



COVID-19

Frequently Asked Questions



Will you still be collecting Box of Joy gifts this season?

Yes, Cross Catholic Outreach will continue with the Box of Joy ministry this season. You can sign up your group at boxofjoy.org.

Box of Joy Week is Nov. 7-15, 2020. Box of Joy participants can find their nearest Drop-Off Centers on our website at crosscatholic.org/box-of-joy/drop-off-centers by late October/early November. The best way to stay up-to-date on any changes this season is by continuing to check the Box of Joy website or by visiting our social media channels.

We may not be able to host a packing event at our church, impacting the number of boxes we plan to pack. Any suggestions?

We strongly encourage packing parties to follow local government guidelines. If your church's or group's Box of Joy goal is impacted by COVID-19, each participating organization could consider developing procedures for a touch-free experience for donors. If group activities are not possible, families can pack their boxes at home and bring them to the drop-off location. Some participants may want to consider Create-A-Box online at crosscatholic.org/box-of-joy/create-a-box.

What adjustments will be made to drop-off locations to ensure safe collection?

We understand that each community, county and state may be in a different phase of COVID-19 recovery during Box of Joy Week. Cross Catholic Outreach will stay connected with all locations and provide resources and procedures for drop-off centers to ensure the safety and well-being of both donors and volunteers. This may include wearing personal protective equipment and developing procedures for a touch-free experience for donors.

Will there still be volunteer processing at the end of the year? What will you do to ensure social distancing?

Cross Catholic Outreach will plan for a traditional processing season with volunteers, but we understand disease trends may prevent this from occurring. In this case, contingency plans are being developed that would still allow volunteers to process Boxes of Joy even if social distancing restrictions are needed. Also, additional personal protective equipment will be readily available and additional cleaning protocols are being developed for our National Screening Center. We encourage you to check this page for the latest information:

crosscatholic.org/box-of-joy/team-joy.

Is Cross Catholic Outreach sending Boxes of Joy to developing countries during the pandemic?

We are continuing our ministry in developing countries. In fact, we have increased our aid, because poor communities overseas suffer from desperate needs far beyond what we experience in the U.S. Cross Catholic Outreach is working directly with our international leadership teams in the countries we will serve to assess ongoing ministry activity with some modifications according to local government guidelines.



Does Cross Catholic Outreach need Boxes of Joy?

Yes! Now more than ever, children need to have the reassurance that they are loved by God. We believe in the urgency of reaching communities with the eternal hope of the Gospel, especially in these uncertain times. Box of Joy gifts, the Story of Jesus and the Rosary are powerful tools to share God's love with thousands of children around the world.

If we can't gather, why would kids in other countries be gathering?

They might not! Safety is our priority as we continue to monitor COVID-19 trends around the world. In addition, we are working directly with our international partners to assess ongoing ministry activity with some modifications according to local government guidelines. If local restrictions make it impossible for children to gather to receive their Boxes of Joy, the gifts will be delivered to their homes by ministry partners.

Should participants shop for Box of Joy gift items during this time?

The Cross Catholic Outreach Box of Joy team encourages everyone to follow local guidelines and use personal discretion when shopping for gift items. Many stores are opening around the country, and online shopping is a popular method for participants.

What's the best way to get updates?

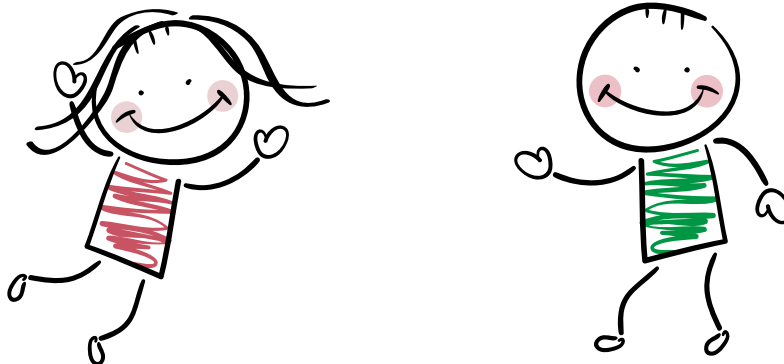
The best way to stay informed is to stay current on our website, boxofjoy.org, and social media.

Does the virus change what we can or should pack this year?

At this time, there are no changes to what can and cannot be packed in Box of Joy gifts this year. You can view a current list of suggested items at: boxofjoy.org. Hand soap is already on this list but is now needed more than ever.

We encourage you to continue visiting our website for the latest updates.

boxofjoy.org



Box of Joy is a ministry of Cross Catholic Outreach.

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