



Christmas Basket Seasonal Ministry

Idea

In the spirit of the Nativity season and the Orthodox Christian call to serve “the least of these,” our parish seeks to partner with a local nonprofit to provide Christmas Baskets to families in need. This ministry is a tangible expression of Christ’s love and generosity, offering comfort and joy during a time that can be especially difficult for those facing financial hardship. Through collaboration, coordination, and compassionate outreach, we aim to make the holiday season brighter for our neighbors.

Steps to Accomplish the Ministry Goals

1. Partnership and Planning

- **Identify a Local Nonprofit Partner:** Choose an organization with experience serving families in need, preferably one already active in holiday outreach.
- **Establish Communication:** Meet with the nonprofit to discuss logistics, roles, and expectations.
- **Set a Timeline:** Determine key dates for identifying families, collecting items, assembling baskets, and coordinating delivery or pickup.

2. Family Identification

- **Work with the Nonprofit:** Use their network and criteria to identify families who would benefit most.
- **Ensure Privacy and Dignity:** Handle all personal information with care and respect.

3. Basket Contents and Collection

- **Determine Basket Items:** Include food staples, small gifts, hygiene items, and festive treats.
- **Organize a Parish Drive:** Invite parishioners to donate items or funds toward the baskets.
- **Purchase Remaining Items:** Use collected funds to fill any gaps in supplies.

4. Assembly and Distribution



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Department of Christian Service & Humanitarian Aid

- **Schedule a Basket Assembly Day:** Gather volunteers to pack baskets in a joyful, prayerful environment.
- **Coordinate Delivery or Pickup:** Work with the nonprofit to ensure baskets reach families efficiently and respectfully.
- **Include a Personal Touch:** Add handwritten notes or cards from parishioners to share Christmas blessings.

5. Follow-Up and Reflection

- **Thank Volunteers and Donors:** Acknowledge everyone who contributed to the ministry.
- **Share the Impact:** Post photos and stories (with permission) in the parish bulletin or social media.
- **Evaluate and Plan for Next Year:** Gather feedback and begin preparations for future Christmas outreach.

Conclusion

This Christmas Basket ministry is a beautiful opportunity to live out the Gospel through generosity, partnership, and love. By working together with a local nonprofit, our parish can extend Christ's presence into the homes and hearts of families in need. With prayerful intention and joyful service, we can make this an annual tradition that blesses both the givers and the receivers.