



## Saint Mary Parish Giving Tree

An important message about the Giving Tree – Please read!!

Why do we need your gift back so early on **DECEMBER 5th**?

Our Santa's workshop is a **VERY** busy place. It takes **A LOT** of volunteers and many hours. We have to log and keep track of over **900 gifts**, sort them into groups for the 16 different charities that we work with, and deliver or arrange pick-up for all of the gifts. And then the charities have to sort and deliver the items to their clients. Our own family Christmas preparations are often put on hold until the Giving Tree is complete.

Unfortunately, each year a large number of gifts are not returned, and the Giving Tree **ELVES shop** for each missing gift so as not to leave a wish unfulfilled. Then they wrap them, log them, sort them....you get the idea!

It takes **A LOT** of time and money. We spend Giving Tree funds to make up the shortfall.

**PLEASE, PLEASE, PLEASE** return your gift before December 6th. If you lose your tag, or are unable to fulfill a wish, please email us at:

**[stmarysgivingtree@gmail.com](mailto:stmarysgivingtree@gmail.com)**

Thank you for helping fulfill wishes this Christmas – the Saint Mary Giving Tree Program makes an enormous difference in the lives of so many people each year!!

Thank you,  
The Giving Tree ELVES

PS – You do not need to purchase every item listed on the ornament...some groups provide a few ideas...just do what you can.