



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Catholic Charities DC to Host Christmas Dinner for Homeless Residents

WASHINGTON, Dec. 16, 2020 —Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Washington will host its annual community Christmas dinner today, providing warm holiday meals to hundreds of homeless and hungry residents. The grab-and-go-dinner will take place outside, under the portico of the Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial Library in Penn Quarter, and will follow social distancing guidelines. Each attendee will receive two meals and a special gift. Dinner service will commence regardless of weather.

- What:** Catholic Charities DC Christmas Dinner for the Homeless
- Where:** Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial Library
901 G St. NW, Washington, DC 20001
- When:** **TODAY, Dec. 16, 2020**
3 p.m. (guests are expected to line up early)
- Why:** To celebrate Christmas as a community and provide the homeless a meal and kinship.
- Who:** Charities DC employees, volunteers and hundreds of homeless and hungry guests. Scott Lewis, Executive Director of Enterprises, Education & Employment for Catholic Charities DC will be available for interviews.
- Media:** RSVP preferred but not required.

“So many people are feeling isolated during this unprecedented crisis,” said Amanda Chesney, executive director of housing and homeless services for Catholic Charities DC. “But this environment is exponentially harder on residents experiencing homelessness. Our dinner not only provides food, but also a renewed sense of community, which is critical to their well-being.”

Wednesday’s menu includes herb rubbed roasted chicken breast, salmon cake, wild rice pilaf, green beans, a corn muffin and chocolate chip cookies. The meal will be made from scratch by the staff of Catholic Charities DC’s KitchenWork culinary training program.

Since March, Catholic Charities DC has seen a significant increase in food insecurity due to the economic downturn caused by the pandemic. The agency has hosted more than 25 large-scale community food distributions, providing nutritious food to 500-1,000 struggling families at each event. Across all its food assistance programs, Catholic Charities DC has served more than 1.2 million emergency meals since the start of the pandemic. To further combat food insecurity in D.C. and five counties in Maryland during the holiday season, Catholic Charities DC is hosting a Virtual Food Drive to benefit its food outreach programs. For more information about the Virtual Food Drive, including how to contribute, please visit catholiccharitiesdc.org/VFD.

For more information on services provided by Catholic Charities or for opportunities to help Washington's homeless population throughout the year, please visit www.catholiccharitiesdc.org.

About Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Washington

Catholic Charities DC is the largest independent social services agency in the Metropolitan D.C. area. As the charitable arm of the Archdiocese of Washington, Catholic Charities DC invests in communities by providing critical services to hundreds of thousands of people in need throughout the District of Columbia and Montgomery, Prince George's, Charles, Calvert and St. Mary's counties in Maryland. The organization works tirelessly to give help that empowers and hope that lasts to those it serves regardless of background, belief or circumstance. For more information, visit www.catholiccharitiesdc.org and follow us on social media @CCADW.