



St. Paul Parish School

ANNUAL ADVENT OUTREACH

2017 Advent Service Projects



“To love God and neighbor is not something abstract, but profoundly concrete: it means seeing in every person the face of the Lord to be served, to serve Him concretely. And you are, dear brothers and sisters, the face of Jesus.”

~ Pope Francis

1. *Christmas Hospitality in the Gym* We are excited to be able to again join with St. Paul Church, as part of the Interfaith Emergency Shelter System, to provide a warm and comfortable place for up to 10 families to stay during Christmas week. From **December 18-26**, our gym will become home to several families who are currently without living facilities of their own. Volunteers may sign up to help work or make meals for this program at St. Paul Church after weekend Masses, and in the parish office during the week, beginning December 2.

Students may help by bringing in personal items from the list below to share with our guests and others at Catholic Community Services and St. Vincent de Paul First Place Family Shelter. Also, to make it possible for our guest families to buy gifts for their children, we are asking **each student to contribute \$3.00**, if possible. We will use this money to purchase gift cards to give to them for their shopping. This donation will also help provide for activities such as bowling and pizza.

Christmas Hospitality donation items and \$3.00 contribution may be brought to the classroom by Friday, December 15.



Christmas Hospitality

Each class is provided an opportunity to contribute items for our holiday guests, CCS and First Place Family Shelter

- Preschool – Disposable diapers, size 4, 5 or 6
- Pre K – baby wipes
- Kindergarten - baby ointment
- 1st Grade – toothpaste & youth & adult tooth brushes
- 2nd Grade – shampoo and conditioner
- 3rd Grade – small pump bottle hand soap & Q-tips
- 4th Grade – dryer sheets
- 5th Grade – toilet paper
- 6th Grade – hair brushes & adult hair ties
- 7th Grade – dish soap
- 8th Grade – deodorant and disposable razors



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A note about the needs of 1st Place Family Shelter:

At this time, there are many babies in care. They have a GREAT need for **baby formula and baby food**, and diapers. Laundry soap is constantly running out – they need **laundry soap in “pods”** for their daily use in the center and to send out with families.

OTHER OPPORTUNITIES FOR OUTREACH

2. *Pantry Shelves for St. Paul Church, St. Vincent de Paul and First Place Family Shelter*
Please be mindful that school children who receive free breakfasts and lunches will be without those free meals during the two-week holiday break. Items that will be especially helpful to fill that need and help stock the pantries are: **Peanut butter, canned protein such as tuna and chicken, also spaghetti and ravioli, chili, stews and soups, as well as boxed foods like cereal and crackers, and baby formula** will make a difference for those families. Collection containers are available near the school office for your donations.
3. *Christmas Dinner Baskets* St. Vincent de Paul and St. Paul Church fill many requests for monthly food boxes and Christmas Dinner Baskets for families this time of year. Suggested non-perishable food donations such as **canned sweet potatoes, cranberry sauce, vegetables and olives, peanut butter, canned and boxed foods such as Stove Top Stuffing** are suggested for the dinner boxes.
4. *Turkeys Needed!* Many donations are needed to fill Christmas Dinner Baskets for St. Vincent de Paul families. In addition to **frozen turkeys, SVDP will also accept ham and frozen chickens**. Freezers will be available in the Coffee Shelter before and after school, and after Masses from Friday through Sunday, **December 8 – 10** for you to drop off your frozen meats. If you would rather donate a check to help out, please make it to St. Paul Church and note “Turkey” on the memo line.
5. *Coat Drive – Dec. 4– Dec 15* St. Paul eighth grader Ethan Hakala will coordinate our effort to assist Catholic Community Services in their annual collection of gently used **coats, hats, scarves, socks and gloves** for their clients. Collection boxes will be available near the school entrance. The need to meet families’ necessities this year is great. Tell your friends and neighbors.
6. *Christmas Hat & Sweater Days - Dec 1, 7, & 15.* Students and staff may show their Christmas spirit by bringing in one food item for Can-A-Week on 12/1, 7, & 15 in order to wear a festive Christmas shirt, sweater, or hat. All food donations will be given to Catholic Community Services and St. Vincent de Paul.

“For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat. I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink. I was a stranger and you invited me in. I needed clothes and you clothed me. I was sick and you looked after me.”

Matthew 25:35-36