



## **DCFS Christmas Gift Drive For Children in Foster Care**

### ***Ladies Auxiliary Charitable Giving Program***

The Ladies Auxiliary is happy to announce that we will be participating, again this year, in the DCFS Christmas Gift Drive which is a Chicago area Pan-Orthodox ministry. As Orthodox Christians we are called to fulfill our Lord's teaching: "...**as you did it to one of the least of these my brothers, you did it to me.**" **Matthew 25:40**

Children in foster care have known difficulty in their lives and they really appreciate our outreach as an expression of kindness and love. Let us embrace the spirit of St. Nicholas, our patron saint, and consider purchasing a gift for a Chicago Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) foster child this Christmas season and bring a smile to the face of a child in need.

#### **Just follow these simple steps:**

1. If you would like to participate send an email to the church (church@stnicholasalbanianchicago.org) or to Sofia Panajoti (jonasimeon@hotmail.com). Your name will be added to our donor list.
2. A foster child's Wish List will be assigned to each participant. The Wish List includes the child's name, age and items they would like to receive.
3. The Wish List for your assigned foster child can be picked up in the church hall after Sunday Liturgy from Sofia Panajoti. Or, if you prefer, the Wish List can be sent to you via email or text. Let us know your preference when you sign up to participate. If you choose to receive a text, please Include your phone number.
4. Review your foster child's Wish List and, if you would like, involve your own family in selecting an appropriate gift for your assigned foster child.
5. **OPTIONAL:** Choose a Christmas card to enclose with your gift and write a friendly message to your foster child, Sign the Christmas card only with your first name.
6. All gifts must be new and unwrapped. Please put your gift in a gift bag together with your foster child's Wish List and optional Christmas card. **Use gift bags – do not wrap gifts with wrapping paper.** Tissue paper in the bags is okay to use, If you are giving a gift card, it should be placed in a box so as not to get easily lost.
7. Bring your gift bags to church by **Sunday, November 26.** **Gift bags will not be accepted after this deadline.**

**May God bless you for your kindness and generosity toward a child in need!**