



St. Mary of Egypt Orthodox Mission & Chapel

Mission Report
Revised July 2026

Mission Statement:

*To respond to the call of our Lord Jesus Christ
through prayer and the offering of love and charitable service
to the stranger and those in need*



St. Mary of Egypt & Archangel Michael Orthodox Center
4345 State Road, Cleveland, Ohio 44109
In the Old Brooklyn neighborhood



History

Rev. Mother Theonymphie
Foundress of St. Mary of Egypt

† September 1, 2013

Foundation: St. Mary of Egypt was first established in 1992 as a charitable organization to serve the poor with the blessing of His Eminence Metropolitan Maximos of Pittsburgh. Sister Triantaphyllitsa Vasilakis directed the Mission, first as a rassophore nun (1994) and later as Mother Theonymphie, when she was tonsured to the Small Schema in 2000. Since its founding, St. Mary of Egypt has undergone several name changes, while operating under the vision established shortly after its inception: **“To provide charitable and humane assistance to the needy.”** Our organization was initially conceived as a charity directing aid to women and children; however, from the beginning, help was also extended to men, elderly and families. In 2000, Metropolitan Maximos elevated St. Mary of Egypt to the status of a Monastery.

* * *

Transition: Mother Theonymphie, our Abbess and director, was tonsured to the Great Schema in August 2013, and fell asleep in the Lord on September 1, 2013. The Board was then restructured and bylaws rewritten to support our change from a monastery-based mission to a lay Orthodox organization.

On March 3, 2014, our official name became **St. Mary of Egypt Orthodox Mission and Chapel**, as registered with the **Ohio Secretary of State**. In April 2014, His Eminence Metropolitan Savas of Pittsburgh blessed and offered annual review of the charitable work of the Mission.

An anonymous major donor underwrote the purchase of an abandoned warehouse and established a fund for repair and maintenance. The **St. Mary of Egypt and St. Michael Orthodox Center** opened with distribution on January 18, 2014.

The St. Mary of Egypt Chapel Program

The St. Mary of Egypt Chapel was an integral part of first the Mission home and later the Monastery since 1993. In April 2014, His Eminence Metropolitan Savas appointed the St. Mary of Egypt Chapel to be a canonical spiritual dependency of the Annunciation Church in Cleveland (2187 W. 14th Street). Six months later, the Chapel was moved to a side foyer of the church. Services in the Chapel are sponsored by St. Mary of Egypt and by Annunciation Church.



In 2023, with the full support of Mr. Mark Fourtounis, the Chapel was newly constructed in a lower room of the education building in memory of Mother Theonymphie and in honor of Mark's parents, +Manolis and Marika. The new Chapel was dedicated on September 2, 2023.

The St. Mary of Egypt Outreach Program

St. Mary of Egypt has been a member of the **Greater Cleveland Food Bank (GCFB)** since 1997. A variety of canned goods and other shelf-stable food items, fresh produce, frozen meats, and breads are regularly purchased from the Food Bank, supplemented by parish collections and other local donors, and distributed every month. Interim emergency distribution is arranged as needed. Over the past twenty-nine years, thanks to loyal donors and volunteers, we have distributed over 1,000,000 lbs. of food.

Since the beginning of the pandemic in early 2020, the number of food-insecure households has increased dramatically. In response, St. Mary of Egypt Mission increased our **emergency availability**, and developed an effective **drive-thru method** of distribution. We have had a marked increase in young volunteers in this period.

Our phone lines are open 24 hours a day for emergency food requests and to provide referrals to other agencies for assistance.

(440) 473-3885

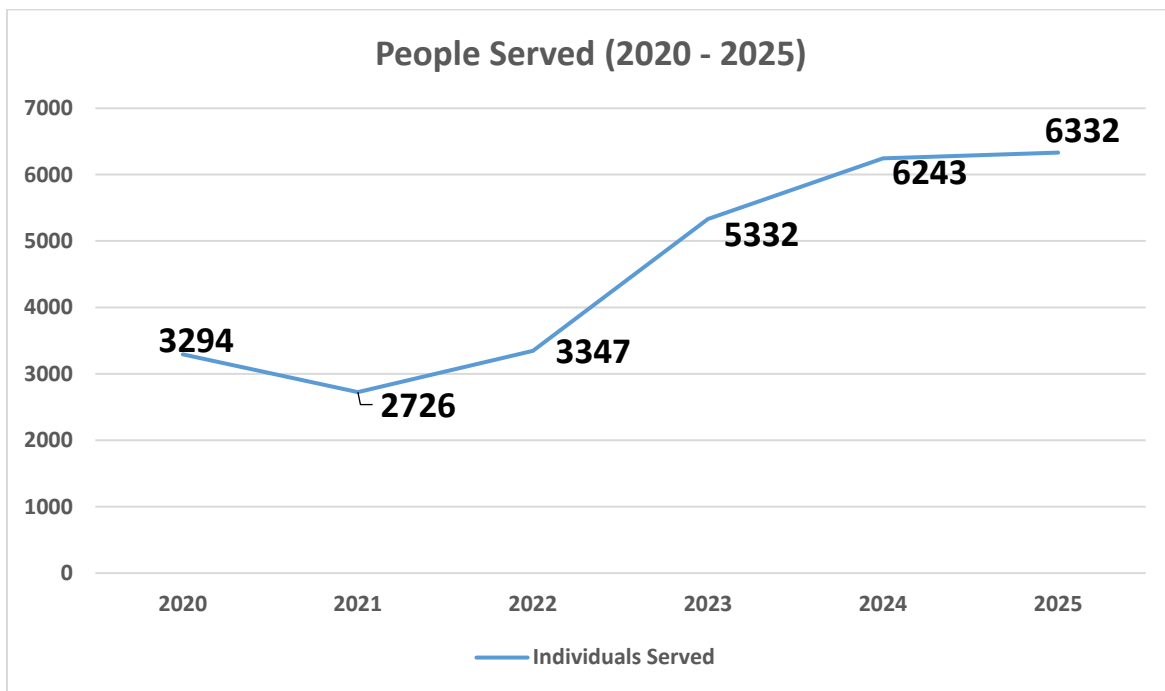
The Greater Cleveland Food Bank Report

In 2025, Food Bank records report **over 73,000 lbs. of food** purchased from the GCFB, including over 20,000 lbs. of fresh produce, representing **over 61,000 meals** served last year. Many additional pounds and meals were contributed by other donors.

See the chart below for our service to the community over the past three years (note a 19% increase).

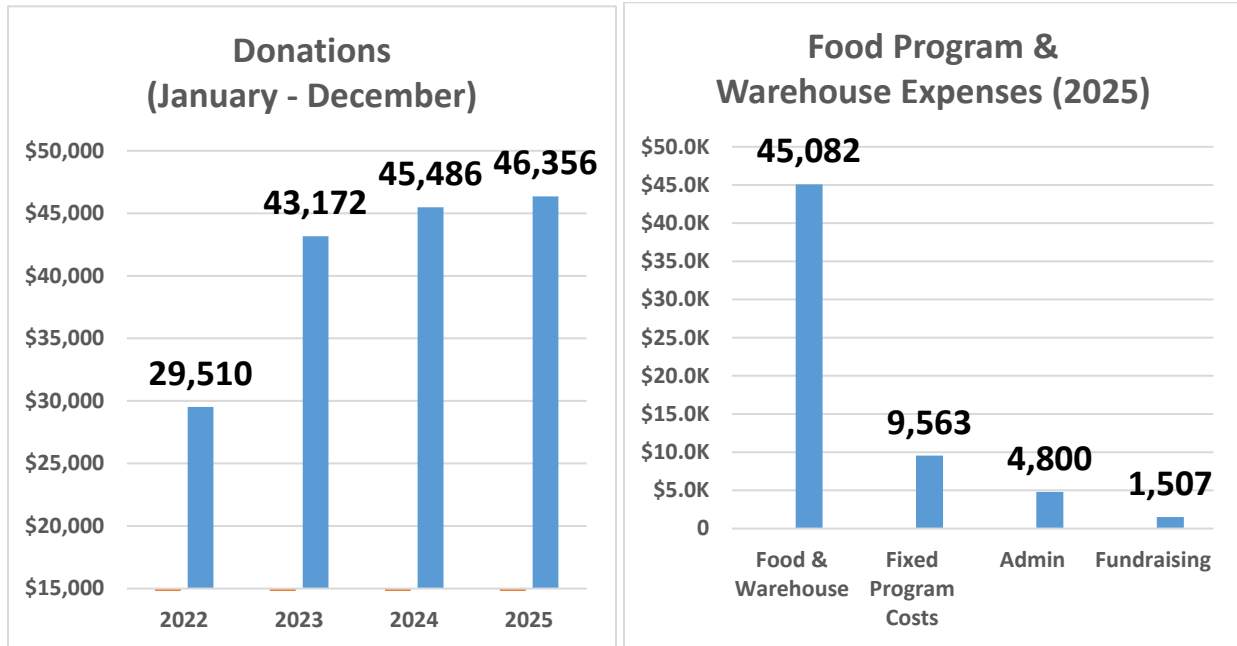
Calendar Year Statistics	<u>2023</u>	<u>2024</u>	<u>2025</u>
Individuals Served	5,332	6,243	6,332
Families Served	1,581	1,835	1,905

Six-Year Client Report



The Food Bank plays a significant role in supervising our outreach program. They monitor the quality of food they provide, passing regular governmental inspections of their central facility. In turn, they set standards for their partner agencies. They hold annual site visits to inspect our facility and offer suggestions to guide our improvement.

2025 Financial Report



Fixed program costs include vehicle expenses, our 24-hour emergency hotline service, and taxes & fees.

As reported by Charity Navigator, a typical charity “should spend no more than 25% of their total expenses on administrative...and fundraising costs combined” (CharityNavigator.org). St. Mary of Egypt has met this standard, with **90%** of donations going towards our programs and related operations. Direct donations provided for most of our operating expenses in 2025. We rely on your generous financial support to sustain our outreach ministry.

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In the Mission’s **34th Anniversary** year of charitable service, we are grateful to all those Orthodox parishes & organizations, the volunteers, board members, and donors who make our work possible. **Thank You!**

Special Thanks for Support Services:

- **John Gary Boukis**, our Warehouse Consultant, of Superior Construction, for supervising, directing, and donating labor to ongoing warehouse repair and upgrade
- **Hunger Network** for financial support and local sources of produce
- **Website Solutions USA** for hosting our website
- **R.A. Tielke Tax & Accounting** for their support with accounting and payroll services

St. Mary of Egypt Executive Board

Officers:

Tara Reidy, President
Ann Papadelis, Vice President
Charles Papadelis, Secretary
Nicholas Bodle, Treasurer

Trustees:

Ken Boukis, Esq., Legal Counsel
Presvytera Daisy Dimon
+Mary Pagonakis

St. Mary of Egypt Advisory Board

Bill Bewley
Andrew Gadelsayed
Maria Lovejoy

Jane Murray
Irene Scordos

Spiritual Oversight and Direction

His Eminence Savas, Metropolitan of Pittsburgh
Rev. Fr. Yanni Verginis, Priest of Annunciation Church in Cleveland

St. Mary of Egypt is a member of:



Designated Donor #4697



Secure Online Donation

