

Dear Friends,

Saint Mary's needs your help.

Our God's Groceries food pantry - one of Saint Mary's ministries – is a reflection of who we are: disciples of Jesus – striving to embrace His command to *feed the hungry*.

The ongoing coronavirus pandemic is a daunting challenge to God's Groceries. We need to protect everyone who participates: Saint Mary parishioners who donate food, volunteers who organize the distribution of the food, volunteers who serve on the front lines of this ministry – welcoming all who visit us on our distribution days, and our neighbors in desperate need of groceries.

In the interest of the safety of all who participate, we are **suspending our practice of collecting bags of groceries** until further notice.

Why?

We have learned that the handling of food products can help spread the very disease we're all working so hard to defeat. Fewer hands touching the food means that fewer people are at risk - so **we will not be accepting bags of groceries** until further notice.

Yet the challenge to feed the hungry is still with us. Given this, Saint Mary's will help our neighbors who need groceries at our upcoming April distribution — **BUT WE DO NEED FINANCIAL SUPPORT**. Your donation will put groceries in the hands of our neighbors in need – but with fewer hands touching those groceries.

If your family is in a position to contribute funds to God's Groceries for the April distribution, you can do so by making an electronic donation thru [WeShare](#). [You can find the link to WeShare under "Giving" here on our website – and also on the Saint Mary's Church app](#). Or you can mail a check to Saint Mary's Church, 321 E. Joliet Street, Crown Point, IN 46307.

To be clear: we know that some of us have been hit hard by the current crisis – so this appeal does not apply to anyone who is now experiencing financial hardship – but we do ask for your prayers. However, others among us may be in a position to help God's Groceries in the near term – albeit in a different way since we are not collecting bags of groceries.

I pray for you daily at a private Mass. I look forward to the day when we can gather again to pray at Saint Mary's.

In Christ,

Father Pat