

St. Leon Hosts Its Second Drive-By Food Drive

Much, much thanks to all those who donated food, diapers, and gift cards for our second drive-by food drive. The generosity of our community and willingness to help those in need is so very commendable. God bless all who contributed and all who helped with the food drive.

Last time we gave over 100 bags of food and other needed items and over \$400 in grocery store gift cards to the Center for Food Action which benefited people in Bergen County.

This time the drive will benefit the Paterson area food pantry of Father English Catholic Charities. As Paterson was the first home of the St. Leon parish, it was decided to give our donations to that location this time. The Father English Food Pantry serves 20,000 people every month.

With the help of Marilou and Paul Pinajian, Lori Hovsepian, and Donna Hortian, we collected 78 bags of food and other needed items and \$150 in grocery store gift cards. Our custodian, Carlos Chavez, helped load up the church van and drove the collection to Father English's food pantry with me. Many thanks were given to us for the donation from the St. Leon Church community.

We will do another collection in November. Like our previous food drives, we will collect donations of gift cards or cash which will be converted into gift cards so the food pantries can purchase fresh fruits and vegetables, milk, juice, meats and other things needed. Food and other items (such as diapers, toothpaste and toothbrushes, dental floss, dish detergent, and both liquid and bar soap) can be donated as well. Grocery store gift cards in any amount - Shoprite, Stop and Shop, Walmart, Target, and bank gift cards are very much needed.

We expect this drive's donations will be used for Thanksgiving and Christmas dinners. A \$25 gift card buys a holiday dinner for four. Please consider giving gift cards.



Noushig Bouldoukian is pictured with her family's donation of many bags of food. Noushig went shopping with her mother and picked out all the items they donated. She gave a child's perspective on what foods children would like to have.



Barbara and Lori Hovsepian, Marilou Pinajian



Carlos helping to unload the van.

Sunday, September 20, 2020 Food Drive

Think about shopping to take advantage of sales. Use a coupon for an item you would not buy for yourself but would be appreciated by the families the pantry serves. And don't forget the gift cards that the pantry will use to buy fresh fruits and vegetables, meats and other perishable items.

The date of the November food drive will be announced by the end of October. Look for a notice in the Lradoo, eLradoo, and Sunday Bulletin on line on our St. Leon webpage.

-Barbara Hovsepien