



The SAINT NICHOLAS' POUCH

A Saint Ann Tradition

Collecting New Gift Items for Children and Families in Need

Saturday November 17th thru Sunday December 9th



Would you like to share the joy and blessings of Christmas with children in need and their families in our local and surrounding communities?

The Saint Nicholas' Pouch tradition, a "giving tree", began many years ago at Saint Ann's and continues through today due to our Parishioners generosity.

The legend of Saint Nicholas, Patron of Children, depicts him as being extremely concerned for the well-being of children. There is a story told of a destitute family with three daughters, who because of their extreme poverty, were going to become slaves, so their family could buy food. On hearing this, St. Nicholas, deeply concerned for the girls' terrible situation, filled a pouch with money, threw it through the window of their home and saved them from this dreadful fate.

In keeping with the tradition of Saint Nicholas and his concern for the poor, the marginalized and for children, we at Saint Ann's are continuing the tradition of **"Saint Nicholas' Pouch"**. In baskets in the vestibule of the church, are brown pouches. Included in each pouch are three pennies in remembrance of the three girls Saint Nicholas saved and a colored scroll listing a gift for a child/adult to be purchased for Christmas. The children and families in need are part of one of the following organizations:



- **In Jesus' Name Charities (green)** - founded in 1981 when the Hoboken Clergy coalition formed to respond to the various needs of the poor of Hoboken;
- **Good Counsel Homes (white)** - began in 1985, a private Catholic agency whose primary mission is to help homeless pregnant women by providing a loving family environment in a safe and secure shelter;
- **Hyacinth Foundation (pink)** - founded in 1985, as the first and largest AIDS service organization in the state of New Jersey, providing various types of client services in six counties, including Hudson County;
- **Sisters of Life (blue)** - founded in 1991, a contemplative/active religious community of women, created for the protection and enhancement of the sacredness of every human life, including working with and helping pregnant women and their children as well as offering hope and healing after abortions;

Please take as many as you can afford to return...the children and families are counting on us!! We will be receiving gifts through SUNDAY DECEMBER 9th. The organizations are picking up the donations on Monday December 10th.

How to Prepare the Gifts: Please wrap your gifts, taping the colored scroll on the TOP of the package so they can be sorted per organization. Please bring your wrapped gift to Church and place in front of the Saint Nicholas statue, located in the right as you enter Church. You can also bring your gifts to the Parish Office Monday thru Saturday, 9am thru 5pm.

Unfortunately, gifts received after 12/09 will not get to the children or families in need.

Thank you for your continued generosity during this Holy Advent Season!

In the words of our Lord, Jesus:

'It is more blessed to give than to receive.' Acts 20:35

