



Christ Child Society Of Pittsburgh

MISSION STATEMENT

The Christ Child Society of Pittsburgh is a non-profit Catholic association of lay volunteers embracing members of all denominations, expressing its members' love of the Christ Child through service to God's children regardless of race, color or creed.

September, 2024

September 2024 Christ Child General Meeting

A General Meeting of the Christ Child Society of Pittsburgh was held on Thursday, September 12 at our Christ Child Center in Etna. Pam Diulus, President, presided over the meeting. After the recitation of our Christ Child Prayer, the Board as well as the Standing Committees each gave their report. Additional updates and various discussions during the meeting included the following:

- A distribution of budget reports to those present as well as a review of the 2024-25 CC budget with recommendations
- The 2025 Red Wagon Fare
- Camp Aim and Youth Empowerment elimination from our budget
- Updated information on our website
- New Membership Handbook
- New Christ Child Brochure
- Adopt a Class information
- The election of officers to take place this spring
- National Christ Child Convention (September 19-21, 2024)
- Membership review and discussion on implementing new ideas to encourage interested parties to join our mission of helping children in need
- Upcoming General Meeting dates
- Christmas Party update.

WE ENCOURAGE ALL MEMBERS TO READ THE SEPTEMBER 2024 GENERAL MEETING MINUTES WHICH CAN BE FOUND ON OUR CHRIST CHILD WEBSITE:

www.christchildsocietyofpittsburgh.org

A reminder for all members. . .

It was recently shared during our September Christ Child Meeting that a former member of our organization, Rosemary Richards, had passed away this past June. If you are aware of the passing of former members, **as well as any immediate family members of our current membership**, please contact Mary Ann Gonot to acknowledge their passing and offer our prayers and condolences.

SPIRITUAL DIRECTOR

OFFICERS

President

PAM DIULUS

Vice-President

Treasurer

MARLENE MacDONALD

Recording Secretary

SUZETTE VENTURINI

Corresponding Secretary

MARY ANN GONOT

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

CHARLOTTE COLLINS

JOANNE HERRMANN

MOLLY KELLEY

JANET MASCARO

ELLEN O'BRIEN

PATTI SMITH

GERRIE ORR

NEWSLETTER

JUDY KERN

ANGELS' CLOSET

... *From Molly Kelley*

ANGELS' CLOSET 2024 OPENING

I am happy to announce the 2024 fall schedule for Angels' Closet:

Oct. 12th (Opening day),

Oct. 26th, Nov. 2nd, Nov. 9th, Nov. 16th, Nov. 23rd, Dec. 7th, and

Dec. 14th (Closing day).



As you can see, we are going to an all Saturday schedule as was requested. Hours for each date will be from **10 AM to 2:30 PM**. Looking forward to seeing a great turnout this year from the Agencies we serve. Let's keep those angels warm this winter!! If you are on the committee to help with coat try-ons, please try to be there at 9:30 AM or so to help set up the first day. You can email me (**mol11@comcast.net**) or call me (**412-656-3475**) as to which dates you would like to work.

This will ensure we will have enough help each of the eight scheduled days.

Thank you in advance . . . and God bless the children!

~ *Molly Kelley*

LAYETTES

... *From Charlotte Collins*

- In June ~ Stacy Doepken delivered 25 layettes to Magee-Womens Hospital.
- In July ~ Charlotte Collins delivered 17 layettes to West Penn Hospital.
- In August ~ Ellen O'Brien delivered 16 layettes to Genesis of Pittsburgh.



The Layette Committee expects to donate that same amount twice a year. Therefore we will be distributing approximately 100 to 120 bags a year.

- The Layette Committee packed 65 additional layettes on August 15. We were able to finish everything within one hour. Thanks ladies! Everyone was very helpful and very organized. The Layette Committee will do another packing sometime around the end of March or early April. I will email the committee members as to the exact date.
- Janet Mascaro picked up 55 baby blankets from the Blessing Board for our Layette program. These blankets are made from the ladies at Project Linus. Thank you, Janet, for making that connection with the Blessing Board!

A big thank you to "all" the ladies who have been crocheting baby blankets for us!

~ *Charlotte*

BACKPACK FOR HUNGER

... *From Gerri Orr*

At our most recent meeting, all present voted to continue supporting Blessings in a Backpack financially. Last year a donation of \$500.00 was made to help them purchase food for the children. Blessings in a Backpack is a non-profit organization located in Verona and dedicated to providing meals for school-aged children to take home on the weekends. They currently serve approximately 40-60 students. Students must qualify for the federally funded Free and Reduced Meal program to be eligible to participate in the program.

~ *Gerri*

NEWS ~ NATIONAL CHRIST CHILD SOCIETY

The 2024 National Christ convention was held in Omaha, Nebraska on September 19-21. This year's theme was **Rise and Shine!** Representatives were unable to attend this year from our Christ Child Society of Pittsburgh. An update on this year's convention, however, will be included in our next newsletter, along with any information on the National Convention for 2025!

MEMBERSHIP

... From Patti Smith



We currently have 24 active members and 11 sustaining members. We are actively looking for new members to join in our mission of helping children in need within our Pittsburgh and surrounding areas. One of the best ways to get new members is through our Red Wagon Fare. The 2025 Red Wagon will again highlight our focus on recruiting new members. Patti has recently been in contact and shared our newsletter with four potential new members. She feels that new members are looking for hands-on experiences within our organization that they can take part

in. Having available a schedule of upcoming general meetings also may encourage a potential member to join us to learn more about our organization.

JUST A REMINDER. . . .If you have any changes/updates in your personal information, please be sure to contact Patti.

DIAPER PROGRAM

... From Carolyn Green

Eight large diaper boxes were dropped off at St. James in Wilkinsburg for their *St. Mary Magdalene Ministry*. This was the second donation we gave to them and once again it was greatly appreciated. A second donation of 8 large boxes of diapers was also given to *Genesis* who also again appreciated our donation. *Birthright* is added on to our mission and 7 boxes of various sizes of diapers were donated to them. The Diocese of Pittsburgh is having a *Right To Life March* the week of September 22 and is asking for diapers. The Christ Child Society is donating diapers for this event. Our diaper mission is growing and we hope to keep adding to it.



DONATIONS TO THE CHRIST CHILD SOCIETY OF PITTSBURGH

From: **Charities Aid Foundation of America (2)**
St. Matthew Parish Christian Mother Women's Guild
United Way of Columbus Ohio (2)
United Way of Southwestern PA.

In Memory Of

MARIAN FLOWERS

MARY KAY COLLINS

MARY JANE DIAMANTOPULOS

MARY ELLEN PLOEGER

From:

Katherine Mates
Mary McCormick

Mark Collins

Mary McCormick

Michael Penney

Farewell to Father Jeremy Mohler. . .

For the past 5+ years Father Jeremy Mohler has been our Spiritual Advisor. He has recently left the Diocese of Pittsburgh and is now a priest serving the Diocese of Altoona/Johnstown. Father Jeremy is a native of Johnstown and is closer to his family while continuing to serve the Church as a priest. We, the members of the Christ Child Society of Pittsburgh wish Father Jeremy all the best in his new assignment and thank him for his service to the Diocese of Pittsburgh and the Christ Child Society. May God continue to Bless you Father Jeremy in your priestly ministry.

May They Rest In Peace. . .



Rosemary Richards

Rosemary had been a member of Christ Child since our earliest years in the 1990's. This past June 2024 at the age of 91 she passed away. She left her 3 remaining children and their spouses, 8 grandchildren (and 1 deceased grandchild), and 6 great grandchildren.

Despite losing her husband and a son Rosemary enjoyed life and lived it to the fullest extent possible savoring every experience with her beloved family and friends. One could always find Rosemary smiling as she greeted people whether she had just met them or they were longtime friends. She had a big heart for those in need and was especially drawn to the children we served in Angels' Closet. Finding just the right coat and fitting the child with that new coat was the ministry in Christ Child that she enjoyed the most.

Father Frank Almade

Father Almade, a priest of the Diocese of Pittsburgh, passed away after a lengthy battle with multiple myeloma in August 2024. At the time of his passing he was 70 years of age, and a priest for 46 years. He had a strong interest in Catholic Social Welfare causes, and earned his doctorate focusing on this aspect of Jesus' teachings.

Father was a gregarious man, who loved people, had a great sense of humor and always had a friendly, smiling greeting for those he met. His many skills were important to the Diocesan needs as he was tasked by his Bishops to bring together disparate Parishes into one entity. His latest Parish was recently renamed St. Joseph the Worker, a special cause for Father. An important goal he established for the Parishioners was to make this newly created parish 'The most welcoming Parish in the Diocese of Pittsburgh'. The large number of mourners at his funeral Mass was a testament to how successful he was.

Christ Child members will remember Father as our Spiritual Director in the '90s. One particularly fond memory is of Father modeling a jacket at one of our first Red Wagon Luncheons. He certainly made the fashion show a great success.

~~Christ Child has always been blessed to have members and Spiritual Directors who loved our Mission and made unique contributions to the Society. Rosemary and Father Frank were two of them and we thank them for their loving service to Christ Child. Father and Rosemary. . .
... *May you Rest in Peace, and May the Perpetual Light shine upon you.*



September

Carolyn Green
Molly Kelley
Jean Lombardi
Patti Smith

October

Marlene MacDonald

November

Pam Diulus
Lisa Gaydos
Mary Jo Kelly
Maria Kitay
Ellen O'Brien

December

Gretchen Coyne
Mary Ann Gonot
Marie Lowry

CHRIST CHILD SOCIETY OF PITTSBURGH

DONATIONS, TRIBUTES AND MEMORIALS FORM

This form is also available on our website: www.christchildsocietyofpittsburgh.org

___ IN HONOR OF * ___ IN MEMORY OF * ___ IN THANKSGIVING FOR *

___ OTHER (PLEASE SPECIFY) _____

* NAME _____

Address _____

Donation of: \$50.00 _____ \$25.00 _____ \$10.00 _____ Other \$ _____

DONATION FROM:

Name _____

Please send an acknowledgement of my gift to:

Name _____

Address _____

Please enclose this form and your check payable to "Christ Child Society of Pittsburgh" and mail to:
Marlene MacDonald
642 Penridge Road
Pittsburgh, PA 15211

Christ Child Society of Pittsburgh is a 501(c)3 (non-profit) organization. Your donation qualifies as a charitable deduction.

Christ Child Society of Pittsburgh

P.O. Box 11324

Pittsburgh, PA 15238-1324

www.christchildsocietyofpittsburgh.org

FIRST CLASS MAIL



Dates to Remember

2025	October 17	Christ Child General Meeting - 11:00 am
	November 21	Christ Child General Meeting - 11:00 am
	December 10	Christmas Party (Cucina Vitale Restaurant, formerly Scoglio's)
	February 20	Christ Child General Meeting - 11:00 am
	March 20	Christ Child General Meeting - 11:00 am
	April 26	Red Wagon Luncheon, Pittsburgh Field Club
May 15	Christ Child General Meeting - 11:00 am	

NOTEWORTHY:

- *Please remember . . . our new phone number (412-719-1066)*
 - . . . *check our website* www.christchildsocietyofpittsburgh.org *for news and updates, including General Meeting minutes and newsletters*
 - . . . *follow us on Facebook*
- Our Christmas Party will be held on DECEMBER 10 at Cucina Vitale Restaurant, which was formerly Scoglio's. Reservation information will be sent to all members as the date draws closer. Please mark your calendar!
- Since Father Mohler has been reassigned to the Diocese of Altoona/Johnstown, we are awaiting a new Chaplain assignment from the Diocese of Pittsburgh.
- A special thank you to **Ellen O'Brien** for submitting the tributes included with this newsletter for Rosemary Richards, Father Almada and Father Mohler.
- Please notify Judy Kern of any changes to your published information in the current 2022 Members Handbook. A final draft of the 2024 Handbook will be emailed to each member for their approval by the end of October.
- Please **MARK YOUR CALENDAR** and submit all information for our next newsletter to Judy Kern by **December 15**.