

St. Stephen Protomartyr Ukrainian Church

VIEWS FROM THE PEWS | 25/10/20



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Operation St Nicholas 2020

Pope Francis said “Rivers do not drink their own water; trees do not eat their own fruit; the sun does not shine on itself and flowers do not spread their fragrance for themselves. Living for others is a rule of nature. We are all born to help each other. No matter how difficult it is ... **Life is good when you are happy; but much better when others are happy because of you.**”

Operation St Nicholas 2020 demonstrated how a parish can come together to make others happy; to bring joy to children and their families; to spread God’s love.

St Stephen’s along with UCWLC came together this year for a backpack project sending gifts to children in Ukraine for St Nicholas Day, December 19th. With covid-19 restricting access to our parish and social distancing governing most of our activities, we wondered how a Charity Event could be successful. What started in June 2020, was completed on October 14th with 230 kg (507 lbs) of gifts being shipped to Ukraine.

- Sponsors bought gifts for 58 children.
- Donors contributed funds to help with food for struggling families, medicine for children, gifts for 42 Sister Servants and help offset the cost of shipping.
- Parishioners dropped off extra items to help fill backpacks.
- Ladies sewed 320 beautifully colorful masks.
- Corporate sponsors added to our parcels with linens, towels, blankets, kitchen wares, and children’s clothes.
- Ushers helped collect returned gifts before liturgy.
- Volunteers joined on 3 separate days to sort donations, prepare backpacks, package masks, pack backpacks and document contents, then deliver 12 large shipping boxes to MEEST.

This charitable event happened with the help of roughly 86 families that directly contributed to the success of Operation St Nicholas 2020. There were many more that offered words of encouragement and were in the background supporting us with prayer.

May the Blessings of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you!

Sincerely

Mary Chudyk and Jo-Anne Heuser



