

Society of Saint Vincent de Paul
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November 3, 2021

Christmas Angel Tree Appeal

Hello St Bernadette CES families,

We hope this note finds you and your loved ones well. As you know, this past year and more has been like no other time we have ever experienced. The Society of Saint Vincent de Paul at St Matthew Parish has continued with its outreach in new and “out of the box” ways as we have worked through the waves of the pandemic.

We are slowly seeing the light at the end of the very long tunnel of this pandemic. As we emerge into better times, let us not forget those whose struggles continue. According to the Food Banks Canada latest report, “low and stagnant incomes, rising food costs, and an unrelenting housing market driving up market rents across the country have created a level of need not seen since the aftermath of the 2008 recession.” Sadly, one third of food bank users are children (HungerCount 2021: A Tale of Two Trends). And that statistic holds true in Oakville; our neighbourhood is not exempt.

We are once again approaching the Christmas season and gearing up to help the 137 or so Glen Abbey families (about 400 people) who will be receiving Christmas assistance from SSVP. We ask, if you are able, that you contribute towards our Christmas Angel Tree program. We are requesting cash/cheque donations that we can use to purchase grocery and gift cards in bulk at a discount. Cheques can be made out to *Society of Saint Vincent de Paul – St. Matthew*. There is also an online donation portal that you may access on our website: <https://www.ssvpsaintmatthew.org/Donate.asp>. Should you wish to purchase a grocery/gift card yourself, we require \$25 grocery cards from Metro, Sobeys, President’s Choice and Walmart, and \$10 gift cards from Shoppers Drug Mart, Dollarama and Tim Hortons.

As stated by Pope Francis in his address for the fifth World Day of the Poor, to be celebrated on November 14th, “The poor are not people ‘outside’ our communities, but brothers and sisters whose sufferings we should share, in an effort to alleviate their difficulties and marginalization, restore their lost dignity and ensure their necessary social inclusion.” Join us in our efforts to demonstrate what a caring community we have in Glen Abbey.

Most importantly, should you know someone who requires assistance, encourage them to contact St. Matthew SSVP at 905-825-0219 (press 2 to leave a message). We will call them back promptly.

Thank you for helping our neighbours in our community.

Jennifer Monte
President – Society of Saint Vincent de Paul, Saint Matthew Conference