

Father English Center



The mission of the Father English Center is to create hope and make a lasting difference in the lives of those who seek help within the communities of the Diocese of Paterson. The Center was founded in February 1976 with the objective of serving the community with programs to aid and assist the working poor. The agency programs offer direct social services to youths, adults and families in need, always with a preference for the poor and most vulnerable.

The Center provides a wide range of services which include preschool and school age childcare, programs and group homes for youth at risk, job assistance and training for adults, and emergency services for the needy. Services provided may be educational, emergency assistance, residential, referral, informational/vocational. The Father English Center is a division of Catholic Family and Community Services, a Catholic Charity agency in the Diocese of Paterson.

Saint Joseph Parish has a covenant with the Father English Center. The essence of the covenant is to advocate on behalf of those in need at the Center within our parish and thus provide year-round support through projects and programs. Human Concerns Ministry oversees our projects with the Center.

The projects for the needy at the Father English Center include: Thanksgiving Food Drive, Christmas Giving Tree, Frozen Food Tray Collection, year-round collection of food and clothing, to name a few.

The Thanksgiving Food Drive commences in early November for the collection of non-perishable food items. Food items may be placed in the bins in west entrance of the church. The weekend before Thanksgiving, frozen turkeys are collected after all Masses. The turkeys may be dropped off in the parish parking lot in front of the church.

The Christmas Giving Tree is a long-time parish tradition to provide gifts for the families at the Father English Center. Gifts are purchased for families and returned to the church narthex at least 10 days prior to Christmas. A group of volunteers sort the gifts and delivers them to the Father English Center a week before Christmas.

The Frozen Food Tray project is arranged three times a year. Parishioners are requested to take an empty food tray, which is distributed after Masses on a designated Saturday & Sunday. Suggested recipes are included in the tray. Parishioners prepare a one dish meal, place it in the tray and freeze it. The frozen tray may be dropped off in the parish parking lot the following Saturday morning.

The parish has a year-round collection for food and clothing for the Father English Center. Non-perishable food may be dropped off in the bin at the west entrance of the Church throughout the year. The clothing drive is based on the current season. During the spring and summer seasons, only articles of clothing for those seasons are collected. The same applies for fall and winter clothes. Clothes may be dropped off at the west entrance of the church as well.

Clothing collection is temporarily suspended until further notice.

Old computers, laptops and monitors are collected for the Father English Center as well. If you would like to donate the above, please contact the Parish House.

The Human Concerns Ministry thanks St. Joseph parishioners for all of support for projects for the needy throughout the years. Our parish is rich in the tradition of giving.