

Acts of Kindness

Creating opportunities to learn, connect and help those in need

The Acts of Kindness Ministry would like to introduce to you this year's recipients of gifts from the **Advent Giving Tree**. We will be collecting gifts, gift cards and basic necessities for all the recipients.

We learned that basic needs are not being met by a community of residents. These families live near **St. Stephen** in Richwoods, **St. Francis of Assisi** in Leubering and **St. James Parish** in Potosi. All are parishes within our Archdiocese boundaries. The families seek help from these parishes when they can't make ends meet. We are asking for your help by donating gift cards to WalMart and Save-A-Lot in order for these parishes to increase their food pantries with basic groceries and necessities.

Unfailing Christian Love and **Bridge of Hope** are churches located in the Ville neighborhood in north St. Louis City. This is one of the poorest and most crime-infested areas in the city. The churches come together to support a neighborhood Christmas Party. We have been asked to donate sets of cold weather accessories for boys and girls, family personal care packages, toilet paper and paper towels.

Bridge Bread accepts people experiencing homelessness and trains them to be productively employed. Some of the workers are in the early stages of seeking residency while the others are already established. We would like to support the bakers by providing some gifts from their dream wish list so they can also enjoy the blessings of Christmas.

Let's Start..., a support process for women, aims to break the cycle of incarceration in families by working with formerly incarcerated women and their children to support the many aspects of recovery and reentry into society. As part of their program, this agency supports the caretakers of the children whose mothers are incarcerated. This usually lands on the maternal grandmothers (and one grandfather!) We are looking for gifts that will give a little pampering to these amazing caregivers. The agency also provides monthly bus trips to the prison and would like to add assorted movies for the kids to watch while on the bus.

Please consider sharing your abundance this Advent season and help these parishes and agencies support their clients by selecting a gift tag or two off the Advent Trees located in the Church or the Parish Center Worship Space. Return the *unwrapped* gifts, with the selected gift tag attached, under the trees beginning the weekend of November 18 and 19 until noon on December 10.

A Special Advent Giving Tree Request

We have a special request from the Acts of Kindness Ministry to support a single mother's needs at Christmas. She is in need of an electric dryer for her home. We are hoping to find someone or a group of people/families that would be interested in making this purchase as a Christmas gift for this mother. Please contact Linda Borchardt at 314-878-2120 or lborchardt@stanselmstl.org if you are able to help to make Christmas a little brighter for those in need.

