



St. Cyril of White Lake Food Pantry

**At St. Mary Orthodox Church
105 South Nineteenth Street
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 15203
412-431-6428**

November 5, 2022

By the grace of God, with the blessing of His Eminence, Archbishop MELCHISEDEK, the St. Cyril of White Lake Pantry opened its doors to the public on September 23, 2010 and has completed 12 full years of caring for those in need. Our goal remains to provide needed food and bread to those in need in our community. 100% of all funds received goes directly to the provisioning of the poor through food, some basic sanitary needs, and pet food when it is donated.

The St. Cyril of White Lake Food Pantry has been open every other Thursdays from 5:30pm to 6:30pm. By the grace of God and the dedicated help of volunteers led by Protodeacon Joseph Balkunowa, and despite the threat of Covid and severe medical challenges of Fr. Patrick's health, the food pantry has continued to function and the poor have been cared for.

The calendar years 2022 has seen over 3900 Households served, and emergency assistance provided to refugees in Ukraine. The average weekly service has been 20 to 80 families per week. No one has ever been turned away empty handed. Each household served received food for four+ full days of meals. [Note: The average real cost of food provided at any one time to a household of three is \$84.00.]

How has this been done? It has been accomplished through the active ongoing generosity of the faithful of our Archdiocese, the faithful of the Serbian, Greek, Carpatho Russian and ROCOR dioceses, generous donors and area businesses. Special thanks to Eastern Oil Corporation, Mediterra Bakehouse and Kobblestone Bakery for their help with bread throughout the year.

In closing, in December the Food Pantry is in need of hams and turkeys for the Annual Christmas distribution, and three other things, food, financial donations and especially volunteers. At present we purchase weekly about 90% of the food that is distributed – with the rest coming from Churches. With the number of people in need, this requires a greater amount of food weekly, so all donations in this area would be most welcome. Volunteers are needed to help with ongoing food distribution efforts. This is especially important as several volunteers have had to step away due to serious health issues. It takes about 5 to 6 volunteers weekly to operate the Food Pantry at total efficiency. So all volunteers are welcome.

**Respectfully submitted
Igumen Patrick**