

SSVP ST. GABRIEL'S ANGEL TREE UPDATE

November 27th, 2020



This was a week of major milestones:

Central Packaging

On Tuesday, Marguerite, Jeannette and Helen came to Liana's place to package the gifts. We had a production line set up with packing stations for the families for each relationship team. We wore masks and ensured everything was safely handled for our families.



Family Packages

All of our 41 families received a gift bag with a Walmart gift card for each family member and Freshco or Food Basic cards to purchase food for a family Christmas dinner. Each of our 43 children who are 17 and under received a \$75.00 Walmart gift card and adults 18 and older received a \$50.00 Walmart Card. Many of the parents are pooling the gift cards and purchasing gifts to put under their tree for their family.

Some candies were included in the gift bag along with a Christmas card that contained a brochure of our mass times and a flyer for a free Christmas dinner. Many thanks to Renata for sharing the beautiful Christmas Mass notification and to Mary for finding the Community Christmas Day Dinner flyer that invites those in need to enjoy a delicious Christmas meal.



Deliveries

Each team picked up gifts for their families from Liana's house and started making deliveries this week. Many thanks to everyone for taking time out of your busy week to take care of our families who were no doubt delighted to see you.

RELATIONSHIP TEAM MARGUERITE & NELLY	RELATIONSHIP TEAM ROSANNA & LIANA
RELATIONSHIP TEAM HELEN & SARAH	RELATIONSHIP TEAM GARTH & JOSIE
RELATIONSHIP TEAM MARY, JEANNETTE & CATHERINE	

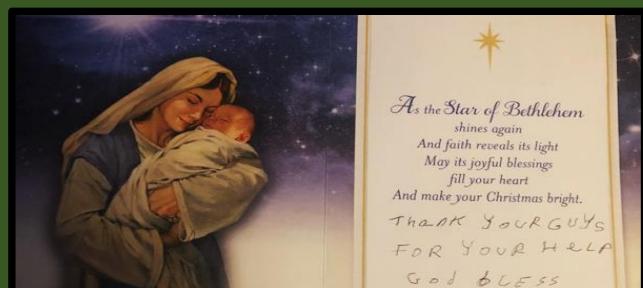
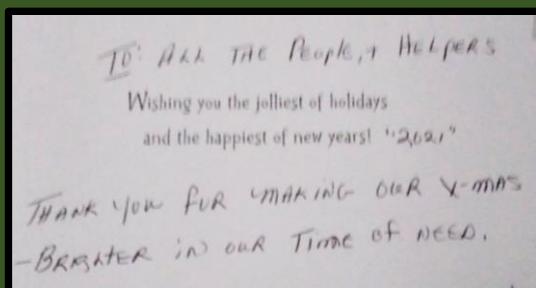


Family Feedback

Many families told us they were so grateful to get their gift cards early as they were concerned about the increasing Covid restrictions and relieved to be able to get their shopping done early.

One Mom tearfully thanked us and said there would be no Christmas for her children without St. Gabriel's and she was heading to Walmart right away to get the toys her children want to wrap for under their tree. A senior commented that he has no one and if it wasn't for us, he would not have received a Christmas gift nor had enough money to buy Christmas dinner.

Several were surprised everything was festively packaged and appreciated it felt like a gift instead of charity. During spiritual reflections at our meetings Father Janusz has often commented about the importance of treating our families with dignity and the simple act of making this feel like a gift went a long way to do that. We were surprised to receive two thank you notes from families when we dropped off their gifts:



Our Angel Tree

120 ANGELS FLEW OFF THE TREE

On the first weekend it was up, an incredible **120 Angels** flew off of our angel tree and into the hands of our generous parishioners. Purchasing the gifts early took a good chunk out of our bank account and we will be very grateful for the Angel Tree donations to replenish the funds we have available to help families as their needs have been greater than ever.

A huge thank you to Marguerite who will keep re-stocking the tree with the extra angels that Paul and Diane made.