

The Good Shepherd Parish REVERSE ADVENT CALENDAR PROJECT (2019)

Friends, we are delighted to launch our 2nd Annual Reverse Advent Calendar Project...the great alternative to the traditional Advent Calendar. All parishioners are invited to participate!

We are stewards of our good fortune. Although we cannot bring gold, frankincense and myrrh to our King at His birth, by participating in this project, we can bring His love to those in need.

The project will begin on the first weekend of Advent (30 November / 01 December). It involves the daily accumulation of one item from the list below for every day of Advent. Since the shelves of the Food Bank are almost depleted by Christmas, our donations will come to them at a good time early in the New Year.

Please set aside a box at your home and tape this handout to the outside, to remind you of the need. The calendar will be provided in the bulletin of 30 November / 01 December and it will assist you in your prayerful Advent preparations, along with your participation in this very worthy project.

On **Saturday 04 January 2020** please bring your filled box to the church between 9:00 am and 12:00 noon; a large truck will be there for you to place your box of contributions. All contributions will then be delivered to the Life Centre Food Bank on Innes Road.

Items to put in your Reverse Advent Calendar Box:

BABY

Diapers // Baby Food // Baby Formula

FOOD ITEMS

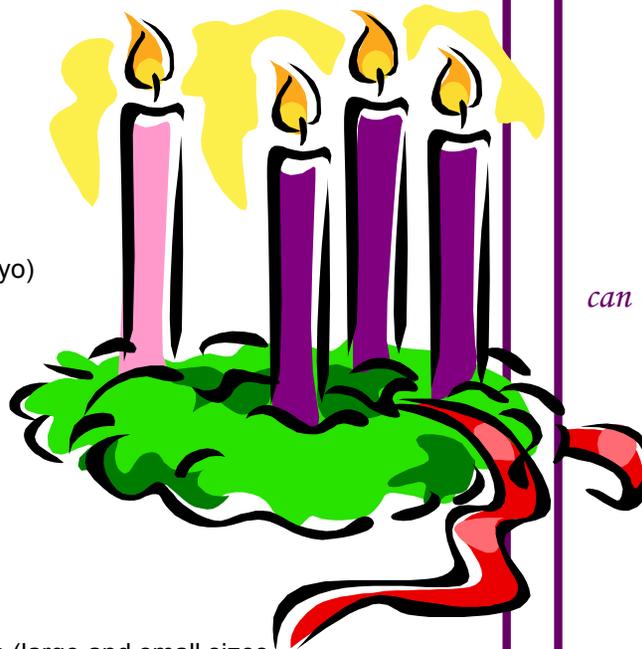
Canned Fish & Meat
Canned Fruit
Canned Stews & Chili
Canned Vegetables
Cereal (whole grains)
Coffee / Tea
Condiments (small quantity: mustard, ketchup, mayo)
Cookies / Crackers
Dry Pasta (whole grain) & Sauce
Jam
Juice boxes
Legumes (canned or dried)
Peanut Butter
Pickles
Rice (brown)
Snack bars
Soups (large cans)

PERSONAL HYGIENE

Toothpaste // toothbrush
Shampoo // conditioner
Feminine products
Hand Soap

OTHER

Baggies (large and small sizes)
Plastic bottles
Empty 1-dozen egg cartons



We Advent Each Other

We advent each other in simple steps:

*Smiles, caring inclusion...
polite gestures of reverent affirmation
silently and subtly pointing our way to
Bethlehem.*

*Each journey is singular,
a personal mystery, sojourns of paradox,
waiting yet searching.
We pack our bags differently these days.
The travelling itself may seem burden
and baggage enough.*

*The empty crib stands before us
hidden at some distant place
(always in disguise)
patiently awaiting our arrival.*

*The saviour within us, and about us
cries out for incarnated birth
once more to be heard
in a land of hopeless hearts.*

*The desolate winter of our disbelief
can be renewed in a manger warm with embrace.*

*So we follow each other's stars
whether bright or dim
through dark days this December
until suddenly
Home*

*where the angels of our gladness
shepherd us gently in.*

*Christmas transforms us
newborn yet again!*