

FOOD BAG MINISTRY: COLLECTION AND DISTRIBUTION

Saint Anne's is instituting a new procedure for collecting food and distributing food bags to the community. Jessie Ventura, an active member of our congregation who organizes the food bags for Saint Anne's, will continue to lead this important outreach ministry.

For this ministry to succeed, the guidelines stated here must be followed exactly. Any deviation from this procedure may result in our canceling this ministry. As a faithful Christian community in Delaware, Saint Anne's is obligated to follow without exception all of the instructions issued by our Governor and Bishop. Our good efforts to maintain physical distance during this time of pandemic are essential to preserving the well-being of our communities. The procedure outlined here is intended to allow Saint Anne's to offer food assistance to our neighbors while maintaining necessary physical distance.

Food Collection

Jessie's house is located on the corner of S. Cox and E. Green Streets in Middletown, directly across S. Cox St. from the Town Church. Jessie has placed a food collection box on her front porch. To donate:

- Place all food donations into the collection box; do not ring the doorbell or knock on the door.
- Food purchases must be made while you are shopping for yourself; do not make a special trip to the store.
- Items most needed right now are pasta sauce, peanut butter & jelly, and cereal.

Food Distribution

Jessie and her two adult children, Anna and Carter, will take the donations to the church, pack and then distribute the food bags. Jesse and her family are quarantined together and so can safely interact (just as Russ and his kids can offer worship together). For the reasons stated above, we cannot accept any volunteers to help with this ministry.

To distribute the food bags, signs will be placed along S. Cox St. instructing people to stay in their cars. One of the Ventura's will come out and place a food bag in the trunk of the car. Anyone who comes on foot will be instructed to stand on the far side of the street and a food bag will be left for them on the sidewalk in front of the garage.

During these challenging days, many of us want to reach out and to do all that we can to help our neighbors. Such a desire is commendable. Right now, however, the most important and effective action that we can take to help our neighbors is to stay home. Sometimes staying home is difficult; sometimes resisting the impulse to go out takes strength and self-discipline. And yet this is what we need to do. When you (or whomever shops for you) is in the grocery store, purchase items for the food bags, drop them off in the box on Jessie's porch, and then go home. This may not seem like much; but to those who receive the food bags, it will be a blessing.