



# ST. MARK PARISH VENICE, CALIFORNIA

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*GROWING TOGETHER IN FAITH, SERVICE, AND MISSION*

Thank you for your interest in the Loaves & Fishes Food Pantry. We have put together our most frequently asked questions to help further assist and respond to the needs of our community.

## **What is the Loaves & Fishes Food Pantry?**

The Loaves and Fishes Food Pantry is a response to the growing need to support families in our community who are experiencing food scarcity and insecurity. Inspired by the miracle of the multiplication of loaves by Jesus in the Gospels, our Loaves and Fishes Ministry works to collect and distribute food to families and individuals in need.

We have partnered with Nourish LA, FoodCycle LA, Food Forward and other agencies to source all of our food goods.

## **Can I volunteer and can my son or daughter volunteer with me?**

Yes, of course! This effort is only made possible by the generous support of volunteers who share their time and energy for the wellbeing of neighbors.

- Minors need to be accompanied by a parent and need to be supervised by the parent at all times.
- We strongly encourage anyone in a vulnerable population, including those with chronic health conditions and anyone older than 65 and/or are immunocompromised to stay healthy and remain in the safety of their homes.
- Wearing a mask or face covering is required at all times.
- In order to maintain a safe environment, we will place family groups of two or more people to work in independent stations in order to stay socially distanced from other volunteers.

To SIGN-UP to volunteer click on the following link: [Food Pantry Sign-Up](#)

## **Will PPE (Personal Protective Equipment) be provided?**

Yes! We have face masks, gloves, and hand sanitizing stations. You are required to wear a facemask or face covering and gloves at all times while serving at the Food Pantry.

## **Will COVID-19 guidelines be in effect and enforced?**

Absolutely! Everyone, including children, will be required to abide by the following guidelines:

- Practice social distancing by staying at least 6 feet away from other people.
- Wear your mask properly making sure to cover your entire nose and mouth. Avoid touching your mask.
- Wear gloves at all times while at the Food Pantry.
- Avoid touching your face, nose and eyes.
- Refrain from shaking hands, hugging or touching others.
- Cover your coughs and sneezes with the sleeve of your shirt, blouse, jacket or coat.



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Additionally, at the check-in table, be prepared to answer the following health questions:

- Do you have a fever of more than 100.4 degrees?
- Do you have a sore throat?
- Are you coughing or sneezing?
- Are you experiencing body aches?
- Are you experiencing shortness of breath?
- Have you been caring for or in contact with anyone who has been diagnosed with or showing symptoms of COVID-19?

## **What does the Loaves & Fishes Food Pantry need?**

We need food, *and lots of it*. If you have access or know anyone with large quantities of food and produce, please connect us with them! We're currently serving an average of 400 people a week, so you can imagine food goes fast. The more resources we get, the more people we can serve. We can help you recycle clean paper bags, reusable bags, egg cartons, ice blankets, plastic berry baskets, tomato baskets, fruits, vegetables, herbs and financial contributions. We also encourage those with an excess of fruit and vegetables from their gardens to please harvest and donate!

## **Where can I make or send a financial contribution?**

Your financial support is important for the success of the Food Pantry and the outreach efforts of the Loaves & Fishes Ministry. Financial contributions can be made at our GoFundMe page, click here: <https://gf.me/u/y3m9a4>. Alternatively, you can mail a check made payable to: St. Mark Church, with Loaves & Fishes in the memo line, to 940 Coeur D' Alene Ave., Venice, CA 90291.

## **What time can I bring my donation or can someone pick-up?**

We ask that donations are brought to us on Saturday morning between 8:30am and 12:00pm at [940 Coeur D' Alene Ave., Venice, CA 90291](#). If you're unable to bring your donations, please reach out to us at [loavesandfishes@stmarkvenice.com](mailto:loavesandfishes@stmarkvenice.com) so we can arrange a volunteer to come pick-up supplies.

## **I'm at risk or have been infected with COVID, can I still access food?**

Absolutely! Please email us at [loavesandfishes@stmarkvenice.com](mailto:loavesandfishes@stmarkvenice.com) or call us at 310-821-5058 and we will be happy to put you down as a delivery. Please allow 24-hour notice to ensure we have enough drivers to deliver and let us know if you have dietary restrictions. We will call you when we arrive at your location and place the items on your doorstep, the day of the food drive, which is Saturday. Please expect delivery between 12:00pm - 1:00pm.



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## **Do you have hub sites in other parts of town?**

Our partner, Nourish LA, distributes food from [The Wood Cafe, 12000 Washington Blvd., Culver City, CA 90066](#) on Sundays from 1:30-3:00pm. Please use the following links to locate other organizations that distribute food or to get access to produce sharing, if you have a garden or fruits to trade:

[Food for Californians](https://lacontroller.org/data-stories-and-maps/foodforcalifornians/) - <https://lacontroller.org/data-stories-and-maps/foodforcalifornians/>

[Food Oasis LA](https://foodoasis.la/) - <https://foodoasis.la/>

[Community Produce Sharing](https://gogalora.com/) - <https://gogalora.com/>

## **How can I help feed people in my community?**

Get involved with the Loaves & Fishes Ministry and volunteer at the Food Pantry. Sign-up here: [Food Pantry Sign-Up](#). Start talking to your local grocery stores, farmers markets and restaurants and ask if you can help mitigate food waste to folks in need. Build a garden in your community. Call local restaurants and find out if they can help you mitigate food waste and help facilitate your idea. The more folks you can inspire, the more folks you can feed. All you need to do is start!

## **Where do you get your food and what kind of food is it?**

We have partnered with Nourish LA, FoodCycle LA, Food Forward and other agencies to source all of our food goods. You can expect to see lots of healthy and delicious food in your bag. Usually, our bags have lots of produce, some grains, bread, eggs, a desert or premade salad pack.

## **What if I don't have transportation, can I still access your food drive?**

We welcome walk-ins.

If you're completely unable to drive-by to pick up your free groceries, we can deliver. However we can only deliver within a 5 mile radius and we must prioritize elders, folks who are handicapped and COVID victims. Please know, a sign-up for a delivery is not a guaranteed delivery. We need at least a 24 hours notice, address, phone number and number of members in your family. We will confirm your delivery if we have enough drivers to complete the delivery. We will confirm your delivery with an email or text and you can expect a delivery between 12pm- 1pm on Saturday. A driver will call you confirming your drop off and will leave a bag of goods by your doorstep.