



Circle of Love 2021: Still brightening the holidays for those in need!

Dear St. Mary Parishioners,

Last year, despite the COVID-19 pandemic, you made Christmas merrier for hundreds of people in need through your generous financial contributions to the Circle of Love. Individuals and families who otherwise would have faced a bleak Christmas due to illness or financial hardship instead felt loved and cared about, thanks to you.

This year, the Circle of Love begins with a combination of caution and hope: **caution**, because due to the spread of the pandemic's Delta variant, we still need to protect our parishioners and gift recipients; **and hope**, because we all hope and pray this is the last Christmas we'll be dealing with COVID-19!

This Christmas, you can once again share your blessings and bring Christmas joy to someone in need through your financial contribution to the Circle of Love. All contributions will be used specifically for Christmas gifts.

Here's how you can make a financial contribution:

1. **Select your gift recipient(s) from the Contribution Form** on the back of this sheet. Eight of the gift recipient categories are our ministry partner organizations; the ninth is called "Use my contribution where it's needed most." Beside each category's name is a description of how your contribution will be used.
2. **Check the box(es)** of the category(ies) to which you want to direct your contribution, indicate the dollar amount you want to give to each category you choose, and write a separate check payable to each organization. Write "Circle of Love" on the memo line.
3. **Please return your check(s) and contribution form to St. Mary by Monday, November 15th**, either by mail or by placing them in the locked box outside the Parish Office, Monday - Friday, 8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

And there's an additional option this year if you prefer to shop for gifts: A list of items needed by our ministry partner organizations will be posted on the St. Mary website, www.stmaryhc.org, by October 1st. You are welcome to purchase items from that list and bring them to our drive-through gift collection in the upper parking lot on Saturday, December 4th. Please see the website for more details.

Do you want to request a Circle of Love gift for someone? If you know of individuals or families who are struggling with personal or financial hardship, you are invited to request a gift for them. Simply download the request form from our website or use the form in the October 10th bulletin.

For the most complete information about this year's Circle of Love program, please visit our website or call either of our Circle of Love coordinators:

Joan Maro: 414/630-7732 or Ruth Strekow: 414/529-2133

Thank you for helping to make Christmas merrier for those in need!

Blessings,

Pam Lownik, Director of Social Concerns