

*St. Francis*            *Pledge Ministry*  
*St. Columba*      *Catholic Church*

## *Invites you to a Simple Christmas*

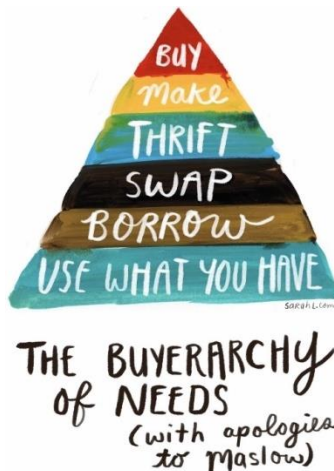
Consumer culture is harming the planet and teaches us all that greed is good. This Christmas, let us reject consumerism and promote a culture of fellowship and meaningful giving. If possible, limit your expenditures for kids to three gifts, using the rationale that “Santa brings three gifts to children to remind them of the three gifts the Wise Men brought to Baby Jesus.” Consider supplementing the three purchased gifts with recycled and homemade gifts.

### *Simplify Your Christmas and Save our Environment!!!*

**Waste – Free Ideas** – Stop to think about what you are buying and how it will impact your home and the environment.

1. Do you or your loved one need it? Will it make your life better / easier? Does it have multiple uses? Will it last? Can it be recycled (at the end of its usefulness)?

Consider the “buyerarchy of needs:”



2. Consider plastic-free options to store leftovers:
  - a. **Wrap it up** – use something that is washable, reusable, and compostable like a towel, wax paper, foil or Bee’s Wrap (<http://www.beeswrap.com>)
  - b. **Pack it** – use stainless steel and plastic-free containers that last a lifetime so that plastic doesn’t have to.
  - c. **Jar it** – Glass jars are indispensable, space-saving, and waste-free storage options. Consider using mason jars to avoid plastic lids containing BPA and rusting rings.

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3. **Consider eco-friendly gifts:** <http://ecolunchboxes.com/blogs/news/81561089-green-gift-guides>

### **Service Gift Ideas - Use your time to share God's love.**

1. **Give your time and labor:** Making coupons, cards, or art promising to do something for someone in the near future. Try to commit to doing something out of the ordinary.
2. **Prison Literature Project:** Respond to prisoner request(s) for books. This volunteer activity includes answering prisoner letters, selecting, and packing books. Volunteers meet on Sundays from 2-5 pm and on Wednesdays from 6.30p-9.30p at the Grassroots House at 2022 Blake St in Berkeley. (<http://www.prisonlit.org/volunteer>)
3. **Meals on Wheels:** Use your car to deliver food to seniors in need. (<http://www.feedingseniors.org/volunteer>)

### **Homemade Gift Ideas - Use your talent to create something special.**

1. **Visit Pinterest for ideas:** <https://www.pinterest.com/explore/handmade-gifts/>
2. **Give Food:** Bake a special dessert or meal and package it in a special way
3. **Ideas for Kids:** Make them a craft, science project, or toy like:
  - a. Playdough (<http://www.wikihow.com/Make-Play-Dough>)
  - b. Recycled Remote Control Cars (<https://youtu.be/voT-xADi-RE>)
  - c. Non-Toxic Lip Balm (<http://www.brit.co/homemade-lip-balm-recipes/>)

### **Solidarity Gift Ideas - Create bonds of support and friendship.**

1. **Giving Tree:** Select a family from the Giving tree.
2. **Hope for Haiti:** Get involved in Hope for Haiti.
3. **Volunteer and Donate:** Volunteer with or donate to a non-profit organization during the holidays or commit to do so throughout the year.

***“Blessed are those who protect and care for our common home.”~Pope Francis***

