

# CHRISTMAS APPEAL

## Annual collection helps poor fill basic needs

**Pre-need Counseling Available.**

*De Vaney Bennett*  
Funeral Home  
Since 1897  
181 N. Main Street • Geneva  
315-789-2224.

MEMBER BY INVITATION NATIONAL SELECTED MORTICIANS

**DiPonzio Funeral Home Inc.**

Across from St. Theodore's Church  
Dominic A. DiPonzio - Lic. Mgr.  
Christopher B. DiPonzio - L. F. D.  
Joseph D. DiPonzio - L. F. D.

219 Spencerport Rd. • Rochester  
429-6700

**ARNDT FUNERAL HOME**  
Family Owned & Operated



**RONALD JOHN ARNDT**  
**ROBERT J. ARNDT**  
**SHARI L. ARNDT**  
Funeral Directors  
225-6350  
1118 Long Pond Road  
(South of Maiden Lane)

**HART MONUMENT COMPANY**

Since 1856

Monuments, Markers and Cemetery Lettering

2301 Dewey Avenue  
(OPPOSITE HOLY SEPULCHRE CEMETERY)  
(716) 865-6746



- Exclusive up-front design- Threading and bobbin winding take place on the front.
- Top, drop-in bobbin-No bobbin case needed.
- 100% jam proof hook-Never any tangled threads.
- Built-in buttonholer for perfection without attachments.
- Free arm design makes hemming and setting in sleeves a breeze.



**Pam's Sewing Shoppe**  
South Towne Plaza • Inside JoAnn Fabrics  
Hours: 10-8 M-F 10-6 Sat.  
Closed Sunday  
(716) 292-6110

Recall the Old Testament figures who waited and prepared for the Messiah.

Reflect on the vignettes of those who wait today for a sign of the Savior's presence in their lives.

Pray that those who seek assistance from the agencies and parishes of the Catholic community will come to fully realize their human dignity.

Give what you can to assure that no one in true need will be turned away.

Below are names of prominent members in Jesus' "family tree," with Scripture references and suggested symbols that can be made into ornaments on a "Jesse Tree."

Adam & Eve (Gn 3:1-24) - man, woman, apple, serpent  
Noah (Gn 6:11-9:17) - ark, rainbow,

Earl is an older man with limited skills. After a long bout of unemployment, he's finally found work - but there will be no paycheck for a month and his food stamp eligibility was cut off immediately. His own humble attempts to appeal for help were unsuccessful. Even the parish advocate was frustrated by the maze of paperwork, calls and visits required. Groceries are needed to keep Earl going for the next few weeks.

Cheri has four beautiful children. Her love for them strengthened her resolve to turn her life around and get out of prostitution. She has just regained custody of her son and daughters after more than a year of proving to the court that she could reform her lifestyle. On the heels of the happy reunion, she has learned she is HIV positive. She is determined not to fall back into hopelessness. From time to time she must rely on assistance for food or a prescription voucher.

Carole is a simple-minded woman who resorted to prostitution to try to support herself, and is now four months pregnant. While she waits for public assistance, many of her immediate needs can only be met through charity.

Loni, 32 the father of three school-age children, has been out of work for several months. He recently learned his mother faces kidney failure; his is the only matching donor profile. Loni is willing to undergo surgery, but is bracing for the financial hardship. He has asked for help to give presents to his children.

Peter is a medical technician who lost his job. There are no jobs for him in his rural area. He does not have enough money to move his family. Without help they will become dependent on the community.

Mary's husband died a few months before their fourth child was born. Mary works nights in a nursing home to support the family. Her teenagers watch the baby while she works. Even with overtime, by month's end she must rely on the community cupboard.

Michelle is sole support for her two small children. She drives 20 miles each day to her nurse's aide job. Michelle's hours were recently cut. Her car insurance is due. Without use of her car, she will not be able to stay employed.

Mr. O is 89 and lives alone. He has a heart condition and must take many medications - all expensive. His limited income often runs out before the end of the month.

Art is a "gentle giant." His veteran's income goes directly to his landlord. His room has no cooking facility. He needs a regular supply of canned foods or snacks that can be eaten cold on days when he can't get to the soup kitchen.

Jenni was a pregnant runaway. She lives in a motel, but is hoping to find more suitable housing for herself and her baby. She needs help with the first month's rent and a crib.

Sam seeks help from the local food pantry regularly. His son has special dietary needs, however, and these foods

**A Jesse Tree Blessing**  
God of Abraham and Sarah, bless us whenever we look upon our Jesse Tree. May it remind us of our ancestors who kept hope alive, believing in God's faithfulness. In this Advent season, fill our hearts with hope, and move us to be good news to the poor. Amen.

pairs of animals  
Abraham (Gn 12: 1-13:18) - camel, staff  
Sarah (Gn 12:1-13:18) - baby, tent  
Rebecca (Gn 25:19-34:27) - well  
Jacob (Gn 28:10-22) - ladder

are not typically stocked. He needs cash assistance to purchase them.

Jake and Cilla were stabbed and beaten by a boarder in their home. They are physically and emotionally fragile and fearful of renting to anyone else. They cannot make ends meet with the loss of income.

Joellen is in jail on drug related charges. When she is released, she will need a month's rent for transitional shelter while she waits for public assistance.

Paul is temporarily unable to work because of a back injury. He lives in an efficiency apartment and sleeps on an old couch, an arrangement that makes his back condition worse. He has used up savings to pay the rent. Decent bedding would greatly speed his recovery.

Maria is doing her best to support herself and baby without public assistance. On top of regular bills, she is paying for a car that was totalled in an accident. Insurance did not cover the balance of the loan. A stroller would help her greatly.

The Kings are an older, childless couple living in a three-room apartment. Mr. King has Alzheimer's disease. His wife is the primary caregiver and is very stressed. Her husband wanders at night, so she is unable to sleep. The expense of an occasional respite caregiver is beyond their low fixed income.

The Agnellos are a young couple who have never been able to earn more than \$600 a month. A refrigerator repair bill forced them to ask for food and transportation vouchers.

Tom lost all welfare benefits when he accepted a minimum wage fast-food job. He hated the "hassle" of public assistance and would never be asking for a "handout," but he needs a tooth pulled.

Susan has a 9-year-old son who lives out of state with his grandmother. Susan is struggling to escape her drug dependence. She has asked for postage to mail her son a handmade gift.

Rosa's husband has one more year to serve in prison. She has done her best to provide for their children, ages 17, 13 and 7. A festive holiday meal and some personal toiletries would make this a merrier Christmas.

Rachel & Leah (Gn 29:15-30) - veil  
Joseph (Gn 39:48) - coat of many colors  
Moses (Ex 20:1-21) - stone tablets  
Miriam (Ex 15:20-21) - tambourine  
Joshua (Jos 6:1-15) - trumpet  
Ruth (Ru) - sheaf of wheat  
Deborah (Jgs 4) - tent peg and mallet  
Samuel (1 Sm 3:1-18) - oil flask  
David (1 Sm 16:1-16) - harp  
Solomon (1 Kgs 3:4-15) - crown, temple  
Isaiah (Is 11:1-9) - lion and lamb  
Daniel (Dn 6:17-24) - lion  
Elizabeth (Lk 1:39-55) - small house  
Zechariah (Lk 1:5-25) - altar  
John the Baptist (Lk 3:1-20) - water  
Mary (Lk 1:26-38) - lily  
Joseph (Mt 1:18-25) - hammer, saw  
Jesus (Lk 2:1-20) - chi ro



+ Catholic Courier  
+ Catholic Charities

**Christmas Appeal**  
Week III

### What is the Christmas Appeal?

It is a cooperative effort of the Catholic Courier and diocesan Catholic Charities to raise funds that will help people in desperate financial crises.

For 24 years, the appeal has enabled the Catholic community to help thousands of people in 12 counties to meet life's basic needs. Christmas Appeal funds have been there for them when no other sources of aid were available.

### Who benefits from it?

Funding from the Christmas Appeal helps individuals and families in short-term financial crises. These are people who have no financial resources and are either awaiting or ineligible for assistance through other sources.

### How does it work?

The appeal consists of a series of articles in the Catholic Courier and a direct-mail solicitation of past and potential donors. Appeal proceeds are allocated to the emergency funds of the following diocesan agencies: Catholic Family Center; Finger Lakes Social Ministry; Catholic Charities of the Southern Tier; Catholic Charities Livingston County outreach; Bishop Sheen Ecumenical Housing Foundation; and diocesan Urban Services.

Please use my donation to help a neighbor in need.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

This gift is in honor/memory of (circle one):

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Mail check (payable to "Christmas Appeal") and this coupon to: Christmas Appeal, c/o Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Rochester, 1150 Buffalo Road, Rochester, New York 14624