

DEAR FRIEND,

THE CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR'S HOLIDAYS are a wonderful opportunity to reflect on the many gifts that we enjoy in our lives. This special time of thanksgiving, family, and fellowship reminds us to appreciate the ways we have been blessed in 2018 and affords us the chance to look forward with a renewed energy to the opportunities that will greet us in the New Year.

As you will see in this edition of Blessings, we are getting ready to celebrate the season with our neighbors, and to share with them fellowship, comfort and joy. You'll see how to adopt a resident at Weinberg Housing and Resource Center,

or how you can light up faces at our senior communities. You'll learn how we make things merrier for children at St. Vincent's Villa and where you can join us for some wonderful Christmas music on Dec. 6th.

**"Peace on Earth
will come to stay
when we live Christmas
every day."**

— Helen Steiner Rice

We want to share this season of wonder with you. Take a look at the calendar to see how you can be a gift to our neighbors and each other. When we open our doors and you open your hearts, we all find a reason to believe. Together, we help each other prepare for the lasting gift of a better, healthier, happier life.

Thank you for your support and friendship. I wish you a Christmas season filled with hope and happiness!

Bill

William J. McCarthy, Jr.,
Executive Director



WINTER 2018

BLESSINGS

CATHOLIC
CHARITIES

CHERISHING THE DIVINE WITHIN ALL

Inspired by the Gospel mandates to LOVE, SERVE and TEACH, Catholic Charities provides care and services to IMPROVE the LIVES of Marylanders in need.

Advent: Countdown to Christmas



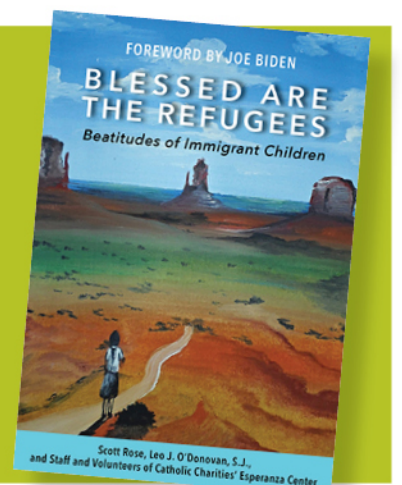
ADVENT WREATHS

- The evergreen branches symbolize everlasting life and the circular shape represents God's unending love.
- Three of the four candles are purple, a color associated with penance. One is pink, the color of rejoicing, which is lit on the third Sunday of Advent. The white candle in the center is lit on Christmas Day.

Need some holiday inspiration?

"This small book has a big heart," wrote Vice President Joe Biden in the Foreword to *Blessed are the Refugees: Beatitudes of Immigrant Children*, a compilation of essays that correspond with the beatitudes and offer a spiritual reflection on the arduous journey that young immigrants make while escaping violence in Central America. Contributors include Scott Rose, a deacon

for the Archdiocese of Baltimore and a pro bono attorney for the Esperanza Center; Leo J. O'Donovan, S.J., president emeritus of Georgetown University; Catholic Charities staff including Esperanza Director Val Twanmoh and Assistant Managing Director Mikhael Borgonos. To purchase this meaningful gift, shop smile.amazon.com (designate Associated Catholic Charities).



She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins. — MATTHEW 1:21



SUN
DEC 2

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Light one of the violet candles on your Advent wreath as you sing a verse of "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel."

Hanukkah begins at sundown and ends Dec. 10. Wishing our Jewish neighbors and supporters a blessed festival of lights.



WED
DEC 5



Today, we celebrate the **38th Annual Leadership Breakfast Campaign** in the dining room of Our Daily Bread Employment Center. This campaign is the single, largest source of private support for Catholic Charities' mission and work serving people of all faiths through more than 80 programs across Maryland. Visit cc-md.org/leadershipbreakfast.

SUN
DEC 9

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Light the second violet candle in your Advent wreath.



MON
DEC 10



Help **HEAD START** parents of Baltimore City and Carroll Counties by donating NEW toys, bikes, electronics or clothing for its annual **Super Store**, a Christmas pop-up shop that allows parents to purchase presents based on points accrued through positive involvement with their child's education.

SUN
DEC 16

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

The Third Sunday of Advent is *Gaudete* (Rejoice) Sunday. Light the pink candle to symbolize that the arrival of Jesus is nearly here. Rose is a liturgical color that signifies joy.



As the weather turns cold, freezing temperatures can be life-threatening for those experiencing homelessness.

THE WEINBERG HOUSING AND RESOURCE CENTER

creates more beds when temperatures drop below 20 degrees.



TUE
DEC 18

"This present lets me know I am not forgotten."

~ Jory Williams, temporary resident, Weinberg Housing and Resource Center at Christmas Eve Adopt-a-Resident party.

Participate in **Adopt a Resident** and purchase a Christmas present for an individual temporarily residing at **WEINBERG HOUSING AND RESOURCE CENTER**. Contact volunteerWHRC@cc-md.org to contribute.

SUN
DEC 23

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Light the last candle.



MON
DEC 24



"I have been blessed with people and programs that have offered help and rehabilitation and, more than anything, validation. They have made me feel human again."
~ Alicia, client

During Advent, do a good deed and donate NEW socks and undergarments to benefit the clients of **MY SISTER'S PLACE WOMEN'S CENTER**, 17 W. Franklin St. Contact: jreid@cc-md.org, 667-600-3700.



CALENDAR: CELEBRATING COMFORT AND JOY IN PREPARATION FOR CHRISTMAS



**THUR
DEC 6**

ANNUAL CHRISTMAS FESTIVAL AT THE BASILICA

Enjoy this magical night of Christmas music performed by the Baltimore Symphony Orchestra, Baltimore Choral Arts Society, and Davon Fleming of NBC's "The Voice". Proceeds benefit Senior Services. Call 667-600-2028 or visit cc-md.org/christmasfestival.



**FRI
DEC 7**

Check off your holiday shopping

list while also helping to improve the lives of Marylanders in need. Shop **AMAZON SMILE** by visiting smile.amazon.com and designate Associated Catholic Charities, Inc. Amazon will donate .5 percent of the price of your eligible AmazonSmile purchases to Catholic Charities.



**SAT
DEC 8**

Help the families of **SARAH'S HOUSE** dream of a white Christmas by organizing a linen drive. Give twin-size bedding, towels, and washcloths for families. For more information, contact: **SHChristmasTeam@cc-md.org**. If you are able to donate food, contact cwillie@cc-md.org.



**WED
DEC 12**

Volunteers from **ST. VINCENT'S VILLA**, a residential treatment program for youth in crisis, decorate the campus gym with twinkling trees, giant teddy bears, and trains to create a **Season of Wonder**. Want to help? Mark your calendars to Un-Deck the Halls Sat., Dec. 29.



**SAT
DEC 15**

When shopping for groceries, consider picking up an

extra box of cereal and/or tea bags (with strings attached) for **OUR DAILY BREAD EMPLOYMENT CENTER'S** meal program

which uses 350 tea bags and 105 boxes of cereal every week. Take donations to the back door at 725 Fallsway Baltimore, MD 21202, 7 days week every day until 3:30 p.m. Contact Nick Rudomin, nrudomin@cc-md.org, 667-600-3400.



**WED
DEC 19**

The season is brighter for families and individuals experiencing homelessness in Harford County.

ANNA'S HOUSE

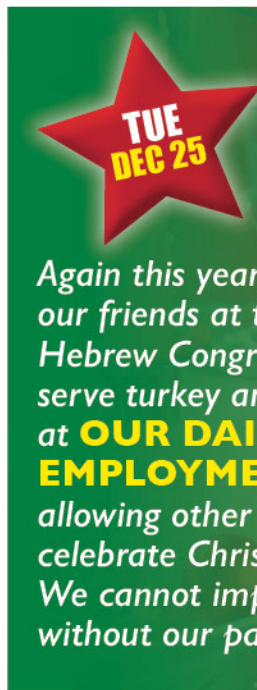
celebrates their annual breakfast with Santa and Mrs. Claus. Thank you to all of the volunteers who make this event special!



**THU
DEC 20**



Support **MY BROTHER'S KEEPER**, Catholic Charities' newest program located in the Irvington community of West Baltimore that provides meal, job training and case management 7 days a week.



**TUE
DEC 25**

Again this year, we thank our friends at the Baltimore Hebrew Congregation who will serve turkey and trimmings at **OUR DAILY BREAD EMPLOYMENT CENTER**, allowing other volunteers to celebrate Christmas. We cannot improve lives without our partners.

CHRISTMAS DAY

Light the large white candle in the middle of the wreath.



Celebrate the season with us!

Contact these programs to volunteer, donate, or visit throughout the year,
See the calendar for details or ask how you can help!

- Anna's House: 667-600-2840, jcrosson@cc-md.org
- Caritas House Assisted Living: 667-600-2664, mhagan@cc-md.org
- Carroll County Head Start: 667-600-2570, volunteerheadstartCarroll@cc-md.org
- Esperanza Center: 667-600-2900, esperanzainfo@cc-md.org
- Gallagher Services for Adults with Intellectual Disabilities: 667-600-2520
- Head Start of Baltimore City: 667-600-3783
- Head Start of Carroll County: 667-600-2570, volunteerheadstartCarroll@cc-md.org
- Early Head Start of Harford County: 667-600-2160
- My Brother's Keeper: 667-600-3344
- My Sister's Place Women's Center: 667-600-3700, jreid@cc-md.org
- Our Daily Bread Employment Center: 667-600-3400
- Sarah's House: 667-600-3550, SHChristmasTeam@cc-md.org. For food donations, contact cwillie@cc-md.org.
- Senior Communities: 667-600-2280, housing@cc-md.org
- St. Ann Adult Day Services: 667-600-2680, mhagan@cc-md.org
- St. Elizabeth Rehabilitation and Nursing Center, The Neighborhoods at: 667-600-2600, mhagan@cc-md.org
- St. Vincent's Villa: 667-600-3000
- Villa Maria School: 667-600-3100
- Weinberg Housing and Resource Center: 667-600-3230, volunteerWHRC@cc-md.org



Sharing your blessings this holiday gives our most vulnerable neighbors a safe place to rest, a meal, and hope. Thank YOU!

cc-md.org/blessings

CATHOLIC CHARITIES

CHERISHING THE DIVINE WITHIN ALL

Catholic Charities is the largest multi-service charitable organization in Maryland. Serving all, we provide innovative programming to accompany people on life's journey including assistance to those living in poverty, individuals with developmental disabilities, immigrants, older adults, families and children in crisis.

Catholic Charities, Communications Department
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Website: www.cc-md.org
Rena Daly, Managing Editor | 667-600-2007

For more information: cc-md.org/tasteofmd

Our Daily Bread Employment Center
All proceeds benefit
American Visionary Art Museum

TASTE of MARYLAND
ANNUAL DINNER AND AUCTION
March 9, 2019

SAVE THE DATE:



Catholic Charities of Baltimore
Communications Department
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Baltimore, MD 21201-4421

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