



December 6, 2022

Dear Parishioners of St. Charles Borromeo:

This year we were reminded that although one situation may get better, we are presented with another one to test our humanity. From an increase in homelessness, to welcoming new asylum seekers from Florida and Texas, this has been a year not short on new situations. We have been called to help our neighbors this year, not only in our own community, but also welcoming our new neighbors seeking a better life. With our parishioners coming together to create a clothing drive for asylum seekers, we have shown that we are truly being Matthew 25 Christians: “caring for the least among us.” From the Food Pantry partnership with Catholic Charities Brooklyn and Queens, to the new Young Families Ministry, our parish is full of life and helping each other in a multitude of ways. The Holy Father’s observation that the pandemic would show us who we really are has proven true.

This Christmas season, there are many opportunities to lift up our faith community and bring joy:

- **Make your Christmas Gift** to St. Charles in the enclosed envelope or through our website at [stcharlesbklyn.org/christmasgift](https://stcharlesbklyn.org/christmasgift) - everything received through this Christmas donation will be used for activities in St. Charles, and St. Charles only.
- Support our Christmas gift drives at [stcharlesbklyn.org/christmaschildren](https://stcharlesbklyn.org/christmaschildren) –For the fifth year, we are working with HeartShare St. Vincent’s Services to provide gift cards for young people leaving foster care. For the eleventh year, we are partnering with Custom House to support the Catholic Charities toy drive. The toys and baby items collected will be brought together in a “toy store” for parents to choose which toys they think best for their children.
- **Memorialize a loved one with flowers** for the Church: go to [stcharlesbklyn.org/christmasflowers](https://stcharlesbklyn.org/christmasflowers) or use the enclosed envelope.

**Christmas Masses** will be Saturday, December 24 at 5 PM (Mass During the Night) and Sunday, December 25 at 9 AM and 11:15 AM. Our traditional **children’s Christmas Pageant** will once again be held on December 18 at the 11:15 AM Mass.

As I look at the back pews every Mass, I see they are filled with nutritious food and groceries to distribute at our biweekly food pantry, and clothing for the asylum seekers. This year has been challenging: our response has shown our faith in and commitment to Jesus, as well as to each other. This year, the entire Catholic Church in America will emphasize the importance of the Eucharist. Let us celebrate Christmas together that, through receiving the body of Christ in our hands and hearts, we might become the Body of Christ in our world.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

**Fr. William G. Smith**  
*Pastor*

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