

**St. Mark's Episcopal Church
Food Pantry Project
April 15, 2020**

Hello, Everyone.

During these difficult times, the need for food has greatly increased. The nearest area food pantry to St. Mark's is at Westminster Church. We regularly support the pantry through food donations every First Sunday of the month. I have been in contact with Angie Kelley, the pantry coordinator, about pantry needs especially since we and other organizations are not actively and/or regularly collecting non-perishable food for distribution to others.

Today, we are mounting a food drive for the Westminster pantry beginning this week. A financial contribution was sent two weeks ago, but we need to do more if possible. Your assistance would be most appreciated.

In two Zoom meetings this week, we determined to be of assistance to the pantry by actively collecting non-perishable food. The most needed products are the following:

- Canned soups with 6 grams or more of protein per can
- Canned tuna, chili, beef stew, canned chicken or salmon, pasta, beans and rice mix
- Bread (in bags)
- In bags: fresh produce such as potatoes, onions, green beans, apples, and oranges

My guess is that many other items could be of use as well. The above are the most needed at this time.

Here's what we are planning to do with God's help and yours:

On the following days and at times listed, Megan Harding or one of us on staff will be available to answer the door bell at the rear door of the Parish House on Winchester Place. That door is the second door from the kitchen door, has a light above it and the Parish's address on it. Winchester Place is the alley which connects Lyon Street and Fountain Street. Please, access the alley via Lyon (on-way) and not Fountain.

Thursday, April 16: 2 – 4 p.m.

Saturday, April 18: 2 – 4 p.m.

Monday, April 20: 2 – 4 p.m.

Tuesday, April 21: 2 – 4 p.m.

Wednesday, April 22: 10:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

If none of these dates and times does not work for you, please, contact me at 617.416.5014. I will arrange to meet you with the same procedures outlined below and will be pleased to do so.

Delivery will be made to the pantry on Wednesday, April 22 between 12:30 - 2:30 p.m.

A requirement is that all donations of food be made by individuals wearing masks and gloves. The preferable method is that donations be made in paper bags. Handles would be a plus. Plastic bag deliveries will be placed inside cardboard boxes in the hallway at that entrance.

Once the doorbell has been rung, the door will open. The bags of groceries will be placed inside the door on the right. There will be 'no' exchange of bags, and social distancing will be maintained at all times.

If you wish to make a monetary donation, please, send your check to the Church in care of Pam Stevenson with Food Pantry in the memo line. Pam will gather monetary donations, and another monetary gift will be included from the Rector's Discretionary Fund to accompany received monetary donations. One check will be written from St. Mark's.

If this food drive is successful, we may consider doing it again in the next several weeks.

If you are currently unable to participate in the drive, I ask that you pray for St. Mark's and our efforts to be of assistance to others and for the Westminster Food Pantry for their continued help for those in need.

May God be with us as we work to help our neighbors in need. As always, your generosity is much appreciated.

Blessings and thanks,

Christian ⁺

The Rev. Dr. Christian Brocato, Rector