



Christmas Box Mission!

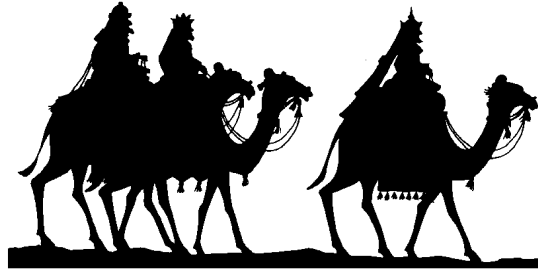
Mission Circle is a St. James parish group founded by Fr. John Howard over 30 years ago. It started as an outreach to poor homeless girls in Tijuana, which led to the establishment of Casa Eudes, a home and school for young girls. Part of its mission is to reach out to poor families in Tijuana. This year, at the time of the Epiphany (Jan 6) volunteers from Mission Circle, which include parishioners from St. James, St. Therese in Carmel Valley, St. Brigid's in Pacific Beach, and St. Elizabeth Seton in Carlsbad, caravan to Nueva Esperanza school bringing wrapped gifts, soccer balls, and candy for the children, toiletries, a blanket, and miscellaneous donated clothes.

The Student Council and Mission Circle team would like to invite all St. James Academy families to participate in giving to a child in need this Christmas. Traditionally St. James families have supported Mission Circle by giving new or gently used sweaters or coats and by putting together a shoebox filled with items such as hairbrushes, books, small toys, underwear, T-shirts, toothbrushes, notebooks, pencils etc. A Christmas Box!

This year we hope to surprise 100 children with a "Christmas Box". All of these donations will be given to children in Tijuana on the feast of the Epiphany (Jan. 6th). If you would like to participate please have your child pick up an information packet at the front office. The packet will include suggestions about what you can put in the box, instructions on how to wrap the box, and a photograph of the child you will be helping.



All
Donations
due in the
office by Dec.
16th



Epiphany Celebration at Nueva Esperanza School, Tijuana, Mexico

This Christmas, all the SJA families are being asked to join Mission Circle in celebrating Jesus' birthday by giving "shoe box" gifts to over 120 students at Nueva Esperanza school in Tijuana, Mexico. St. James Academy has participated in this social outreach ministry for the past three years. Last year, the students of SJA prepared the boxes during a "family activity" at school. This year, we are asking each SJA family to shop for and wrap the gift box for your student at home, and bring it in to school before the Christmas break.

Please choose a student for whom your family is to prepare a "gift box". Please purchase new socks and underwear for your student. Other items you may wish to include in the gift box: tooth brush & tooth paste, hair accessories and small purse (for girls), school supplies, markers, hair brush, combs, t-shirt, knit cap, baseball cap, small toys (legos, dolls, soft toys, matchbox cars), a few pieces of candy.

Please do not include: toy weapons, battery operated items, money

How to wrap your box:

*Wrap the box and lid **SEPARATELY**.

*Tie the box and lid together with string or ribbon. (No bows since boxes are stacked for transporting to TJ.)

*Tape the picture of your student, to the top of the box.

*Bring the wrapped and labeled box to the office by Wednesday December 16, 2009.

Please consider encouraging your child to do extra chores around the house to earn money to pay for items to put in the box. If your family would like to prepare more than one box, that would be wonderful! Simply identify the approximate age and gender of the student that should receive the gift box.

We hope that you and your children experience the thrill of sharing Christ this Christmas season with children that have so little.

Any questions please call Caron Rohrer 760 438 0275 or talk to a Student Council member.

Reminder: Mission Circle is also collecting gently used jackets, sweaters, and blankets for the children. A collection bin is in the school office.