

Dear Fellow Parishioners,

We hope you and your loved ones are well as we navigate these challenging and unusual times. We know COVID-19 has impacted so many of us and taken away the “normalcy” we took for granted. We are in the process of “Reimagining the 2020 St. Peter Claver Christmas Food Ministry” and need your input.

Background:

- The Christmas Food Basket Ministry is a very long standing Parish Tradition.
- Due to *your generosity*, last Christmas we delivered Food Baskets to 192 Families.

COVID-19 has impacted Individuals, Families and our Local Economy. Unfortunately, the number of Food Insecure Families has increased during 2020.

- We have witnessed heartbreaking COVID-19 illnesses, deaths, furloughs, layoffs and business closures.
- Many of you are juggling work from home, zoom meetings, school aged children on line remote learning, loss of day care and caring for your parents.

We understand and acknowledge that this is a difficult time to be asking once again for your generosity to help our neighbors struggling with Food Insecurity. We appreciate your consideration.

We have “reimagined” our processes and want to share what we are changing this year.

Reimagining the 2020 Christmas Food Basket Ministry:

1. We will follow all State of Connecticut COVID-19 Protocols during our Food Basket “Drop Off Days” and “Delivery Day”.
2. Donors will stay in their vehicle when they drive up to the Parish Center with their Food Baskets.
3. Outside Food Mover Volunteers – with Face Masks and Gloves – will take Food Baskets from your vehicle.
4. These Outside Food Movers will not enter the Parish Center.
5. Inside Food Movers – with Face Masks and Gloves – will take your donated Food Baskets and place them on the designated Town / Street tables in the Parish Center.
6. We will sanitize tables, chairs, door handles, etc. inside the Parish Center on a regular basis to protect the limited number of Volunteers inside the Parish Center.
7. All Inside Volunteers will wear Face Masks.
8. Physical distancing will be enforced both inside and outside.
9. Regular hand washing will be encouraged.
10. Note: Donor and Volunteer Sign Up will only be available Online this year. See Link below...
11. We will call all Recipient Families during Drop Off Days to confirm someone will be home on Sunday to receive the Christmas Food Basket. We will reinforce wearing masks and physical distancing from Drivers.

As you know, we work with the following organizations to identify Recipient Families:

- Holy Trinity Parish, Hartford
- Town of West Hartford
- St. Justin – St. Michael Parish, Hartford
- South Park Inn
- Syrian Refugees
- St. Francis Hospital and Medical Center
- Connecticut Children’s Medical Center
- Hartford HealthCare

### **Next Steps:**

Today we are looking to get an early read on how many Food Basket Donors we will have so we can set the appropriate expectations with above organizations and social workers. We do not want to overcommit the number of needy Families we can support this year.

- ✓ **Please click on the attached link to sign up to donate a Food Basket, Turkey \$\$\$ or to Volunteer.**

## **Christmas Basket Sign-Up Sheet**

- ✓ **We would appreciate your sign-up by *Friday, October 30<sup>th</sup>*.**

If you have any questions, please feel free to reach out to John O’Gorman or Nancy Byrne.

Thank you very much for taking the time to consider donating to our 2020 Christmas Food Basket Ministry!

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