



SETON SCHOOL

"Let His Will of the present moment be the first rule of our daily life and work..."—Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton

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December 5, 2023

Dear Seton Community,

Our virtue of the year is gratitude. One way of expressing gratitude for all the gifts we have received is giving gifts to others—gifts of time, gifts of service, gifts of prayer. What better time to give these gifts than Advent, as a way to express our thanks to Jesus for giving Himself to us.

Our challenge is asking each family to give one or more gifts of time, service, and/or prayer to others. There are so many ways to give these gifts. Your family can brainstorm ways to make Advent a true time of giving. Here are a few to get you started:

Volunteer at the St. Lucy Project (<https://www.cdda.net/need-help/food/>) or the House of Mercy (<https://houseofmercyva.org/>). Make donations to either project or to your parish's food pantry. Monetary donations are always welcome, but it is even better for your family to donate needed goods—go shopping together or work together to declutter and find items to donate.

The Mother of Mercy Free Clinic (<https://www.cdda.net/mercyclinic/>) needs baby items for 30 expectant mothers they are currently serving. Take the kids to the dollar store (now the \$1.25 store!) to shop and fill a basket with baby items. Add diapers and one or two other large items.

Bake cookies to take to the police and fire stations and include a note of gratitude and a promise of prayers. Think of others who would appreciate this kind of remembrance.

Spiritual works of mercy are also important. Make a family Eucharistic Holy Hour each week during Advent. If you can't get to a church that has adoration, you can pray before the Blessed Sacrament when it is not exposed and get just as many graces. Take your family to a daily Mass. Pray family Rosaries and Divine Mercy Chaplets. Offer your prayers for specific persons and let them know you are praying for them. Or offer your spiritual activities for broader intentions such as our priests, victims of violence, or families in crisis. Learn the Spiritual Adoption Prayer for children in danger of abortion (your children know it) and say it together every day.

The Challenge begins now and extends through the two weeks of the Christmas season (ends January 8) to give your family plenty of time to perform these works of mercy.

We want each member of the Seton community to be inspired by the works of mercy performed by other members. Please click [here](#) for the online form or print out the form and turn it into the front office when your family performs a work of mercy. You can access the form anytime on our website on the homepage under School News. We will publish these works (without names) for all of you to see and be grateful for—and perhaps get more ideas for your own family.

Thank you for participating in this Challenge. Remember Jesus' words in St. Matthew's Gospel, read on the Solemnity of Christ the King: Whatsoever you do to the least of my brothers and sisters, you do to Me.

God bless, Mrs. Carroll