

Winter Has Just Begun. The Bitter Cold Will Return

UGH. No one wants to hear this, but we all know New England winters are difficult to endure. As tough as the weather is on all of us, think about the recent wave of immigrants to Essex County, fleeing the devastation of the fall hurricanes that caused so much damage on the islands of the Atlantic. Think about all those in places like Puerto Rico who still live day by day without electricity. How many months has it been since the hurricanes anyway?

Huge numbers of men, women and children have arrived here in Essex County with nothing but the clothing they wore after the hurricanes struck their homes. The need for winter coats, hats, gloves, mittens, socks and blankets cannot be overstated. Saint Basil's Ministries and the Stewardship Committee are teaming up to ask you to help. Please look and see if you have an extra unneeded coat or a pair of gloves or mittens, or socks or blankets. We have placed large totes in the Narthex to accept donations. Items need not be new, but do need to be clean and in good condition. The drive will continue all the Sundays of January. Tell others too. The need is great. The Narthex at Annunciation Church is open every Sunday morning from 9 to noon – donations can be dropped off at that time or Mondays at the community meal sponsored by St. Basil's Ministries.

All donations will be taken to Lazarus House in Lawrence. Lazarus House is distributing all items received for hurricane victims free of charge during this season of need.