



St. Mary of Egypt Orthodox Mission & Chapel

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- Summer 2015 -

*"He who has pity on the poor lends to the LORD,
And He will pay back what he has given." - Proverbs 19:17*

In the midst of summer festivities and vacations, our neighbors' need for food continues. Summer is traditionally a slow season for charitable donation. St. Mary of Egypt Orthodox Mission is supported by your generous, tax-deductible contributions in any amount. Remember the less fortunate this summer, as we maintain our outreach ministry, distributing food and necessities to local families.

The Mission has been a member in good standing of the Greater Cleveland Food Bank (GCFB) for eighteen years. We are grateful for their dedication to balanced nutrition for those in need. On the back, read about the many ways the GCFB ensures the quality of our operation.



St. Mary of Egypt is grateful to its many

Loyal Angels

who contribute a monthly gift in any amount or a sustaining annual donation for the Mission's work.

All individuals and parishes are encouraged to consider joining the *Loyal Angel* program!

Thank you for your generosity.

God Bless You & Keep You!

An Update on the Distribution Center

Since the opening of the new building, the Mission has relied on a portable aluminum ramp to roll carts in and out for clients and to bring in regular deliveries of food. After many months of use and significant damage to that ramp, a permanent concrete ramp was installed on May 29 at our Distribution Center on State Road. Thanks to Tony and the guys from **TLC Construction, Co.** for their hard work and a job well done!



Thanks to

Orlando Bakery



for their ongoing donation of fresh bread loaves for our

monthly distribution!

New Website Launched

In June, St. Mary of Egypt redesigned its website (www.saintmaryofegypt.org) to provide a more user-friendly experience for its visitors. The next time you are online, be sure to visit the site and send in your feedback.

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*St. Mary of Egypt is
a member agency of the*



**Greater Cleveland
Food Bank**

Since 1997, St. Mary of Egypt has been able to provide nearly **800,000 lbs.** of food to those in need. Canned goods, staple foods, frozen meats, fresh fruits and vegetables, breads, pastries, beverages, and personal care products are purchased as available from the GCFB for the Mission's local distributions. Each month, St. Mary of Egypt purchases pallets full of food (several thousands of pounds) from the Food Bank, which delivers the pallets to our distribution center for a modest charge. In addition to these regular orders, our volunteers visit the Food Bank's **MarketPlace** to shop for extra goods.

The GCFB plays a significant role in supervising our outreach program:

- ♦ The Food Bank **has standards for quality** of all items, food and non-food, that they distribute. Their central facilities pass regular inspections by the Ohio Dept. of Job & Family Services, Feeding America and the USDA.
- ♦ In turn, they **set standards** for maintenance of their agencies' facilities (like year-round climate control) and ask their pantries to distribute purchased food in 90 days.
- ♦ The Food Bank holds **regular site visits** to inspect our facility and ensures our compliance with federal regulations of the distribution of aid.
- ♦ The Food Bank **maintains records** and provides statistics of how many individuals and families were served from our outreach program and how many pounds of food were provided each year. They report back to the Mission whether we are meeting Food Bank expectations for pounds per person delivered.
- ♦ GCFB member agencies benefit from the Food Bank's **education initiatives** through various workshops held during the year. Volunteers learn about food safety and nutrition, receive training on client relations, and take classes on program management.

***Our heartfelt thanks to the people at GCFB
who support our charitable outreach with their endless time,
care for detail and good will.***