



# St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church Mobile Loaves & Fishes News

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June 2020



## A Message from the MLF Core Team

As previously reported, our **MLF** ministry suspended meal preparation March 14. Then around March 19, a small group began preparing about 1,000 sack lunches each week to take to serving sites with staff who are able to hand out bagged meals to those in need. We have limited our crews to 7-8 people and spread out in the kitchen and back storage area.

**MLF** is now seeking to expand our meal deliveries with a target date of Monday, July 6th. There is a HUGE need for meals for the homeless and working poor. Of course, expanding meal deliveries will depend on having more volunteers.

In order to safely do this, we have added the following procedures:

1. New sanitizing spray bottles are available to use for all "touch points" and for table tops - prep teams and egg boilers will cleanup before and after kitchen use.
2. Gloves are available and hats will still be necessary as in the past. Face masks will be available and will be required for all people in the **MLF** kitchen. If you have your own face mask, please bring it.
3. We will be using a sign-in log so we can track who goes in and out of the **MLF** kitchen.
4. Since egg boilers work alone in the **MLF** kitchen, meal prep team members are

4. welcomed to switch to the egg boiling team if concerned about social distancing . Egg boilers will be trained and given specific boiling shifts.
5. As noted, prep teams have been limited to a maximum of eight members. Thus, assigned team members are asked NOT to bring extra persons. In addition, "drop-in" meal prep volunteers will also not be allowed. Signage will be placed on the front door when the maximum volunteer occupancy is reached. These restrictions are in place to foster proper "social distancing" among prep team members.

We respect the fact that your ability to help is a personal decision based your own circumstances. The team captains will be contacting their volunteers. Please email [volunteermf@gmail.com](mailto:volunteermf@gmail.com) if you wish to help and have not been contacted.

We thank each of you for your past help. We wish you and your families the best during these difficult times. We ask for your thoughts and prayers for our **MLF** ministry and success in our efforts to restart our program expanded meal deliveries on July 6. For additional information on the newly revised Meal Preparation Procedures, click [Covid-19 Procedures](#).

**MLF Core Team** □



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## MLF Receives Mask Donations

**MLF** has been blessed to receive 2 donations of cloth face masks. The San Antonio Chinese Alliance Mask Making Group sent over 60 masks with the following note:

*"Stay Safe, Together we make a better community! Masks for a group of heroes who help Haven for Hope feed underserved people during Covid-19 pandemic!"*

In addition, Friday supper prep volunteer, Marsha Hobbs, made 32 masks for our use as well. Thank you all for your care and concern for our ministry and volunteer safety.

## MLF School Supply Drive Cancelled

With the various restrictions and health precautions resulting from the ongoing **COVID-19** pandemic, the **MLF Core Team** has decided to cancel its annual fall **School Supply Drive**. If circumstances change, the **MLF** ministry will be informed later in the year.

## MLF Clothing Collection Suspended

Since we are limiting interaction with our clientele during this health crisis, the **MLF** truck is delivering only prepared lunches and volunteers are not handing out clothing or toiletries. In addition, the ministry's "social distancing" practice is limiting the number of volunteers in the **MLF** kitchen / clothing storage areas. As a result, **St. Francis of Assisi** parishioners and **MLF** volunteers are asked to temporarily cease bringing clothing donations. When we resume delivery of clothing, we will begin accepting clothing donations and notification will be sent to the **SFA** community.

## Personal Hygiene Tips for Volunteers



- Emphasize effective hand hygiene including washing hands for at least 20 seconds, especially after going to the bathroom, before eating, and after blowing your nose, coughing, or sneezing.
- Always wash hands with soap and water. If soap and water are not readily available, then use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol and avoid working with unwrapped or exposed foods.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth.
- Use gloves to avoid direct bare hand contact with ready-to-eat foods.
- Before preparing or eating food, always wash your hands with soap and water for 20 seconds for general food safety.
- Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throw the tissue in the trash and wash hands after.

Source: [Best Practices for Retail Food Stores, Restaurants, and Food Pick-Up/Delivery Services during the COVID-19 Pandemic](#) (U.S. Food & Drug Administration, April 21, 2020).

## HELP WANTED

Openings – June 1, 2020

Our **MLF** ministry needs help for these crucial roles:

- 1) **Core Team** members for the **Core Team Director**, **Site Coordinator**, and **Day Volunteer Coordinator** positions (see [Job Descriptions](#)); and
- 2) **Meal prep and delivery volunteers** are needed for various meal shifts. For the complete listing, click this [Immediate Team Openings](#) link.

If you can assist with any of these jobs, please contact **Julie Mellin** @ [volunteermf@gmail.com](mailto:volunteermf@gmail.com) .

## Contact Us

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MLF website: [www.sfasat.org/MLF/index.htm](http://www.sfasat.org/MLF/index.htm)

**MLF News** files: [www.sfasat.org/MLF/mlfnews.htm](http://www.sfasat.org/MLF/mlfnews.htm)

## A Quick Reminder...

- **Team Captains** should notify [mlfnw@sfasat.org](mailto:mlfnw@sfasat.org) before canceling a meal run.
- **Team Captains** should sanitize all "touch surfaces" (e.g. door knobs, light switches, etc.) both before and after each meal prep shift.
- **Team Captains** should record the walk-in freezer and refrigerator temperature readings in the temperature log book.
- Call the Commissary person (listed on the bulletin board) on duty when you encounter food supply shortages.
- Wear face masks, gloves and a baseball cap / hairnet when prepping meals .
- Do not pack turkey & cheese and peanut butter & jelly sandwiches in the same zip lock bags (peanut food allergies).
- Clean all food containers for recycling. Shake crumbs out of bread bags / cookie trays. Place loose bags into one bag. Rinse peanut butter & jelly containers. If not, put them into trash.
- Cut down small cardboard boxes for recycling, but keep large boxes for meal deliveries.
- Sweep the floor and empty trash / recycling (into commercial bins) after each meal prep.
- Empty the dirty water from the clean-up pail after washing kitchen floors
- Ensure that doors to clothing bay and ice machine room are locked after prep shifts.
- Fill-out the [MLF Truck Run Log](#) after deliveries and use the bottom section to report any unusual events / problems that occur.
- Report truck maintenance issues / concerns to **David Aguilar** @ [tgeagle2@att.net](mailto:tgeagle2@att.net). □