



Christmas Service Project

The Story of a Family

Christmas is a time to celebrate the gift of God dwelling among us in the form of a vulnerable newborn infant. It is also a time to spend quality time with our families and loved ones. This Christmas, Catholic Charities invites you to come together to assemble **meaningful care packages** in your own home. Your care packages will be distributed to children in foster care who are spending Christmas outside of their birth family. We appreciate your prayers and your support!

Please register at:

<http://catholiccharitiesphoenix.volunteerhub.com/Events/Event/Summary.aspx?EventID=3841603>

This Kit Includes:

- Facts and discussion questions about children in Foster Care in Arizona
- Christmas word scramble (make it a fun family competition!)
- The Nativity coloring sheet
- The Three Magi suggested items and instructions
- Drop-off locations for care packages
- Blessing card to fill out for a foster child in need (or you can include a greeting card or homemade card of your own!)

When your care package is complete, insert your blessing/card and drop off at any of the listed drop-off locations in this kit.



**Thank you for shining your
light and making miracles
happen every day!**

For more information about becoming a foster parent, contact Sally Gramke at SGramke@cc-az.org OR 602-230-4910



Catholic Charities Community Services ♦ 4747 N 7th Ave, Phoenix AZ 85013 ♦ www.catholiccharitiesaz.org



Facts

- Children of all ages come into foster care, through *no fault* of their own. **More than 80 percent of the children have come into foster care because they have experienced neglect in their home.** Some children, whose mothers used drugs or alcohol during pregnancy, may come into care immediately upon birth. Others may come into care as older children. There are also teens in foster care who are in need of loving homes.
- **Currently there are more than 19,000 children in out of home care in Arizona, but there are only around 4,500 licensed foster families.**
- Foster care is intended to be *temporary*. The goal of the Arizona Department of Child Safety (ADCS) is for the children to go home as soon as their parents fix the situation that made it unsafe for the children to be in their homes. Sometimes the children are able to return home, or *reunify*, very quickly. The goal of more than half of the children in care is to either reunify with their parents or live with other relatives. Other times, particularly when substance abuse is involved, it may take parents longer to remedy the situation. These children may be in foster care for months. **Currently it is estimated that for more than 70 percent of the children coming into care, their parent’s drug use is a factor.**
- Sometimes children’s parents are unable to provide a safe environment so an adoptive family will be found for the children. If there are relatives who are able to safely care for the children, they will likely be the first choice to adopt the children. The next likely priority is given to the children’s current foster parents.
- All children should have a family of their own who will care for them, love them and protect them.

Discussion questions for your family

- What does the word “family” mean to you? Who are the members that make up your family and what is the role they play in your life?
- Joseph was told by an angel in a dream that he would become the foster father of Mary’s son and that he was to name him “Jesus” (Matthew 1:20-25). Discuss the importance of listening and discerning God’s will in your life and family.
- How would it feel to spend Christmas without your family? What prayers can you offer up for children who won’t be able to see their birth family this Christmas?
- List the “gifts” (non-material) you are grateful to have received from your family. What are the gifts that you bring to your family as a son/daughter, brother/sister?

Christmas Word Scramble



Unscramble the words below:

yabb

nkig

embehtl

hpojes

usjes

aymr

alyfmi

fahret

tremoh

dhherssep

ibhrt

sart

geramn

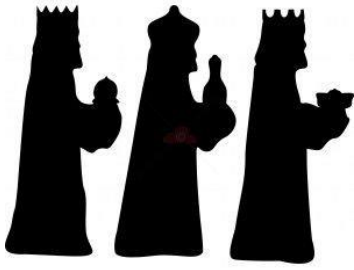
gaeni

ipwhsro

The Nativity

“And this will be a sign for you: you will find a babe wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger.” –[Luke 2:12





The Three Gifts of the Magi Instructions & Shopping List

“God never gives someone a gift they are not capable of receiving. If He gives us the gift of Christmas, it is because we all have the ability to understand and receive it.” Pope Francis

Jesus received Three gifts from the Wise Men at his birth: Gold, Frankincense and Myrrh. For each care package you assemble, please pick one item from each category and place in a gift bag, backpack, or other bag of choice.

Boys (ages 2-4)

Gold: Toy

- Stuffed animal
- Soccer ball
- Small musical instrument

Frankincense: Personal Care Item

- Socks
- Underwear
- Hat

Myrrh: Educational Item

- Flash cards: numbers, colors, shapes
- Coloring book and crayons
- Playdough

Boys (ages 5-9)

Gold: Toy

- Building blocks
- Soccer ball
- Small musical instrument

Frankincense: Personal Care Item

- Socks
- Underwear
- Hat

Myrrh: Educational Item

- Coloring book and crayons
- Playdough
- Puzzle

Boys (ages 10-14)

Gold: Toy

- Football
- Yo-yo
- Hacky sack

Frankincense: Personal Care Item

- Socks
- Underwear
- Hat

Myrrh: Educational Item

- Notebooks
- Calculator
- Puzzle

Girls (ages 2-4)

Gold: Toy

- Stuffed animal
- Small Musical Instrument
- Interactive toy

Frankincense: Personal Care Item

- Socks
- Underwear
- Hair bows

Myrrh: Educational Item

- Flash cards: numbers, colors, shapes
- Coloring book and crayons
- Playdough

Girls (ages 5-9)

Gold: Toy

- Stuffed animal
- Jump Rope
- Interactive toy

Frankincense: Personal Care Item

- Socks
- Underwear
- Hair bows

Myrrh: Educational Item

- Coloring book and crayons
- Playdough
- Puzzle

Girls (ages 10-14)

Gold: Toy

- Frisbee
- Yo-yo
- Playing cards

Frankincense: Personal Care Item

- Socks
- Underwear
- Sunglasses

Myrrh: Educational Item

- Notebooks
- Calculator
- Puzzle

Drop-off locations

Please drop off your care packages Monday – Friday between 8a-5p at the following locations.

Note: We are closed on Monday, 12/26/16 and Monday, 1/02/17.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

1. Administrative Service Center:

Catholic Charities Community Services

4747 N 7th Ave

Phoenix, AZ 85013

Contact Brittany Allen at BAllen@cc-az.org OR 602-650-4838

2. Catholic Charities Community Services

1825 W Northern Ave

Phoenix, AZ 85021

Contact Pat Gillem at PGilem@cc-az.org OR 602-749-4442

3. Catholic Charities Community Services

736 N Main St

Cottonwood, AZ 86326

Contact Mary McCoy at MMcCoy@cc-az.org OR 928-634-4254 EXT 54115

4. Catholic Charities Community Services

2101 4th St

Flagstaff, AZ 86004

Contact Mary Lawson at MLawson@cc-az.org OR 928-747-9125 EXT 53005

5. Catholic Charities Community Services

434 W Gurley St

Prescott, AZ 86301

Contact Stephie Smith at SLSmith@cc-az.org OR 928-778-2531

Resources:

Read more about the work Catholic Charities is doing in your community here:

<https://www.catholiccharitiesaz.org>

Questions? Contact: Brittany Allen

Events & Community Engagement Coordinator BAllen@cc-az.org OR 602-650-4838





*In Him was Life, and the
Life was the light of men.
John 1:4*

This package was assembled with care for you by:

(first names only, please)



Catholic Charities Community Services ♦ 4747 N 7th Ave, Phoenix AZ 85013 ♦ www.catholiccharitiesaz.org

