CATHOLIC CHARITIES EMERGENCY FOOD DISTRIBUTION NETWORK

In response to a rapidly changing reality due to COVID-19 (Coronavirus), on Thursday, March 12th, Bishop McElroy called upon Catholic Charities Diocese of San Diego to organize an effort to increase accessibility for vulnerable populations experiencing food insecurity: low-income families and homebound individuals.

In partnership with our partners, Catholic Charities is developing the Emergency Food Distribution Network to deliver food to those in need in a safe, effective, and reliable manner that complies with COVID-19 social distancing requirements. We have identified the following parishes as possibilities to operate drive-thru food pantries and digital choice home-delivered food package pick-ups bi-weekly on Tuesdays and Thursdays:

1. Our Lady of the Sacred Heart – City Heights
2. St. Didacus – Normal Heights
3. St. Jude Shrine of the West – National City
4. St. Vincent de Paul – Mission Hills
5. St. John of the Cross – Lemon Grove
6. St. Martin of Tours – La Mesa
7. Holy Trinity – El Cajon
8. St. Margaret Mary - Brawley
9. St. Mary – El Centro
10. St. Patrick - Calipatria
11. Good Shepherd – Mira Mesa
12. Mission San Antonio de Pala - Pala
13. St. Timothy - Escondido
14. St. Michael - Poway
15. Holy Family – Linda Vista
16. Mission Basilica San Diego de Alcala – Mission Valley
17. St. Brigid – Pacific Beach
18. Mission San Luis Rey de Francia - Oceanside
19. St. Francis - Vista
20. St. Mark – San Marcos
21. St. Peter the Apostle - Fallbrook
22. Corpus Christi - Bonita
23. Our Lady of Guadalupe – Chula Vista
24. St. Charles – Imperial Beach
25. St. Pius X – Chula Vista
HOW IT WORKS:

- Catholic Charities is the administrator and main coordinator of the Emergency Food Distribution Network, and will train the Parish staff and volunteers on operating and safety procedures that are in compliance with COVID-19 requirements.
- Community members in need of food register for pick-up or delivery of a food package using Catholic Charities’ online system via phone answered by a volunteer/Catholic Charities staff or go do it directly on the webpage.
- Catholic Charities coordinates food package delivery at the sites identified above on a selected day of the week, for a specific time of operation.
- Catholic Charities staff, in addition to a core volunteer team, coordinate drive-thru pick-ups and volunteer deliveries to the homebound from the parish distribution sites.
  - Food delivery is dropped at one location and broken into smaller distributions. In San Diego it will be Cathedral Catholic High School, 5555 Del Mar Heights Rd, San Diego, CA 92130. In El Centro it will be at Catholic Charities Orange Avenue Food Resource Center.
  - Parishes staff and volunteers transport food to the parish distribution sites
  - Parish staff and volunteers pack food packages at distribution site for drive-thru pick-up and home delivery
  - Volunteers show up to distribution site to receive delivery routes and food packages to drop off to homebound
  - Community members drive-thru at an appointed time to pick up their food package
- All food is moved from the distribution site to those in need in the community surrounding the parish in a safe manner compliant with social distancing measures necessary to keep volunteers, staff, and program participants safe during COVID-19.