



5451 Wayne Rd, Battle Creek, MI 49037 269-964-3663 <https://smfoodbank.org>

Hunger is a daily reality for **more than 19,000** people in Calhoun County (14.3% of our population). Across Michigan, thousands of children live in homes without access to enough food for the family. Without the work of dedicated partner agencies, food banks would not be able to get food to the thousands of individuals in need. Our local South Michigan Food Bank serves Calhoun and seven other surrounding counties.

Two groups at St. Joseph **partner** with the Food Bank in their mission to feed the hungry!

St. Vincent de Paul Society

The St. Vincent de Paul Society is an international Catholic organization for men and women, focusing on both personal spiritual growth and service to those who are in need. Members make home visits for emergency assistance with food, heating, and housing needs. They also coordinate our Christmas "Tree of Love" each year, reaching out to families from around the area. Their partnership with the Food Bank allows them to receive non-perishable foods at low cost, helping to alleviate hunger in our area.

Connecting with Mercy

Collecting non-perishable foods for distribution by St. Vincent de Paul and the Lakeview Food Pantry
March 13-14 to March 20-21

St. Joseph's Table will be located in the front of church



Suggestions: canned fruit and vegetables, cereal, chicken soups, ramen noodles, tuna, canned meats, also bar soap

Lakeview Food Pantry

For years, volunteers from our parish have distributed food at the Lakeview Neighborhood Food Pantry, housed at the Falam Baptist Church on 20th Street. This is one of several church pantries around the city which partner with the Food Bank. St. Joseph helps work two days each month, filling grocery bags for dozens of hungry families. The pantry also prepares backpacks for children who risk going hungry over the weekend. Hunger is closer than you think.

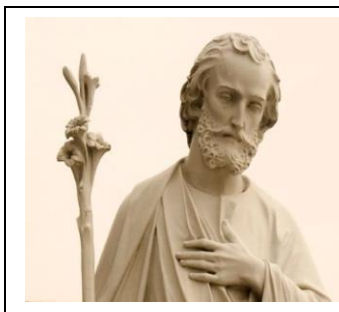
St. Joseph, our patron, on this your feast, help us listen to our dreams with compassion and openness as you did. Help us stretch, hold, and deepen our relationships. Open our embrace of the future as you opened your arms to a child not your own. In these hard times may we, like you, dream compassionately, provide wisely, and build community that can hold us together. We ask this through Jesus, whom you claimed and named. Amen.

from Good Ground Press

For those who struggle to put enough food on the table, and those who thirst for clean water, we pray to the Lord.

St. Joseph's Table

St. Joseph's Table is an old Italian custom, originating in Sicily. During a terrible drought and widespread famine, the people implored their patron, St. Joseph, to ask God for mercy for their families. To show their gratitude after a wonderful harvest, they set a great table in front of the statue of Saint Joseph in the town square, so all the community could share in their bounty.



YEAR OF ST. JOSEPH

Hail, Guardian of the Redeemer
Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary.
To you God entrusted his only Son
in you Mary placed her trust
with your guidance Jesus grew to be a man.
Blessed Joseph, to us too
show yourself a father
and guide us in the path of life.
Obtain for us grace, mercy, and courage,
and defend us from every evil. Amen.

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Lakeview Food Pantry Volunteers from St. Joseph are needed at the food pantry the second week of each month. Hours are 9:15 am to 11:45 am on Wednesdays and Fridays at Falam Baptist Church on the corner of 20th St. and Territorial Rd. (formerly Lakeview Baptist Church.) Contact Coleen Vitale at cvitale@mail.com or (989) 723-1842 if you would like to help or if you have any questions