

December 14, 2025



## WEEKLY LETTER FROM MONSIGNOR KEN

Have you played this game at Christmas time, with family, at work, or in an organization to which you belong? Everyone brings a gift, then each person takes a number. The first person picks a gift from the pile. After that, each has the option to either choose from the unclaimed gifts, or to steal one from one of the others who have already picked a gift. Usually, a gift can only be “stolen” two times, then it’s retired from the game.

I don’t like it! I can never bring myself to take a gift from someone else, unless they don’t want it! Plus, I feel bad if they lose a gift they wanted. Of course, it’s all in fun and people enjoy it. I guess I just take it too seriously!.

There’s another game that is often played, Secret Santa. That’s when everyone in the group picks a name at random without revealing who it is. They have to get a gift for that person, anonymously. As in the previous game, there usually is a dollar limit so that everyone stays within a certain price range. This can also be fun, but, in the end, usually the identity of the “secret” Santa is revealed!

Here's a challenge for a real-life game. Why not be an actual Secret Santa? By this I mean, not buying a present anonymously within a certain group. Choose someone, a family member, friend, co-worker, a neighbor, or even someone you don’t really know who could use an extra blessing. Between now and the end of the Christmas Season, the feast of the Baptism of the Lord, January 11 (so you have time), and do something nice for them. You could give them some money they need, treat them to dinner, visit them, or it could be a present. At this time of the year, many ministries and organizations do charitable acts. That’s great. That’s the spirit of this except that you’re not doing it as part of a group. In the spirit of the season, it’s doing a random act of kindness, but making sure they will not know who did it. I’ve accepted the challenge myself, and am working on who and what I will do. It’s not easy to make a decision, but it is exciting. So, think about it. Why not be a real-life Secret Santa?

***“But when you give alms, do not let your left hand know what your right is doing, so that your almsgiving may be secret. And your Father who sees in secret will repay you.”  
(Matthew 6:3-4)***