ST. NICHOLAS MINISTRY FAQs

How do I know what agency represents the child?
The tag color: RED=CommWell Health, BLUE=Healing Transitions, ORANGE=Refuge 4 Refugees, PURPLE=Mama Moses. The tag will also indicate the agency in writing.

How do the agencies support our community?
Follow this link to find out more about the agencies.

What do I do with the sticker name label?
Wrap the gifts, put them in one package and affix the name sticker to the outside. Please tape it if needed.

What if my tag doesn't have a name label?
If it says "do not wrap this gift" it will not have a name label. If it say's "wrap this gift," but the label is missing, please write the name on the outside of the package instead.

How do I know if I should wrap the gift?
Each tag will state either "Please wrap this gift" or "Do not wrap this gift."
For reference, only Healing Transitions (blue tags) and Mama Moses (purple tags) are left unwrapped. All other gifts should be "under the tree"-ready, and in one outer package with the child's name label on it.

How should I package multiple gifts?
If the gifts are to be wrapped, please wrap each gift. All the wrapped gifts can be packed together into one secure package with the name label securely and easily visible from the outside.

What if my gifts won't fit in one outer package?
If there is a large gift that won't fit with the others (like a bike), please put the name label on the package and note 1 of 2. On the larger gift, please indicate the recipient's name and note 2 of 2.

Should I assemble a bike?
Yes.

How much should I spend on a gift?
There is no limit; spend whatever amount makes you comfortable. If your budget allows for a single gift, look for blue or purple tags. To provide multiple gifts for a single child, look for single red tags. Groups of siblings are also available.

What if I lost my tag?
Call or text Colette Hibberd (919-803-9828). If you remember a few details like age, gender, items requested, and/or agency we can usually narrow it down. It is a good habit to take a picture of the chosen tag in case it gets lost.

Can I take a tag to give to my neighbor?
Anyone is welcome to purchase gifts for St. Nicholas! Just make sure the gifts reach St. Paul's by St. Nicholas Sunday, wrapped and labeled if necessary. Invite friends to join us!

Is there a limit to the number of tags I choose?
No, but it is courteous to choose a family if you want multiple tags.

Can I include gifts for the parents if I choose a family?
Absolutely! Just label those gifts “mom” or “dad” or “parent.”

What if I have a tag, but can’t make it on St. Nicholas Day?
If you know in advance that you will be unable to attend on St. Nicholas Sunday, you are welcome to leave your gift under the tree anytime prior. If you cannot attend, but had planned to, you may either get the gift to the Parish Hall by noon that day or save the gift for next year. We have contingencies in place for this event and the child will still get a gift. Because the gifts are immediately distributed to the agencies, there is no way we could get a delayed gift to the child.

What if weather closes church on St. Nicholas Day?
If it looks like weather might be a factor in your ability to get your gift to church on St. Nicholas Sunday, please plan to bring your gift ahead of time. In the past we have had people in the Parish Hall available to collect gifts all day Friday and Saturday ahead of inclement weather. Because the agencies have their own distribution process, there is no way we can delay our collection. It is very important that you make every effort to get your gift to the church on time!

What if I want to participate, but can’t make it to church to get a tag?
You are welcome to financially support St. Nicholas Ministry by writing a check, memo St. Nicholas, and mail it to St. Paul’s (221 Union St. Cary, NC 27511). These funds are cherished and will purchase gifts for our contingency supply, Food Lion gift cards, discounted need-based items throughout the year or operating costs of the ministry.

Is the wishlist on my tag correct?
We have a thorough editing process, but that doesn’t mean mistakes are never made. If it truly seems out of place, you can find general suggestions for gifts here (Gift Guide).

Do I have to buy what is on the wish list?
You do not, but remember it was the parent who made the list with the child’s wishes in mind. A gift card towards what the child wishes is always welcome or follow this link to a list of general gift suggestions.

What if my tag says “cat”?
Don’t buy a cat! Do not buy any animals for St. Nicholas. Use the link for general gift suggestions.

Where do the gifts go?
Many stay in the local area; read about what happens to your gifts here.

How do I access the St. Nicholas Day Photos?
They will be posted to the St. Paul’s SmugMug page a few days after the event.

How do I get involved?
Contact Colette Hibberd (919-803-9828) to be added to the St. Nicholas Ministry list. An email is sent in November to the ministry members detailing the dates and duties leading up to St. Nicholas Day. Most of the commitment falls on the day before, of, and after St. Nicholas Day. It is a fun and rewarding ministry. We welcome your involvement!