

Mary, Mother of Mercy

Parish Council

Witness Committee Report

January 12, 2017

Seneca County Community Christmas Project Ninety four (94) households were served from the Interlaken/Lodi and Ovid/Willard/Romulus areas with a total of three hundred and fifty (350) households served in all of Seneca County. This translates to one thousand four hundred and eighteen (1418) people and includes thirty three foster care children. The handout breaks down the ages of participants and the services provided. Holy Cross and St. Francis received thank you notes from the Christmas project committee for their participation.

Hat/Mitten/Scarf Tree St. James parishioners responded generously. Donation was made to Catholic Charities of Ithaca. Feedback received was that this collection should start in the fall before the cold weather arrives.

Christmas Project Serving Tompkins County The St. James Women's Guild sponsored an Ulysses Christmas Bureau family and the St. James Youth Group did the shopping. Seven youth group members participated. They were assigned a family with four boys. Each boy received an outfit, a winter coat, hat and gloves and an age appropriate toy. The participating youths wrapped the presents before they were delivered to the Bureau. Marina Delaney organized this effort and assisted the youth group.

Reverse Advent Calendar A family Advent activity and creative way to help those in need. The idea was to collect for the food pantry by adding a food item or personal care product to a box or basket in your house each day of Advent. This Christmas activity was listed in the bulletin and flyers were placed in each of the churches. Did not receive any feedback of participation.

SouperBowl of Caring This is a nationwide appeal to feed the hungry and it is always the first Sunday in February. This year the date is Feb. 5th. All three churches will be participating in this event. We are asking for donations of non-perishable food items. Monetary contributions can also be made. Food and monies collected go directly to the food pantries in each of the communities of our parish. Food items will be collected the weekends of Jan 28/29 and Feb 4/5. The monetary donation collection will only be done on Feb 5th. The second year Confirmation students will be taking up the collection for cash donation at St. James as their community service project. The number of pounds of food donated and monies collected will be reported on the project's website and will be shared with the council.

South Seneca Backpack Program This program will run the last three Sundays in February. Requesting single serving foods, cash donations or checks made payable to the program. Contact for this activity is Carol Limner. We are preparing a bulletin announcement.