthood](http://www.ancientfaith.com/podcasts/anonymouspriesthood)
4. [www.ancientfaith.com/podcasts/features/a\\_new\\_day\\_for\\_ocpm](http://www.ancientfaith.com/podcasts/features/a_new_day_for_ocpm)
5. [www.prisonfellowship.org/](http://www.prisonfellowship.org/)

Mark Santana attends St. Ignatius Antiochian Orthodox Church in Franklin, TN. He has served in prison ministry for over 11 years in various roles including in-prison and re-entry mentoring and helped launch his parish prison ministry in winter 2019.