



THE ADVENT GIVING TREE

The *Advent Giving Tree Ministry* allows us to share with our materially poor sisters and brothers, both locally and globally. The tree will be in the Gathering Space during the weekends of **Nov. 28-29 and Dec. 5-6**. Please consider taking a tag and purchasing the gift identified on that tag. Some tags list specific gift items. Others request gift cards so that the recipient may choose the specific gift themselves according to size, taste, or what is most needed. Still other gift tags allow you to choose a gift for an international agency.

Please return the gift, with the **TAG ATTACHED**, by **Dec. 12-13**. Gifts **SHOULD NOT** be wrapped, but you may include gift-wrap if you wish. If you'd like to help organize gifts during and after Masses on Dec. 13-14 or help to deliver gifts to the agencies on the morning of **Dec. 14th**, please contact Sharon Howard at cunyhoward@hotmail.com or Bonnie Keating at bonnie.keating@comcast.net. The agencies that are supported by this year's Advent Giving Tree are listed and described below.

- * *Casa San Martin* is a homeless shelter in New Mexico that our Youth Group visits on their spring break service trip. Our help will allow them to choose some basic items of necessity for their clients this Christmas season.
- * *Catholic Charities* dedicates itself to serving those who are poor, devalued, or in need of help in our community. Consider taking a tag for this agency's PATH clients, mentally ill individuals who are homeless.
- * *The Center for Great Expectations* provides care, support, and shelter to pregnant, homeless, abused and/or addicted adolescents and adult women. Your gifts to this agency will go to these young mothers and/or children.
- * *Elijah's Promise* has a mission to alleviate hunger and empower lives in New Brunswick. Our assistance will aid with basic necessities for the clients who rely on a meal at the House of Manna soup kitchen.
- * *Food For The Poor* raises funds and provides direct relief assistance to the poor throughout the world. Your contribution will help purchase materials and distribute them through the churches and organizations already operating in areas of need.



- * **Fort Dix, NJ** has become home to many members of the US Military and their families while serving our country. Many of them find themselves in a financial crisis before, during or after serving overseas. Your gifts will help these families in their time of need.
- * **Guatemala Scholarship Program** provides tuition, school supplies, books, medicines, and other basic necessities, for children in need and their families. The opportunity for an education is a life-line to a better life in Guatemala.
- * **Habitat for Humanity** builds houses with the help of the homeowner families. Habitat houses are sold to partner families at no profit, financed with affordable loans. Your gift will help to purchase tools and building materials.
- * **Hillsborough & Montgomery Food Pantry's** clients are not typically able to get fresh meats and vegetables at the pantries. Your gift will give our neighbors the opportunity to purchase these items during the holiday season.
- * **HomeFront** provides a comprehensive network of services for the poor and homeless in Mercer County. Gift tags for this agency will aid the needs of the clients they serve.
- * **Hope for Veterans** addresses the emergency housing needs for homeless veterans, transitional housing for more than 100 homeless veterans, and assists with re-housing veterans in the greater NJ area.
- * **IHN [Interfaith Hospitality Network]** Interfaith Hospitality Network of Somerset County exists to empower homeless families to attain independence.
- * **Martin House** is a diocesan inner-city ministry in Trenton that seeks to offer hope and opportunity to the people it serves by securing housing, education, clothing and appliances. Your donation will go directly to the families they serve.
- * **Mercy Corps** works amid disasters, conflicts, chronic poverty and instability to unleash the potential of people who survive against nearly impossible odds. Your contribution will help provide educational materials and basic necessities to people in need around the world.
- * **Mount Carmel Guild** has served poor and needy people of Mercer County for over 80 years. Your gift will help them enjoy this Christmas season.
- * **The Robert Wood Johnson Pediatric Aids Center** provides a comprehensive case management approach to the young patient (newborn through teen) with HIV infection. Your gift will brighten the Christmas season for a child in this program.
- * **SHIP [Samaritan Homeless Interim Program]** helps clients who are the homeless, near homeless, working poor families, and individuals in Somerset County. Your gift will bring comfort to these people this season.



* **TASK [Trenton Area Soup Kitchen]** provides more than 3,000 meals each week to people in the Trenton area, as well as a wide array of social, community, and health services. Your gift will help these neighbors endure the cold winter months.

* **Thank you for your generosity during this Advent season!**