

## Suggestions for 2026 Food Drive

This year, your parish or school does not need to weigh the food collected. Instead, please note the number of bags and/or boxes, take photos, and send the totals and photos to [Michael.Sims@camdendiocese.org](mailto:Michael.Sims@camdendiocese.org). Thank you!

### Gathering reusable bags and/or boxes

- One of the challenges of collecting, transporting, and distributing food is deciding what to put the food in. Since most markets do not carry brown bags or plastic bags, it is up to us to put the call out for reusable bags. This alone is a “collection” unto itself. Cardboard boxes can also be handy
- Copy and place the FaithFULL Flyer about preferred food items to include in each bag or box. Volunteers can also staple flyers to bags

### 2. Get the word out.

- *Refer to the* bulletin announcements and posted signs around the parish campus.
- Have Church ushers distribute bags to parishioners after each Mass.

### 3. Collect the food.

- *One week before the drive:* Knights of Columbus have, in the past, set up shopping carts at the entrances to the church at each Mass. Filled carts were wheeled to the parish hall, where food is stored. Carts emptied and returned to church entrances.
- If you have a surplus of food that you cannot keep in your pantry or give to a neighboring pantry, call \_\_\_\_\_ to make arrangements to deliver the food to Catholic Charities Monday- Friday between 8:30 a.m. and 4:00 p.m., or have someone pick it up.
- After the last Mass on March 22nd, Knights of Columbus, children, parents, and other parishioners form a “bucket brigade” to either deliver the bags to your food pantry or load trucks to deliver to a local food pantry. If you are donating food to Catholic Charities, keep it at your parish or school and contact Catholic Charities to arrange delivery/pickup in the following days.

## 8 Simple Steps

### Engaging Families, Youth, and Young Adults

Here are some simple ways to help with FaithFull Food Drive.

1. Contact the local Shop Rite and Acme and request donations of \*reusable shopping bags. A thank-you note from the youth group should be sent after the event for their donation.
2. Employ youth and young adults from religious education and ministries to help staple the flyer (enclosed) advertising the drive and what food items to donate to each of the bags.
3. A flyer was also sent home with all of our religious education families.
4. Young adults can take the lead in much of the heavy lifting and transportation of items to other parishes and food pantries.
5. The Knights of Columbus has been a valuable source. Consider asking for their assistance.
6. The weekend before the collection: Donation bags with stapled flyers can be given to parishioners.
7. Weekend of collection: Coordinate efforts to stock parish pantry, deliver items to a local parish or cupboards, OR hold the items until Monday and contact Catholic Charities to make arrangement for delivery or pickup.
8. Given the volume of food, **the cut-off for the drive is the Noon Mass on Sunday, March 21**. However, it is up to your parish if you want to extend the drive to include the 6 p.m. Mass if your parish has one. Again, please count the number of bags/boxes and take pictures.