**SSJ Box of Joy 2024**

**October 12 through November 3, 2024**

**How do I participate?**

1. Pick up your box(es) the weekends of October 12-13 and 19-20.
2. Return Your Filled box(es):
   1. Weekend of October 19-20, 26-27, and November 2-3, 2024, on the Plaza, or
   2. Drop-in bin outside of Room 1 (Dedicated bin for Box of Joy) any time.
   3. Need a box/more boxes? Contact us.
   4. **All boxes returned by November 3.** (Can’t make that date? Contact us.)

**Packing Dos & Don’ts**

* Do not tape or seal the box shut. Best to use a sturdy rubber band(s).
* Do not pack any food items. Only hard, individually wrapped candy allowed. All other food contents will be removed.
* Do not pack any liquids in the boxes. This includes shampoos, drinks, toiletries that are liquid, etc. Any liquids will be removed.
* Do fill your box(es) to the top!
* Do include $9.00 for each box to cover shipping and handling (see below for payment details.)
* Do drop off any extra or leftover items. We will use them to top off other boxes. You may donate loose items as well.
* Do read the Cross Catholic Gift Idea flyer for additional information on what and what not to pack in your box(es).

**Payments to Cover Shipping & Handling**

* Please include your $9.00 check or cash to cover shipping and handling in the provided envelope. The payment offsets the shipping costs to deliver the boxes.
* Please make the check payable to Cross Catholic Outreach **or** Sts. Simon and Jude Parish and we will transfer the funds to Cross Catholic.
* Please put the check or cash inside the Cross Catholic envelope and completely fill out the information.
* Payment online is available on the SSJ website under Give Now. (<https://giving.parishsoft.com/app/giving/ssj>).
* If you pay directly to Cross Catholic via their website, please indicate our parish and Box of Joy and put a copy of the receipt in the envelope.
* If you pack multiple boxes, **only one check**/**payment** ($9.00 per box) is required. Just multiply the number of boxes by $9 for the total payment.

**Helpful hints**

* Remove bulky packaging to avoid waste and to fit more items in the box.  To protect items, use zip lock bags.
* Include companion items, e.g., toothbrush and toothpaste, colors and coloring books, clothing top and bottom, balls and air pumps, etc. Compressed balls fit in the Box of Joy.
* Include photos of your family.
* Include pictures drawn or colored by children (sheet provided).
* Decorate your box.

**Box of Joy & Cross Catholic Outreach web links****:**

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Box of Joy Intro Church video  Joyous Noise! Cross Catholic Outreach

**Additional Q&As**

* What items does Cross Catholic add to each Box of Joy? Cross Catholic adds a booklet called the *Story of Jesus* and a rosary (if there is not already one in the box).
* If I am undecided about the age of the child I would like to give my box to, is there any guidance offered? You are free to choose any age group that your heart longs to please. If you are undecided, the older age groups are a great choice.
* If I have an item that just won’t fit in the box, what can I do? It is preferred that the boxes be full and all items be in the box, but if you have purchased an item that just doesn’t fit and still want to donate it to the Box of Joy, let us know and we will get it to the right place.
* Where can I find more information on the Box of Joy project? Please see the web links above for Cross Catholic Outreach and Box of Joy.

Contact Box of Joy Project Co-Leaders:

Rich Eimer or Jim Burk ([**boxofjoy@ssjwoodlands.com**](mailto:boxofjoy@ssjwoodlands.com)**)** via email.

Thank you for participating in our Box of Joy Project!