

*Advent*  
*Giving*  
*Opportunities*



Saint Monica Parish  
Human Concerns

2017 LIGHTING THE WAY



Dear Friends,

During the Advent Season, there are many ways to share gifts—time, money, an open heart, prayer, an opportunity, a kind word, your presence, or a package.

To help us welcome Christ into our lives and our hearts, listed in this booklet are many gift giving opportunities that can really make a difference.

As Christmas approaches and you journey through Advent, please take some time to review these ideas and choose several ways that you and your family can truly give of yourselves to others.

Thank you for your generosity to those in need.

A blessed Advent and Christmas to you and yours,

*St. Monica Parish*  
*Human Concerns Committee*

*To learn more about the Human Concerns Committee, ways to serve through St. Monica's many ministries throughout the year, or to learn more about Catholic social teaching, please visit [www.st-monica.org/serve](http://www.st-monica.org/serve) or call Nikki DeGuire, Chair, at 414.963.9023.*

*Special thanks to the St. Eugene Parish Human Concerns Committee for their inspiration and partnership, and to Christie Ortwein for her lovely design.*

## Christmas Giving Tree

St. Monica Parish hosts the Giving Tree to gather gifts to share with various local non-profits. Parishioners select from 540 tags, each with a person's name and gift ideas, and generously share Christmas cheer with someone in need in our community.

### **Those Served:**

- Meta House (residential treatment for women with drug and alcohol issues and their children, who stay with them)
- Rosalie Manor (teen moms)
- Catholic Charities (developmentally disabled adults and the elderly)
- Ladies of Charity (clothing for low income kids ages 4-14)

**Types of Items Needed:** Please take a tag from the tree and purchase one or more of the items listed. Please do not contribute used items—new items only.

**Packaging:** Please place all items in a single holiday gift bag per recipient and attach the sticker to the outside of the gift bag.

**Time of Collection:** All gifts need to be dropped off by no later than Sunday, December 11th

**Drop Off Location:** Place gift bags around the Giving Tree.

**Contact:** Mary Hargarten at 964-9894 or [mary.hargarten@aurora.org](mailto:mary.hargarten@aurora.org)

## Advent Breakfast Collection

### Babies at the Women's Care Center

The Women's Care Center supports women facing unexpected pregnancies and offers them help delivering healthier babies, developing parenting skills and taking steps to self-sufficiency. They offer many services to pregnant women and new mothers, including parenting classes and a program to share needed baby items.

**Those Served:** New mothers and their babies

**Types of Items Needed:** New baby items. Please do not donate used items.

**Packaging:** Please provide in original packaging. No gift wrap.

**Time of Collection:** All gifts need to be dropped off at the Advent Breakfast on Saturday, December 3rd, from 9 am to 11 am. *Please note that this event is by reservation for parish kindergarteners and first graders and their parents.*

**Drop Off Location:** At the event in Donovan Hall.

**Contact:** Marti Wronski at 962-6089 or [marti-wronski@brewers.com](mailto:marti-wronski@brewers.com)

**More info or to donate money:** [www.womenscarecenter.org](http://www.womenscarecenter.org)

## Christmas Eve Layette Drive

### La Causa Crisis Nursery & Respite Center

La Causa's Crisis Nursery and Respite Center is the only one in southeastern Wisconsin. Open 24 hours a day, 365 days a year, they give children from birth to 12 a safe, free, nurturing place during times of family emergency/crisis/stress or need for respite care.

**Those Served:** children birth to age 12, mostly low income

**Types of Items Needed:** New baby layette items. Please do not donate used items.

**Packaging:** Please provide in original packaging. No gift wrap.

**Time of Collection:** 4:45 pm Christmas Eve Liturgy and Pageant.

**Drop Off Location:** Children will be invited to bring items to the altar during the pageant.

**Contact:** Marti Wronski at 962-6089 or [marti-wronski@brewers.com](mailto:marti-wronski@brewers.com)

**More info or to donate money:** [www.lacausa.org/our-programs/crisis-nursery](http://www.lacausa.org/our-programs/crisis-nursery)

## Hope House Sandwich Saturday

Hope House is a shelter that serves homeless individuals and families, helping them return to a more productive way of life. Our friends at St. Eugene Parish sponsor Sandwich Saturday the 3rd Saturday of every month. All are welcome. They typically make 1,200 sandwiches each month to be shared with homeless and low-income individuals.

**Those Served:** Homeless families and individuals in crisis.

**Service Opportunity:** Make sandwiches (great for families!)

**Types of Items Needed:** Sandwich supplies--including bread, sliced sandwich meat, sliced (not individually wrapped) cheese, margarine, sandwich bags and peanut butter. Or, make sandwiches at home and drop them off.

**Packaging:** Please put sandwiches in plastic baggies. Please note that these sandwiches are frozen, so please put margarine on both insides of the bread for all sandwiches and do not use jelly, lettuce or mayonnaise.

**Time of Collection/Service:** December 17th, 10 am to 11 am

**Location:** St. Eugene (7600 N. Port Washington Rd, Fox Point). Drop off made sandwiches in the west parking lot (look for the green van), or make sandwiches in Mackin Hall.

**Contact:** Shelly Weingarten at 351-9022 or [sweingarten@cesa1.k12.wi.us](mailto:sweingarten@cesa1.k12.wi.us).

**More info or to donate money:** [www.hopehousemke.org](http://www.hopehousemke.org)

## Milwaukee Habitat for Humanity

The St. Monica community supports Habitat for Humanity's important mission to provide affordable housing for Milwaukee's most needy families by providing a team of workers one Saturday each month.

**Those Served:** Needy Milwaukee families

**Service Opportunity:** Rehabbing, doing repairs and minor improvements on homes owned in targeted neighborhoods through the "Brush with Kindness" program. Skilled trades people or handy folks are always welcome, but there are important jobs for a range of skill levels. Projects often include painting, siding, repairs, landscaping, demolition, and door/window installation. You must be 16 years of age.

**Time of Service:** December 17th, 9 am to 3 pm

**Contact:** Maggie Stoeffel at 961-2164 or [mstoeffel@wi.rr.com](mailto:mstoeffel@wi.rr.com)

**More info or to donate money:** [www.milwaukeehabitat.org](http://www.milwaukeehabitat.org)

## Blessed Trinity Food Pantry

The Blessed Trinity Food Pantry, located near 39th and Hampton, distributes food to those in need. Hard economic times have caused demand to jump 50% in the last 3 months.

**Those Served:** The unemployed and disabled, families and seniors who rely on food pantries to supplement their meals.

**Service Opportunity:** Sort, distribute and buy food. Those who can lift up to 30# are especially needed for certain tasks.

**Types of Items Needed:** Non-perishable healthy food items, especially high protein foods like tuna, peanut butter or beans, fruits and vegetables.

**Time of Collection/Service:** Volunteer to distribute food from 9 to 10:30 am on Dec 12 th, Dec 15 th or Dec 17th this month. Volunteers and food are needed throughout the year.

**Drop Off Location:** Non-perishable food collection boxes at church entrances every weekend.

**Contact:** Buck Carter at 228-7251 or [btfood@att.net](mailto:btfood@att.net) to volunteer.

## Support Local & Global Artisans

### Work of Human Hands Holiday Gift Sale

Consider giving in all of its facets this holiday season. Give something lovely to the recipient, but at the same time give to the artisan or worker, the local business owner, a non profit. Consider packaging and environmental impact. Give deliberately.

One way to give multiple times over is to purchase some of your gifts at St. Eugene's Work of Human Hands Holiday Gift Sale, or through some of the sites listed below (there are many others).

Work of Human Hands is a partnership between Catholic Relief Services and SERRV, a non-profit organization. They share a mission to promote dignity and self-sufficiency while eradicating poverty. Merchandise is created by artisans in over 60 countries.

There will be many special products available for sale including Christmas ornaments, Nativity sets, jewelry, scarves, purses, kitchen and home décor items, as well as soup mixes, coffee, tea, and chocolate. The proceeds from your purchases will benefit small-scale artisan and farmer groups in economically developing regions worldwide.

**Dates/Time:** December 10 & 11, December 17 & 18, after all Masses

**Location:** St. Eugene's Narthex

**Contact:** Sarah Hammill at 262-241-9496 or hamhood@aol.com

**More info:** [www.serrv.org](http://www.serrv.org) or [www.crsfairtrade.org](http://www.crsfairtrade.org)

## More Ideas

[www.thehungersite.com](http://www.thehungersite.com)

[www.novica.com](http://www.novica.com)

[www.kiva.com/gifts](http://www.kiva.com/gifts)

[www.heifer.org](http://www.heifer.org)

[www.greenraising.com](http://www.greenraising.com) (eco products, select St. Monica Parish & School to benefit from your purchase)

## Other Ideas to Give & Share

### Share a Meal or 3

St. Monica Parish supports three different dinner meal programs monthly. All need food purchased or prepared and dropped off locally. All need servers. New volunteers are always needed. All Saints Parish meal program is looking for someone to deliver the collected food from its drop off location in Whitefish Bay to All Saints the first Tuesday of each month around 4 pm. Please contact Julie Duval at the numbers below to learn more.

- All Saints Parish on December 6: Contact: Julie Duval at 964-4215 or [tduval@wi.rr.com](mailto:tduval@wi.rr.com).
- St. Vincent de Paul Center on December 8: Contact: Sharon Pircon at 962-1831 or [rpircon@wi.rr.com](mailto:rpircon@wi.rr.com) or Marianna Bruch at 332-7599 or [mgbbruch@yahoo.com](mailto:mgbbruch@yahoo.com).
- St. Benedict the Moor Community Meal Program on Dec 19: Contact: Nancy Kelley at 962-0232 or [ntk@sbcglobal.net](mailto:ntk@sbcglobal.net).

### More info on all 3 programs:

[www.st-monica.org/serve/serve\\_others/hunger\\_shelter/](http://www.st-monica.org/serve/serve_others/hunger_shelter/)

### Give a Senior a Ride

Make a difference in the life of an older adult by joining the Shoreline Interfaith Older Adult Programs Driver Volunteer Team. You can assist an older adult with a ride to a medical appointment or to the grocery store. Volunteers also help with friendly visits and occasional small household chores. Volunteers determine their own availability. A few hours each month is so appreciated.

**Contact:** Anne Bina, Director, Shoreline Interfaith, at 962-9950.

**More info:** [www.home.interfaithmilw.org](http://www.home.interfaithmilw.org)

### Knit a Prayer Shawl

Share blessings and prayers with others through your handiwork. Completed shawls are shared with members of our community.

**Contact:** Monica Cardenas, Pastoral Associate, 918-1105 or [MCardenas@st-monica.org](mailto:MCardenas@st-monica.org)

### Take Communion to Homebound Parishioners

Each week, share Eucharist, prayer, friendship, and connections to our parish and community. All confirmed parish members welcome to participate.

**Contact:** Monica Cardenas, Pastoral Associate, 918-1105 or [MCardenas@st-monica.org](mailto:MCardenas@st-monica.org)

## Other Ideas to Give & Share (continued)

### Reach Out to Someone Grieving

Provide support to those grieving the loss of someone dear through peer-to-peer ministry, organizing memorial events, attending funerals and staying in touch through the grieving process. The parish provides formation and support. Contact: Monica Cardenas, Pastoral Associate, 918-1105 or MCardenas@st-monica.org

### Party Leftovers

Pack up all your magnificent party leftovers and deliver them to a shelter or meal program such as Hope House, 1501 S 2nd St, 645-2122 or the Rescue Mission, 830 N 19th St, 344-2211. Please call ahead.

### Group Gift Exchange

Instead of exchanging gifts, select a charity and bring gifts for them or donate a certain amount per person. Send gifts or contributions as a group.

### Extend Your Table

Invite someone who would otherwise be alone to share a holiday meal with you and your family. You might ask an elderly or single person, someone from work, students from a local college/university not going home for the holidays. Be creative!

### Help A Neighbor

Shovel your neighbor's walk, offer to help a senior with some winter chores or decorate, bake some cookies and visit a neighbor, make a regular phone call to a senior to check in, invite a neighbor over for an activity, schedule a visit to a senior center (and think about sharing music, entertainment, a game, or a treat).



ST MONICA PARISH  
Whitfish Bay, Wisconsin

We Are On A Journey