



*As a community centered in the Eucharist, we proclaim the love of Christ
by sharing our bounty with all who seek nourishment.*

Thank you for your interest in this community outreach ministry. We have been operating from the lower level of our church for more than 30 years. In that time, we have seen the needs of our community grow, and by the Grace of God, our parish has responded to meet these needs. What has not changed over time is our ministry objective.

Put simply, our goal is to supplement the pantries of those who need food. At the weekend Masses, we collect non-perishable food from our generous parishioners. Throughout the week, volunteers pick up bread, produce, eggs and frozen meat from community partners. Food is sorted and stored at a nearby warehouse and in a storeroom adjacent to Ave Maria Hall. Every Monday, from 10 AM until Noon, a friendly team of volunteers distribute the food to those in our community who come to the food bank for assistance.

We are ALWAYS in need of food, as our recipient list continues to grow. *Please take note of marked expiration dates.* Here are some ideas:

- **Donate non-perishable food.** Check the parish website for most-needed items, which is periodically updated. Paper sacks with a list of suggested items are available in the vestibule of the church, near the drinking fountain. Place the food donations in the wooden box marked "food bank", or drop them off in one of the shopping baskets located at the west end of Marian Hall.
- **Donate funds.** Direct funds to the pantry through FaithDirect. If you prefer, write a check payable to St. Mary Parish, with "Parish Pantry" in the memo line. Donations may be dropped into the collection basket at weekend Masses, or sent directly to the Parish office.
- **Organize a food drive** through groups you may be affiliated with - and donate what you collect to our ministry. Ask party guests to bring donated food in lieu of gifts.
- **Do you have a contact in the food industry** that may have surplus to donate? Currently, King Soopers and Panera Bread provide surplus baked goods every Monday.
- **Do you plant a garden? If you have surplus fruits & veggies** that you'd like to donate, please bring them to Ave Maria Hall on a Monday morning, before 9:00 AM. Volunteers are on hand to receive your donation beginning at 7:30 AM.

Need Assistance? If you or someone you know is in need and would like to be added to our list, registration is handled during our operating hours – Mondays, from 10 AM until Noon. Additional information for recipients is available at our parish website: <https://www.stmarylitleton.org/need-help/st-mary-parish-pantry-food/>

Want to Volunteer? If you are interested in volunteering, please contact the pantry Volunteer Coordinator, Cathy, at smpp.volunteers@yahoo.com.

Want more Information? If you have other questions, please contact the pantry Program Coordinator, Debi, at ParishPantry@StMaryLittleton.org.

"Nourishing body and spirit with the love of Christ"



St. Mary Parish Pantry – FAQ's

Are you curious about the outreach ministry, St. Mary Parish Pantry? Here are answers to some frequently-asked questions.

- ***How many people do you serve?*** More than 500 households are active on our list, representing nearly 1,600 individuals. Members from about 100 households visit us on an average Monday morning.
- ***What does someone need to qualify?*** We honor self-declared need. It is a humbling experience for those asking for assistance. We see the face of Christ in those we serve and are committed to demonstrate His love through our work, while respecting the God-given dignity of all.
- ***How often can someone visit the pantry?*** Registered clients may receive food every week, for as long as they are in need.
- ***How much food do you give away?*** On average, clients leave with 50 pounds of food each time they visit. We pack up to 15 types of non-perishables, up to 20 types of produce, frozen meats, a dozen eggs, assorted other dairy and frozen foods, plus at least 4 types of bakery items.
- ***Where does all that food come from?*** Much of the non-perishable food is donated at weekend Masses, and by various youth groups who run food drives. We partner with Food Bank of the Rockies and the Food Exchange Resource Network (FERN), which are constant sources of all types of food. Our collaborations give us access to periodic community food drives such as 9Cares Colorado Shares, USPS Stamp Out Hunger Food Drive and Feeding of the 5,000. Funds donated by our generous parishioners allow us to purchase fresh produce and eggs every week.

Thank you for your support!