

Angel Giving Tree

History:

The Giving Tree is an offshoot from our mother parish, Saint Joseph Catholic Church. It was created to help families provide their children with a nice Christmas who would otherwise not have the means to do so. It originally consisted of providing each child with a toy and a new outfit, which included a shirt and pants/skirt (or dress), sweater or sweatshirt, socks, and underwear. Each family was also given a food box.

Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton's involvement in the Giving Tree ministry started when St. Joseph and St. Elizabeth had a combined school, St. Joseph-St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Catholic School. The parish eventually formed its own Giving Tree which is now called the *Angel Giving Tree*.

Mission:

To help struggling church and school families provide for some general needs and wants of their family during the Christmas season.

Committee Membership:

The committee consists of the Ministry Head Volunteer, Pastor, and Business Manager. The Ministry Head Volunteer is instrumental in carrying out the *Angel Giving Tree's* mission under the guidance of the Business Manager, who makes financial recommendations, and the Pastor, who has approved the guidelines within this document and has final approval of all exceptions. Participating families are to remain confidential and can only be known to Committee Members. Volunteers can/will be utilized to perform non-confidential tasks like creation of tags and sorting of gifts, but volunteers will not be aware of the family names or circumstances.

Eligible Families:

Eligible families are either registered families of Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton Catholic Church and/or Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton Catholic School who have a financial need or other special circumstance for assistance as identified by parish staff (including school) or other parishioners and have an *Angel Giving Tree Request* form on record completed by the Ministry Head Volunteer.

Enrollment Window

Enrollment will begin in early October and remain open for approximately 30 days.

Collection:

The Angel Giving Tree (whether physical or virtual) will be opened in early November for people to take a "tag". The unwrapped gifts should be returned to the Gathering Area of the church with the tag attached to the item by the 2nd week of December. Monetary donations are collected via TEXT TO GIVE, Online Giving, or cash/check donations dropped off at the parish office or in the collection basket (marked for Angel Giving Tree).

Unfulfilled Requests:

Item requests that are not fulfilled by the 2nd week of December through tags on the Angel Giving tree, will be purchased in the priority order listed through the "General Guidelines" listed below.

Excess Financial Donations:

Any excess donation will be split between Women's Care Center, Christ Child Society and Project Hope unless otherwise specified by the Pastor.

General Guidelines for Distribution of Donations to Families:

The parish will attempt, but not guarantee, to obtain the items specified on the family's *Angel Giving Tree Request* form while adhering to the following guidelines:

Priority 1 (items not fulfilled through tags on the tree will be purchased up to the maximum amount):

Children:

For the purpose of this ministry, a child is defined as a person 18 years and younger, living in the same household. We will attempt to provide the following for each child:

- a. Gift (\$75 Maximum per child)
Families can request one or more items of the following up to the maximum per child: toy, sporting good, or video game. All items must be age appropriate and should not include anything that may contradict the child living out the Catholic faith, whether or not the family is Catholic.
- b. Clothing (\$75 Maximum per child)
Families can request the following: a gift card to a clothing store or one outfit (e.g., shirt and pants, dress, etc.), undergarments, and socks.
- c. Shoes and Coats/Winter Attire
Families can request shoes, coats, hats, gloves, snow pants. These items will be only met through tags on the tree.

Priority 2 (items not fulfilled through tags on the tree will be purchased after Priority 1 items are met and up to the maximum amount):

Family:

We will attempt to provide the following for each family:

- a. Household necessity (\$100 Maximum)
A family can request one household necessity such as sheets, pots and pans, or towels. Household items do not include luxury items such as televisions, cell phones, and tablets.
- b. Grocery Certificate (\$50 Maximum per approved family member)
- c. Gasoline Gift Card (\$25 Maximum per driver in family)

Priority 3 (items not fulfilled through tags on the tree will be purchased after Priority 1 & 2 items are met and up to the maximum amount):

Adults:

For the purpose of this ministry, an adult is defined as a person over the age of 18, living in the same household. We will attempt to provide the following for each adult:

- a. Gift (\$75 Maximum per adult)
One item may be requested per adult. All requested items must be appropriate and should not include anything that may contradict the living out the Catholic faith, whether or not the family is Catholic.
- b. Clothing (\$100 Maximum per adult)
Families can request the following: a gift card to a clothing store.

Exceptions:

All exceptions to the guidelines should be in written form from the Ministry Head and submitted to the pastor for approval.