



Photo by Will Baxter/CRS

# Advent Giving Tree

## Live in Global Solidarity This Advent, With Catholic Relief Services' Advent Giving Tree!

During Advent, we are encouraged to meditate on the birth of Jesus into poverty and on how this reflects the reality of many other families around the world today. Participants of the Advent Giving Tree are invited to consider what the Holy Family might have needed and how those needs compare to those of people who live in poverty today. The Advent Giving Tree ornaments include items that represent actual goods and services provided to people CRS serves around the world. The gifts themselves are symbolic of the good your donation will do for children, women and men in more than 100 countries.



## Get started in 5 easy steps

1. Decide on the best location for your Advent Giving Tree and the dates you will display it.
2. Visit [crs.org/giveadvent](https://crs.org/giveadvent) to set up your community's online Advent Giving Tree webpage.
3. Set your goal and decide how many ornaments you will need to reach your goal.
4. Add your custom URL to your ornaments. Then print, cut and hang them on your tree.
5. Let your community know about your Advent Giving Tree and encourage them to participate. Use the sample announcement on this page to promote it.



## Tips to engage your community this Advent

Here are suggestions for ways to invite people to donate gifts from the tree:

- Invite families to take home an ornament as part of a fellowship or community event.
- Put the tree at the entrance of your church or school and ask families to take an ornament after Mass or religious education class.
- If your parish or school already coordinates a giving tree activity for your local community, add these ornaments to your tree and invite people to remember their local and global family at Christmas.
- Encourage your community to participate virtually by customizing your online giving page and inviting people to donate the value of their gifts online.
- Use your social media pages to encourage people to participate!

**Note:** Checks should be made out to "Catholic Relief Services." Please convert all cash donations to a check before mailing to CRS (a tax receipt is sent only to the names and addresses on the checks). Include the [Table of Thanks offline donation](#) form with your check.



## Materials

- Copies of Advent Giving Tree ornament cutouts.
- Scissors, hole punch, tape and ribbon or string.
- A tree on which to hang ornaments. Don't have space for a full-sized tree? Try a table-top tree or even a poster!
- The customized URL for your community's virtual Advent Giving Tree webpage. Write this URL on each ornament so that people can give online.



## Sample announcement for a school newsletter or parish bulletin

*This Advent, join our [PARISH/SCHOOL/COMMUNITY] in helping families around the world through the work of Catholic Relief Services. CRS is the official international humanitarian agency of the Catholic community in the United States and provides assistance to people in need in over 100 countries. Support the Church's mission of serving people in need by taking an ornament from the Advent Giving Tree located in [LOCATION]. You can give your gift online at [INSERT CUSTOMIZED URL] or by cash or check through [CHURCH/SCHOOL OFFICE OR COORDINATOR]. Thank you for your compassion and generosity, and for making a difference in the lives of our sisters and brothers around the world!*

FRONT

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## 2 BAGS OF FERTILIZER

# \$20

Fertilizer helps farmers nourish soil, reap better harvests and earn more income.

### Reflect

*Do you think the Holy Family had a small vegetable garden at home? Imagine what a difference healthy soil can make for a family trying to grow food for their daily meals.*

To make your donation for this gift online, visit:

All items are actual goods and services provided to the people CRS serves overseas. The gifts described in this catalog are symbolic of the good your donation will do for children, women and men in more than 100 countries.

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CUT ALONG DOTTED LINE

CUT ALONG DOTTED LINE



## SCHOOL UNIFORM

# \$20

Uniforms are needed for children to attend school and allow families to focus on other expenses, like tuition and books.

### Reflect

*Mary and Joseph supported Jesus' education so he would learn about the sacred scriptures and become a man of faith and hard work. Imagine how happy parents are when they can provide their children with what they need for their education.*

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FOLD ALONG VERTICAL AXIS AND TAPE FRONT AND BACK SIDES TOGETHER

FRONT

BACK



## 12 HEALTH EXAMS

# \$25

Health exams help monitor growth and development, and provide vaccinations to prevent disease, so children can lead healthy, happy lives.

### Reflect

*Mary was a loving and caring mother to Jesus. Imagine how glad she would have been to have regular checkups for Jesus as he was growing up.*

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## PRENATAL CARE

# \$30

Prenatal care includes consultations, immunizations and weight monitoring to ensure babies are born safe and healthy.

### Reflect

*Joseph was an attentive husband and father. Imagine how glad he would have been for Mary to receive quality care throughout her pregnancy and during and after giving birth to Jesus.*

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# HAND-WASHING STATION

## \$30

Hand-washing stations significantly reduce disease.

### Reflect

*Jesus was born in a manger surrounded by animals, straw and hay. Imagine the peace of mind that running water might have provided to Mary and Joseph.*

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# TRAINING FOR A SAVINGS GROUP

## \$30

Savings groups provide people opportunities to invest, borrow and help their neighbors meet emergency needs.

### Reflect

*Mary and Joseph fled to Egypt after Jesus' birth. Imagine the difference a savings group could have made to the Holy Family as they were starting over in their new community.*

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## BACK-TO-SCHOOL KIT

# \$35

Kits include a backpack, uniform and shoes, so families can give their children a good start to the school year.

### Reflect

*As a carpenter, Joseph knew how important it is to have the right tools to do a good job. Like him, many parents want to equip their children with the necessary school supplies so that they can study effectively.*

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## FLOCK OF CHICKENS

# \$40

Chickens are easy to raise, provide lifesaving protein for families and can generate added income.

### Reflect

*Just like Mary and Joseph, families around the world strive to provide food and security for their children. Imagine the difference a flock of chickens could make for a family as an additional source of income or nutrition.*

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## QUALITY SEEDS

# \$50

Quality seeds produce quality crops that resist drought, pests and diseases.

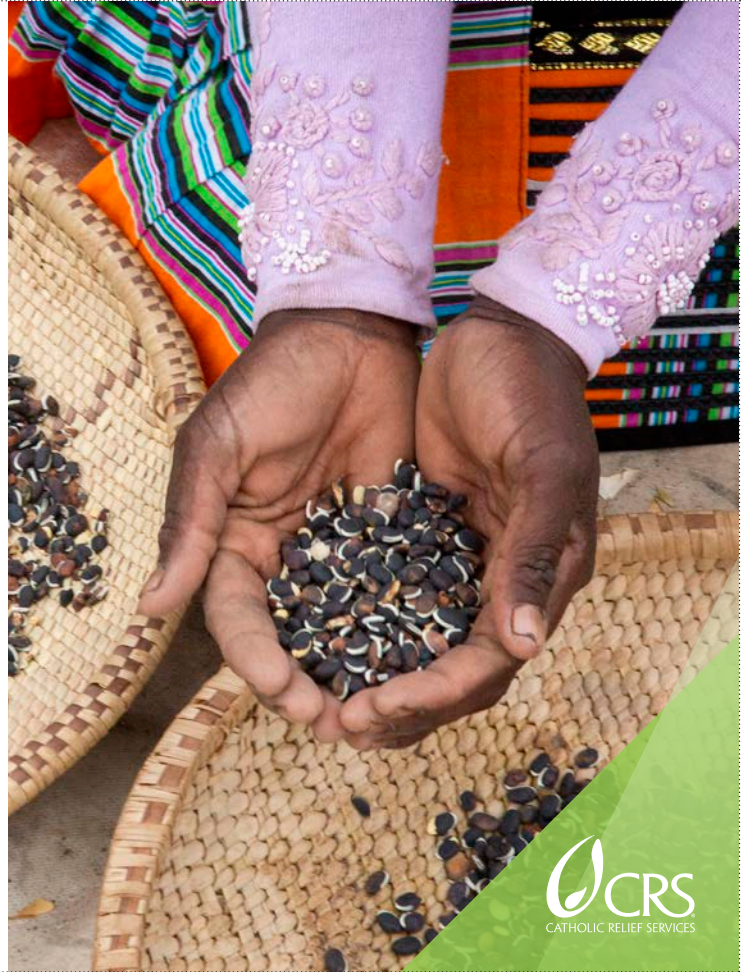
### Reflect

*Do you think the Holy Family had a small vegetable garden at home? Imagine what a difference quality seeds can make for a family trying to grow food for their daily meals.*

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## MOSQUITO NETS FOR 2 FAMILIES

# \$60

Mosquito nets protect entire families so they can sleep safely and avoid diseases such as malaria.

### Reflect

*Mary cared for Jesus' needs. Imagine the relief mothers, like Mary, feel when they have a way to protect their babies from harmful diseases like Malaria.*

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## EMERGENCY SUPPLY & HYGIENE KIT

# \$70

Kits include food, water, medicine, blankets and soap, which are essential for people suffering from disasters or conflicts.

### Reflect

*Imagine how helpful an Emergency Kit would have been to the Holy Family as they were fleeing to Egypt and what a difference such a kit could make to a family suffering a disaster today.*

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## 1 BABY GOAT

# \$80

A goat, when grown, can be a daily source of nutritious milk and provide families with increased income.

### Reflect

*Since Jesus' time, goats have been an important asset. Imagine the difference a baby goat could make for a family as an additional source of income or nutrition.*

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## INFANT SCALES

# \$120

Scales are essential for measuring babies' growth.

### Reflect

*Baby Jesus grew and developed just like kids around the world today. Imagine how glad Mary and Joseph would have been to be able to take Jesus for regular check-ups and monitor his development.*

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## 10 VACCINATIONS

# \$150

Vaccines help prevent childhood diseases and deaths.

### Reflect

*Mary and Joseph loved Jesus deeply and wanted to keep him safe. Imagine the peace of mind of parents around the world when they have access to vaccines that keep their children safe from disease.*

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## SEWING MACHINE

# \$150

Sewing machines and other tools are provided as part of adult education, vocational training and literacy programs that help women and men around the world to earn a living and build a future.

### Reflect

*Joseph earned money for his family through his work as a carpenter. Imagine the difference a sewing machine could make for an aspiring craftsman today.*

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## 1 COW

# \$300

Cows provide fresh milk, which means a balanced diet and extra income.

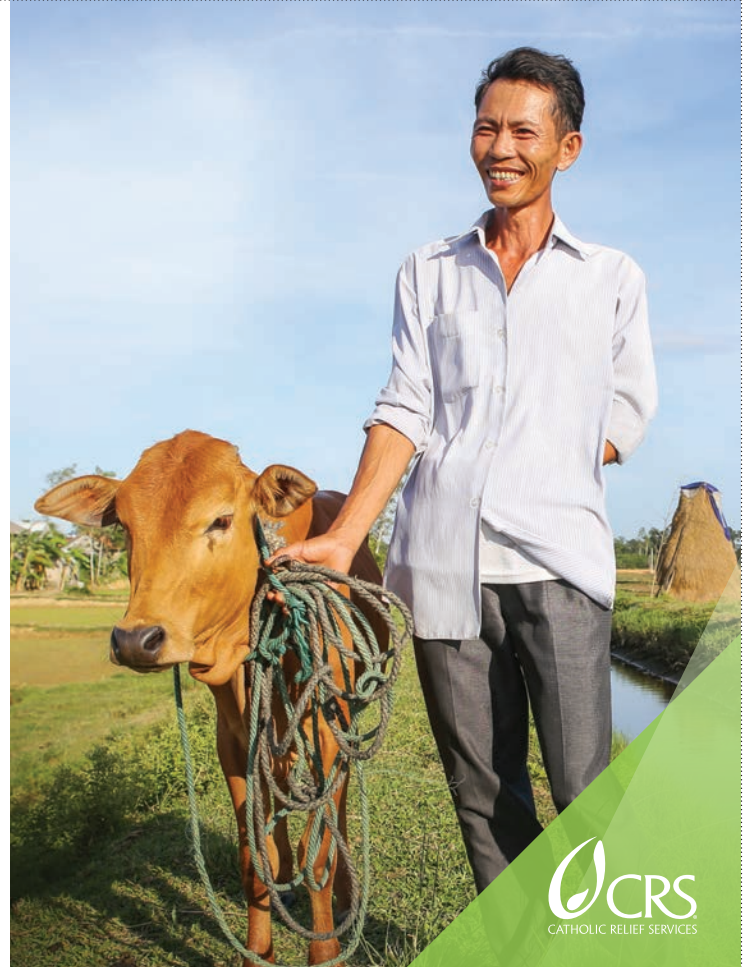
### Reflect

*How do you think the Holy Family got the nutrition they needed each day? Imagine the difference a cow could make for a family today trying to provide nutritious food for their children.*

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