

SAINT ROSE OF LIMA CATHOLIC CHURCH'S PARISH PROFILES

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Adopt-A-Family

Nine families in the Roseville area had a more joyful Christmas season thanks to the generosity of the Saint Rose school and parish community.

“I’ve watched the Adopt-A-Family program grow for three years,” says Brian Hindt, Pastoral Associate, “and it has been exciting to see how many students, parents and parishioners have been so willing to give their time and resources to help others who are going through a difficult time.”

Most of the families in need were identified through the Roseville School District; others by visiting with Brian throughout the year. They each put together a “wish list” of gifts—mostly clothing (especially cold weather gear) and toys.

The first two years the school raised the funds to purchase the items. This year the Faith Formation ministry, the Christian Services Committee and a parish family each supported a family. There was also a second collection at Masses one weekend.

The school and church community raised money solely through monetary donations. Based on the previous two years, the goal was \$1,500, but that quickly changed to \$2,500 due to the generosity of the community. Eventually the shoppers had \$3,500 to spend.

“Our school families, school staff and the church community are the reason we are able to do this service project year after year,” says Sarah Puga, Saint Rose School teacher and student council advisor. “I heard from multiple students that they donated their own funds to help those in need. I even received a bag of coins from one of our younger students. I can only assume he dug into his piggy bank. That made my heart burst with joy.”

Both Sarah and Rob Masloski, Director of Evangelization and Catechesis, along with help from friends and relatives, did the shopping. The bulk of the items were purchased at the Roseville Target.

The gifts were wrapped by the middle school staff and student council members. That, says Sarah, “was a huge task as some students had never wrapped a gift before. However, everyone came with a smile on their face and a ‘can do’ attitude.”

The program started with three families in 2018 and has now grown to nine. “To see where this program began to where it is now is amazing,” says Sarah. “I never expected it to grow to where it is today. My hope is that this project can become a long-standing tradition within the Saint Rose community.”

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After being a part of the Adopt-A-Family program for the first time, Rob hopes the participation of the Faith Formation students and parents continues to expand. “People appreciate the opportunity to give back at Christmas,” he says. “Our families were very excited about being a part of this ministry. It’s a good illustration of what can be accomplished when we all work together.”

Brian met six of the nine families when they came to the parish center to receive their gifts. “That brought me a lot of joy because they were so thankful,” he says. “They were all facing hardship, but at the same time they seemed to have a strong faith that helped them persevere through difficulty.”