



Thank you to all who helped make the Children's store a success. On Saturday, Dec. 9th, hundreds of happy children left the Holy Redeemer Annual Christmas gift store with wrapped gifts for their family. Children were able to buy tickets for 25 cents each and redeem them in the store for gifts. Nothing cost more than 4 tickets which allowed to children to buy for their entire families. Volunteer youth and adults then helped them wrap the gifts.

The program started many years ago in the parish library where children of the parish could shop for parents and siblings. It has grown over the years into a community outreach taking over the parish hall. New and slightly used gifts are collected throughout the year. Parents are not allowed in the shopping area, so they wait in the hall having coffee, punch and cookies baked by ladies from the church. Kids, age ten and below are assisted by our youth group to shop and then wrap the gifts. We also have adults to help wrap and keep things to an organized "chaos". Our prayer is that the hundreds of children that participated left with a better understanding of the joy that comes from giving.

Social media has really helped expand the program. Through Facebook, we were able to reach a larger community for support and participation. It also helps us evaluate the program. After the event we had numerous comments posted. "My kids loved it and want to go next year. The said, the people were so nice and helpful. Thank you!" "Thanks for having this event. It truly teaches kids how to give!" "My grandson had the best time. I think he bought something for everyone in his family. Thank you so much."

Special thanks to those who pre-wrapped boxes, make cookies, donated items and wrapping supplies and the youth and adult who helped the kids shop and wrap.



Blessings
Jim and Ann