

# Outreach Newsletter

Fall 2023



## Food Pantry Returns to Parish-led Team

As of October 1st, the Food Pantry at St. Thomas of Canterbury has returned to a parish-led operation. John Ceisel, a friend of the parish, has been serving as our volunteer, interim manager while we look for a candidate to take over the role full time. We are grateful for his dedication, energy, and sacrifice. Thank you, John!

The pantry continues to be open Monday and Thursday from 9 - 11:30 AM and regular volunteers are needed! If you are interested in signing up, please email [stcfoodpantry1@gmail.com](mailto:stcfoodpantry1@gmail.com).



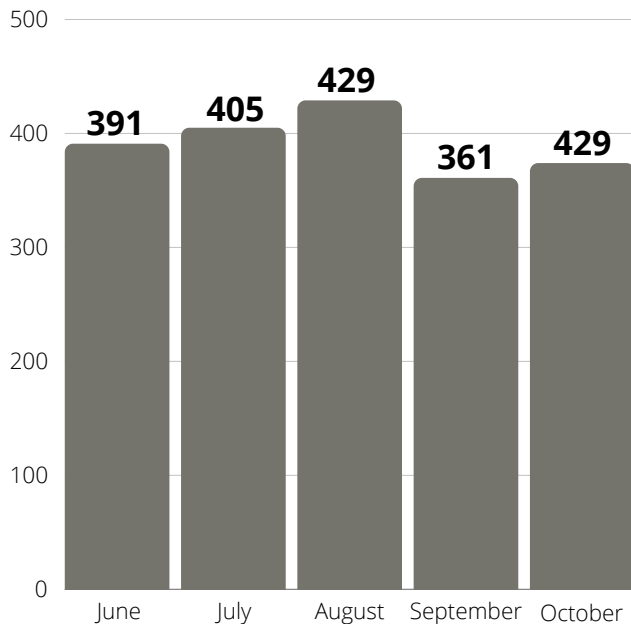
## We're Hiring

The parish is seeking an Outreach Ministries Manager to help oversee the ministries at St. Thomas of Canterbury. See the full description on the parish website: [www.motherofgodchicago.org/parish-news](http://www.motherofgodchicago.org/parish-news)

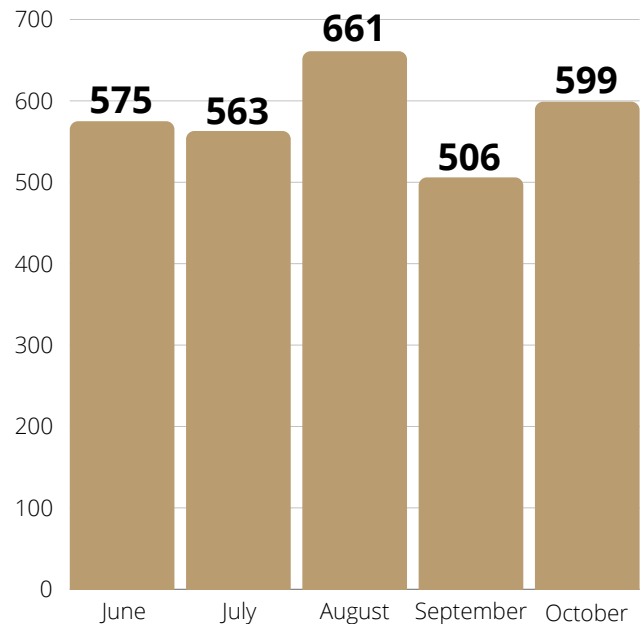


# Food Pantry

## Households Served



## Individuals Served



## Want to help support our Outreach Ministries?

Physical donations for the Food Pantry and Soup Kitchen can be dropped off at St. Thomas of Canterbury church (4827 N. Kenmore) on Tuesdays and Fridays from 2-3:30 PM. Check out our wish list!

Or you can always lend financial support by writing a check to Mary, Mother of God parish.



### Wish List

- Latex-free disposable gloves
- Ziploc sandwich-size bags
- Paper bowls & plates
- Canned tomatoes
- Cases of water bottles
- L.B. Jamison's Soup Base
- Quart-size modular plastic bins

See the digital wish list by scanning the QR code.



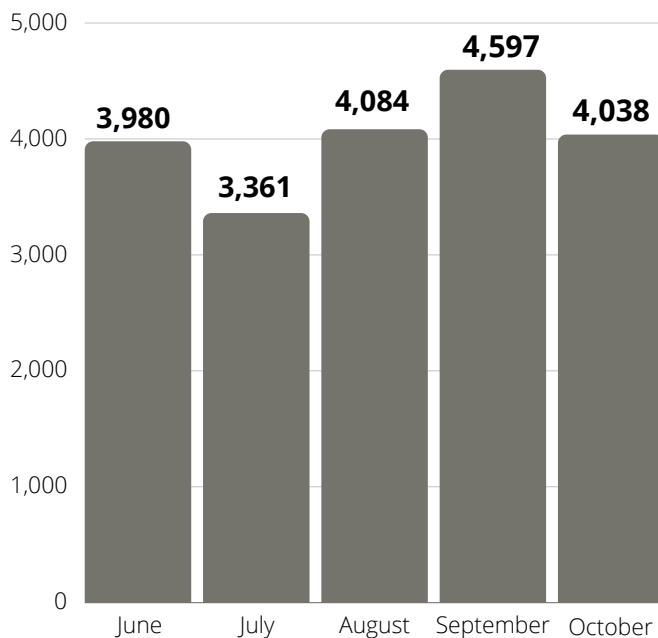
“The GREAT volunteers have made the transition almost seamless for our clients. This is doubly important since the number of clients is growing. We are welcoming our new neighbors in the refugee resettlement centers and continue to see our traditional seniors and those struggling to make their food budgets work. This ministry is needed in the community.”

– **John Ceisel**

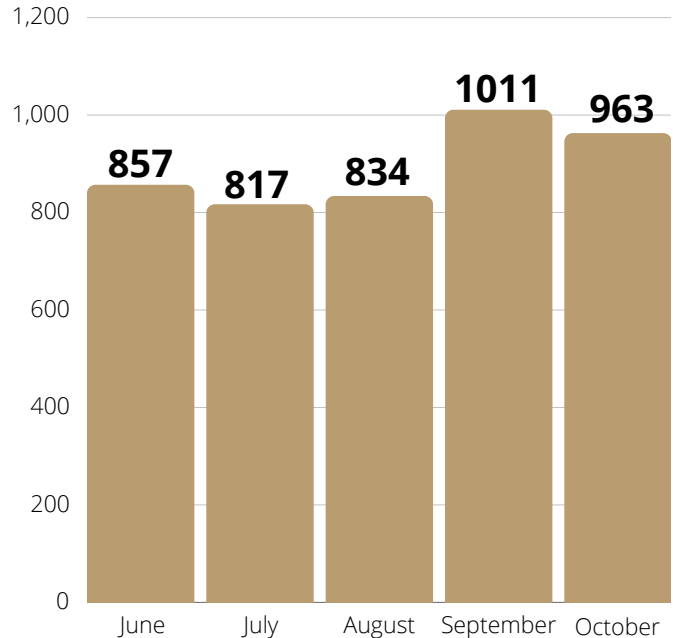
Interim Food Pantry Manager

# Soup Kitchen

## Meals Served



## Guests Served



## Come and experience for yourself what the Outreach Ministries are all about!

If you'd like to volunteer on...

- Tuesday & Friday afternoons at the Soup Kitchen, please contact our volunteer coordinator Jennifer at [jfranco@archchicago.org](mailto:jfranco@archchicago.org).
- OR Monday & Thursday mornings at the Food Pantry, email our interim manager John at [stcfoodpantry1@gmail.com](mailto:stcfoodpantry1@gmail.com).

"I invite [everyone] to spend time at the soup kitchen. While serving dinner, sit with people and get to know them. Pope Francis urges us to encounter one another."

– Pamela Matambanadzo

Society of St. Vincent de Paul (Mary, Mother of God Conference)



# An Invitation to Serve, A New Way to Experience God

## Interview with the Society of St. Vincent de Paul

In 2023, members of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul revived a branch of the society at Mary, Mother of God parish. Conference President Pamela Matambanadzo sat down to tell us about the group, who they are, what they do, and how parishioners can get involved.

### What is the Society of St. Vincent de Paul?

We are a network of friends inspired by Gospel values, growing in holiness, and seeking to build a more just world through personal relationships with, and in service to, people in need. St. Vincent de Paul said, “go to the poor and there you will find God.” I feel those few words speak to what the Society does and why.

### Tell us about the Society’s approach to service.

We model our approach on St. Vincent de Paul, our patron saint. He said, “Ten times a day you go to visit the poor, ten times a day you will find God there.” He would go to people’s homes and find out what they needed. As Vincentians, our service is centered around encountering the poor where they are. Today, over 400 years later, we still follow in his footsteps, visiting people in their homes. It allows us to get to know people better.

### Who is invited to be part of the Society?

All are welcome!!! We have active members, who are practicing Catholics, and associate members. An associate member is somebody who does not necessarily have the level of commitment that is required of an active member. You also don’t have to be Catholic.

### How can individual parishioners get involved?

Pope Francis urges us to encounter one another. There are people in need everywhere, sometimes even in the pew next to you. I invite parishioners to volunteer during the Hospitality Hours hosted at Canterbury House (the rectory next to St. Thomas of Canterbury church) on Mondays 1-5 PM. It is an opportunity to get to know our neighbors experiencing homelessness in a relaxed environment. Or, parishioners can spend time at the soup kitchen. While they’re serving dinner, they can sit with people and get to know them.

Our website ([www.svdp-at-mmog.org](http://www.svdp-at-mmog.org)) also tries to explain the work that we do and some of the unmet needs in our communities.



Read the full interview by scanning the QR code or visiting:  
[www.motherofgodchicago.org/parish-news](http://www.motherofgodchicago.org/parish-news)

