



ARCHDIOCESE OF NEWARK

PARISH FOOD PANTRY NEWSLETTER

Volume 1 / Issue 2

Making Good Use of our Newsletter

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In order to support all of our committed parishioners working in our Parish Food Pantries we wanted to share this newsletter as a place to share news and best practices.

Many of our Food Pantries are being affected by the plastic bag ban. In this issue you will see how one parish is dealing with that issue.

We want this newsletter to be a place where we can support one another, share news and network.

Food Pantry Workshops

One result of our Food Pantry meetings over the past year was a desire for a series of workshops for our volunteers to help them in their specific areas of concern.

We have held a number of workshops already and also have a few yet to come. We try to share best practices and our experiences with each other.

Our next workshop is on how best to engage volunteers. Often we hear about how difficult it is to find help. As we look at our ministry as we begin to come out of Covid we can see how it can be a new opportunity to engage with our community. This workshop will be held on May 24th at 7:00 pm via Zoom.

Register here: <https://forms.office.com/r/3h37JRJmBG>

Upcoming Workshops:

Best Practices in Engaging Volunteers	May 24
How to Best Serve our Clients	June 6
How to Best Network with Other Faith Communities in Your Area	June 27

Ideas About Collecting and the Plastic Bag Ban from St. Mary's Food Pantry, Dumont



When churches closed in March of 2020 and donations could no longer be brought to mass or dropped at our rectory, we had to rethink how to collect and distribute donations safely.

The first step was how to collect, you can't distribute without collecting! Consequently, the drive through food donation was born! Our parishioners and other supporters drove up to the pantry door, a volunteer removed the bagged donations from the trunk or back seat of their car and off they went. Worked like a charm! This process has continued quarterly ever since May of 2020. There are times when people drop donations at the church or rectory, but very few. On drive through donation days, we have two sets of volunteers, one set bringing the donations to the pantry, usually the Confirmation candidates and youth group, and another sorting and bagging the donations. We try to bag three months of distributions at a time.

All food pantries are now faced, come November 4, with another collection and distribution issue due to the ban on single use plastic and paper bags. For now, we will be offering our parishioners single use bags at the doors of our church for their donations. (See photo below) Hopefully after November 4 we will still be able to offer paper bags for donations. If not, this topic will be revisited! For distribution, we will be using paper ream boxes or a comparable size. The pandemic has caused most of us to reinvent the way our pantries collect and distribute food. We thank you for letting us share our story at St. Mary's. Denise Alloca, Anna Markert. Lynne Vietri Co-chairs St. Mary's Food Pantry – Dumont, NJ





Share Your Story!

Please feel free to share any ideas, stories or pictures for upcoming newsletters.

Please send to

Rev.Timothy.Graff@rcan.org



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HUNGRY**
