

Angel Tree

St. Mary's Angel Tree Ministry is an outreach program that strives to make the Christmas holiday special by providing clothing, toys, games and personal items to children, adults, and organizations in need during the Advent and Christmas season. The Angel Tree truly represents the Christian Spirit of giving.

This year, we must do things differently. There will not be gift tags on trees and gifts will not be dropped off. The good news is that we'll still be able to fulfill the wishes of those in need. If you are interested in participating in the Angel Tree, we ask that you mail a check to the Parish Office. In the memo line of the check, please indicate Angel Tree and one of the following if you have a preference as to where you would like your Christmas gift to be distributed:

- St. Adalbert Catholic Grade School
- Guest House of Milwaukee
- St. Rose Food Pantry families
- School Sisters of Notre Dame
- An SMV Family in Need

We will be working with a representative from each of these organizations to ensure that the wishes of those in need are fulfilled this Christmas season. Please send your check to the Parish Office by November 23rd. Let's make sure Christmas is special for all. Thank you for paying whatever blessings you have been given forward in this way. The spirit of generosity of St. Mary's Visitation parishioners is always incredible to behold!

Could we suggest that school families/parishioners who are interested in fulfilling the wishes of those in need can write a check out to St. Mary's and write Angel Tree in the memo line and mail it into the Parish Office. We then can send Angel Tree gift money (at the end of the collection period) to Folks who run the program on the other end will make sure that Christmas gift wishes are fulfilled. This is what our Angel Tree did last year:

830 gift wishes granted for 277 students at St. Adalbert Catholic Grade School

95 items for men at the Guest House of Milwaukee

145 toys for children of St. Rose Food Pantry families

68 wishes for 23 retired School Sisters of Notre Dame

\$4,100 in food, gas and basic needs gift cards collected for 17 of our own parish families in need

Our school children are back face-to-face, but parents are not allowed in the building at all. So that will make taking tags off a tree, dropping things off, and filling the Sisters' gift bags....all impossible.

After our human concerns coordinator and parish financial administrator discussed it all, the difficult decision was reached that we'll have to ask for monetary contributions only this year. We would anticipate receiving those contributions on a similar timetable, so getting a check to you by Thanksgiving time--to use to grant as many of the sisters' wishes as you can, with whatever creative solutions you are able to brainstorm.

I'm so sorry to have to deliver such news, but wanted to give you as much time as possible to create Plan B.