

St. Thomas More
Catholic Student Parish

Advent

*A Season of Hope
& Expectation*



HOPE. LOVE. PEACE. JOY.

Advent Projects 2020 . . . Reaching Out To Those In Need

OPEN DOORS Kalamazoo

Open Doors helps homeless individuals and families become self-supporting. They have greatly appreciated the assistance from St. Tom's in the past, especially with the Giving Tree.

As you are aware, the COVID pandemic has affected our entire way of assisting those in need. Open Doors continues to do their best to assist their clients. The isolation and inability to assist in a "normal" situation has taken a heavy toll on the parents' mental health. This year, Open Doors has tried to be as creative as possible to support families in a virtual way.



INSTEAD OF THE GIVING TREE

WITH TAGS FOR ITEMS TO WRAP AND BRING TO THE CHURCH,

WE ARE ASKING FOR GIFT CARDS

THAT WILL BE DISTRIBUTED TO THE FAMILIES AT OPEN DOORS.



There are 29 families in need that they are asking us to help at this time. Gift cards will enable the families to help themselves with assisting their needs while at the same time respecting the situation of the pandemic.

The families range in numbers as follows —

14 families with 2 people; 8 families with 3 people; 3 families with 4 people

1 family with 5 people; 2 families with 6 people; 1 family with 7 people

Gift cards in increments of \$25.00 or less from anywhere would be appreciated. Some suggestions are Meijer, Walmart, Target, Kohls, Amazon. Also you may donate cash by mailing a check to the parish office or go to our website and donate by clicking online giving. **Cards may be dropped in the contribution boxes in the worship space, mailed, or at the parish office in the black locked mailbox by Monday, December 14. Please don't wrap the cards.**

THE ANNUAL
UNDERWEAR PARTY
Week!

MINISTRY WITH
COMMUNITY

<https://ministrywithcommunity.org/underwearparty>

Monday, December 7 through
Friday, December 11

For the past several years we have collected items for Ministry with Community. Due to the pandemic they have had to adapt their collection process. **Starting on Monday, December 7 and running through Friday, December 11**, they will celebrate with Underwear Week! From 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. each day they will accept your donations of warm clothing items at their back door. Please ring the doorbell (the door will be clearly marked) and we will assist you with your donations. If you are unable to drop off your items during those times, contact Megan Hayden, Volunteer & Operations Coordinator, at 269-343-6073 x134 or at operations@ministrywithcommunity.org to set up a time that works for you.

San Salvador Parish of
María Madre de los Pobres

ROMERO CENTER

At our sister parish, one small but special project is the day-center for senior citizens. Despite the country's constitutional requirement to care for the needs of vulnerable older persons, there are few resources dedicated to their needs. If families do not care for them, they are left to their own resources, usually living alone or on the streets, relying on the charity of others to give them a meal. For the past nine years, the parish has run a day-center for seniors on a shoestring, even selling handicrafts made by the seniors to provide some financial support. The center includes rooms to listen to music, watch TV, or sit and chat. We are again adopting the Center as one of our Advent projects. The budget for the center pays for a daily meal and snack, handicraft supplies, the overhead costs to the parish of the building itself, and salaries for its two staff members.



Donations made be made by cash, check, or online at www.sttomskazoo.org (online giving - Advent Special Collections)