



## The Giving Tree at St. Francis Table

### **Introduction:**

The Giving Tree is back for its second year. It brings Christmas joy to those in need. This initiative lets the parish community unite and share the spirit of giving.

We have chosen **St. Francis Table** this year which is on Queen Street. They provide daily meals for people who are struggling.

### **How it Works:**

We will place a tree in the foyer of our church, starting on the First Sunday of Advent, which falls on November 30th, 2024. Adorning this tree will be 60 tags, each representing a person in need and showing the specific gift, they are requesting. To take part, simply choose a tag that resonates with you and purchase the corresponding gift for that individual.

### **Personal Touch:**

Attached to each gift, it would be a lovely gesture to include a Christmas card. This card can extend warm wishes and well-being to the recipient. You may choose to write a personal message. Attach the original tag to the gift so the recipient can be identified correctly.

### **Deadline and Delivery:**

On December 15, 2024, we kindly request that you return gifts to the parish. Our devoted volunteers will make sure that all the gifts are delivered to St. Francis Table by December 21st, in perfect time for Christmas. The recipients of these considerate presents will truly appreciate your kindness and generosity.

### **Volunteer Opportunity:**

In order to facilitate the process, we kindly request volunteers to assist Fr. Roy in packaging the gifts into boxes. This will make the drop-off process at St. Francis Table much more efficient. If there are any volunteers with a vehicle who can help with transportation, it would be immensely appreciated. Your contribution, no matter how big or small, will help make this endeavour a success.

### **Conclusion:**

The Giving Tree at St. Francis Table is an incredible opportunity to spread joy and make a difference in the lives of those in need during the holiday season. By participating in this initiative, you have the power to bring happiness to someone's life and remind them they are cared for. Let us come together as a parish community and make this Christmas a truly memorable one for everyone involved.

# Parish Trip

## to NIAGARA FALLS WINTER FESTIVAL OF LIGHTS

on Friday, December 6<sup>th</sup>, 2024

\$40.00 per person

We will depart from St. Paul the Apostle Church, located at 3224 Dundas Street, at 1:30 PM, and return at approximately 9:30 PM.

### Itinerary for the Day:

- **Visit Niagara-on-the-Lake** (Shopping & Dinner)
  - \*\* Please note that dinner is not included in the cost of the trip.
- ♦ **Enjoy the beautiful display of the Niagara Falls Winter Festival of Lights.**

**For more information or to book your seat, please call the parish office at 416-767-7054.**

## ST. CECILIA CATHOLIC ELEMENTARY SCHOOL - BATTERY COLLECTION DRIVE!

In support of their Eco Team, St. Cecilia Catholic Elementary School is hosting a *Battery Collection Drive* to help keep our environment clean and promote recycling! We invite all parishioners to participate by bringing in their dead batteries and dropping them off in the small collection tub located at the back of the church.



### How You Can Help:

- **Drop off your dead batteries** at the designated tub at the back of the church.
- **Spread the word** to friends and family - every battery counts!

The school is competing in a friendly competition, and the more batteries they collect, the better their chances of winning a prize! Your participation helps them reach their goal while also supporting an important eco-friendly initiative.

Let's work together to make a positive impact on our planet!

Thank you for your support!

## VETCH - ĠULBIENA

A very beautiful Maltese Christmas tradition is that of decorating the statue of Baby Jesus, or the Nativity Scene, with Ġulbiena (vetch).

According to ancient Maltese tradition, light deprived vetch seeds are grown over a period of a few weeks and placed next to the statue of the baby Jesus in the manger. Light deprived vetches grow white and stringy.

You can buy your Ġulbiena seeds for \$5.00 per packet from the back of the Church after Mass or from the Parish Office during office hours.

