

Box of Joy Program – Make Sure Your Council is Signed Up!



“For Children Who Wish for Just One Gift.”

Many children around the world come from families who cannot afford a single Christmas present. Your Council can change that by providing shoebox-sized Christmas gifts for some of the world’s poorest children. In 2020, Knights from MD State united to bless over 2,200 children in developing countries with a **Box of Joy**. For many of these children, a **Box of Joy** was the first Christmas gift they ever received.

Deadline to Sign-Up: Friday, October 30th. Sign up online by going to this link “[Groups Sign Up](#).” All necessary materials are shipped to your Council or designated address **at no charge**. Please note the chairman does not have boxes to distribute. Do not leave it until the end of October, the faster you register, the more time you will have to schedule activities and spread the word to your parish, friends, schools, and even your coworkers.

Suggested Items: Each Box of Joy is for either a boy or girl ages 2-4, 5-9, or 10-14. A detailed list of suggested items, as well as items NOT to pack, can be found online at this link: [Gift Ideas](#). Examples include small stuffed animals, school supplies, hygiene items, clothing and accessories. A Dollar Store or 5 Below are great places to shop for items.

Box of Joy Collection Week: Box of Joy Collection Week is Saturday, November 6th, to Sunday, November 14th. All Boxes of Joy must be taken to a Drop-Off Center no later than November 14th. The boxes will be shipped to Cross Catholic Outreach in Florida, where they will be inspected, receive a rosary and The Story of Jesus, and readied for shipping. As explained in the materials you will receive from Cross Catholic, each box should be accompanied by \$9 to help defray the shipping and processing costs. The site also offers a [Create-A-Box-Online](#) option. This is designed for individuals and families who want to participate but are unable to shop and pack boxes themselves.

Drop-Off Centers: An interactive map will be posted shortly and includes address, contact info for each Drop-Off Center Coordinator, and schedule for collection hours.

If you have any questions about the program, please contact Box of Joy Chairman Alexander Lopez at alex.lopez.bueno@gmail.com or via call or text at 240-277-8202.

[Watch a Video](#)

BOX OF JOY PULPIT ANNOUNCEMENT

Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

Good morning! My name is JOHN SMITH and I am a member of the Knights of Columbus council here at ST. BLANK Parish. Today I would like to take a moment to share with you some information about an exciting service project we are supporting this fall involving impoverished children.

Many children in developing countries experience Christmas without hope and come from families that are too poor to provide them with even life's basic necessities. These children likely never have owned a picture book, a toy, or even a toothbrush.

That is why we are now partnering with Cross Catholic Outreach to participate in the Box of Joy ministry. Box of Joy is a fun and easy activity for the entire family, and it involves filling shoebox-sized cartons with items such as small toys, school and hygiene supplies, clothing, or other gifts. Our council will hand out boxes after Masses (today or next week) and then collect the filled boxes on (date).

We ask you to join us in this ministry by taking home a box and then filling it with items you can find in any dollar store. Once we collect all the returned boxes, we then will send these to Cross Catholic Outreach, who will add a rosary and *The Story of Jesus* to every box! Cross Catholic will safely ship these boxes to local Catholic organizations in developing countries such as Haiti, Guatemala, and the Dominican Republic. They will distribute them to children in time for the celebration of the birth of our Lord Jesus.

I hope that you will join us in blessing children this Christmas with a **Box of Joy**. This project provides Catholics with a simple, fun, and tangible work of mercy to benefit the poorest of the poor in developing countries. Let us all help shine the light of Christmas throughout the world and show these children the love of Christ.

Thank you!