

Sacred Heart Catholic Church

Emergency Food & Clothing Pantry

— Friends Helping Neighbors in Need —

February 2009

MISSION STATEMENT:

We, the parish family of Sacred Heart, do hereby covenant ourselves to God by working to proclaim His Word, build His community, celebrate His liturgy and serve His people. With this covenant and living witness to Christ as our example, we resolve to: establish and maintain an emergency food pantry staffed by volunteers, provide an atmosphere of warmth, hospitality and love in the service of our brothers and sisters in need, and to provide emergency food assistance to those within our community. It is our prayer that no one shall go hungry.

Welcome to the first edition of the Sacred Heart Catholic Church Emergency Food & Clothing Pantry newsletter.

The Emergency Food & Clothing Pantry is a non-profit service, staffed by parish volunteers and operated from the parish hall each Saturday morning from 9 – 9:30 am. It is open to all families in need.

Emergency Food Pantry volunteers collect food items throughout the week which are generously donated by local grocery stores, collections during weekend Masses, and individual contributions left in the collection box in the commons area. Pantry volunteers gather



early Saturday morning to set-up, sort and bag food items for distribution to visitors who are usually lined up earlier, waiting for our doors to open.

The Emergency Food Pantry is now collecting clean, gently used clothing items, now for sale at thrift store prices during Pantry hours. Proceeds from the sale of clothing items go toward the operating expenses of the Food Pantry, and also to help defray the cost of shipping donations to our sister parish in Nigeria.



As the Emergency Food & Clothing Pantry has become more organized over the past three months, we continue to build our infrastructure to support on-going activities. We are in the process of clearing out an area in one of the parish hall storage rooms to install a recently donated refrigerator and freezer. This will allow us to collect and store more perishable food items throughout the week. We will soon be in need of shelves and racking to store our collected food and clothing items, so we kindly ask for your help and generosity.

With a donated computer system we are keeping weekly statistics of visiting families. We are pleased to

report that we have been able to provide emergency food to an increasing number of neighbors in need.

Date	Number of Families	Representing Number of Adults	Representing Number of Children	Total Persons Served
12/13/08	13	26	23	49
12/17/08	13	30	33	63
12/27/08	12	25	26	51
1/3/09	18	37	38	75
1/10/09	13	27	28	55
1/17/09	20	43	45	88
1/24/09	19	39	40	79
1/31/09	19	42	50	92
2/7/09	13	30	31	61
2/14/09	20	44	49	93

As word of mouth continues to spread the news that we can provide emergency food assistance to others in need, we will be in need of increasing food and monetary contributions in order to sustain our mission. Coming soon there will be signs posted in the church commons area asking for additional help with needed food items.



We ask you to please pray for the families in need within our community, and also for the volunteers and contributors who unselfishly donate their time and resources help make our Emergency Food and Clothing Pantry the success that it is.



For more information about the Emergency Food & Clothing Pantry, or to volunteer your time, contribute food, clothing or other financial aid, please contact the Parish Office at: (703) 590-0030.

We pray that God's peace and blessings be with you always.

