
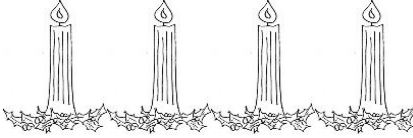


Reverse Advent Calendar 2024

EACH OF THESE AGENCIES IS A LONG TIME PARTNER OF OUTREACH
And volunteers from our church are active in each of these missions.

With this Advent calendar we give back by praying and providing for people in need.
Bring your donations to the green wagons by the Community Room.
For security, gift cards should be placed in the lock box by the main entrance to church
(used for pumpkins) or hand delivered to Ann Ryba.

THE SWORD HAS AMAZON LINKS TO DIRECTLY SHIP YOUR GIFTS TO ST MICHAELS

<p>DECEMBER 1 ADVENT 1</p> <p>COLLECTING FOR CHALICE HOUSE, PALATINE</p> <p>BRING GIFT CARDS FOR JEWEL, EUROFRESH, TARGET, WALMART</p> <p>ccuu.org/chalicehouse</p>	<p>Light one candle and give thanks for security and family safety.</p> 	<p><i>Chalice House provides housing to immigrants seeking legal protection in the U.S. from some sort of serious threat (war, violence, persecution) in their home country. Currently they are housing a family from the Uniting for Ukraine program, Yevheniia and Oleksander and their 2 daughters Veronica and Milana.</i></p>	<p>"Let mutual love continue. Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers for by doing that some have entertained angels without knowing it." Hebrews 13:1</p>	<p><i>The parents are using food pantries, but are not yet working, and they are not able to get all the food that they need, so they are using their savings for groceries, which we wish to avoid so they have funds for moving.</i></p> <p><i>We are collecting gift cards for groceries, and for Christmas gifts for the daughters.</i></p>	<p>"Whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable - if anything is excellent or praiseworthy - think about such things." Philippians 4:8</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><i>Pray for those fleeing violence in their homelands and that all wars might cease.</i></p>
<p>DECEMBER 8 ADVENT 2</p> <p>COLLECTING FOR FOOD FOR GREATER ELGIN</p> <p>BRING DIAPERS (ANY SIZE)</p> <p>foodforgreaterelgin.org</p>	<p>Light 2 candles and give thanks for food and the means to prepare meals.</p> 	<p><i>By creating a normal shopping experience, FFGE gives back a small amount of control to our food-insecure shoppers. Our guests leave with a cartful of groceries and the security of knowing they will not have to worry about food.</i></p>	<p>"I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me." Matthew 25: 35</p>	<p><i>Diapers are expensive and much needed at Food for Greater Elgin.</i></p> <p><i>Please bring diapers of all sizes so that young parents can properly care for their infants.</i></p>	<p>"Share your food with the hungry and give shelter to the homeless. Give clothes to those who need them and do not hide from your relatives who need help." Isaiah 57:8</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><i>Pray for families who cannot afford basic home needs.</i></p>
<p>DECEMBER 15 ADVENT 3</p> <p>COLLECTING FOR CUMALI CHICAGO</p> <p>BRING NEW BLANKETS (HEAVY WEIGHT)</p> <p>cumali.org</p>	<p>Light 3 candles and give thanks for warm shelter and adequate food.</p> 	<p><i>CUMALI works to empower the homeless where they live on Lower Wacker Drive by engaging with them without judgment or prerequisite.</i></p> <p><i>CUMALI is based at Holy Comforter Episcopal Church in Kenilworth.</i></p>	<p>"And he would answer and say to them, "The man who has two tunics is to share with him who has none; and he who has food is to do likewise." Luke 3:11</p>	<p><i>Every Monday volunteers provide hot meals, socks, underwear, blankets, coats, and other clothing.</i></p> <p><i>Consider joining the Monday night distribution team--contact Rick Ryba or the Outreach team.</i></p>	<p>Almighty God, you are the giver of every good and perfect gift. We know how easily we take and how often we reluctantly give. Give us the gift of grateful hearts, that we may want to share freely with others all You have given us.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><i>Pray for the homeless that they may be comforted by hot meals and the presence of friends.</i></p>
<p>DECEMBER 22 ADVENT 4</p> <p>CATCH UP SUNDAY!</p> <p>PLEASE BRING ALL DONATIONS IF YOU ARE BEHIND SCHEDULE!</p>	<p>Light 4 candles and give thanks for family and friends.</p> 	<p>CHRISTMAS EVE</p> <p>SERVICES AT 2pm,4pm,10pm</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">CHRISTMAS DAY</p> <p style="text-align: center;">WISHING YOU A BLESSED CHRISTMAS</p>	<p>"And do not forget to do good and to share with others, for with such sacrifices God is pleased." Hebrews 13:16</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROUS HEARTS!</p> <p style="text-align: center;">YOUR KINDNESS TO OTHERS MAKES A POSITIVE DIFFERENCE.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><i>Pray for all to have safe and secure shelter.</i></p>

MAKE AN ONLINE DONATION TO OUTREACH AND WE WILL SHOP FOR YOU!