

***2021 Giving Tree and
St. Vincent de Paul Christmas Program***

Dear Parents,

We hope that you and your children are all safe and healthy and managing the return to school during a pandemic.

In past years, your child's school held special events to raise money for the St. Vincent de Paul Christmas program. This year, we feel that with all that is going on, fundraising at the schools would put undue stress on everyone involved. However, we still would like to offer you the opportunity to make a donation, should you so desire, to one of the two programs being run for Christmas.

Last year the St. Vincent de Paul Society's Christmas Program and the Christmas Giving Tree, helped over 1,000 less fortunate people in our community -- the seniors in local care homes, individuals living with physical and/or other challenges, residents of local shelters and the families we assist throughout the year. Donations raised at Christmas also allow your St. Vincent De Paul Society to sustain these families with food vouchers and fresh food baskets throughout the year.

For the Christmas Program that serves our families, your donation will continue to go towards the purchase of grocery gift cards for parents and gift cards from a local store so that parents can purchase a gift for the children in their family.

For the Giving Tree program we will not be able to distribute stars or accept gifts to be given to the various homes and residences due to the restrictions of the pandemic. Instead, we will be accepting monetary donations that we will use to purchase gift cards for those living in group homes and to purchase select gifts that will be delivered to the assisted-living homes for them to wrap and distribute.

Your gift will still make a difference in the lives of those often left out at this special time of year. A donation of \$20.00 might purchase a pair of warm pajamas or some slippers for a senior in need. A \$40.00 donation might purchase a special toy for a child that hasn't had a new toy since last Christmas. A donation of \$60.00 may go towards food in the fridge for a single mother trying to make ends meet.

Any amount helps spread the joy and magic of Christmas to those in our community who need our help. Donations can be mailed to or dropped off before November 28 to your respective parish. You can also make donations via Canada Helps at <https://www.canadahelps.org/en/dn/42029> . This link is also available on the St. Vincent de Paul Facebook page at www.facebook.com/ssvp.sjcses or on the parish web sites.

We thank you for your continued support and prayers.

Christmas Program and Giving Tree Program Coordinators
St Vincent de Paul - St John Chrysostom/St Elizabeth Seton Conference