

# **Blessed Sacrament Church**

*275 Union Avenue  
Bridgeport, Connecticut 06607  
Telephone (203) 333-1202*

December 2019

Dear Generous Friends:

As we come to the end of the year, we certainly look back and offer prayers of thanksgiving for your immense generosity. We ask abundant blessings for you in the new year unfolding.

You have supported us financially; faithfully sent us groceries and clothing throughout the year; contributed to our Summer Camp or Thanksgiving Turkey Day; worked very very hard to sort, pack and distribute the groceries, shared time with our clients at the weekly food pantry; helped with the maintenance projects; attended our fundraising events. You have kept us strong in serving the Lord and the needy with your encouragement and with your prayers. God bless you and thank you!

We give thanks for yet another blessed year of welcome and hope, hard work, humility and ingenuity, another year of living our faith and fun. It has not, however, been a year of great progress. We are still frustrated by the lack of development in our neighborhood. The number of new houses going up is far less than the number of old houses burning down. We are grateful that our police have shut down a dangerous local gathering place. But it required the closing of one of the few businesses we have in our area. Our neighborhood cooperative Pop-up Market has finally opened only to be seriously handicapped by impossibly complicated regulations. Food donations have increased. But due to recent cuts in Assistance Programs, the number of hungry people at our door has increased as well. The bags are more full; but more of our clients are elderly and physically challenged. I have tried to provide some small shelter for our people waiting at the pantry in the heat and in the cold. The constant rain and now ice and snow have left the project unfinished.

We wish you a holiday season of good health and peace, safety and rest and time to enjoy family and friends. For us, we feel the burden of work unfinished and the urgency of much work yet to do. Please continue to pray for us as we ask God's continued grace, and ready ourselves for the next knock on the door.

And it is always Jesus who is knocking!



Fr. Skip, Ann LeStrange, Blessed Sacrament Food Pantry Ministry