

December 20, 2020

Hello Parish Family,

It is a pleasure to write this note to bring you up to date on what has been going on at the parish during this last week. Preparations for the week began in early November when we began registering families who needed our help for Christmas. At the same time, you signed up to adopt families, shopped for other families, donated hams and turkeys, and responded in whatever other ways we needed help. Much of the work that was done was not glamorous and included packing, organizing, phone calling, carrying heavy loads, picking up supplies, and a dozen other tasks.

This past week, in the midst of the pandemic, our plan to serve ninety-three families who reached out to us and at the same time keep them and ourselves safe came to fruition. Students from U of D High School adopted a small group of families and delivered gifts to their homes. Phone calls that we received from some of these families bore witness to their gratitude and the joy they felt at knowing that there would be gifts for their children on Christmas day.

Beginning on Monday morning, families came to the church and a small and dedicated group of volunteers loaded their cars with the food and gifts you provided. Families continued to come on Tuesday and Wednesday. On Thursday, in addition to making some home deliveries to Christmas families, our faithful weekly volunteers manned the Pantry Program and loaded trunks of cars with food that included some extras you provided for the holidays. Finally, on Saturday the last of the Christmas deliveries were made directly to homes. Again, the response from families that sometimes included tears and promises to “pay it forward” makes all of the work and sacrifice on your part worth your efforts.

Thank you is hardly enough to express our thanks for whatever role you played in making this Christmas program possible. As a parish, you stepped up and brought to life our Parish mission statement that speaks about proclaiming the Gospel and sharing God’s love through commitment to social justice and service to the community, the neighborhood and each other.

On another note, if you come to church in person this weekend, you may notice that the church is undergoing clean-up and the early stages of decorating for Christmas. We are intent on keeping everyone safe from the virus, so we are doing things a bit differently this year in order to avoid having groups of people cleaning and decorating at the same time. We can assure you that we will have everything completed in time for Christmas and we look forward to celebrating Christmas Eve and Christmas Day Mass with you either in person or via livestream.

Stay safe and know we are very thankful for you,

The Parish Team