

Matthew 25:35 Food Pantry

During this season of giving thanks, I would like to extend my heartfelt gratitude for the generosity extended to the Matthew 25:35 Food Pantry. The pantry continues to meet the hunger needs of our community only because of the volunteers, the Divine Mercy staff, and the many contributors from our community who have generously given their time, talents and treasures for those in need of food assistance in Manistee County.

We would like to thank Family Fare and SpartanNash for their in-store fundraiser and their donations throughout the year, Meijer and the community for raising over \$5,000 during their Simply Give campaign, Orchard Market for donating produce for our November distribution, Fischer Corporation for contributions for the November turkeys, UAW Grand Traverse for their \$1,000 donation, BeeSmooth Cafe for their collections and donations, Manistee Moose Lodge for their can drive, WESCO for their 'roundup at the register' donations, the family and friends of Joan Gamache who generously donated in her memory, and the many local supporters who give throughout the year.

Hunger is always with us so the generosity of this community, as well as others far away, in providing donations to the pantry is a true blessing. "You are the light of the world... your light must shine before others, that they may see your deeds and glorify your Heavenly Father." (Mt 5:14a, 16b)

Another bit of news, the pantry will be moving to MCC School. The distribution for December 13, 2024 and January 10, 2025 will be at the Parish Center. However, the distribution on Friday, February 14, 2025, will be at the school. Look for more information as we get closer to the move.

Our next regular food pantry is Friday, December 13th.

We ask for your continued prayers and support for the food pantry. For more information about food assistance or volunteering, please call me at 231.510.5888.

God Bless You All!
Michelle Grassa



Apples from the Orchard Market



Natasha Partridge & friend
from BeeSmooth



Cheech Gilman, Moose Lodge's
UofM vs MSU Tailgate Party



Please join BeeSmooth Cafe in supporting the Matthew 25:35 Food Pantry.

Between Nov. 17th & Jan. 5, 2025, BeeSmooth will host a Brunch Buffet every Sunday & will donate \$1 for every buffet sale. Donations from customers on behalf of the food pantry will also be accepted every day during this period.

BeeSmooth Cafe 215 Arthur Street Manistee

Giving Tree

*Would you like to be a Christmas Angel this year?
You are invited to take part in our Giving Tree.*

Gifts for Medical Care Residents:

Medical Care tags will say 'Man' or 'Woman'. Please feel free to use these ideas for Medical Care residents: lap blankets, lip balm, unscented lotion, large print word search books, large print crossword puzzle books, adult coloring books & thin markers or pencil crayons, envelopes, 'Forever' postage stamps, notepads, large piece puzzles, fancy 'grippy' socks, hair clips, combs, small hand held mirrors, greeting card assortments, aftershave for men, body sprays for women, large print playing cards, etc. Gift bags are preferred for Medical Care residents, as bags are easier for them to open.

Please **DO NOT**:

- Purchase clothing or slippers for the residents.
- Include candy with your gift, as we don't know if the resident is diabetic.
- Purchase gift cards as gifts.

Please **DO**:

- Say a prayer for the recipient of your gift.
- Write gift items purchased on the back of the gift tag and attach it to your wrapped gift

Medical Care gifts **NEED** to be returned to the church **NO LATER than Sunday, Dec. 15th**.

Gifts for Adopted Families:

Gift tags for the families we have adopted from ECHO His Love are on the tree in the back of the church. Please select a tag or two from the tree, purchase the **NEW** item that is listed on the back of the tag, and return the wrapped gift with the tag attached. Family gifts **NEED** to be returned to the church or parish office **NO LATER than Sunday, Dec. 15th**.

Christmas Cards for Medical Care, Green Acres & Maple Ridge Manor Residents:

We would also like to be able to have the staff distribute greeting cards to each resident throughout the Christmas season. The residents have loved receiving them! If anyone would like to write some additional cards while doing their Christmas cards, please call or email Ann at the parish office. It is a way to share warm and encouraging words carrying Christ's love to the sick and lonely.

Thank you for your assistance with this project to make someone's Christmas a little bit brighter.

Divine Mercy Rosary Society

The Rosary Society Christmas Party will be held the afternoon of Monday, Dec. 2nd. The rosary will be prayed at noon followed by the meal at 1:00 pm, catered by Jerry Zupin. All members are welcome!

Choral Society Concert

The Manistee County Choral Society invites you to their concert on Thursday, Dec. 5th at 7:00 pm at the First Congregational Church on the corner of Oak & 4th Streets. This concert opens Manistee's Victorian Sleighbell Weekend, and features a mix of your favorite Christmas hymns, classical, gospel and popular music. Refreshments will be served afterwards. Free will offering accepted.

Open House & Self-Guided Tours Guardian Angels Church, 371 5th St

Saturday, December 7th

11:00 am - 2:00 pm

Enjoy Bell & Organ Music during the Open House

Right to Life Meetings

Meetings are held the second Monday of the month at 6:00 pm in the parish center. The next meeting will be on Monday, Dec. 9th. Join us and see how you can help speak up for the voiceless and promote the sanctity of life. For more info, contact Paul at 231.613.2149 or Mary at 517.333.6737.

Knights of Columbus #853

7:00 pm on the 2nd Monday of the Month Only
in December, January & February
Next Meeting is Dec. 9th in the parish office.

Christmas Flower Memorial

You are invited to remember loved ones with our parish Christmas Flower Memorial. Please **PRINT** the names to be remembered on the **Christmas Memorial** envelope dated Dec. 1st. Each name will be listed only once. Please drop in the collection basket or bring to the parish office **no later Friday, Dec. 13th**. *Donations will support not only flowers & wreaths, but also other aspects of the liturgical environment.*

Decorating Help Wanted!

We need help decorating St. Joseph Church for Christmas. We will decorate after the 5:00 pm Mass on Monday, Dec. 23rd. Strong men or young adults needed to help move the nativity pieces. A crew is in place to decorate Guardian Angels, as they will be hosting an Open House Sleighbell Weekend and a Christmas Concert on Dec. 22nd in the church.